



**The season of Advent has arrived, Christmas is coming!**

**You are invited to Unionville Presbyterian Church...**

## **Newsletter**

Advent Season 2023

## **Unionville Presbyterian Church**

600 Village Parkway, Unionville, ON L3R 6C2  
905-475-6233 [www.upc.community](http://www.upc.community)

## **A Message from the Minister**

Growing up in communist Hungary we did not hear about Advent or the Christmas message of hope. We celebrated bronze, silver and golden Sundays -which indicated the arrival of Christmas - the Holiday of Love -as we called it. The Christmas songs on the radio were almost all secular, only a few folk songs talked about greeting the little baby Jesus.

Regardless, I always had very nice Christmases as a child with my mother, grandmother, grandfather and great grandmother in my grandparents' country home. My mother adored Christmas. There was endless baking, Christmas candy making, sewing, knitting, cooking and decorating. I was never told the usual Hungarian children's tale that baby Jesus and the angels brought the Christmas tree on December 24. As long as I can recall I was decorating Christmas trees with my mother. If I close my eyes, I can still see the special ornaments that she bought in Czechoslovakia, the hand painted glass balls with winter scenes, little clip-on birds with silk feather tails, icicles, tinsels and colourful mushrooms. While we were decorating, cleaning, and giftwrapping my grandmother would cook the Christmas menu, great grandma peeled the vegetables and my grandfather looked after the firewood and fed the animals.

We never went to church, but we played our Christmas albums every year and some of those songs talked about the mysterious night, the little rosebud Jesus sleeping in the manger on holy Christmas Eve.

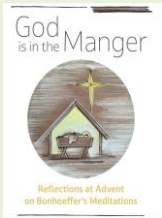
I had my first real "church" Christmas experience as a theological student as part of our practical curriculum was to help congregations during the holiday seasons. In my first year of my training, I requested to preach in the nearby town of my grandparents' little mining community. I greatly treasure the wonderful privilege of

having been able to share the true message of Christmas so close to where I grew up for the very first time.

This season I am really looking forward to spending our first Advent Season and Christmas together here at UPC! I am very thankful that we will be contemplating together on the greatest story of all times- how God has come to us in a manger. What a unique opportunity to prepare our hearts for the mystery of incarnation and embrace the message of hope, love, joy and peace.

*Rev. Anita*





## Advent Study 2023

Reflections on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Advent meditations, *God is in the Manger*.

Two ways to participate:

On Tuesdays: Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19  
at 11 am in person

On Wednesdays: Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20  
at 7:00 pm via Zoom

Meeting ID: 823 3303 8941

Password: 939123

Nov. 28/29: Waiting  
Dec. 5/6: Mystery  
Dec. 12/13: Redemption  
Dec. 19/20: Incarnation



The study guide can be downloaded from Presbyterian Canada website (<https://presbyterian.ca>)

The book, *God is in the Manger*, can be purchased from Indigo or through Kindle.



## Special Services

**1st Sunday in Advent ~ Dec. 3**

Lighting the Candle of Hope and celebrating Communion. With this congregation Communion is open to all.

**2nd Sunday in Advent ~ Dec. 10**

Lighting the Candle of Peace

**3rd Sunday in Advent ~ Dec. 17**

Lighting the Candle of Joy

**Potluck lunch to follow:** Please bring a dish. We will enjoy the food and fellowship together.

**Christmas Eve ~ Dec. 24**

Candlelight Service at 7:00 pm  
(no Sunday service)



### YOUR ADVENT KINDNESS CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Do a choice for someone in your family	2 Pray for someone
3 Clean up after someone	4 Bake cookies for a neighbour	5 Help someone before they ask	6 Send a card to someone you love	7 Teach someone something new	8 Help someone wrap gifts	9 Hold the door open for others
10 Thank an essential worker	11 Call someone you love and tell them	12 Leave a positive review for a local business	13 Make someone a homemade gift	14 Make Christmas cards	15 Read someone a story	16 Visit someone who is lonely
17 Cook a meal for someone in need	18 Support a small business	19 Give someone a compliment	20 Surprise a friend with coffee	21 Help someone decorate for Christmas	22 Smile at someone you see today	23 Give someone a hug
24 Write a kind note to someone	25 Merry Christmas				<i>Submitted by Clare Shields</i>	



## UPC Mistletoe Market

It felt like Christmas Ever as a child – that anticipation of waiting for something special. And it was. Our first Mistletoe Market in 4 years brought the same camaraderie and fellowship from years past.

In the lead up, various groups got together to prepare and other worked at home. People cooked, baked, created, found donations. It was a true team effort and engaged so many of our members and beyond.

The leaders had decided that, given UPC is in a good financial position, the funds raised would go to Presbyterians Sharing. We are pleased to announce that almost \$5,000 has been raised so far.

Vikki, Lynn, Alison

PS: as of this writing, there are still some frozen food items (quiches, pies and stuffed peppers) in the freezer for sale.



## Reaching out to those in need

Once again, your Christmas momentary support will be providing gift cards for:

**CAYR Community Connections** was originally founded as the AIDS Committee of York Region specialized in providing supports to people affected by HIV/AIDS.

A Christmas Dinner supported by UPC will be held at UPC on Wednesday, December 13.

**360 Kids** specialized in assisting at-risk youth through the comprehensive approach.

### Gifts of Change:



The Presbyterian World Service and Development “Gifts of Change” booklet lists numerous mission projects that will help make a difference in the lives of people in our own country as well as people around the world.

You may support PWS&D “Gifts of Change” program by picking up a

booklet in the foyer and contributing to one of the many projects described. Each project includes a complete description and a code number to use when donating. You may also donate online at: <https://presbyterian.ca/donate/gifts-of-change/>



## Poinsettia Dedications

Each year at Christmas time we plan to decorate our sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias. If you would like to purchase a plant for a special dedication such as in loving memory of someone or in celebration of a special person or event. The cost of each plant is \$10 with a choice of colour: red, pink, white and marble. Please indicate your wish on the sign-up sheet or send Ann Parsons an email.

Please take your poinsettia home following the Christmas Eve service to continue to enjoy it in your home. Thank you to Ann and Lorne for coordinating our poinsettia program once again this year.

## ENJOY CHRISTMAS LUNCH at Swiss Chalet

Thursday, Dec. 21, 12 noon

Everyone is welcome.



A table at the Swiss Chalet (725 Markland St. off Major MacKenzie) has been reserved for UPC family and friends.

Everyone is welcome. Please sign up in the foyer or send Julie an email. If you need a ride, please let us know!





Thank  
you  
for  
the  
memories!



Thank you to My UPC Family and Friends:

You have overwhelmed me with love and support since my mom passed.

While it took me 2 years post stroke to get it together, the Celebration of Life Party for Mildred Thompson was an afternoon to remember. So many gave of their time and talents to assist me, I could not have done it without their help and support. Plus, the ENJOY group gave me their day so I could present it on the 2-year anniversary.

Thank you to all!

Mom always cringed when people called her a saint, but she lived her faith. God always got her through the rough times. She didn't want her life events or accolades listed. We can just remember the wig-tipping, fun side, and the quick wit she so readily displayed.

So, whenever you sit down to eat, please remember that "Food made with Love is Food for the Soul"!

But " Life's Uncertain so Eat Dessert First".



My sincere Thanks to All,  
Have a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

♡Lynn Thompson

When I count my blessings,  
I count you twice.



### A Christmas Thought

"I shall pass this way but once,  
If I can do good to any person,  
Let me do so now,  
For I shall not pass this way again."

Submitted by Tom Giles

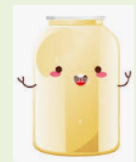
Lynn Thompson year-round fundraisers with profits going to various UPC outreach projects:

#### SALAD DRESSING & DIP

"Honey-Mint-Garlic" in a Mayo base  
\$15 for 500 ml

#### CROCHETED soft ACRYLIC SCARVES

Prices vary with length and width: \$15-\$30



Please email your order to [p.lynn.t@rogers.com](mailto:p.lynn.t@rogers.com) with your phone number.



May the blessings of Christmas  
bring hope to your life and peace to your heart.