



# Bridgenorth United Church

## Quarterly News

### December, 2021

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And the light shines in the darkness...



The season of Advent is upon us as we anticipate the Light born in a stable into our hearts and our lives once again at Christmas. The story of the birth of Jesus fills us with hope and with the promise of God's

great love for each one of us.

And so it is with hope that we can carry the light of Christ with us and within us during the times of joy and sorrow that the year ahead will have in store.

All of life is filled with both of these things – times of wonder and expectation, times of challenge and frustration – all lived out in the promise that we are never alone – never without hope – God's grace and truth will guide us and sustain us and light our way in the darkest times. Our responsibility is to trust in the gift and carry it with us so that God's light will radiate from us – offering those we meet along life's way a glimpse of the hope we believe in.

May God's peace and hope fill your hearts this Christmas!

Rev. Cathy Gradante



BUC will be hosting a morning of movies, popcorn, crafts and games for children 3 to 10 on **Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, from 10am to 12pm**

There will be plenty of helping hands here to watch over your little ones and allow moms & dads a chance to do a little shopping for Christmas

or just have a free couple of hours!

Drop off will begin at 9:45am with all COVID protocols in place. All volunteers will be masked and double-vaxxed.

### Silent Night, Starry Night

An Evening of Carolling and Strolling and Stories Join us on **Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm** as we hear the Christmas Story and sing familiar carols as we wander through the village. Hot chocolate and treats will warm us up along the way!



### Christmas Calm

We will be offering a service of reflection and peace in the midst of an often hectic Christmas Season. It will be

held on **Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm** at the church and on Facebook Live.

### **COVID Update**

For those unclear about the rules here's the current situation as illustrated in a motion of the re-opening committee in early November:

"Starting Nov 14, all church attendees will need to be double vaccinated, and show proof of vaccination at the door, before entering. If there is a reason that medically they aren't vaccinated, we would need to see proof of the medical exception. Children under the age of 12 are not eligible to be vaccinated yet, so therefore are exempt from showing vaccination proof, until the vaccination is available to that age group. All attendees must be masked unless 2 years of age and under. We will continue to do Covid screening and contact tracing at the door."

Of course it goes without saying these could change again at any time so the committee will endeavour to publish updates to the church COVID protocols as we make adjustments in concert with our monitoring of the public health orders.

### **Poinsettia's for The Sanctuary.**

If anyone from the congregation would like to drop off a plant, in Memory of a loved one/ones, to help decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas, they may drop the plant or plants off on Tuesday December 7th, from 1-3pm.. The Memorials will be posted on the front screen on Christmas Sunday. People can take the poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve Service, or may donate it to the Food Bank.

**Christmas Eve Service** - - Now that we have increased the seating, the larger numbers for this service shouldn't be a problem.

Watch for our Angel Wings on the outside walls of the Church, as well as the **Nativity Scene**. A perfect opportunity for family and Friends pictures and "selfies". These pictures will be posted again on Facebook and the website.

### **SENIOR CHOIR**



As you will notice through the Christmas season I have asked a few of our choir members to take part in worship.

Due to spacing and keeping everyone apart we have not returned to full choir. Hopefully in the new year we can work it out so that all of the choir members may join in.

So keep your Thursday night open and we will see how the COVID restrictions are and if all is well we will try for Thursday Jan. 13th 2022 at 7 p.m. Wishing you all "Merry Christmas"

Wendy

### **News From Membership and Pastoral Care**

Our committee has been working faithfully to keep our congregation together and in touch with each other throughout the pandemic shutdowns.

We were finally able to reopen the church September 12th with social distancing, masks and contact tracing and in November to open with proof of double vaccinations.

All through the pandemic we have tried to keep our members informed on line and through E mails of church information and activities. We have kept in touch with our shut-ins and members without computers through phone calls, letters and cards.

Activities such as Women's Coffee Hour and bible studies have met via zoom. Our Prayer Chain has

been active. Upper Room has been distributed. We were able to run a very successful tree sale and are hoping to run a seed and bulb sale in the spring.

We are busy organizing Advent and Christmas activities for children and adults along with our usual Sunday services.

We are hoping to organize a spaghetti takeout dinner in the new year.

We are so pleased and proud of our volunteers on the committee and in the church. We look forward to even more activities through our church in the new year.

## Outreach and Justice Newsletter – November 2021



Outreach & Justice donated \$215 to the United Church of Canada Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation Fund.

### Update on the Food Bank

We remained open every Tuesday throughout the pandemic. We served an average of 35 house-

holds per month prior to March 2020. This total increased to 55 per month in April/May/June 2020. We now average 42 – 45 households; 90 – 105 family members per month. To adapt to the Covid 19 safety measures, we introduced a hamper program (4 bags of non-perishable groceries and a box of produce, bread, dessert, cheese and eggs per household). Our volunteers prepare food hampers every week so we have 80 bags, enough for 20 households (plus dog food and cat food as available) to distribute on Tuesdays. Clients drive up to our front doors to receive their hampers. Provincial Gov't Grant - To assist with increased demand and adjustments required due to COVID, the Provincial Government gave \$5,500 to the Bridgenorth Food Bank. With the funds, we were able to have shelving downstairs constructed by Gil and Larry. We were also able to design and purchase mobile shelving carts for our hampers. Our congregation and the community responded with overwhelming support. We have had a regular stream of donations of groceries, money and gift cards. Local farmers and gardeners have brought us potatoes, eggs, apples and other fresh vegetables.

The Chemung Lake District Lions Club have supported us with frequent cash donations, 425 pounds of groceries from a car show in Buckhorn, frozen hamburgers and wieners and toys for Christmas. They are also donating money so we will be able to give gift cards from John's Independent in Bridgenorth to our food bank clients to purchase a Christmas meal of their choice. New residents to Bridgenorth, the Mitchell family, hosted a Halloween haunted walk with donations to the food bank requested as cost of admission. They delivered 1,273 non-perishable food items and \$290. The family even stayed for a couple of hours to help shelve all the food! The Mitchell family will also be having a Christmas display, collecting for the Bridgenorth Food Bank.

### Upcoming Events:

MPP Dave Smith's "**Winter is Coming Food Drive**" for the Bridgenorth Food Bank – Saturday, November 27th from 10 am – 2 pm at John's Independent in Bridgenorth.

**Reverse Advent Calendar** – Our Reverse Advent Calendar for this year starts the first Sunday of Advent (Nov 28) and ends the Sunday before Christmas (Dec 19). Please participate if you are able. It was a great success last year. (See page 4)

Thank you from the Outreach & Justice Committee and the Bridgenorth Food Bank Volunteers



**BRIDGENORTH UNITED CHURCH FOOD BANK  
REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR**

- |        |                                      |
|--------|--------------------------------------|
| Nov 28 | Peanut butter                        |
| Nov 29 | Jam                                  |
| Nov 30 | Stuffing mix                         |
| Dec 1  | Boxed potatoes                       |
| Dec 2  | Canned fruit                         |
| Dec 3  | Canned tuna                          |
| Dec 4  | Canned tomatoes                      |
| Dec 5  | Chicken noodle soup                  |
| Dec 6  | Dessert mix                          |
| Dec 7  | Canned cranberry sauce               |
| Dec 8  | Package of rice                      |
| Dec 9  | Pasta sauce                          |
| Dec 10 | Instant coffee                       |
| Dec 11 | Pancake mix (just add water variety) |
| Dec 12 | Pancake syrup                        |
| Dec 13 | Canned mixed vegetables              |
| Dec 14 | Canned peas                          |
| Dec 15 | Muffin mix                           |
| Dec 16 | Tomato soup                          |
| Dec 17 | Box of facial tissue                 |
| Dec 18 | Turkey gravy                         |
| Dec 19 | Baked beans                          |