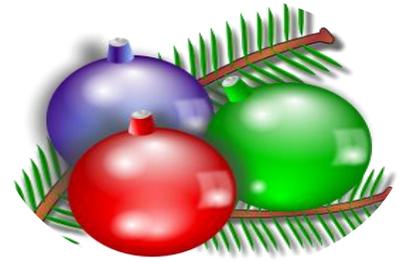


# PRINCESS STREET UNITED CHURCH CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



December, 2019

## MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER REVEREND SUSAN MCALLISTER

During a recent planning session for Advent and Christmas services, I was struck, and somewhat surprised, by the variety of emotions I experienced. As I reflected on my visceral response to the 'season of comfort and joy' ahead, I acknowledged that not only for me, but for many, it is a time of mixed feelings ~ one that has joy filled moments, and one that also has moments of sadness and grief. It is a time to gather and celebrate traditions with family and it is also a time to remember, honour and give thanks for those who are not with us, be it because of death, broken relationship, distance or for whatever other reason. It is a time to reminisce, a time to be present one with another, and a time to look ahead. I wondered then, have I finally understood the true meaning of, and need for, Advent as a time that is exactly what I need to prepare my heart, my mind and my Spirit for the arrival of the Christ Child? God's Beloved, Emmanuel - God with us, the Prince of Peace, the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords whose birth in a humble dwelling made God's love and light real for the world? Light that shines into the darkness, and love that lifts up and holds tight through the hills and valleys of life? It was then that, please pardon the pun, the light dawned, proof positive that God shows up and provides insight and revelation each and every day. Of course, Advent does indeed provide that time to make room in the inns in our lives, to declutter, to sweep clean, to clear the cobwebs and the dust that has accumulated during the year, and prepare a place for the newborn baby who brings hope, peace, joy and love. As I pondered, and did some further research, I came upon these words of wisdom:

*Preparing for Christmas takes on many different forms for us all. Although we might become entangled by the flurry of decorating, family, cooking, or wrapping gifts, we must not miss the true celebration. Since the sixth century, Advent has served as a time of preparation for the event of Christmas. It reminds us to prepare our hearts as well as our homes for the glorious celebration of Christ's birth. The hymn writer said, "Let every heart prepare Him room." Truly, we must set aside time and make room for the Prince of Peace to reign in our busy lives. He alone is the One who brings true hope, love, joy, and peace.*

It is my prayer for each and every one of you, that this Advent Season is a time of hope, love, joy and peace as you prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ, and for the time of celebration, giving thanks and honouring traditions with your family and friends. Advent and Christmas blessings, to you and yours.

Rev. Susan

## Message from Rev. Susan McAllister Regarding Her Sabbatical December 25, 2019 – March 30, 2020

As many of you know, I am taking a three month sabbatical leave as per the policy of the United Church of Canada and with the approval of the Ministry and Personnel Committee. January 1, 2020 marks five years of our ministry together at Princess Street United Church at which time the UCC supports a sabbatical for Ministry Personnel in pastoral relationships. You can read more about Sabbaticals in the UCC at:

<http://www.mnwo.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Sabbatical-Official-Guidelines.pdf>

During my time away, I will not be available for any Ministry duties. I will however, be sharing my sabbatical with you on Instagram and on the PSUC Facebook Page so if you have not already 'liked' or 'followed' one or both, please do so as soon as possible. Emergency Pastoral Care will be provided by Rev. Lynda Price, and the Pastoral Charge Supervisor will be Mr. Kevin Guthrie. Worship will be led by guest preachers and Session members. Please call the church office at 613-542-6112 for any pastoral needs for you or others who may require it.

While I am in Kenya and Uganda, I will be preaching at churches, leading workshops and seminars for pastors, and facilitating a training and teaching session for women in Cheptais, Kenya. This will be my third time in that area of the African continent and I am looking forward to participating in God's ministry there. I request your prayers for strength, wisdom, acumen and, above all, patience, as I share the Good News and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

<b>December 25 – Jan 2/3</b>	Christmas vacation, time with family
<b>Jan 4 – Jan 10</b>	Kingston to prepare for trip to Europe and Africa
<b>Jan 10 – Jan 24</b>	Netherlands (rest and retreat time at the home of a friend, prepare for teaching and preaching in Kenya and Uganda) Geneva (visit my daughter, son in law and granddaughter)
<b>Jan 25 – Feb 14</b>	Kenya and Uganda Mission Trip with Spirit Renewal Ministries
<b>Feb 15 – Feb 29</b>	Geneva
<b>March 1 – March 30</b>	Kingston (reading, researching and resting)





## PRINCESS STREET UNITED CHURCH

### MITTEN TREE PROJECT

Thanks to your generosity, Princess Street United Church has, over the last several Christmas seasons, collected mittens, scarves, toques, blankets and other knitted items for various agencies in the city. This year will be no exception! Can you help?

We would be very happy to receive your donations, either handmade or store-bought, which will decorate our sanctuary on the 'mitten tree', before they are donated out to the community. Please talk to Pat Kempson for further information!

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*'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'*

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## FOOD BANK NEWS

On the third Sunday of the month, our congregation collects donations of cash and non-perishable food items for the Partners in Mission Food Bank. Pasta (canned or dried), canned meat and fish, peanut butter, nuts, canned items: vegetables, fruit, beans, soups and stews and whole grains are particularly welcome. There is a receptacle bin in the narthex. Thank you for your support! For more information about the Partners in Mission Food bank and how it operates (and you can help!), go to <http://www.kingstonfoodbank.net/> Monetary donations are always welcome; envelopes are available; please make cheques payable to Partners in Mission Food Bank.

The Food Bank would appreciate receiving your empty Egg Containers. The Food Bank buys fresh eggs in bulk at considerable savings, and rely on your empty containers to pass them out. The Food Bank estimates that they save approximately \$10,000 a year by using donated cartons, so please bring them to church and we will ensure that they're passed on.

# gifts<sub>with</sub>vision

A Giving Catalogue from the People of The United Church of Canada

Gifts with Vision was developed by the United Church in response to member requests to be able to

give gifts to relatives, friends, and loved ones that are in direct support of the church's Mission & Service partners across Canada and around the world.

If you are seeking inspiring new gift ideas or perhaps would rather not give family and friends the same old clothes/toys/chocolates, Gifts with Vision presents a new way to celebrate special occasions. Give a gift that can help change people's lives! Gift funding raised for partners through the catalogue will be over and above the regular member-supported, stable core funding that these partners receive.

Everyone will find something in Gifts with Vision worth sharing with the special people in their lives. Gifts are available in a range of dollar amounts, as well as for many areas of need (hunger, shelter, education, health, safety, mobility, and more). Please pick up your catalogue on the table in the narthex, or online at <https://www.giftswithvision.ca/>



Please join us for

# *Advent and Christmas*

At Princess Street United Church  
484 Albert St., Kingston

<b>December 1,</b> Advent I	<b>10 am</b> Communion Pot Luck Lunch to Follow
<b>December 8,</b> Advent II	<b>10 am</b> Service of Lessons & Carols White Gift Offering
<b>December 13</b>	<b>7 pm</b> Blue Christmas Service At Crossroads United Church
<b>December 15</b> Advent III	<b>10 am</b> People's Choice Carols!
<b>December 22</b> Advent IV	<b>10 am</b> People's Choice Carols!
<b>December 24</b> Christmas Eve	<b>4 pm</b> Casual Service of Carols <b>7 pm</b> Family Service
<b>December 29</b>	<b>No Service</b>

For further information, please call 613-542-6112

# Christmas Basket News

The Food Voucher Group at Sydenham Street United Church together with Chalmers and Princess Street United Churches is once again organizing a campaign to collect non-perishable food items and grocery money to fill Christmas Baskets to provide a festive Christmas dinner for needy families in our community. Last year, we distributed 36 Christmas baskets into the community, serving 110 individuals, of whom 37 were children!

Please give generously - either grocery money (through the White Gift Campaign, and/or grocery items as listed below). We need a minimum of \$250 to buy perishable items: turkeys, potatoes, onions, carrots, oranges, apples and margarine. Please donate only those items listed. Make sure expiry dates on all items haven't run out and check cans for rust or major dents as these must be discarded.

Would you like to pack or deliver one of these baskets? Please talk to Annabel Campbell for more information.

## Donation Schedule

December 1 <sup>st</sup>	Hot Chocolate, tea, juice
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	Boxed stuffing, Canned Fruit, Cookies
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	Cranberry Sauce, Candy, Commercial Bar Cake (Cherry, Spanish, Lemon, Pound, etc.).

Packing and Delivery day this year will be Saturday, December 21.

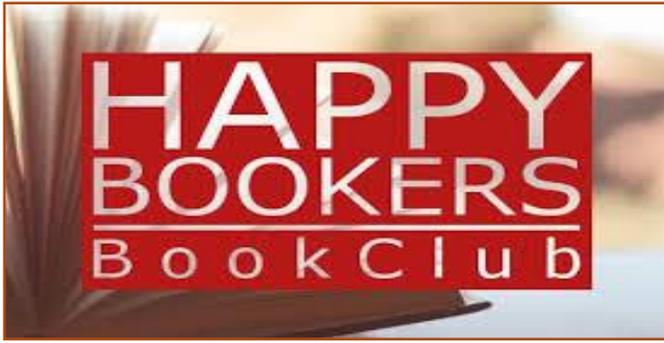


Please remember our Christmas Basket campaign when making your donation to the White Gift Offering on December 8<sup>th</sup>, Advent II.

## SOCKS Kingston

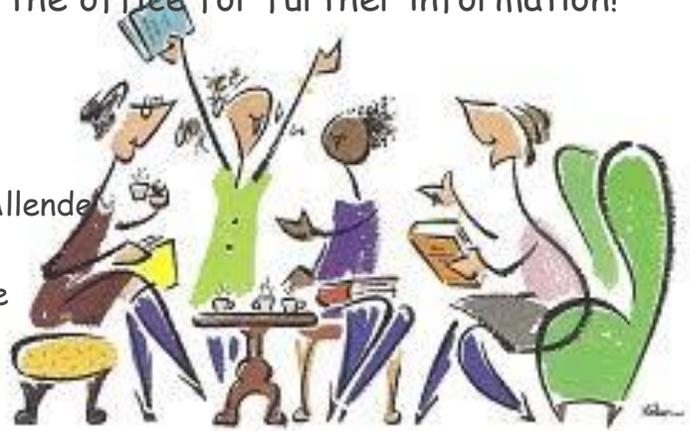
You will remember that we are now a year round donation location for SOCKS Kingston. There is always a need for pairs of socks in the Kingston community and your donations of women's, men's and children's sizes are much appreciated. A labelled box is located in the narthex. Thank you for your support of this important ministry.





Happy Bookers meets once a month at members homes on a Tuesday evening from 7 - 8:30. Here is the list and the dates for the upcoming year. All are welcome! Refreshments are served. Call the office for further information!

- Dec, 10 *The Huntress* by Kate Quinn
- Jan. 21 *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
- Feb. 18 *In the Midst of Winter* by Isabel Allende
- Mar 17 *Wonder* by RJ Palacio
- Apr 21 *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- May 19 *Boy Wonder* by Cathal Kelly
- June 16 *Pot Luck Dinner*



*"...pray for one another, that you may be healed." James 5:16*

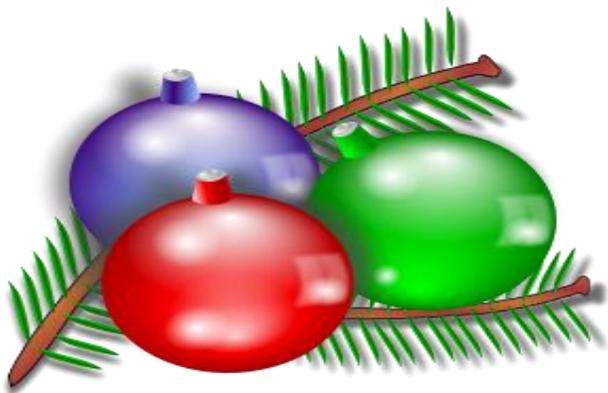
This past summer, we instituted a prayer request form on our website. (<http://www.psuc.ca/submit-a-prayer-request>) Since then, not a week has gone by that we haven't received at least one request, mostly from folks outside our congregational family. Additionally, we now have a prayer request book which is located at the chancel steps. You are encouraged to use either avenue to submit your prayer requests. We would be pleased to pray for any special need you may be facing today.

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:6*



# Fundraising Committee Hosts Dinner

On December 4 and 5, the Fundraising Committee, with lots of help from the congregation, is coordinating their annual dinner for folks from the Community Brain Injury Service (SEBIS) at Providence Hospital. **We need lots of help!** Baking pies, peeled vegetables, roasting turkeys, setting up tables and servers - and especially to those willing to clean up! We deeply appreciate all your efforts! Preparation start on Wed. Dec 4 and the Dinner is at 5 pm on December 5! If you can assist, please speak to Annabel Campbell or Joan Westcott



# Sale of Property to Kingston Home Base Housing Completed on October 1

The Trustees report that the sale of the PSUC property (manse and church building) to Home Base Housing was completed on October 1, 2019. The trustees are now exploring the best way to invest the proceeds from the sale in order to receive the largest return. For now, it rests in our investment account.

Sale Price		\$600,000
Credit for Taxes Paid		1,057.62
Legal Fees	15,369	
Administrative Fees	388.75	
HST on Fees/Disbursements	2048.51	
Total Fees Paid	<u>17,806.26</u>	
Total Received		583,251.36



# The Bottom Line: Our Church Finances

As you can see from the attached income statement, which compares January 1 to November 27, in both 2018 and 2019, our expenses in 2019 have substantially increased

The sale of our property to Kingston Home Base Housing

has 'changed the picture' in that, as tenants, we will no longer be responsible for maintenance and utilities of the building. At the same time, we will no longer be receiving any revenue from rentals. Simply put, our expenses will be down, but our revenue will be down as well!

The report on the sale of the property is on the previous page.

Please prayerfully consider a special Christmas offering in addition to your weekly commitment to the life and work of our church?

You can assist in a number of ways: by participating in the Church's 'Pre-Authorized Remittance' program (<http://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/get-involved/give-regularly>); by a series of post-dated cheques; or by giving online (<http://www.psuc.ca/donate>)

## Princess Street United Church Comparative Income Statement

	Jan, 2019 to 27 Nov, 2019	Jan, 2018 to 27 Nov, 2018
<b>REVENUE</b>		
<b>Offerings for PSUC Use</b>		
Offerings, Designated "General"	47,609.24	48,858.58
Offerings, Designated "Initial"	107.35	245.05
Offerings, Loose Cash	625.75	658.50
PAR Fees Deducted	-65.00	-60.50
Total Offerings for General Use	48,277.34	49,701.63
Offerings Designated "Memorial"	350.00	175.00
Offr'gs Designated "Special Proj"	375.00	1,295.00
Offr'gs Designated -Other	35.00	0.00
<b>Total Sunday Offerings for PSUC Use</b>	<b>49,037.34</b>	<b>51,171.63</b>
<b>Total Rental Revenue</b>	<b>43,499.90</b>	<b>58,495.95</b>
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>14,561.16</b>	<b>13,907.78</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>107,098.40</b>	<b>123,575.36</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>		
<b>Payroll Expense</b>	<b>129,768.69</b>	<b>131,014.75</b>
<b>General &amp; Admin. Expenses</b>	<b>9,416.77</b>	<b>13,982.88</b>
<b>Session Expenses</b>	<b>1,709.06</b>	<b>425.90</b>
<b>Outreach Expenses</b>	<b>8.22</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Manse Expenses</b>	<b>9,863.74</b>	<b>12,851.78</b>
<b>Church Property Expenses</b>	<b>42,645.17</b>	<b>59,233.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>193,411.65</b>	<b>217,508.31</b>
<b>NET LOSS</b>	<b>-86,313.25</b>	<b>-93,932.95</b>