



# Joyful Noise

## “Yes, it really is.”

Written By: Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz

Dear Friends,

Here we are, at the beautiful edge of Advent, ready or not. As is often the way this time of year, I've been thinking about three little words, in one little phrase, that can have very different kinds of punctuation, and intonation.

Christmas is coming? Christmas is coming! How I say it, how I live it, might change by the day, or even by the event.

Trying not to overthink it all, I've also been mulling over an invitation for a little extra Advent event. From the good work of Tripp Fuller, joined by Philip Clayton and Diana Butler Bass (all of them good doctors, of the Christian academic variety), it's a pop-up learning community with Homebrewed Christianity, to explore the Christmas story. No prep, no homework, no attendance really, just fascinating speakers and banter – so why isn't it a no-brainer to attend? Because Christmas. Because Advent calls us into so much before Christmas... and because there's only one of each of us, always.



I'm wondering if it feels a little like that for you, when the list of Christ First seasonal services and events lands on your desk, too. You don't have to answer, but I'd understand

completely if you said yes, it's a whole lot, and it's hard to say yes to it all. Here's what my heart says in response: [continued...](#)



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## “Yes, it really is.” cont’d

whatever you do, do what you can do to hold the Christmas story central in your heart. I’d love to see you and yours, again and again and again, but I also believe that God’s love for you – the same Love that brought Christ to earth and Christmas into being – wants most for you to experience joy, peace, and hope, too. I choose to trust that we will each find our own pace there, through this season like no other. I choose to trust that we will each be welcomed to the manger, whatever path we take to get there. Because Christmas is coming, beloved ones. Christmas is coming, with a love that never ever goes away.

With love to you all,

Rev. Heather 



## Providing Refuge for the Marginalized

Written By: David Wheeler

Christ First is working with In from the Cold, our latest community tenant, to help God’s most marginalized individuals in our society. Referred to as “people of no fixed address”, from October 24 to March 31, 2024 their place of refuge and sanctuary seven nights a week is the lower level of our church building at the Port Credit campus.

The In from the Cold program is managed by staff and security hired and trained by the Clarkson Community Church congregants, located at 1880 Lakeshore Road West in Clarkson Village. This all is totally funded by the Region of Peel through the Federal Government.

Christ First is supplying the lower-level space with use of the kitchen for hot meals and fridge storage, tables and chairs for consuming meals, a wireless motion camera system for security, and custodial cleaning and supplies for ongoing bathroom continued...





## Providing Refuge ... cont'd

necessities. Partitions are provided to allow privacy where women sleep on the upper stage area, while the men sleep on the auditorium level.

The occupants are allowed access to the lower level through the rear fire entrance stairwell in the alleyway between the Clark Hall and the West Edge Church (previously the Chapel of Christ First and attached to the main sanctuary). They are allowed access starting at 9:30 p.m. and leave at 7:30 a.m. daily, having spent the night in a warm environment with bathroom facilities and a hot meal for nourishment. This access is necessary so as not to interrupt the programs of our existing Community Tenants using the Peter Street entrance and main entrance of the sanctuary. It is on a "first come, first served" basis and some individuals may be turned away depending on staff's ability to handle and feed the numbers.

The first night, on October 24, we accommodated 13 individuals. By Saturday, October 28, we were housing 35 people. What will happen when the weather really gets cold in the months of January and February? In our communications with members of the Clarkson Community Church, the statistics for shelters in the Region of Peel are at 250 % capacity. If we are only funded for 30 individuals per night by the Government, how do we accept more of God's marginalized people into our sanctuary?

This will be an ongoing problem for everyone this winter. We will keep you informed but it may mean some extra funding from all local churches to supplement the shortfall from Federal Government funding.


God Bless 

## Christmas by Candlelight

It won't be a silent night at our Port Credit Campus on Sunday, December 10 at 7 p.m. Instead, our Christmas Candlelight Service will bring joy to your world with beautiful music.

This year, we are featuring a 60 voice choir conducted by our own Leanne Piller. The Christ First choir will be joined by choirs from Eden United, Sheridan United and St. Stephen's on-the-Hill to create a magical sound.

Also featured in the program are Christ First's Bell Choir, Bell Canto and a string quartet. Admission is free. For that price you can bring your family and friends! Cookies and hot apple cider will be served after the concert. Donations will be collected for The Compass.

Treat yourself to the gift of music. Put this date in your calendar now! 

# Calendar Highlights

## December 2023



**December 2**  
**Children's Advent Day**

**December 3**  
**Advent I & Communion**

**December 6 UCW Advent**  
**Service @ Sheridan UC**

**December 9**  
**Magic Show**

**December 10 Advent II &**  
**Candlelight Service**

**December 13**  
**Dorcas UCW Meeting**

**December 16 Family**  
**Dinner and Movie Night**

**December 17**  
**Advent III**

**December 20**  
**Seekers Advent**  
**Gathering**

**December 21**  
**Longest Night Service**

**December 24 Advent IV**  
**Christmas Eve**  
**Communion**

**December 31**  
**New Years Eve,**  
**Noon Year's Eve Party**

## January 2024 February 2024

**January 7**  
**Epiphany & Communion**

**February 11**  
**Transfiguration Sunday & Communion**

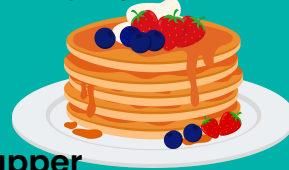
**January 10**  
**Dorcas UCW Meeting**

**February 13**  
**Shrove Tuesday / Pancake Supper**

**January 17**  
**Seekers Meeting**

**February 14**  
**Ash Wednesday**  
**Valentines Day**

**January 31**  
**NOWW Meeting**



*Ash*  
*wednesday*



**CHRIST FIRST**  
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA





# Office News



## Office Hours

**Monday 9am - 3pm**  
**Tuesday 9am - 3pm**  
**Wednesday 9am - 12pm**  
**Thursday 9am - 3pm**  
**Friday 9am - 12pm**

## Christmas Hours

The office will be closed  
December 25, 2023  
through January 1, 2024



## Final Day for 2023 Givings

December 20, 2023 is the final  
day that 2023 givings will be  
accepted to be included on  
your 2023 Tax Receipt.



## Council Says Yes to the Remit

Written By: Carol Wilson

A recent letter from Council informed all Christ First members that Council had voted in favour of a remit that will allow the development of a new, autonomous National Indigenous Organization (NIO) within the United Church. Governing bodies, and not congregations, are required to vote on the remit.

Approval of the remit acknowledges Indigenous peoples' rights to their own spiritual identities and to self-determination. This has the potential to create a new kind of relationship between the Indigenous peoples and the United Church: in the words of the National Indigenous Council, moving "from 'missions to Indians' ... towards being 'partners in God's call to all the earth.'"

Council supports the position that this remit is the logical and necessary next step for the United Church to move away from being a colonial church and toward being an actively anti-racist and inclusive church. This is consistent with Christ First's exploration of becoming an Affirming Church.

The Council letter is posted on the Christ First website. For more information about the remit and its importance to building a renewed relationship with the Indigenous peoples go to the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council website and the United Church website by clicking on the links below, or scanning the QR Code provided. ✚

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Website: [Click Here](#)**



**Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization: [Click Here](#)**





# Update from Horseshoe Falls Region and the United Church of Canada

Written By: Shawn Bausch

A large focus of the activity in the Region and of the United Church this fall has been on activities related to Truth and Reconciliation. This may not be surprising, given that the United Church of Canada now has the first Indigenous national church leader of any faith in Canada, the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Landsdowne.

Truth and Reconciliation is a process, not an event. It is intended to heal the wounds of the past and put all of us collectively in a better relationship with Indigenous communities.

Did you know that there are dozens of Indigenous communities which have United Churches within their communities? Did you know that some of these communities have Indigenous United Church ministers? These are scattered across the country, with a good number of them located in Ontario. The National Indigenous Council has existed for decades and Indigenous churches have existed for more than a century. As we know, their experience has been much different from most of our church experiences – yet they consider themselves a part of our same faith. For an excerpt of their historical perspective, here are some recent words of the National Indigenous (United) Church leaders:

“Methodist and Presbyterian missionaries came among us in the nineteenth century. Many of these missionaries were Indigenous. Our oldest congregation, the Grand River Methodist Mission, has been serving the people since 1825. In 1925, the United Church was born through the act of union. The Indigenous churches of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches were not consulted about union, they were simply moved between institutions and became United Church “missions.” The first act of the United Church treated us “like children” unable to make our own decisions, and defending our rights as autonomous Nations has been a struggle ever since.

Indigenous people have met regularly over many decades and held deep and ongoing conversations about matters relating to our Indigenous Ministries and continued...



## Update... cont'd

our relationship with the United Church. We have been evolving, struggling, adapting, and growing since church union. Unwittingly, the church restructuring of 2018, caused crisis in the National Indigenous Circle by destabilizing our ways of working together. our relationship with the United Church. We have been evolving, struggling, adapting, and growing since church union. Unwittingly, the church restructuring of 2018, caused crisis in the National Indigenous Circle by destabilizing our ways of working together.

It is time for us to move towards a different relationship. It is time to set aside the notion of “missions to the Indians” and truly move towards being “partners in God’s call to all the earth.”

- Excerpt from the Statement of the National Indigenous Council to the United Church General Council 44, February – August, 2022

Truth and Reconciliation is a process that is part of relationship building. All the faiths involved with Indigenous communities across Canada have pledged financial support and charity as part of this process. You may be pleased to know that the United Church of Canada is current and up to date with all its financial commitments in this regard. Leadership on this important social justice issue is an integral part of building stronger communities across our country. To learn more about the current Indigenous communications on Truth and Reconciliation: ✚



Chief Cadmus' address of May, 2022 in Toronto, "There's No Reconciliation Without Truth":

UCC: Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice



UCC: Truth and Reconciliation Commission





# The Metropolitan Silver Band Comes to Christ First

Written By: Marg Shaver

They entered the Christ First Port Credit sanctuary concert space with anticipation.

Members of Christ First were in attendance in good numbers but there were many unfamiliar faces in this crowd as well, all eager to hear the classical music, hymns, show tunes and contemporary pieces that would be played.

Did they come knowing they were in for a musical 'treat' from this band, celebrating their 90th anniversary this year, playing in the style of English brass bands?

Did they come to enjoy the largest and tastiest 'charcuterie board' prepared by Chef Laura Wheeler?

Did they come to mingle and share laughter and conversation, glass in hand?

Or did they come to enjoy and learn from Band Director, Fran Harney, whose humorous banter and introductions enlightened us all?

Surely they came realizing that funds raised were to benefit The Compass and Christ First's music program.



Perhaps they simply knew there really was no better way to spend a Canadian fall afternoon.

All left the Christ First concert having enjoyed a wonderful event!

Sincere thanks are extended to all who gave up their time to be the organizing committee for this occasion.†





# Compass Governance Update

Written by: Mike Giguere

The Compass must be compliant with the new Ontario Not for Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) by October 2024. We intend to have our new by-laws presented at the next AGM in early 2024.



As ONCA is triggering a major review of our by-laws, we are using the opportunity to revisit our governance structure. For most of our 20 plus years of operation years, we remained a small organization, operated and funded largely by local churches. Growth in the last few years has been exponential. We are now a large, high-profile organization with most of the volunteer support and funding being derived from the broader secular community. Our current governance model requires that a member is a church and that the church is to nominate a director to sit on the board of the Compass. This approach provides a structured way to ensure all member churches remain engaged. Conversely, this limits The Compass's ability to proactively recruit governance talent. The existing model also ties board participation directly to the number of congregations operating in the area which is presumed to be unstable as the future unfolds.

The most significant change we are planning is to no longer compel a "member" church to provide a director. We hope that all existing member churches remain members and intend to open membership to other, smaller churches, and perhaps to individuals who profess their Christian faith. A set number of directors will then be elected to the Board by the members. We also intend to require members to be

[continued...](#)



## Compass ... cont'd

actively engaged in the work of The Compass. This is the manner we believe will ensure a church remains engaged. It also fits with James 2: 14-17 where we are reminded that faith without action is dead.

Our new model will allow us to open membership to a wider faith circle, enhancing our ecumenical profile, while enabling a full and open director recruitment process.

We strive always for best practices throughout The Compass operation and maintain our top ranking by charity evaluating organizations. Operational excellence is motivated by inspired leadership. ✝

## Mitten Tree

Throughout the month of December, our annual Mitten Tree will be on display in the narthex. Our Outreach Committee will be collecting donations of hats, scarves, and mittens! These donations will be distributed to local schools in the new year to provide for students who do not have access to these items. Please keep in mind that waterproof gloves are much more durable for young hands. Monetary donations will also gladly be accepted for the additional purchase of durable, waterproof gloves and mittens. Envelopes for receiptable cash donations will be available next to the Mitten Tree. ✝







Joyful Noise

December 2023

# CHURCH LIFE







Joyful Noise

December 2023

# CHURCH LIFE







## Outreach: World Food Sunday

Written By: Victoria Keane

On Sunday, October, we recognized World Food Sunday during our worship service. Following worship, all were invited to the auditorium to share a soup lunch. Food insecurity is becoming an increasing worry at both the national and community levels. During the week of November 6, The Compass served 2,082 clients from 821 households, including adding 141 new clients to their community. During this same time last year, they were serving only approximately 1,200 people each week. To recognize this, we invited Options Mississauga to prepare a delicious meal of soup and rolls, and a free will donation was taken up to offset the cost. Options is a social enterprise in Port Credit that, among many things, provides job training and opportunities for adults with intellectual disabilities. Chef James and his team prepared the soup for us for this special event, and they are regular providers to the In From The Cold program now as well. Twice a week, Chef James and his team at Options prepare dinner for the folks staying at In From The Cold – a real example of the ripple effect of paying it forward. ✝



## Stewardship Lunch





# FAMILY *Zone*

Written By: Victoria Keane



Our fall was filled with friends and fellowship for our youngest church attendees. In September, many gathered for a Messy Church service to honour Orange Shirt Day. We shared a casual and interactive worship time, and in the spirit of reconciliation, we made friendship bracelets for one another. We then had the gift of sharing a meal inspired by traditional Indigenous food, including authentic bannock supplied by Bangin Bannock, an Indigenous-owned business from Vancouver, located on the traditional unceded territory of the Coast Salish People of Tsleil-Waututh, Squamish, and Musqueam. It was so inspiring to see our young friends don their orange shirts, as if proclaiming that they are here to change the world, to ensure a fair and just future for all God's children.

Thank you to all those who donated and volunteered to help Christ First host a tent at Clarkson's Halloween In The Village event this past October! We handed out treats to roughly 1500 kids, and saw some incredible costumes! We had some Halloween fun in our monthly Youth Group as well, as we were joined by Applewood United for an evening of fellowship and pumpkin carving.

We are now looking forward to Advent and the New Year! We have special Saturday events throughout December, filled with music, crafting, magic, meals, and so much more! These events are family friendly - while they are geared towards children, they are certainly open to all those with the childlike magic of Christmas in their hearts! ✝





# Strategic Plan Update

Written By: Carol Wilson

At the October 1 vision session, Christ First members did the initial work of identifying key goals for our strategic plan. The output from that session is posted on the [church website](#). On November 4, Council met for a full day session to take this work one step further. The group looked at the goals and spent time thinking about possible strategies to support them. Facilitator Mark Ellwood asked Council members to consider these important questions:

- As we think about attracting people to our organization, what is it that people are looking for that our church can provide?
- What do we want to achieve over the next three to five years?
- How will we achieve these goals?
- How can we work together more effectively as a team to achieve our goals?

Progress was made in thinking more deeply about our target groups and possible goals and actions. Council will continue to work under the guidance of Mark Ellwood to develop the strategic plan and a project plan that will identify appropriate points of consultation with the congregation. Council will keep the congregation apprised of progress.†

**Walden Circle**   
Retirement Community *by Signature*

## The Heart of Clarkson Village

At Walden Circle Retirement community, life is all about choices! And with so much included at no extra charge, You'll find it's easy to plan your day exactly as you like it.

- Independent living
- Personal on-site care
- Assisted living
- Trial Stays
- Winter Stays
- Respite Care



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[www.WaldenCircleRetirement.com](http://www.WaldenCircleRetirement.com)





# South Mississauga NONPROFIT NETWORKING



Written by: Victoria Keane

Since our last issue of Joyful Noise, our Outreach Committee has hosted two Nonprofit Networking Breakfasts.

On September 25, we gathered at our Port Credit Campus to receive a workshop on Resilience and Self-Care, courtesy of CL&F Inspired Leadership. Attendees consisted mainly of staff and volunteers of local nonprofit organizations, who gladly participated in exercises identifying personal stressors, and brainstorming ways in which they could increase their capacity for self-care.

On November 20, we met again to receive a presentation from Ana Carvalho, the Program Manager for In From The Cold. This event saw our highest attendance yet, and even captured the interest of Mississauga's Ward 1 and Ward 2 City Councilors - Stephen Dasko and Alvin Tedjo.

Sincere thanks to our Outreach and Property Committees and the many volunteers that help make these events come to life. And a special thank you to Laura Wheeler, for consistently coming out in the wee hours of the morning to cook and serve us a delicious breakfast! †







## Treats 'n' Treasures

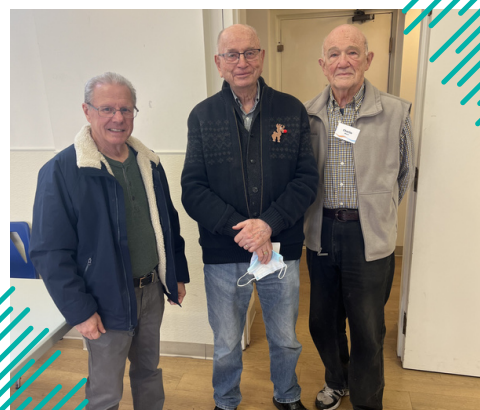


Written By: Peggy Forde

Our annual Treats 'n' Treasures Christmas Marketplace was a great success thanks to the many willing volunteers and enthusiastic shoppers. The morning of November 18 was crisp and sunny and shoppers came in a steady stream. The auditorium was busy, but never overcrowded as friends, family and people from all over (we had a family from Guelph!) strolled the aisles and bought gifts for themselves and others.

Many muffins, baked by the Quilters and UCW, were consumed in the Cafe and the bake table was empty by 1:30 p.m. The quilt raffle took in over \$1,000 and the lucky winner was Stephanie MacPhail, a friend of Pat Skinner, who often volunteers in the book department. Dana and Mike Giguere collected donations for The Compass and the Sunday School sold church calendars.

I am pleased to say that the event raised almost \$7,000 gross before expenses. Final figures are being tallied. On behalf of the organizing committee, I'd like to thank Joan Cobbold and her team in the Treasures area, Judy Scott and her helpers in the book department, Deborah MacDonald and the bake table crew, Nancy Hori and the kitchen helpers and David Watters and the finance team. Your contributions to the success of this event are very much appreciated! ✝





## Affirming Study Group

Earlier this year, our Church Council approved the formation of an Affirming Study Group, and this past September, this group began their work. They have been tasked with the important work of guiding our church through the education and discernment process, to eventually advise the wider congregation on their suggestion of whether Christ First should become an Affirming Church. To be Affirming means that you strive for full participation and justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in the church and in society. The group has already met several times, and has tackled topics such as creating an inclusive Marriage Policy and church Vision Statement.



### We're already welcoming, so why become Affirming?

Some ministries already have many signs of inclusion. They may feel they include everyone and wonder why they would need to specifically mention sexual orientation or gender identity. But words like *welcoming* or *inclusion* suggest those on the inside have the power to choose to accept those on the *outside*. Grounded in the radical hospitality of Jesus, expressing God's love for all created beings, Affirming congregations seek to be public, intentional, and explicit in every aspect of their life and work together, actively upholding justice for all people, including those of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

### Congratulations!

Over the past year, the following United Churches in Ontario have voted to become Affirming Congregations:

- \*Emmanuel United (Windsor, ON)
- \*Bridgenorth United (Bridgenorth, ON)
- \*Kitchissippi United (Ottawa, ON)
- \*Rockwood Stone Pastoral Charge (Rockwood, ON)
- \*Beach United Church (Toronto, ON) ✚







# Special Advent Services

DECEMBER 3

❄️ **Advent I** ❄️

9:02AM & 10:30AM  
WITH COMMUNION

DECEMBER 10

❄️ **Advent II** ❄️

9:02AM CONTEMPORARY  
10:30AM TRADITIONAL

DECEMBER 17

❄️ **Advent III** ❄️

9:02AM CONTEMPORARY  
10:30AM BRASS QUARTET

DECEMBER 24

**Advent IV**

10AM BLENDED  
7:02PM CONTEMPORARY  
9PM COMMUNION



## Christmas Candlelight Service

The service will be held at  
**Christ First in Port Credit**  
December 10 @ 7:00pm

Featuring 60 Choristers, Bell Canto and a  
string quartet. **Admission is free.**

We will be collecting donations for  
The Compass.

Cookies and hot apple cider to follow.

151 Lakeshore Rd. W, Mississauga Ontario

# THE LONGEST NIGHT

A quiet service of readings, remembrance, song, and prayer.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 21

@ 7PM

CHRIST FIRST

1700 MAZO CRESCENT







# THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

## CHILDREN'S ADVENT DAY

SAT. DECEMBER 2 • 10AM-1PM

Learn the Christmas story through crafts, games, music, and more! Children 3 and under require an adult to stay with them.

1700 MAZO CRES. MISSISSAUGA  
RSVP TO [VICTORIAKEANE@CHRISTFIRST.CA](mailto:victoriakeane@christfirst.ca)

# Family Events At Christ First



# MAGIC Show

*BenTastic*  
Magically Fantastic

**Sat. Dec 9**  
**4pm**  
**1700 Mazo Cres**

RSVP: [victoriakeane@christfirst.ca](mailto:victoriakeane@christfirst.ca)



# Dinner and a Family Movie

- Sat. December 16th
- 4-7pm
- 1700 Mazo Cres.

Let us know you're coming:  
[victoriakeane@christfirst.ca](mailto:victoriakeane@christfirst.ca)

4pm  
Movie:  
THE STAR



5:45pm  
Dinner:  
Lasagna

6:30pm  
Dessert and  
Carol Sing



# How to Help this Holiday

Christ First has many local nonprofit organizations that we support - through direct donations, volunteering, contract hiring, and especially through our Nonprofit Networking events. If it is within your means, here are some ways that you can help some of our community partners:



**THE COMPASS**  
Help for Today Hope for Tomorrow

*Spread the Joy*

**CHRISTMAS GIFT CARD DRIVE**

**Walmart Gift Cards**

Donations can be made using the form below or dropping off Walmart Gift Cards in person from Nov. 1st - Dec. 13th.

**427 LAKESHORE RD EAST  
MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO  
WWW.THECOMPASS.CA**



## Annual Fundraiser Holiday Treats Sale



Contact David Wheeler to place your orders before December 15th.

Since 1954, the Kiwanis Club of Mississauga has supported community needs, in particular our our children, who are among the most vulnerable. The proceeds of our Annual Holiday Treat sale help provide funds for many local organizations.





# How to Help This Holiday

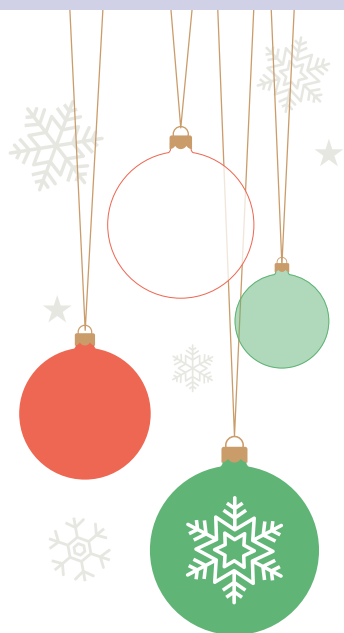
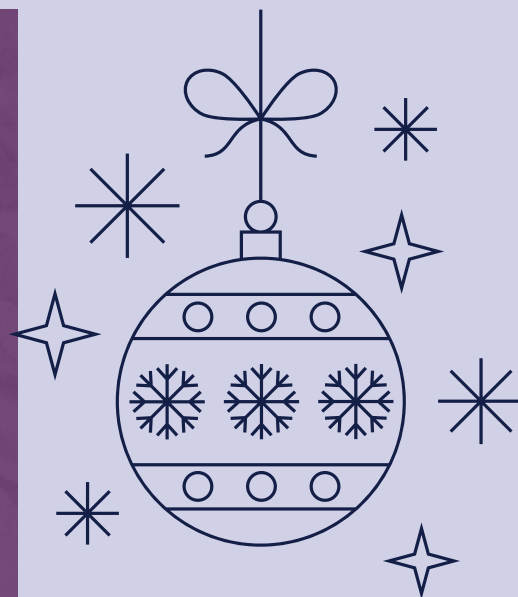
epilepsy  
south central  
ontario

Need stocking stuffers? Stop by our office and pick up a pair of cool MOJJA socks for only \$20 dollars! Proceeds go towards supporting 2024 Sunny Days Camp!



## Cranberry Christmas Market

Join us at Clarke Memorial Hall (161 Lakeshore Rd W, Mississauga) on Saturday, December 9, 2023 from 11 AM 5 PM to shop local for holiday gifts and enjoy some festive entertainment. Save time this year and sneak your gifts home! Gift Wrapping will be available by donation with proceeds supporting Epilepsy South Central Ontario.



Annual Open House & Art Exhibit  
Wednesday Dec 6th from 1-4pm

Stock up on baked goods,  
Christmas cards and 2024  
calendars.



Order Goodies by [clicking here](#), or scanning the QR code



# Auld Lang Syne

Scottish poet Robert Burns first wrote the poem "Auld Lang Syne" in 1788. The title, translated literally into standard English, is "Old Long Since." The words can be interpreted as "since long ago" or "for old times' sake." The lyrics are about old friends having a drink and recalling adventures they had long ago. The poem did not appear in print until after Burns' death, and the composer of the tune is unknown.



Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
And never brought to mind?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
And the days of auld lang syne?

For auld lang syne, my dear  
For auld lang syne  
We'll drink a cup of kindness yet  
For the sake of auld lang syne

And surely you will buy your cup  
And surely I'll buy mine!  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet  
For the sake of auld lang syne

We two have paddled in the stream  
From morning sun till night  
The seas between us Lord and swell  
Since the days of auld lang syne ✝



## A Family-Friendly NOON YEAR'S EVE Party!

**Let's ring in the new year at noon!**

Crafts / Lunch / Countdown and Ball Drop

**December 31st, 2023 11am-1pm**

Following a 10am Blended Worship Service

1700 Mazo Cres, Mississauga

RSVP to [Victoriakeane@christfirst.ca](mailto:Victoriakeane@christfirst.ca)

It has been the tradition of our Spiritual Development Committee to host a NOON Year's Eve party for our young families. This year, New Year's Eve happens to fall on a Sunday! Join us for Blended Worship at 10am, and then everyone is invited to join us in the auditorium for a free lunch and celebration where we will countdown to 12pm NOON! ✝

# Christ First Register

August 17 through November 20, 2023

As is true for any family, this chosen bond we call a church is forever changing in who we see and know. Missing those who have left before us in death, and welcoming those who have just started their journey here, we give great thanks to God for the gift, the honour, to be in this life, together.

## Deaths

August 29 - Henry (Stu) Stuart

September 14 - Maxine Elliot

October 8 - Margaret Elmarson

October 17 - Elizabeth Brown

October 17 - Eric Eggleton



*"In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
we are not alone.*

*Thanks be to God."*





## How does a weary world rejoice?

Christ was born into a weary world. King Herod ruled the land with a legacy of ruthlessness. The Romans treated the people of Israel with contempt. Poverty and destitution were pervasive. And yet, Christ was born, bringing good news of great joy for all people.

This Advent season, we invite you to look closely at the details in the opening chapters of the Gospel of Luke. Discover where joy is sprinkled throughout the narrative. And consider how joy can be a companion to you this season, for our joy is rooted in the truth that we belong to God. Check your inbox for daily emails designed to help you practice joy in a weary world. And so, this Advent, let us hold space for our weariness *and* our joy.



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