



SouthWinds

DECEMBER 2019

Highlights:

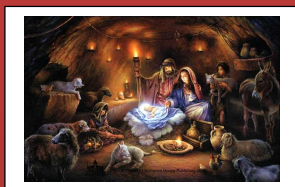
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United Church*

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Patrick's Words of Wisdom!

"¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:10-14

"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1

The first reading above from Luke is a part of our Christmas story and as such we usually hear this piece of scripture or some version of it on Christmas Eve. It is part of our faith, it is a small part of a larger story that is integral to our faith and our understanding of our faith, but I want you to think about it for a moment. What do you think it would have been like for those shepherds who were watching their flocks that night? Were they scared? Were they excited? Maybe a little of both! The people of the ancient world were waiting for a new king, for a messiah, to come and this announcement would have brought to life, in those hearing the angelic pronouncement of this birth, all of those feelings of hope and joy that the idea of this new king would bring with it. And they had spoken of this coming of a new king for so long, the people had waited for so long, and now it was happening for them.

We are also waiting, and that is a large part of what Advent is about for us as Christians. It is a time of waiting and preparation to remember and celebrate the birth of Emmanuel "God with us." But what do you think would happen if each year as we commemorate the birth of Jesus an angelic messenger appeared to us and announced the birth of God incarnate? Do you think that our church would be bursting with people come to see the spectacle?

Do you think that there would many more who believe as we believe? What might happen to our faith if we saw that same miracle in our lives? But that is not the way that our faith works, is it? We trust in those things that we cannot see, don't we? Our faith is based on something that we can't see, we can't touch, and yet it is something that many of us have felt deeply during our lives. It is the belief in something greater than ourselves. And this faith is what keeps us engaged in this community. We know that there is something more here than meets the eye, there is a sense of hope in a world that can seem so hopeless. There is a sense of peace here in this community in a world where strife, anger, hatred seem to abound. There is a sense of compassion here in this community in the midst of a world that seems to only look out for number 1. Yes as the above quoted passage from Hebrews states we do find "assurance of things hoped for" but how often do we feel the blessings that this community has had in the lives of its members. So this Advent as we wait and prepare for the celebration of the birth of love incarnate, do so with hope, with peace, with compassion, and with love all of those gifts of God among us.

I wish you all a blessed and happy Advent, Christmas and New Year.



Rev. Patrick Woodbeck
Minister, Windsor Park United Church



2019 Advent Calendar

December 1, 2019 1st Sunday of Advent - 10:30am with Communion

*December 7, 2019 Thinking of You Baskets - 12:00pm
Packing and delivery*

December 8, 2019 2nd Sunday of Advent/White Gift Sunday - 10:30am

December 14, 2019 Christmas Hampers - 9:00am Packing and delivery

December 15, 2019 3rd Sunday of Advent - 10:30am Contemporary Service

December 15, 2019 St. Boniface Caroling - 1:30pm

December 22, 2019 4th Sunday of Advent - 10:30am

December 23, 2019 Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service - 7:00pm

*December 24, 2019 Christmas Eve Service - 7:30pm
Carols, Candlelight, and Communion*



Chair of the Board

Doug Waldron, Board Chair

Greetings Friends,

A few of us are attending the Wednesday evening "ProFuture Faith with Michael Dowd". I have been really impressed with the timely, thought provoking, quality content and presentation of our predicament and how we got here. I have asked Patrick to host it again because the content needs to be heard by everybody.

I was pleased by the response to the invitation of the Homecoming Potluck Lunch on November 3rd. Around 90 folks gathered after church. With lessons learned from 2018 we added a P.A. system, numbered tables and provided servers. There was enough food for everyone with plenty of desserts. For next year we may ask for just sandwiches, veggie plates, etc. - and desserts, so that we can have the food on the tables right away with no line ups.

If you have been blessed by a talent or extra time, we always seem to have a means for you to share it with this congregation. While we explore our options, we will maintain our current structure to the best of our abilities. I believe all the Councils could use some extra help to fulfil their mandate. Council chairs - don't forget your 2020 budget is needed soon.

Don't forget that for a donation to appear on your 2019 tax receipt it needs to be received by the Church by December 31st.



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM MY FAMILY TO YOURS.



Bob Harrison

Did you ever wonder?

- ★ Who was responsible for all the taped sermons each week at Windsor Park United?
- ★ Who looked after the microphones for the liturgists each week at worship?
- ★ Who looked after the batteries for the wireless microphones?
- ★ What about the batteries for the hearing impaired system we have (did you even know that existed)?
- ★ Who set up the sound system for the many activities we have in the lower hall?
- ★ Who would jump and fix the sound system on a Sunday morning when we had feedback from another church on the corner?

Did you know it was Bob Harrison?

We, at WPUC would like to thank this incredible man for all the many hours he has put into making sure the correct systems work on a Sunday morning, the taped sermons, the setting up of the system in the lower hall for all the many activities that occur here at the church. There are many ways that Bob pitched in and probably some we didn't even know about!

Thank you Bob Harrison for all that you did to make things easier for everyone to hear on a Sunday morning and throughout the week as well!

Ministry and Personnel Committee

Gloria Saindon, Sarah Closen
and Eleanor Lwiwski

Hard to believe that we are already mid-November - just where does the time fly?

Ministry and Personnel has been moving along just smoothly with nothing earth shattering to report. We would like to extend a special Thank you to **Melissa Davidson** - for filling in for Gina while she was on the mend.

Melissa (and her little elves) kept the church spic and span for a few weeks in October and we truly appreciate her readiness to step in when needed. Thank you Melissa!!

Enjoy the beginnings of the Advent season as Windsor Park begins to celebrate the holiday season.

Congregational Involvement and Communications Council

Deanna Kernaghan

- ★ We had our Welcome Lunch on **September 8, 2019** after Church. People donated veggies, cold meat, buns and desserts. We had 81 people in attendance. Everyone enjoyed the variety of food.
- ★ On **October 19** we had our Craft Sale. Jan Nazarko looked after the rental of tables. We had 25 craft tables. The Crafters had a large variety of crafts. We made **\$587.00**.
- ★ Jan already has 8 tables booked for 2020. The U.C.W. looked after the Canteen and sold hot dogs, chips, muffins, soft drinks, tea and coffee. They made a profit of **\$121.80**.

Cookie Walk

Alana Davis

Homes are getting lit up, malls are preparing for a visit from Santa and WPUC is gearing up for its Annual Cookie Walk.



This will happen on **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH BETWEEN 10:00 A.M. AND 11:30 A.M.** But, come early as the cookies go like hotcakes. For \$10 you can fit approx. 3 dozen in your container. A speciality table will be set up with items to catch your eye to buy! Stop and enjoy a cup of coffee and a cookie later. A silver collection will be set out.

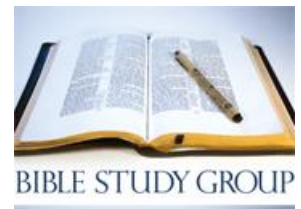
Please note that there are still spaces for you to sign up to help at the walk, in the kitchen and bake. The sign-up sheet is in the lobby of the church. Thank you.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE.

Thursday Morning Study Group

Alice Hastings

Thursday Morning Study Group has chosen **The New Testament You Never Knew**, a video series by **N. T.**



Wright and Michael F. Bird, theologians, who give a background perspective into the New Testament. Sometimes when we read sections of a narrative in the Bible we tend to take it verbatim and not include the background of the situation. This study gives us more information into the apostles' mission of spreading Jesus message.

Each session is a study in itself, so come join us from 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. on Thursday's - there is always room at the table for you.

Outreach Council

Gwen Polak, Chair

Members and friends of your Outreach Council have been involved in several activities during the past few months. We continue to support West Broadway Community Ministry on an ongoing basis and lend a hand (or more) to other organizations in the area when the opportunity arises.

Shirley and Gord Goossen regularly collect grocery and hygiene items donated by WPUC members (including those donated at Thanksgiving) and transport these to West Broadway. The items are used in their kitchen for meal preparation or offered to clients who visit their emergency food bank. The staff and volunteers there are always touched by the generosity of our donors and we regularly receive notes of appreciation from them (which are posted on our bulletin board at WPUC). If you are able to contribute items such as peanut butter, tinned meat or fish, coffee, tea, or sugar, please leave these in the storage bin located between the two sets of entrance doors at WPUC. Between 100 and 160 guests come for the mid-day meal at WBCM, so the need is constant.

We are grateful to the many members of our church for helping us prepare and offer a hearty meal each month at West Broadway. We will continue to do this through the winter months and advise you of lunch dates and needs via the WPUC Sunday bulletins or weekly updates.

If you are interested in assisting with a meal, please contact **Linda Dart** (204-255-1776) or myself (204-256-8661) for further details.

A warm thank-you must go to **Judi Olson-Chiswell** who has been kindly donating her time and talent to give haircuts to WBCM clients. Everyone who visits her Pop-up Salon comes away looking and feeling fabulous.

While Judi does not charge for her services there, clients are invited to make a good will offering in support of WBCM.

We recently completed our fourth month partnering with the Tim Horton's coffee shop (Lagimodière and Fermor) to reclaim excess food. With ongoing help from volunteers, **Deanna and Len Kernaghan**, and **Karen Gundrum**, we collect 'day-old' baked items to be bagged and frozen. Each week, we share these with St. Matthew's-Maryland Food Bank, St. Mary's Road Church Food Bank, West Broadway Community Ministry, and High Steppers. Thank-you to all who contribute plastic bags, twist ties and bread tags so that we can do this project in an environmentally responsible manner.

In conjunction with the Winnipeg Cheer Board Feed-a-Family program, we will again be preparing and delivering 15 hampers containing food and gifts for recipients in our area. Included amongst the recipients are many low-income pensioners (singles and couples), as well as families in need.

[WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE AT WPUC TO JOIN IN THIS PROJECT AS IT IS A VERY TANGIBLE WAY TO SHARE THE BLESSINGS OF CHRISTMAS WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS.](#)

Depending on your talents and resources, you may wish to provide a gift for one of the hamper recipients, pack items in the hampers on Saturday, December 14th, or deliver a hamper to a family in the community. If you wish to help defray the costs of this project (estimated to be about \$1,100 this year), you can place your donation in the stamped envelope which will be inserted in the church bulletins on [NOVEMBER 24TH AND DECEMBER 1ST.](#)



We thank you in advance for any support you can bring to this project.



During December, the **Mitten Tree** will be on display in the WPUC Sanctuary. Please consider helping us decorate the tree by donating hand-made, purchased, or gently-used children's winter accessories (including neck-warmers, toques, mittens, and gloves). These will be collected at the end of the month and delivered to **Rossbrook House** for distribution to the children who access that facility.

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize two invaluable members of Outreach Council for their long-standing support. **Dorothy Read** has been particularly active in helping with Christmas Hampers. She gave willingly of her time and talent to contact hamper recipients and volunteer drivers, as well as to shop for and pack groceries and gifts. Her organizational skills, problem-solving abilities and positive attitude were greatly appreciated.

Derek Read acted as Outreach Chair for many years. He oversaw all council activities, handled the paperwork, attended meetings, and recruited volunteers for countless projects. He played a key role in the WPUC sponsorship of several refugee families who are now living happily and independently in Winnipeg. His dedication to and belief in the goals of Outreach benefitted many individuals within and beyond WPUC. We thank him for the passion and commitment he brought to the 'job'.

Tot Time
Ruth Klein

October 16, 2019 was the start of a very busy and exciting fall season at Tot Time. We have 14 moms, 10 children downstairs, and nine babies upstairs.

The moms spent the first week getting to know each other and enjoying coffee and snacks. The next week they had an "everything swap". They exchanged toys, clothing, and even some household items. Future plans include making Mexican freezer pies, painting clay ornaments, and for Christmas, a party with Santa including gifts for the children. They had a day of taking pictures of the children and their moms since 1996 when Tot Time first began. It is great to look back over the years and realize how grown up those first children are.

The children are keeping the Grandmas well entertained playing with toys, play dough, and of course a snack. Cathy our story teller is amazing. She gets everyone involved with actions and wonderful sounds of animals, buses, and much more.

There are 9 babies who each need to be held and cuddled by their own caregiver or entertained with a toy. It is a wonderful experience to get to know and love all of these little ones that come into Windsor Park United Church.

As you can see Wednesday mornings are very busy at the church. Tot Time is a wonderful way of making some new friends. We need at least two new volunteers to help. We sadly miss Jane Hares who passed away in June. Jane came faithfully to Tot Time. We also want to wish **Dorothy Allan** a speedy recovery from a bad fall. We miss her also.

If you think you would enjoy cuddling a baby or spending some time playing with a toddler please call the church office at (204) 256-8792 or Ruth Klein at (204) 256-6390.

Your help would be greatly appreciated.



Going Deeper

Rev. Patrick Woodbeck

"For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen."

How often have we recited this last line of the Lord's Prayer? How often have we stopped to think about what that last word "amen" might actually mean? For many of us the word "amen" has become a word that we say without thinking about what it means to us, in many ways it has just become a standard concluding word to our prayers. But in reality there is much more to this simple little word that we use without thought. I had someone in the congregation ask me about the meaning of this word and I thought that I would do some digging on my own to find out more about the word "amen."

The word itself came to English from Latin, which got the word from Greek and early Aramaic, where it originally came from Hebrew. It is difficult to translate this little word, which is why this word has been borrowed from these ancient languages.

The word is thought to be derived from the Hebrew verb-aman, which means "he supported, confirmed, or upheld" and from the Hebrew word for truth-emet, which carries the idea of certainty, or dependability (such as the truth as that which is certain and dependable).

"Amen" itself is an interjection used to agree with, affirm, approve, or emphasize something else that has been said. So, when Jesus begins certain sayings by declaring "Amen, amen, I say to you . . ." there is an emphasis that we need to pay attention to, or in strong agreement with what is being said. It is true that different Bible translations often translate the "amen, amen" different ways, yet in all of these translations it should still

be understood as an affirmation or confirmation of what is being said. Because of its association with the Hebrew terms for confirmation or dependability, one might also translate it "certainly, certainly" or "most assuredly."

We are used to using "amen" at the end of our prayers and in many ways this usage is still one of affirmation because when one says "amen" in response to a prayer, it serves as a statement that we, as those who are speaking or listening to these prayers, are in agreement with the content of the prayer. So when we end our next prayer with "amen" know that we are all stating something important, that the prayers matter, that they are important, and that we agree with the prayer.

The Art Group

Diana Rodd

The Art Group meets in the church basement Tuesday afternoons (1:00 p.m. until approximately 3:30 p.m.). We learn from each other, videos and paid guest artists/instructors. Our members range from beginners to local "artists" so all are welcome with no experience necessary. Mostly we work on our own projects in various mediums, unless we have a "workshop".

Last month we had a fun session doing a spattering painting. We do like trying new techniques.



The first Tuesday of the month is usually devoted to a How-To-Video. If you would like to give painting a try we can loan some supplies. Just give us a call (204-255-8627) and let us know what you would like to try. We also have lots of books that give some basic instructions.

1919 Winnipeg General Strike

Past Present Future

Gloria Saindon

There are numerous books, articles and even movies and musicals regarding the history of this iconic event of the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike, but what about a different perspective. We can read the history behind the General Strike and what it did for the working class of today, but what will this mean for our future generations? Will they know what those men and women fought for so long ago and what the outcome did for their future and the future generations beyond that? Why not look at this historic event from an individual who participated in the Solidarity Parade on May 25, 2019?

I decided to participate in the Solidarity Parade, not just to represent my union, AESES, but also to give myself a sense of pride and make history on this 100th anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike.



As we began decorating the float on the Friday evening, the momentum started to build and yes, it was exciting, being a part of history, and that only continued into Saturday morning. Up early with the sun shining (at least the rain had stopped), to complete the final touches on the float and the truck to pull it. Excitement was building all around as other unions gathered; there was comradery, laughter and many photo opportunities. One could only imagine what it would have been like 100 years ago, was there excitement, tension or a sense of foreboding?

As the truck engines roared to life and the bands began to play, floats, horse drawn carriages, and many walkers slowly began to move towards the start of the route. As our float rounded the corner of Market Avenue and Lily Street, it was almost an eerie feeling as two members played music for the union songs, you heard the strong union of the Manitoba Teacher Society cheering, shouting and singing the song "Solidarity Forever" as the two members of our float played the music and we sang along raising our fists in the air! Rounding the famous corner of Market Avenue and Main

Street, you could almost hear the horses from 1919 clapping along the cobblestone as they headed towards the unknown. Today, people of all ages lined the street along the route, many with young children and others standing alone, many taking pictures as this was once again history in the making.

As we continued our route up Main Street towards Broadway, many shop owners came from behind their doors to support those walking and sing along the songs of the Union: "Solidarity Forever"¹; and "Which Side are you on"². Just as we came to turn onto Broadway, an image of three women, cooks from VJ's restaurant, will forever be imbedded in my mind. These women, from immigrant families, stood side by side waving and clapping, and tears ran down their faces as we passed.

By fighting for social inequality, working conditions, low wages, and immigrant discrimination, those men and women from 1919 gave these women hope for a future in a new country that might not have been otherwise possible.

As we turned onto Broadway to make our way to Memorial Park, the crowds along the route increased and the ages of the people lining the street ranged from a baby in a carriage to an older man in a wheel chair. Yes, it was a parade, but it was more than that. It was a show of solidarity to all unions past, present and future. Nearing the end of the parade route our voices and the voices of those along the parade route were even stronger. We wanted to be heard! We wanted to be seen! Truly, we wanted to celebrate what those women and men did 100 years ago for us, the unions of today, and what we will continue to do for the futures of our children and their children - fight for fair wages, better working conditions, and the continued hope of achieving greater economic security. I was proud to be a part of this historic event, and I'm proud to be part of a union.

¹ "Solidarity Forever", written by Ralph Chaplin in 1915, is a popular union anthem. It is sung to the tune of "John Brown's Body" and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic".¹

² "Which Side Are You On?" is a song written in 1931 by Florence Reece, the wife of Sam Reece, a union organizer for the United Mine Workers in Harlan County, Kentucky.

Pop Culture Corner

Rev. Patrick Woodbeck

AVENGERS INFINITY WAR / AVENGERS END GAME

These two movies are the first and second part to a larger story in which Thanos (the big bad guy) is attempting to collect all six of the infinity stones. At the dawn of the universe, there was nothing. Then... boom. The Big Bang sent six elemental crystals, hurtling across the virgin universe. These Infinity Stones each control an essential aspect of existence; Space, Reality, Power, Soul, Mind, and Time. Only beings of immense power can directly wield these stones. Thanos is one of those beings and he is hoping that when he collects these stones that with a snap of his fingers he will wipe from existence half of all living



creatures. With the eradication of half of all living creatures in the universe being Thanos' end goal, it is not hard to see Thanos as evil. But the question that is posed and answered in these movies is why would Thanos want to do this? In the course of the movies Thanos is forced to sacrifice that which was most dear to him in order to obtain these stones. The rationale for getting the stones and eliminating half of all living creatures is because Thanos has an understanding of a finite universe and with uncontrolled population growth, uncontrolled consumption, and uncontrolled use of resources the entire universe is at risk and so Thanos decides that something drastic and immediate needs to be done. So at the end of Infinity War Thanos retrieves all of the stones and with a snap of his fingers, half of all living creatures cease to exist, they are not murdered so much as they just cease to be. The

movie End Game then carries on from this ending and is about how the Avengers are working to undo what Thanos has done and restoring the universe to what it has formerly been.

In these movies I have always asked myself the following question; "Who is the big bad?" Does the end justify the means in regards to what Thanos did? These are interesting questions that are, in some ways, both moral and philosophical, but maybe also somewhat theological. We are in a time that some have called a time of climate



crisis. It is a time where we are being challenged to offer sacrifice for others. In the movies Thanos can be seen as one who sacrificed what was most dear to him so that others might be able to live in abundance. Although the movie shows an extreme version of sacrifice

and what lead to this so called living in abundance, what might we sacrifice to allow others to live in abundance? This is the idea behind the call to climate justice. We as wealthy western nations might just be able to offer more of a sacrifice to allow developing nations the time to create the infrastructure so that they might be able to also sacrifice without ruining their society. Will we make this type of sacrifice? If we look to a theological perspective we might ask ourselves what did God and Jesus sacrifice for the hope that humanity might live in abundance. As much as Infinity War and End Game are just movies, they can make us think about our own world and what we might do?

Enjoy your movie watching.



A Note from the Editor

John Lwiwski

A Year in Review

This year, we published three editions of the Southwinds for the months of April, September and December. Thanks to all those that had contributed articles throughout the year.

As always, we welcome your ideas as to what you would like to see in the future SouthWinds. Please call or email Sue at the church with your suggestions.

**Enjoy the Advent season,
have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**



Reverse Advent Calendar 2019

December 1 st	box of cereal
December 2 nd	peanut butter
December 3 rd	stuffing mix
December 4 th	instant potatoes
December 5 th	macaroni and cheese
December 6 th	canned fruit
December 7 th	canned tomatoes
December 8 th	canned tuna
December 9 th	dessert mix
December 10 th	jar of applesauce
December 11 th	canned potatoes
December 12 th	mushroom soup
December 13 th	canned beans
December 14 th	box of crackers
December 15 th	package of rice
December 16 th	package of oatmeal
December 17 th	package of pasta
December 18 th	spaghetti sauce
December 19 th	chicken noodle soup
December 20 th	tomato soup
December 21 st	can corn
December 22 nd	can mixed vegetables
December 23 rd	can carrots
December 24 th	can green beans

Please collect the items listed and after Advent bring to the church so that they can be delivered to West Broadway Community Ministry for their emergency food cupboard.

