

# SouthWinds

## DECEMBER 2020

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Windsor Park  
United Church

1062 Autumnwood Drive  
Winnipeg MB R2J 1C7  
Phone: 204.256.8792

Visit us at:  
[Windsorparkunitedchurch.com](http://Windsorparkunitedchurch.com)

### Patrick's Words of Wisdom!

*"The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come."*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

We find ourselves, once again, at the beginning of Advent, the beginning of the new Church year. Many of us have grown up understanding this time of year as the time of preparation, anticipation, a time of waiting for the birth of Jesus in that stable all those years ago. But in reality, when Advent first came about it was a time of preparation for something different. It was a time of fasting, prayer, and penance as new Christians prepared for their baptism into the community on Epiphany Sunday, the time that celebrated the birth by the coming of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist, and Jesus' first miracle at the wedding in Cana.

Eventually the season of Advent was linked to the expectation of the second coming of Jesus, as the world waited in anticipation for the coming of God's kingdom. Only much later, in the middle ages, was it finally linked to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. So, Advent takes on two meanings for us today. It is a celebration of remembrance of the birth of Jesus all those years ago in the lowly manger and it is the time of anticipation of the coming of God's kingdom for all the world. The hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" speaks to this two-fold understanding of Advent:

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appears.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

While the people of Ancient Israel would have sung this song in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah, we sing this song in celebration for the birth of Jesus. But the next time we sing this song let us remember that the anticipation of this time is not only about the coming birth in that stable, but also the coming of God's kingdom.

As the Bonhoeffer quote states at the beginning, only those who anticipate the coming of something more are able to truly celebrate Advent. We, as a community of believers, anticipate, hope for, the coming of God's kingdom of love, peace, justice, compassion, and mercy, for the whole world. We wait in joyful expectation for the coming of Love Incarnate, but also for the coming again of God's incarnate presence in the world.

Let us wait this Advent season, let us work this Advent season, for the coming of God's kingdom.

Thanks be to God.



**Rev. Patrick Woodbeck**  
Minister, Windsor Park United Church



## *2020 Advent Calendar*

*November 29, 2020 1<sup>st</sup> - Sunday of Advent - 10:30am to 11:15am*

*December 3, 2020 - Zoom\* Coffee Hour - 10:30am to 11:30am*

*\* Contact the church office for the Zoom link*

*December 6, 2020 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent - 10:30am to 11:15am*

*December 6, 2020 - Zoom Coffee & Conversation - 11:30am to 12:15pm*

*December 10, 2020 - Zoom\* Coffee Hour - 10:30am to 11:30am*

*\* Contact the church office for the Zoom link*

*December 13, 2020 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent - 10:30am to 11:15am*

*December 13, 2020 - Zoom Coffee & Conversation - 11:30am to 12:15pm*

*December 17, 2020 - Zoom\* Coffee Hour - 10:30am to 11:30am*

*\* Contact the church office for the Zoom link*

*December 20, 2020 - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - 10:30am to 11:15am*

*December 21, 2020 - Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service*

*December 24, 2020 - Christmas Eve Service*



## *Staying in Touch*

Laura Steidl

How are you keeping in touch with others during this pandemic time? Here at the church, we are trying to stay connected in a number of ways. Services are posted on our website every week and can also be accessed directly from our **YouTube** channel. To get to our website, just type in [www.windsorparkunitedchurch.com](http://www.windsorparkunitedchurch.com) on your browser and you will be on our site! We would love for you to take a look around. At the bottom of the page you can link to our YouTube channel, where you can find recent as well as older videos from Windsor Park United.

We have started weekly ZOOM coffee times, both on Thursday mornings and on Sundays “after church!” If you need help getting started with this kind of technology, please give the office a call and we will have someone help you. It’s so nice to see people’s faces and have a chance to chat and catch up!

Please make sure that the church office has your current email address and phone number. In recent months, our email has also changed so you may need to update us in your contact list! The church office email is now [office@windsorparkunitedchurch.com](mailto:office@windsorparkunitedchurch.com). Our phone number is still **204-256-8792**, so call if we can help in any way!

And don’t forget - a simple phone call, card or email can brighten someone’s day! It’s a joy to give as well as receive!

## *Finding Hidden Values during COVID-19*

Doug Waldron - Chair, Finance & Stewardship

The Waldron household made a conscious decision to order from local restaurants during the lockdown periods. Like most people we want to ‘give where you live’ and ensure our

neighbours are safe and secure as possible. While we did order from **Chicken Chef** and **Santa Lucia Pizza** which do take out as part of their regular business - we also looked at non-traditional sources. **Shannon’s Pub** offered some decent fish. The **Lemon Tree** on St. Mary’s does great Korean BBQ and lived up to their reputation. To our surprise was **Kai Sushi** (680 Elizabeth Rd) which offers traditional Japanese and Korean cuisine for a very reasonable price.

Another hidden value we discovered were the talents of our Worship team in recording and presenting a Sunday Worship service almost every week since March. I personally value Myrna’s pre-/postlude music, it puts my mind at ease. There is no way we would see Patrick walk through a forest, drive, or tour the WPUC grounds during a regular service. There were also the ‘extras’ who contributed video clips that were knitted together to form a tapestry for an Easter service.

How about the value of good tech support? I know ZOOM calls may not be for everyone but for those who have tried, failed, reached out for help, and succeeded have been rewarded by connecting with friends. If you ask for a ZOOM invite you may notice that the same invite is good for a few weeks. Meaning if you forgot to ask - the old invite may still be valid.

We have hope of unlocking the value of our renovated basement. *Louis Riel School Division* has reached out to us about the use of the basement, but further restrictions will probably mean we will have to wait. In the meantime, please reach out to your neighbour and let them that they are valued and maybe send a Christmas card to somebody not already on your list.

I will be at the church on Monday, **December 14th, 6:30PM - 7:30PM** to handout 2021 giving envelopes, collect mittens for the tree and money for our Christmas hampers.

## Long-time volunteer receiving award from Premier Pallister in November

*Anne Thoroughgood tells people volunteering is the best paid job.*

"I often say that because when you volunteer, you're paid with the satisfaction and the fulfillment that you get," she says.

Anne Thoroughgood, 81, volunteers at Windsor Park United Church, where she has been involved more than 40 years.

She should know. The 81-year-old has committed her life to helping others.

Her efforts will be recognized in November when she receives a Volunteer Service Award at the 37th Annual Volunteer Awards, presented by Volunteer Manitoba and Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries.

The honour recognizes Thoroughgood's dedication to Windsor Park United Church, where she has been involved for more than 40 years.

Thoroughgood's late husband, **Elwin**, was a bank manager whose employer transferred them and their four children to Steinbach, three places in Saskatchewan and one in Ontario before the family settled back in Winnipeg.

Thoroughgood volunteered in each place.

"We were fortunate that everywhere we went, there was a United church," she says, adding that one of her first volunteering experiences was serving as a Sunday school teacher when she was a teenager.

In addition to her church involvement, Thoroughgood volunteers with several community groups.

She got involved with the **St. Vital**

**Swingers**, a square dance group, shortly after she and Elwin took up the hobby in 1984.

She helps with the **High Steppers Senior Club**, a social group for the elderly, and she has volunteered at **Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre** for more than a decade.

Thoroughgood credits her parents, who were farmers, with instilling in her the importance of volunteering.

She feels that she owes a debt to society after being treated in the hospital for 45 days 20 years ago. Thoroughgood had a flesh-eating disease that almost killed her.

"I really feel it's my obligation to do something in the community," she says. "It also helps to keep me informed and up to date. The world is changing so quickly, especially the last three months, and I think it's important to keep up."

"The other thing about volunteering is you're so appreciated," Thoroughgood says. "I volunteer for the (theatre), and it's amazing when you're standing as an usher how many people stop and say thank you sincerely."

**Meghan Chorney**, one of Thoroughgood's four grandchildren, describes her grandmother as a force to be reckoned with.

"She's always been a strong advocate for herself and for those around her," the 29-year-old says. "Instead of saying how things should be or how you should treat people, she shows you. That was a great thing to learn from growing up."

Chorney co-ordinates youth retreats with the United Church of Canada, volunteers as a regional organizer with the Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba, and serves as chairwoman of Equal Voice Manitoba, an organization dedicated to getting more women involved in politics.

Thoroughgood is the reason that Chorney volunteers.

"Grandma instilled in us that if you want to see a better world or you want to make a change, you have to get in and make that change the way you want it to be done," Chorney says. "She has a huge impact on her community and it's great that she's being recognized for that."

When she isn't volunteering, Thoroughgood enjoys spending time at the lake, gardening and quilting. She also keeps busy with a walking group, a travel club and spending time with her family.

"I'm not sure I've earned all this, but I guess I will accept and be grateful for people who make my world so wonderful," she says. "To me, most days are a highlight. There's always something new around the corner, something to be enthusiastic about, something to live for – and often that is volunteering."

## *Advent Wreath Making*

*Gloria Saindon*

Well we managed to have a Family Advent wreath making on Friday November 27th. It would have been the kickoff to Advent Bonfire and Carol sing, but due to circumstances beyond our control, that did not happen.

Instead, **Gwen, Melissa, Reese and Tessa** joined me via ZOOM to make a paper Advent wreath to place on the fridge or a bulletin board at home.



We used supplies that you would have in your home, as we were not able to make elaborate ones due to restrictions in the province. I did have kits available for pick up if you did require them. The wreaths were designed to either have you add the candle and "flame" each week or have all the candles on the wreath and add the "flame" each week. The link has been posted and we encourage you to make your own wreaths and send your pictures into Laura at:

[laura.wpuc@gmail.com](mailto:laura.wpuc@gmail.com)

Watch for more craft nights to come during Advent.



## *Chicken Soup for the Soul*

*Paulette Cote and Peter Czehryn*

We are preparing chicken soup for anyone who is COVID positive isolating at home and/or who doesn't have supports, or their supports might be gone due to COVID. We are doing contactless one-time deliveries. I have an anonymous angel sending me money monthly to pay for soup supplies but am wondering if you could put a request out for containers to deliver the cooled soup in?

- ★ Plastic or glass is good with lids please!
- ★ 1-4 litres in size

They can be dropped at the church or **55 Cascade Bay** please. Also feel free to pass this along to folks in need!

Thanks for helping us make a difference♡.

## *My COVID Coping*

*Rev. Patrick Woodbeck*

We were asked to share if we had started any new hobbies in the midst of this COVID time. Well, I learned how to **crochet**. Some might be wondering why I learned this particular skill, well there are a couple of reasons.

First reason is that I wanted something to do that would take some concentration on my part and so when I crochet I have to really think about what I am doing because my manual dexterity, my fine motor skills, have never been the greatest.

This leads me to the second reason. I remember when I was in high school and we did those silly aptitude tests, that were supposed to tell us what our perfect career would be, we had a couple of exercises that tested our manual dexterity. When I was called down to the Guidance Counsellor to get my results they began by stating that I should probably not go in to be a dentist or a surgeon, because my manual dexterity was so bad that I would seriously injure someone.

So, I figure what better way to help with bad manual dexterity, fine motor skills, then to do something that would require me to use them. That is why I decided to learn to crochet.

How might you ask did I learn this in the midst of COVID? Well I used good old trusty YouTube. It is amazing what you can learn from YouTube videos. I have really enjoyed my learning how to crochet. I am very happy that I decided to do this because it has helped me to focus on something other than what is happening in the world. I think that it is good to distract ourselves sometimes.

Here are two of the pieces that I have made so far, there are a number of others that I have made, and are working on, but here are two.



## Supporting Local Business

Morag Fisher

Eating out was one of our favorite things to do pre-pandemic. After many months of home cooking, & after hearing the news about struggling local businesses, we decided we would do our bit to support some of the restaurants we hope will still be around after all this.

We started with **Harman's Café**. This is a tiny Ethiopian restaurant on Sargent Ave. run by a lovely lady - *Desta*.

The food is delicious - all cooked personally by her. The servings are generous & the food meets all our sensitivities - gluten free (the injera is made with Teff Flour), dairy free, no nuts or peanuts - but of course check for yourself if any of these are an issue for you.

Desta is a remarkable lady. Since coming to Canada she has been supporting an orphanage that she founded in northern Ethiopia where she cares for 50 children. She supports this from the earnings from her restaurant & usually has an annual fundraising dinner (however, she was unable to hold one this year).

You may have seen terrible scenes from the conflict in Ethiopia in the Tigray region on the news. Unfortunately, her orphanage is in the middle of this area, the children having been orphaned due to the same regional conflict. All contact is cut off so she has no idea what has happened to the children & can only hope that they have fled to safety.

This is the website with pictures of her orphanage in case you would like to check it out:

<http://www.betedesta.org/>

I'm always happy to eat to support a good cause, so when my friend emailed me to say how Desta was struggling through this difficult

time, Harman's Café became our first take out meal of this lockdown. It seems such a small contribution in the face of these difficulties, but hopefully the support will help her, along with our prayers that her children will be found safe & well when the conflict settles.



## Paying it Forward

Marlaine Stevens

What a great idea to get input from everyone, helping us to come together as a community in a unique way!

My heart-warming, uplifting experience happened when I was picking up lunch at McDonald's drive-thru in early November. The person in the small, worse-for-wear car ahead of me paid for my lunch! My heart soared and my whole day was brightened! As I stopped at a traffic light on the way home, I saw a man with a sign, standing on the median beside me. I just had to share the joy so I gave him what I would have paid for my lunch. His sweet greeting and reaction lifted my spirits even more. It was a wonderful day!

I find the gentle, happily-ever-after movies on the Hallmark channel (W) a good way to take a break from the tension and stress of the situation we are all in.

Thank you.

## Movie Review

Rev. Patrick Woodbeck

### THE CHRISTMAS BOW

Now I will be honest, this movie is very much a Hallmark Christmas movie. I have joked many times that there are really only about 6 different actresses and 6 different actors and about 3 scripts in total that cover every Hallmark Christmas movie ever made. That is why I was surprised by this movie and in particular that it covered some rather challenging topics, yet topics that many people face in the world.

There were two topics that this movie examined that I believe were important; the first was the struggle when one's reality is different from what one expected it to be, the second is the struggle that families face when a loved one has dementia or Alzheimer's disease.



The story revolves around Kate, whose family has owned a music store for a number of years, a violinist who had just auditioned for a symphony orchestra and on her way out of the building, due to some freak accident with a woman carrying a cello (yes I know who would have thought, that dreaded cello accident) gets her fingers caught in a metal door and cracks the bones in two of her fingers. What transpires is Kate's journey of recovery, as she struggles to come to terms with the possibility that she may never fulfill her dream of continuing to play violin. It is within this story, as Kate struggles to reconcile her reality with what she had always dreamed, that the issue of dementia is raised.

As the story progresses Kate's grandfather returns home from Florida, where he moved after the death of his wife, and as he

encourages Kate to continue to heal and walk the journey that she is on he remembers a Christmas before his wife had passed.

In this memory we see Kate's grandmother, surrounded by family but lost, as she is living with dementia. The family works to engage her in the world, but to no avail. Kate's grandfather asks Kate to play something of the violin, at which time her grandmother begins to sing an old familiar Christmas tune. The family is both elated and deeply sad, but for the brief moment the music has allowed her grandmother to recapture a memory and to be present in that moment.

I believe that they handled this with grace and dignity, which is how it should be handled. In the end Kate finds the love of her life and it all works out for her. As much as this is your typical Hallmark fare, I enjoyed this movie and found it dealing with life issues that many of us face.

## *Family Traditions*

Gloria Saindon

Ever since our daughter Caitlin was born, we began a family tradition of dinner and tree decorating evening at mom and dad's. At first, mom was cooking dinner, while the rest of us began untangling lights and deciding where to put the tree. But that quickly changed once **Christopher** was born and we began to order **Four Season's** Chinese Food so that everyone could participate in the tree decorating.

Christmas carols played in the background and we always got one gift to open, a new ornament for their tree. I get a different Angel every year, as this was something mom started when her little "Angel", first granddaughter Caitlin was born.

I joked this year and said that I could do my whole tree in angels as I am sure I have over 30 different ones!



Separate from the angel, Mom started giving us "kids" an ornament, which was either sentimental or a crazy ornament she found about "who was the best child" that my brothers and I are constantly teasing each other about.

As we grew older and our own kids grew up, this has still continued, although it usually means my family goes to Mom and Dad's and helps them with the tree as my brothers are now in different cities and countries.

We decided that this year we had to attempt to make the tradition continue, so we arranged for Chinese food and I delivered Mom and Dad their dinner and we did our Family **What's APP** with everyone joining in on the fun.



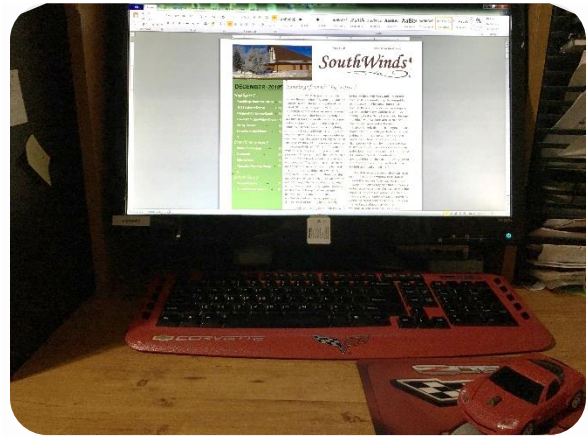
Although we couldn't be together in person, it was still nice to "see" everyone and take the criticism and ribbing from my brother's that I had missed a spot on the tree!

Yes, my Mom makes us wear the hats and all!



## *A Note from the Editor*

John Lwiwski



## *A Year in Review*

This year, due to popular demand, we published four editions of the Southwinds for the months of April, July, September and December.

Many thanks to the numerous contributors who shared their articles with us throughout the year. It was immensely enjoyed by all!

**Wishing you a safe and healthy Advent season. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**



## *Advent: Blue or Purple the debate continues!*

Rev. Patrick Woodbeck

*“Advent means  
“coming” in Latin.  
In Greek, it is  
translated from  
parousia, commonly  
used in reference to  
the Second Coming  
of the Messiah. It is  
a season of  
preparation, to  
prepare the way of  
the Lord.”<sup>1</sup>*

Advent is that time of preparation for the coming, the ‘advent,’ of Christ in the manger, although traditionally this has also referred to the ‘second advent’ the coming of Christ the King.

Historically, in the church, the colour **purple** has symbolized waiting, penitence, and royalty. It has also symbolized, suffering, which is why it is used during Lent. The use of **purple** during both Advent and Lent has pointed to the deep connection between Advent and Lent. We cannot have the crucifixion, without the birth in the manger. If the purpose of the incarnation, God coming to live among us in the birth of Jesus, is to show God’s love, grace, and mercy for us through the life of Jesus, then we cannot see the death and resurrection of Jesus as anything but another symbol of God’s grace, mercy and love. It is this connection that makes **purple**, as a liturgical colour, an appropriate way to connect these two in the hearts and minds of believers.

In more recent times, with evolving and changing emphasis, many churches have moved away from **purple** as the colour for Advent and have used **blue**. Blue is traditionally the colour of royalty. It symbolizes the coming of the King. For some this colour also symbolizes the night sky, recognizing the impending announcement of the coming of the King found in the night sky. This colour has also been used to symbolize the waters of creation, found in Genesis 1, the beginning of God’s new creation. There are also some Roman Catholic churches that use a **blue-violet** colour (Sarum blue) which continues to show the connection to Lent but is also distinguished from the **purple** of Lent.

So, while **purple** would convey a sense of penitence and expectation, very appropriate for the season of Advent. Many see the scriptures pointing to a more joyous expectation for the coming of the King, symbolized by the colour **blue**. Regardless, **either colour** is appropriate as we continue to wait expectantly for the birth of the child in the manger.

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<sup>1</sup> From the Building Faith: A Ministry of The Virginia Theological Seminary website, accessed December 1, 2020, <https://buildfaith.org/the-colors-of-advent/>