

JANUARY 8, 2020



Kitchissippi
UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, January 10, 2020
Baptism of the Lord

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP LIVESTREAM - 10AM

www.rideaupark.ca

MESSAGE FROM REV. JENNI



Good Friday afternoon! I'm not sure where the 'first week back to work' went, but it has gone.

When I think back to the Pulse Nightclub shooting in early summer 2016, I remember feeling, very vividly, a sense that, for the first time, 'my people' were targeted. LGBTQ2S+ folks were killed because of their sexual orientation and gender expression and identity. It was a very sad 'a-ha' moment, or epiphany, if you will. It helped me to become more and more aware of the struggles of BIPOC (black, Indigenous, and people of colour) folks, and the feeling of victimization on the regular that they experience. I realized, anytime a black person is murdered (and goodness, were there a lot in the summer of 2016 - Philando Castile and Alton Sterling to name just two within the month), BIPOC folks (may) feel like the same thing *could* happen to them at any time. It has been a shocking, hard epiphany, but one that is so important to my learning and my commitment to being an anti-racist Christian/woman/human. I wonder if you've had similar epiphanies?

I want to speak directly to our BIPOC family at Kitchissippi: the terrorism that happened this week in Washington is the epitome of white supremacy and I, along with the United Church, denounces and abhors acts of violence. Many black folks I follow on social media knew the answer to the question 'if the rioters had been black...' I want you to know that I see you and your pain and fear. I want you to know that your community stands with you, beside you, and surrounds you with our loving care. I want you to know that we stand against violence and each of us are working at being anti-racist. I want you to know that we are working to move beyond words and into actions that continue to support, encourage and amplify your excellence.

Part of my educating myself and moving beyond words into actions has been learning at the White Privilege Conference in Toronto in May 2018, co-leading an Anti-Racism learning day in early 2019 and participation on the Dismantling White Privilege Working Group at the General Council level since the spring of 2019. I currently am a part of the Anti-Racism Common Table, bringing together all the groups working on Anti-Racism in the United Church (BIPOC groups and the white group) and over the summer, became a facilitator for the Racial Justice webinars that Ministers have to take (to maintain good standing), but that are open to all learners (for more information: <https://united-church.ca/leadership/supporting-ministry/mandatory-training/racial-justice-training> - to join a webinar: <https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/rj-workshop>).

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My colleague in ministry, the Rev. Dr. Paul Walfall wrote this about the pandemic and our call to be "doers" of justice. <https://united-church.ca/blogs/round-table/unmasking-hard-truths>

Here is a prayer written by the Moderator, the UCC Anti-Racism and Equity Officer and the Program Coordinator of Worship, Music and Spirituality:

Prayer for Our US Neighbours

As we follow our newsfeeds,
and observe with horror

what is happening in the capital of the United States of America,
we call on you, Creator of All Love.

We painfully remember peaceful protests of tangible and documented injustices,
led by Black and Indigenous peoples
who were sadly met with undue hostility and violence,
and characterized as rioters,
in contrast to how the violent clashes incited by Trump supporters
on baseless claims is being responded to
and reported on.

We pray for those who are most acutely experiencing the terror caused by these actions,
and those who deeply understand the hatred and racism that such acts fuel.

We call on you, Prince of Peace,
and pray for your wisdom, your guidance, and your love,
that those who are rioting would leave Washington,
so that elected decision-makers can go back
to their chambers,
to the lawful work that they have been given
by the people of the United States.

We pray, with all that we are,
loving God.

Amen.

On Wednesday, we celebrated Epiphany with a Zoom worship. I shared the following poem and the prayer I found later but attach here:

BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BEAR THE LIGHT

Blessed are you
who bear the light
in unbearable times,
who testify
to its endurance
amid the unendurable,
who bear witness
to its persistence
when everything seems
in shadow
and grief.
Blessed are you
in whom
the light lives,
in whom

The the brightness blazes—
your heart
a chapel,
an altar where
in the deepest night
can be seen
the fire that
shines forth in you
in unaccountable faith,
in stubborn hope,
in love that illumines
every broken thing
it finds.

—Jan Richardson
from *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAYS - rideaupark.ca - we continue to work with them and livestream from their church.

MONDAYS OR TUESDAYS - Broadview Reading Club - 1 - 3pm - We will be discussing page 20 and pages 41-46. One of the articles is available online - here is the link: <https://broadview.org/lost-voices-hagia-sophia/>. If you don't have the magazine, but would like to start a subscription, please contact Kirsten. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89093844185>

THURSDAYS - Coffee Time - 1:30 - 3pm - Bring your own coffee or tea, conversation abounds! All welcome! Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8925057455>

FRIDAY NIGHT (January 15th) - TRIVIA NIGHT! 7 - 9 pm - Our monthly trivia night: learn what you can about Canada, and, of course, your fellow trivia buffs! We learned so much about the people Margaret Hall knew growing up! Very fun times!

As with all that is above, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me (jleslie@kitchissippiuc.com).

Epiphany Blessings,
Rev. Jenni

Virtual Coffee (or whatever beverage you would enjoy!) Time



Thursdays 2021 and going forward, Virtual Coffee Time resumes from 1:30 pm until 3 pm. You can come and join us for a little bit or the whole time: there are no rules! Imagine yourself in the church hall after a church service, you've just filled your mug with steaming hot coffee (as only the kitchen women can make!) and you turn and look around and think: who do I want to talk to this morning (except it'll be in the afternoon)? We all look forward to the Church hall coffee/tea and conversation, and until then, we will meet this way for everyone's safety. And, sadly, you have to make your own coffee or tea 😊

Please join us: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8925057455>

BROADVIEW READING GROUP

BROADVIEW (ON-LINE) BOOK CLUB

ZOOM Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89093844185>



Tuesday January 12th Monday January 18th Tuesday January 26th Monday February 1st Monday February 8th Monday February 15th Tuesday February 23rd	Monday March 1st Monday March 8th Monday March 15th Tuesday March 23rd Monday March 29th	Tuesday April 6th Monday April 12th Monday April 19th Tuesday April 27th
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NEW SUBSCRIBERS – If you would like to be a new subscriber and start receiving Broadview Magazine, please contact Kirsten in the office at kgracequist@kitchissippiuc.com and we will make that happen! Want to know more? Go to <https://broadview.org/>

Payment can be made by cheque to Kitchissippi United Church – please note ‘Broadview’ on the cheque or by e-transfer to donations@kitchissippiuc.com- again note ‘Broadview’ so that we can acknowledge your renewal.

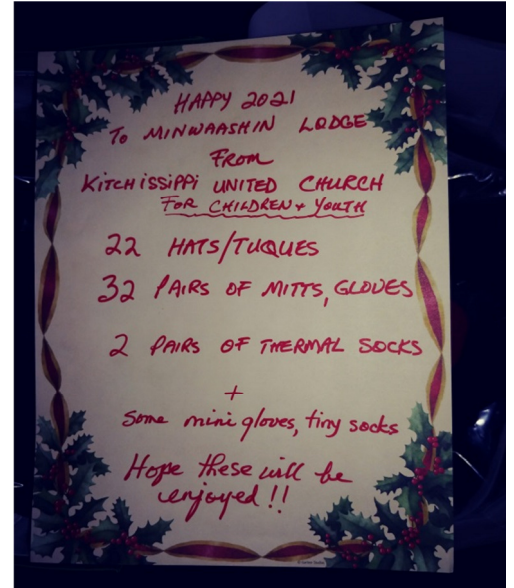
THANK YOU FROM KUC OUTREACH

Happy New Year and a huge thank you to our Kitchissippi family! Thank you for your generous support of KUC's grocery and gift card hampers, for financial donations for small gifts for the 2 residential care homes, and for all the mitts and hats and socks that came at our fun outdoor Mitten tree event late November.

We weren't able to pack hampers together and deliver them to families, but grocery cards and gift cards along with warm mitts, hats and socks were delivered and we helped about 64 folks that way.

Huge numbers of cozy mitts and hats exceeded our recipient families' needs but we were happy to be able to share them with Minwaashin Lodge...check out the attached photo!

Thanks again...
KUC Outreach Circle



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU - PLEASE REACH OUT

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**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE
TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

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