



Kitchissippi
UNITED CHURCH

*Season's Greetings and Merry Christmas
from Kitchissippi United Church*

Kitchissippi United Church

630 Island Park Drive
Ottawa, ON K1Y 0B7
613-722-7254

Sunday Worship

10:00 am

LIVESTREAM

www.rideaupark.ca

Office Hours

Please call the office before coming to the building and the church is still closed to the public due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Minister

Rev. Jenni Leslie
jleslie@kitchissippiuc.com

Faith Formation Leader

Diana Brushey
diana.brushey@kitchissippiuc.com

Office Administrator

Kirsten Gracequist
kgracequist@kitchissippiuc.com

Music Director

Gavan Quinn
gavanquinn@gmail.com

Jerzy Spychalski

Custodian

**FOR ALL UPCOMING EVENTS
AND HAPPENINGS - VISIT US**

www.kitchissippiuc.com

**Find us on Facebook at
KitchissippiUC**

Minister's Message from Rev. Jenni

It is hard to believe that December is right around the corner, and therefore, Advent, and then Christmas! What a weird and wonderful year it has been, would you agree?

I feel as though we have learned so many new words and concepts this year: Covid-19, airborne particles, touch contamination, mask wearing, work-from-home, "click and collect", curbside pickup, social/physical distancing, stay at home, Zoom. Concepts we already knew were resilience, kindness, community, self-care, staying in touch, outdoor walks and visits.

One concept that I think we knew, but not nearly as deeply as we know it now, at the end of 2020 is 'we are all in this together'. I haven't written much about this phrase, because at the beginning, I found it trite and irritating. Not that it was untrue, just that it felt forced. There is a sign in my neighbourhood that says exactly that and I confess my feelings toward it have softened. We ARE all in this together - my faith has always told me that and now the pandemic has reinforced it.

As God's beloved, God has always asked us to look out for one another. God, in Jesus, reminds us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and give shelter to the homeless. Isn't this taking care of one another? Isn't this about being 'in it together'? Last week's reading re-enforces this: Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me. (Matthew 25: 31-46).

We are in this together, and we are called to protect one another. Of course, seeing our family for Christmas is exactly what all of us want to do. Sadly, this is not what we are called to do, nor what the pandemic requires of us. While I would love to pack up my car and travel to see my 86 year old mother, my brother, sisters and their families, we will stay home and celebrate: just the three of us and Roxy. We will protect one another by staying away.

It will be a different Advent and Christmas this year, to be sure. Our church buildings will remain closed and access to celebrations will be online. We will do our best to lift one another up, to comfort and to

support one another and to celebrate the season for what it still is: it is still Advent. Advent: a time of waiting and watching, a time of waiting on the threshold. Christmas will still happen and will still be meaningful and spirit-filled. Jesus will come again into our hearts and lives anew: to comfort, to challenge, and to remind us of his and our ministry in God's name. We will walk over the threshold of the unknown and walk into a time that might still feel unknown, but we walk with Jesus into this new thing. We walk with God at all times and all places, and our Advent threshold is no different.

My greatest hope for you is that you will continue to rely on your relationship with God this season. I am here to help, virtually, and the church will celebrate in many different ways over this beautiful season.

May you feel strengthened in your faith, may you rediscover your resilience and cultivate your relationship with God. May you remember the joy we feel in community at Kitchissippi, and that we will enjoy again someday in the near future. May you rejoice in this holy time.

Advent blessings,
Rev. Jenni

Chair of Council

Greetings,

This time last year I was commenting on how we need to pause from the frenetic pace of the world to celebrate the birth, meaning and wonderment of Jesus. This year is so different but, in many respects, exactly the same. While the presence of the covid-19 pandemic has changed some things for many, it has changed many things, if not everything, for some. But in the face of change, our roots in our faith keep us hopeful and resolute to do, and be, the best that we can.



As a congregation, Kitchissippi has been very fortunate to partner with Rideau Park UC for the livestreaming of Sunday morning worship services. Rev. Jenni's ministry in those services has been a blessing, as has the leadership of Kirsten, Gavan and Diana in meeting the needs of KUC through many different avenues. And you, as a congregation, have also displayed great resilience by continuing to participate in the myriad of activities which have carried on. We have been blessed with opportunities for connection via technology, and our staff and volunteers have ensured that members of the congregation who are less technically oriented have not been left behind.

With the prospect of a vaccine sometime in 2021, we have a real sense of optimism. There is a light guiding us through this dark chapter. Although many of us will not be able to spend time with family and friends outside of our immediate households, and so much of what we associate with celebrating Christmas will be different this year, the light remains. As our theme for Advent tells us, we are on the Threshold – of a new chapter, of the coming of the Messiah into our hearts again, of new hope for better times with the covid-19 pandemic under control.

As always, the birth of the Christ child brings us the hope, love, peace and joy which pass human understanding. May these blessings of Christmas shine through the veil of the pandemic and remain with you and yours every day, all year long.

Ian MacGregor

Faith Formation

Let it snow!

Ok, the first real blanket of snow may melt soon, but it's still nice to have it to herald the beginning of Advent!

We are thinking about winter and all the fun to be had in the snow. We're also thinking of Christmas and wondering what new traditions your family will be making in this unusual year. We are looking forward to using the tiny Advent wreath from Kitchissippi. Since all of our decorations are far away at our grandparents' house, we'll make our own from salt dough. We're going to put our tree outside with birdseed on it. We are sending some gifts by mail and other gifts are by shopping locally, virtually: buying from stores and artisans who are near our loved ones. We're giving (and asking for) donations to food banks and Indigenous centres.



We will be introducing little Rowan to the Christmas story and a Nativity scene. Maybe we will decorate his little wagon or sled with lights and do a one-family carolling walk!

What will you do? Will you have a zoom carol-sing with cousins? Will you try something fun or funny to make it feel like everyone is together if they have to be apart? Hmm... maybe I'll put pictures of Rowan's Aunts and Uncle and cousins and grandparents around the table....

As you count down to Christmas I hope that your family is finding time to care for yourselves, your neighbours, and Creation. These are good ways to also show love for God!

Here is a link to a simple Advent calendar of ideas to try: https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/2020-10/au_advent-calendar-2020.pdf

Our Faith Formation circle has put together some little Advent kits for young families and hope you'll pick up your mini Advent wreath on Saturday (or email us for a way to get it). We have other fun things to come. Watch your email and the Friday File for more ways to (virtually) gather as we

Wishing you a happy Advent filled with hope, peace, joy, and love.

Diana Brushey and family

Kitchissippi's Christmas Outreach

ADVENT OUTREACH 2020

Greetings from the KUC Refugee/Outreach Circle. We miss you and hope you are well.

Here's a snapshot of Advent Outreach plans, more info soon! " We would very much like to receive Donations by **Friday, December 11th**. **Many thanks in advance for your generosity!**



WHITE GIFTS

We're opening this category for \$\$ donations to include:

- 1) Our purchase of small gifts for the 2 residential care homes we've supported in past years (being confirmed with their management); AND
- 2) Our purchase of gift cards.

Given Covid-19, we have to replace our traditional wrapped gifts for needy hamper recipients.

HAMPERS

Also given Covid-19, we and many other churches are giving grocery cards instead of food this year. Metro/Food Basics grocery cards have been ordered to replace hampers for needy families having an especially difficult time.

DONATION info shown below:

Donations for White Gifts and any other donations to the church can be made three ways:

- 1) By cheque mailed to or dropped off at the church mail box. Feel free to use your offering envelopes. Indicate on the envelope or cheque: White Gift. Please **No Cash please!**
- 2) By Interac E-Transfer from your bank account (see more details below on how to do this). Transfer amount to donations@kitchissippiuc.com and include a note indicating donation to **White Gift**.
- 3) Via Canada Helps. <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/Kitchissippi-United-Church/> Donation to Kitchissippi United Church and specify **"Christmas Outreach"**

**For options 1 and 2 your donation will be included in your annual charitable receipt from Kitchissippi United Church. For option 3 you will receive an immediate charitable receipt from Canada Helps.*

Wider Church Christmas Outreach



Christmas Tree Sale from the Ottawa Y Service Club – Support the Carlington Community Chaplaincy by getting your Nova Scotia Balsam Firs from the Ottawa Y Service Club. **FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:**
<http://www.kitchissippiuc.com/y-service-club-christmas-tree-sale/>

Kitchissippi United Church - Up Coming Events

ADVENT RETREAT 2020

Wednesday evenings in **December at 7:00 pm** – These advent retreats will be delivered over the internet – either through Facebook Live, Zoom or livestreamed.

For more information about each Wednesday session go to:
www.rideaupark.ca or www.kitchissippiuc.com

- December 2** – Advent experienced in art - led by Rev. Elizabeth
- December 9** – Advent experienced in the Word - led by Rev. Steve
- December 16** – Blue Christmas service - led by Rev. Georgina
- December 23** – Advent in lessons and carols - led by Rev. Jenni

**BROADVIEW (ON-LINE) BOOK CLUB**

DECEMBER meeting dates: Monday the 7th Monday the 14th Monday the 21st, 2020
 Email Rev. Jenni for Zoom links to this group: jleslie@kitchissippiuc.com

T'was a Month Before Christmas 2020

This poem was submitted by Arnold Current – author is anonymous

T'was a month before Christmas,
And all through the town,
People wore masks,
That covered their frown.

The frown had begun
Way back in the Spring,
When a global pandemic
Changed everything.

They called it corona,
But unlike the beer,
It didn't bring good times,
It didn't bring cheer.

Contagious and deadly,
This virus spread fast,
Like a wildfire that starts
When fueled by gas.

Airplanes were grounded,
Travel was banned.
Borders were closed
Across air, sea and land.

As the world entered lockdown
To flatten the curve,
The economy halted,
And folks lost their verve.

From March to July
We rode the first wave,
People stayed home,
They tried to behave.

When summer emerged
The lockdown was lifted.
But away from caution,
Many folks drifted.

Now it's November
And cases are spiking,
Wave two has arrived,
Much to our disliking.

Frontline workers,
Doctors and nurses,
Try to save people,
From riding in hearses.

This virus is awful,
This COVID-19.
There isn't a cure.
There is no vaccine.
It's true that this year
Has had sadness a plenty,
We'll never forget
The year 2020.

And just 'round the corner -
The holiday season,
But why be merry?
Is there even one reason?

To decorate the house
And put up the tree,
When no one will see it,
No-one but me.

But outside my window
The snow gently falls,
And I think to myself,
Let's deck the halls!

So, I gather the ribbon,
The garland and bows,
As I play those old carols,
My happiness grows.

Christmas ain't cancelled
And neither is hope.
If we lean on each other,
I know we can cope 😊

