

<p>ADVENT <hr/>LOVE</p>	<p><i>Kitchissippi</i> UNITED CHURCH</p> <p>Advent 4 – LOVE Sunday, December 19, 2021</p>
<p>SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP at 10 AM LIVESTREAM GO TO <u>WWW.KITCHISSIPPIUC.COM</u></p>	

MESSAGE FROM REV. JENNI



Good day everyone!

One quick note that tonight there is Trivia! (I've adjusted the time to 7:30pm to accommodate the wedding rehearsal this evening.) All welcome!

Zoom link here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82250633588>

As you know, this Sunday is the 4th Sunday in Advent, also known as Love Sunday. My sermon title is "Love is all you need?", loosely based on the popular Beatles song. This message, however, might be called "Tough Love" or "Delayed Gratification".

No one wants to still be in a pandemic, least of all those who grieve the deaths of loved ones and those who work in hospitals, clinics etc. The Reopening Committee is just that: helping us to reopen the church, safely and with much thought. They have done a stellar job at reading and making phone calls to Ottawa Public Health and giving us very up to date information.

Tough Love

This week, the Omicron strain of covid was exposed as having a very short multiplication rate: a much faster rate than the Delta variant. This caused us much concern and we watched as the numbers of covid cases in Ottawa began to rise. I'm sure you've been watching too. The Reopening Committee decided to act quickly and advised Council to discontinue in person worship immediately. **The Worship Circle met and decided that December 19th will be livestreamed from the sanctuary (with no one in the pews) and Christmas Eve will be pre-recorded, both will have limited numbers.**

This may seem like a bit of tough love or delayed gratification: we WANT to be worshipping together especially over Advent and Christmas. We WANT to be holding candles and listening to the choir sing Silent Night. We WANT to experience the holiest of holy nights in the sanctuary and together. We WANT to hear the choir sing all of our favourite carols and anthems. We WANT to listen to the organ and let our gaze linger on all of our beautiful stained glass windows.

What we need to do, however, is protect each other and ourselves. "Love your neighbour as yourself" comes into play time and again for me: taking care of one another by wearing masks, distancing, staying home (we haven't heard that one for awhile) are all ways to do this. Getting the vaccine and the booster are also ways to love your neighbour as yourself.

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(Are people who don't get the vaccine not loving their neighbour as themselves? Folks have asked me this. Possibly, but that isn't for me to judge, I don't believe. We are not called to judge others but to love them. We are called to love folks through the hard times, through the pain, through the grief, through the trauma. I feel called to pray for those who reject the vaccine.)

In Ontario, I have just read that today, over 3000 cases of Covid have been recorded (3,124). On Tuesday of this week, half that number was reported (1,429). These numbers alone tell me we have made the right decision. Of course, I think we are all hopeful that we can return to the sanctuary as soon as possible, and maybe, if numbers fall, we might be able to do that in January. However, it might be February, or March, or April. I have no idea. What I do know is that your Reopening Committee is diligent, well read and has the congregation's health and well being in mind. I trust them to make their decisions prayerfully and with the best medical information.

Delayed Gratification

I love playing the 'what if' game. Have you tried it? It may be one part optimism, one part realism (depending on the questions):

What if:

- * we can be together for Easter?
- * we can have communion by intinction or served communion for Easter?
- * we can start passing the peace again at Easter?
- * we can start having coffee together again in the hall at Easter?
- * the children can bake Mother's Day cakes again in May?
- * we can have a Spring rummage sale? a fall rummage sale?
- * we can start having the Minister's meal and movies again?
- * we can have a 14th Anniversary dinner in October?
- * we can have Sunday school and Godly Play again?
- * we can have our Intergenerational Pageant next Christmas?

Please add your 'what if' questions to this list?

Please know that your Reopening Committee will invite us back into the sanctuary when it is safer to do so? I thank the wisdom of Council and the Technology Team (under the leadership of Doug Patriquin) for their astoundingly wonderful livestream worship. We now have this treasure of services from September 12th that we can go back and listen to on YouTube and we will continue to post worship services there. (Watch for December 19th at 10am and December 24th's Lessons and Carols will be posted on that day to be watched whenever you'd like. We hope you will watch it with your family and light a candle anytime, but especially during the singing of Silent Night.)

Please note that we will also have a Fireside Christmas Eve zoom call, for all of those who would like to hear the story told through Godly Play and also to have some time for conversation afterwards. (Remember our weekly Coffee times? The latter part will be like that. Bring a hot or cold beverage to sip as we gather on Christmas eve.) Please see Diana's message for time and here is the zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89628857804>

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns or need to have a chat?

May you all feel the coming of Emmanuel, God-with-us, during this holy season,
Jenni

MESSAGE FROM DIANA BRUSHEY

**Happy Advent!**

We invite families to join a **virtual watch party of Christmas movies this Saturday at 6 pm**; we'll test out the Netflix Watch Party so if you're interested you'll need a Netflix account. Currently we're thinking of watching *A Boy Called Christmas*, or possibly the new *Sean the Sheep* Christmas special (which is a shorter one).

Here's how to sign up: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/kitchissippi-uc-kids-teens-movie-night-watch-party-tickets-229467271787>

It's our first time trying this so fingers crossed!
We might do a second one and/or online games night over the holidays, too.

We hope that your Advent kits are offering some items for fun, faith, and festivity leaving up to Christmas.

Our Advent Firesides continue this Sunday at 6:30 - 7:30; please join for all or part, whatever suits you. The storytime is adaptable depending on who logs in! We have some simple stories for wee ones by Indigenous authors, Godly Play visuals for the season, Advent intro thoughts, some favourite picture books, nature-based Advent musings, and poems to ponder. Or share your stories from Advents past and present!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81415762412?pwd=NFhZVXBoaFFUUFpUVW05dUtXc1dydz09>

Meeting ID: 814 1576 2412

Passcode: Adventure



As we pivot once more, we are now hosting a **Zoom chat at 6:30 Christmas Eve**, using the little Godly Play liturgy we know from past years, and we'll check in together to celebrate the coming of the holy baby. Given that our main Christmas Eve service will be pre-recorded (and available to watch on Youtube anytime after 3 pm on Christmas Eve), we thought it would be nice to have an interactive option as well.

Faith Formation also has some simple Christmas Cheer packs if anyone of any age would like one; they have praying in colour sheets, packets for making hot drinks to feel cozy, and messages from us.

Is your family interested in receiving a simple Christmas story board-game for young children? We have purchased a printable file made by a United Church youth minister and can print copies for families in our congregation.

Let me know if you'd like one! Diana.brushey@kitchissippiuc.com

I'm hopeful that our outdoor Wassail can still continue on Twelfth Night/Epiphany Eve (Wed Jan 5th) with a mini-service reflecting back on Advent, Christmas, and thinking of where we are (with the Magi? or on the Road to Emmaus?). We'll wait a bit to confirm the best direction on that and will let you know if it will be in-person (masked, distanced, outdoors) or in another format.

Diana Brushey (she/her)
Faith Formation Leader
Kitchissippi United Church

OUTREACH

ADVENT OUTREACH 2021

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; AND
- 2) Our purchase of gift cards. Given Covid-19, we have to replace our traditional wrapped gifts for needy hamper recipients.

HAMPERS

We are doing a few Christmas Hampers this year, likely 3 large families and 2 smaller families. We plan to assist both the Caldwell Family House and the Minwaashin Lodge with financial donations through Outreach so they can help needy families in their respective communities. The hampers will be packed on Tuesday, December 21 in the church hall. Volunteers are needed!

NEW - Partage Share Ottawa

(PS Ottawa Volunteers from KUC and several other United Churches will match pledges for donated goods and services with needy folks in the Carlington area. The Chaplaincy will act as a social connector. Curious? Please check out www.partageshare.org

DONATION information:

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 mailbox. Feel free to use your offering envelopes. Indicate on the envelope or cheque: White Gift. 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**” or “**PartageShare**”

*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.

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/Kitchissippi-United-Church/>

UPCOMING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2021 ON LINE LIVESTREAM SUNDAYS (NO IN PERSON WORSHIP AT THIS TIME)

Friday December 17th - Trivia Night! 7pm This will be the last one of 2021. All welcome to attend, answer Canadian trivia questions and share stories. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82250633588>

Sunday December 19th - Advent IV LOVE

HERE IS THE LINK TO VIEW THE KUC YOUTUBE CHANNEL ON SUNDAYS

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwATU1rozB1PllaRmr2teVA>

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Tuesday December 21st - Advent Study from 1 - 3pm. We are reading Kate Bowler's Advent Study called *The Season of Almost*. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89093844185>
<http://www.kitchissippiuc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/ADVENT-RESOURCES-2021.pdf>

Wednesday December 22nd - Advent Contemplative Service 7pm by Zoom - This one is a 'Blue Christmas' service. Rideau Park United Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5583434610>

Friday December 24th - Christmas Eve Services: 6:30 pm - Folks who are fully vaccinated are encouraged to attend. **7:45 pm** - Family Service: the fully vaccinated and children (who are not vaccinated) are encouraged to attend. **HERE IS THE LINK TO VIEW THE KUC YOUTUBE CHANNEL ON SUNDAYS**
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwATU1rozB1PIIaRmr2teVA>

Sunday December 26th - Christmas I: Lay led.

Sunday January 2nd - Christmas II: Lay led.

Sunday January 9th - Epiphany! Back to the Spiritual Literacy words: **Enthusiasm! Energy!**



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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwATU1rozB1PIIaRmr2teVA>

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU - PLEASE REACH OUT

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**THE CHURCH OFFICE IS NOT
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE.**

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