



Kitchissippi
UNITED CHURCH

**Saturday, December 24th – Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service at 7pm
Sunday, December 25th, at 10am**

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP at 10 AM LIVE STREAM

WWW.KITCHISSIPPIUC.COM

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

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwATU1rozB1PIlaRmr2teVA>

A MESSAGE FROM REV. JENNI



Good day,

I hope this email finds you well!

'Tis the season of giving, and I hope you've avoided receiving the cold, Covid, and the flu going around! (I personally haven't been so lucky and have received the gift of a cold on Tuesday. Very hopeful I'll be fine for Christmas Eve.)

The old saying goes, 'Tis better to give than receive', but for those on the margins, the underemployed, the refugee, the unhoused, and all others, this saying falls flat. Sometimes we do find ourselves needing help, and hopefully we are surrounded with communities and organizations who will do just that. The church is called to do this work. We are called to support, to visit, and help those in need, following the way of love and justice of Jesus.

If you can give during this season of giving, I thought I'd include some ways for you to give. If you need some charitable donations before the year ends, you can give locally to Kitchissippi United Church:

To the United Church's M & S fund:

Donate by e-transfer at donations@kitchissippiuc.com (note M&S donation)

OR <https://united-church.ca/donate>

To Affirm United

<https://affirmunited.ause.ca/donate/>

To Justice for Indigenous Women

<https://j4iw.ca/product-category/store/>

Minwaashin lodge

<https://www.minlodge.com/donate>

Parkdale Food Centre

<https://parkdalefoodcentre.ca/category/donate/>

If you have time instead of money, I'd encourage you to check out this soup kitchen that operates on Christmas day out of Saint Peters and Saint Pauls downtown. To help with their Christmas dinner see: <https://peterpaulottawa.churchcenter.com/people/forms/466527%C2%A0>

May you have a joyous, love-filled Christmas with family or chosen family!
Take good care,
Jenni

I wanted to leave you with this beautiful poem by artist and author, Jan Richardson:

For you, again, on this winter solstice, or for someone you love. Because for so many folks, it has been a year of achingly long nights. So I am sliding this under your door in blessing and in hope. And to friends in the Southern Hemisphere, blessings of the summer solstice to you!

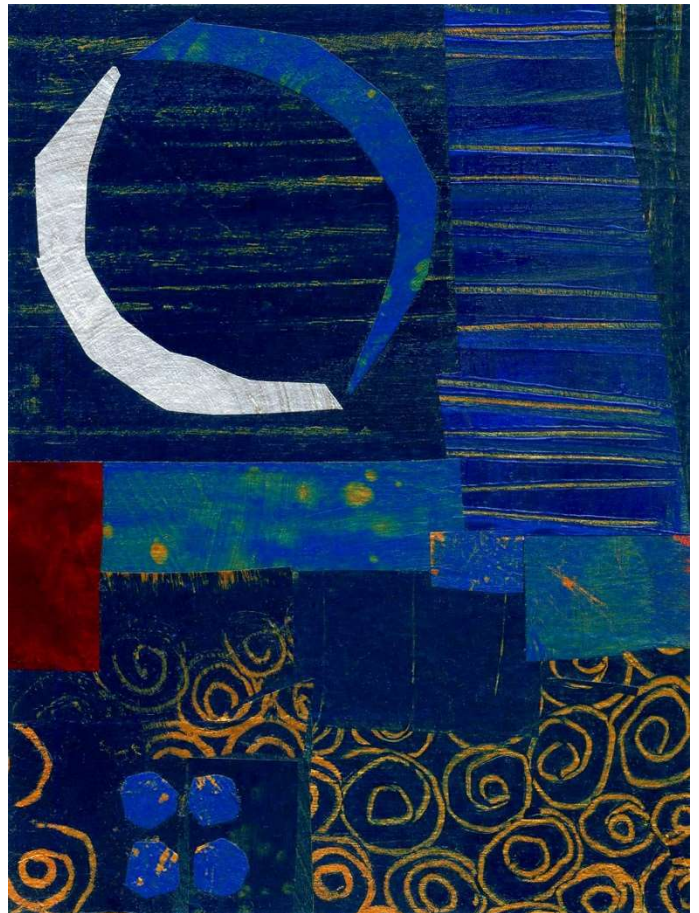
BLESSING FOR THE LONGEST NIGHT

All throughout these months,
as the shadows
have lengthened,
this blessing has been
gathering itself,
making ready,
preparing for
this night.

It has practiced
walking in the dark,
traveling with
its eyes closed,
feeling its way
by memory,
by touch,
by the pull of the moon
even as it wanes.

So believe me
when I tell you
this blessing will
reach you,
even if you
have not light enough
to read it;
it will find you,
even though you cannot
see it coming.

You will know
the moment of its
arriving
by your release



of the breath
you have held
so long;
a loosening
of the clenching
in your hands,
of the clutch
around your heart;
a thinning
of the darkness
that had drawn itself
around you.

This blessing
does not mean
to take the night away,
but it knows
its hidden roads,
knows the resting spots
along the path,
knows what it means
to travel
in the company
of a friend.

So when
this blessing comes,
take its hand.
Get up.
Set out on the road
you cannot see.

This is the night
when you can trust
that any direction
you go,
you will be walking
toward the dawn.

—Jan Richardson
from *The Cure for Sorrow: A Book of Blessings for Times of Grief*

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Saturday, December 24 at 7 PM

Christmas Day – Sunday, December 25 at 10 AM (Lay led) in person only - no livestreaming

FAITH FORMATION AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Thank you to everyone who helped with, participated in, and watched the Christmas Pageant on Sunday!

It was a delight to see so many get involved, both returning families, regular attendees, and some new faces, too! We are particularly grateful to our administrator, costumers, pre-recorders, video editing, and tech team for the preparatory work, and for all those who joined in to sing, speak, act, or prompt. Thank you to our Mary and Jesus for being such a special edition to this year's nativity scene! Glory to God for our angel chorus and an extended family reunited!

If you would like to share the recording with others, or re-watch, the direct link to the Pageant video archived on YouTube is here: <https://youtu.be/ZTys7bo-lg4>

We welcome everyone to the Christmas Eve service this week, Saturday December 24th at 7PM. It is a simpler format as we return to the familiar Godly Play-style script where children can help bring forward the wooden nativity figures during hymns, followed by a candlelight carol. We have special children's bulletins and Nativity stickers to share with families. You are also invited to take a picture before or following the service "God's Love" photo booth courtesy of Mike Patriquin, as we imagine the great gift of God's love, born for you, and that love shining through you, too.



Kitchissippi's Outreach message

OUTREACH - Huge thanks to Nancy Brodie for taking on the leadership of our White Gifts project. Gifts were delivered by Nancy, Janet and David Balcome for the 128 residents of 3 homes: Kimberlane Residence and Alexander House (managed together) and Hampton Lodge. A lovely way to brighten the Christmas of these folks!

And repeated thanks to all who supported our overall Christmas Outreach.

REFUGEE SUPPORT- Illuminee, Kenta, Yan Owen and Chekna are settling in well. Documentation, banking, shopping, learning bus routes and becoming accustomed to Ottawa winter is all new and they approach these new experiences with a really positive approach. Thank you to everyone who has supported and continues to do so - our new family really appreciates this! We also thank you for other outreach initiatives throughout the year, and especially in Advent.

Merry Christmas and a healthy 2023,

Norah and the Refugee/Outreach team, open to more folks in 2023!!



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU - PLEASE REACH OUT

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