

COMMUNICATOR

ADVENT 2019



Fenwick United Church
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Minister: Dianne Everitt, M.A., M.Div.
Director of Music: William Outred
Children's Ministry: Kevin Snelgrove

From the Chair of Council

The Advent season is upon us! So is the hustle and bustle of the Commercial Christmas. It is so important to find the middle ground and not be overcome by the loud commercial pressure, so may I suggest that you make a point of coming to the musical events of the season at Fenwick United Church. (I mention this because, of course, I am prejudiced being a member of the church choir!)

We would love to see you especially on the evening of December 8 at 7:00 pm as the church choirs from Fonthill, Central, Wesley and Fenwick perform some lovely music celebrating the story of the coming of Christ. Carols also will be sung by the congregation at this event.

During our regular Church service on December 15, the choir will have a cantata arranged by our choir director, Bill Outred. This arrangement of anthems by Bill always brings a sense of the season of Advent and the coming of the Christ child.

The intent of this message is to suggest that there are ways of finding a sense of quiet contemplation when all around us seems to be so busy and rushed.

Please join us at Fenwick United Church as we journey with the story of the birth of Christ. Hallelujah!

*George Dewar,
Chair, Fenwick United Church Council*



List of Upcoming Services & Events

- Sat. Dec. 7 4-7 pm – Fenwick Lions will hold a Christmas tree lighting in downtown Fenwick, beside the Avondale. Free hot dogs and hot chocolate. Santa Claus will be there; children can bring their letters to Santa. This is open to the entire community.
- Sun. Dec. 8 7:00 pm – Community Carol Sing at Fenwick United Church with massed choir from 4 United churches
- Sun. Dec. 15 Advent 3 – Choir Cantata.
Bethany United Church will join us.
Potluck lunch will follow the service.
- Mon. Dec. 16 7:00 pm – Blue Christmas Service at Grace United Church. Rev. Warner Bloomfield and Rev. Dianne will preside.
- Wed. Dec. 18 Choir Party at Charlie Patterson's home
- Tues. Dec. 24 7:00 pm – Christmas Eve service at Fenwick United

News from the UCW

Christmas is just around the corner. There is magic in the air. Our church becomes energized with all the traditional activities.

The UCW has had another busy autumn making pies and our annual bazaar. Although the crowd was smaller this year, our bazaar was still quite successful.

We had a very well attended lunch at the Blue Star in Welland.

The next meeting will be December 2 at 10:00 am. At this meeting we will disperse our funds, continuing our outreach locally and abroad.

Our president, Sylvia Walker had surgery in September. We miss her and hope she will be back with us soon.

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Blessed New Year.

*Julie Looby,
Vice President, Fenwick UCW*

Christian Nurture Committee



Already a familiar face around our church, a very warm welcome to Kevin Snelgrove, our Children's Ministry leader.

Kevin received his Bachelor's of Applied Science degree with Honours in Child, Youth & Family studies and is currently reviewing his bachelor's of education at Brock University.

Kevin enjoys going to concerts, teaching and engaging his students, reading, writing, and walking his dogs.

Welcome Kevin and God bless you as you share your gifts with our young members.

Submitted by Janet Rutherford

From Kevin Snelgrove

On behalf of the Children's Ministry at Fenwick United Church, I would like to thank all of the children that attended the Advent Craft Night, as well as all of the wonderful volunteers that helped make the Advent Craft Night a success. This annual children's night activity was a memorable way to kick off the holiday season, and to share in the true meaning of Christmas.



Some Seasonal Thoughts

Christmas is coming. We had more snow, earlier in the season than usual. Kind of a short circuit for winter, but that snow is nearly all gone now. But it will come back

We do love to celebrate Christmas. Decorations, wreaths, coloured lights, snow men, reindeer – literally a winter wonderland. Feasts for dinner. Cookies and cakes. It really is a joyous time of year. I hope that your memories are of happiness too. Yes, but I will say that I do not miss the shiver from my mother, bless her, lighting the candles on the tree. We never did have a fire, but there was always a bit of fire fright, when they were lit. I don't miss that.

Christmas is for the kids. We all know that. Well, it's really about one special child. You know that. That one special child, who was to show us God's love, for all humankind. Ah, yes. All. I feel my kinship with the whole of creation. Even the mosquitoes and the poison ivy. I might avoid them, but they are part of creation too. Even as we are all neighbours, yet we have no right to judge, but must learn to live in harmony, even as the holy child revealed in his teachings.

Yes. I know. The time passes quickly and we return to the grind of existence. Charity, Sharing and Love can be in short supply in the big city. We are the lucky ones, living in such idyllic areas as Fenwick – all of Niagara is really a blessed spot. Never mind the damp. Come on, dress for it. And as the bitter weather returns with bluster we must remember the message of the child. We must continue to care for one another, even holding out a helping hand, as best we can. The carols and other glorious music can resonate in our souls all year long, if we let it. The charity of the season and the warmth of family and friends is not gone even though we may live apart. Shelter the closeness of dear ones in your heart. May all of our families find joy in this Christmas time. May the Lord bless and keep all of us. Let us remember especially, Tammy and Sylvia. We pray that the Lord will touch them with healing. In the busyness of the holidays, remember to love God, and live joyously.

John Blankenburg, Member of Church Council

From the Finance Committee

The financial statements for the 10 months ended October 31, 2019 follow for your perusal.

The contributions made by members total \$59,844 which is good for a small congregation. However, it is \$27,656 short of our annual budget of \$87,500.

Expenses have been well controlled and I expect will be less than budget by year-end.

Again this year, I remind you that Revenue Canada reduces your income tax payable by 40% of the total amount over \$200 you donate to charitable organizations such as Fenwick United. All donations received by December 31, 2019 will be included on your 2019 receipt for income tax purposes.

I encourage you to support your church and all donations you provide are welcomed and received with much gratitude.

We continue to work closely with Bethany United with whom we share our minister, Rev Dianne Everitt.

This year, Bethany United is invited to attend our Cantata and Christmas Eve services. Arrangements for special services in 2020 will be announced at a later date.

May this advent season bring you joy and peace.

Morris Looby, Treasurer

Financial Statement for the General Fund Year-to-date ending October 31, 2019

	<u>Y-T-D ACTUAL</u>	<u>2019 BUDGET</u>
RECEIPTS		
Contributions	55,374.30	80,000
Mission & Service	4,470.00	7,500
Hall Rentals	6,750.00	2,100
HST Rebate	2,781.27	2,100
Men's Group	875.00	900
Outreach Projects	520.00	2,000
Interest Income	31.93	8,790
Miscellaneous	3.59	0
TOTAL RECEIPTS	70,806.09	103,390
DISBURSEMENTS		
Salaries & Benefits	58,220.30	62,688
Pulpit & Music Supply	1,512.00	2,100
Administrative Expense	6,309.65	9,485
Gen. Council Assessment	2,956.95	3,614
Broadview Subscriptions	1,172.57	1,250
Property	12,811.51	23,000
Christian Nurture	0.00	0
Mission & Service	4,185.00	7,500
Other Missions	0.00	1,000
Worship & Music	1,304.00	1,100
Outreach / Harvest Dinners	897.58	1,100
Pastoral Care/Fellowship	47.90	350
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	89,417.46	113,187
NET RECEIPTS / (DEFICIT)	-18,611.37	-9,797