



WINTER NEWSLETTER

A Message from the Minister

As I write this, we are heading into the winter season and the beginning of advent, a time of waiting. It has occurred to me that this time of waiting, and this time of wintering are related in many ways, but our waiting and wintering should not be seen as sedentary. It is not time to stop. Too often, we equate waiting with being stopped, like in a lineup at the check-out counter or waiting for a cab. Mindless times of waiting. The advent time of waiting should not be a "no thinking time". Our waiting should be filled with ideas of what is possible in our futures. Thoughts about this child coming to make a difference in the world and how our own lives make a difference.

For some reading this, you may feel that your days of ideas and possibilities are over. Many of you may feel as though you are simply waiting for your time to end! I do not say this glibly, as we age, we often feel our time is done, we no longer understand the world around us, but I want to assure you that you are indeed needed in this waiting and wintering time. It is the energy of all of us that keeps the world in motion. If you are able to read this, you are able to put intentions and positivity into the broken world around us. We need a time of intension to bolster the positive to defeat the negative. We need visions and dreams and possibilities; even if you feel no one is listening make it a choice to think beyond the immediate to something better, something more. You may be surprised at the change within yourself and you're thinking.

As we wait may we be filled with the joy of the season and the love brought to us and shown through us!

May you have a very Merry Christmas and a New Year full of possibilities!

Rev. Robin



Special thanks to the Men's Choir, led by Henry Boon and to Piper, Kevin Bunt, for making our Remembrance Day service so lovely.





Sunday, December 24th ~

Advent 4 SERVICE at 10am

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE at 7pm.

Please join us in-person or online ❄️



giftswith**vision**



How it Works

The United Church of Canada developed Gifts with Vision in response to member requests to be able to give gifts to relatives, friends, and loved ones that are in direct support of the church's Mission & Service partners.

Browse the Gifts

Browse the Gifts and choose ones that suit those on your list. You will find a choice of dollar amounts as well as gifts that appeal to varied interests or commitments.

Choose your Gifts!

When you find a gift, add it to cart. When you've added all your choices, click the cart icon to be taken to our secure donation checkout.

Share the Gifts

Gifts with Vision
c/o The United Church of Canada
3250 Bloor Street West, Suite 200
Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4
Canada
T 1-844-715-7969 E info@giftswithvision.ca

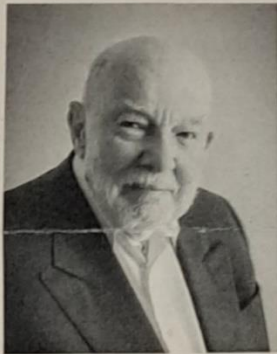
Tecumseh United is in a deficit at this time. You can help by increasing your giving by just a few dollars. Thank you for helping us do the work of the church!



DONATIONS can be made by e-transfer at
tecumsehunited.com
No password needed!

The End of an Era

For forty-five years Don and Barbara Snyder have been involved with The Friends of the Court. They have announced that they will be retiring from the volunteer responsibilities as of the Annual General meeting on October 3, 2023. What an incredible legacy stands in their wake.



Donald V. Snyder



Barbara J. Snyder

In the beginning (1978), the Essex County Courthouse was slated for sale and demolition. Led by Evelyn McLean, a small group of dedicated people advocated salvation, restoration and repurposing of this historic building. Don and Barb were key members of that group. Through the years of fundraising, restoration, furnishing and procurements for Mackenzie Hall they were at the forefront of the Friends of the Court, while concurrently maintaining a busy family life with five children, volunteering with Rotary, Save the Children-Canada, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, involvement with their church and running a successful Insurance and real estate business.

Their dedication to their community has not diminished, however Don and Barb Snyder recognize that they need to step-aside now and let the next generation of volunteers carry on the work of The Friends of the Court.

Thank you Barbara and Donald Snyder for your part in rescuing and restoring Mackenzie Hall and for your years of dedication to our community.

The *winter solstice* occurs on the shortest day and longest night of the year. After this day toward the end of December, we say goodbye to short days and look forward to the extra hours of sunlight ahead in the new year.



1. There Are Actually Two Winter Solstices Every Year

Did you know the other side of the planet gets a winter solstice, too? With the planet's orbit tilted on its axis, Earth's hemispheres swap who gets direct sun over the course of a year. Even though the Northern Hemisphere is closer to the sun during December, the tilt away from the sun results in less direct sunlight and that causes cold temperatures-and in turn, the Southern Hemisphere gets more direct sunlight and is toasty.

2. The Winter Solstice Happens in the Blink of an Eye

Although the solstice is marked by a whole day on the calendar, it's actually just the brief moment when the sun is exactly over the Tropic of Capricorn that the event occurs.

3. It's a Time of Gloriously Long Shadows

If you're inclined to take pleasure in the little things, like shadows that seem cast from a funhouse mirror, then the winter solstice is the time for you.

Because the sun is at its lowest arc across the sky, shadows from its light are at their longest. In fact, your noontime shadow on the solstice is the longest it will be all year. Relish those long legs while you can.

4. Full Solstice Moons Are Rarer Than Blue Ones

Since 1793, the full moon has only occurred on the winter solstice 10 times, according to the Farmer's Almanac. The last one was in 2010, which was also a [lunar eclipse](#)! The next full moon on a winter solstice won't be until 2094.

5. There's a Christmas Connection

Humans have been celebrating the winter solstice throughout history: The Romans had their feast of Saturnalia, early German and Nordic pagans had their yuletide celebrations, and even Stonehenge has connections to the solstice.

Eventually Christian leaders, endeavoring to attract pagans to their faith, added Christian meaning to these traditional festivals. Many Christmas customs, like the Christmas tree, can be directly traced to solstice celebrations.



Join us for the Annual Congregational meeting
after the service on February 4th.

(Committee Chairs- please get reports in to the office
by January 10th Thank you!!!)

Bizarre and Fun Holidays - CELEBRATE!

December

- December 1: National Eat a Red Apple Day
- December 4: National Sock Day
- December 12: Gingerbread House Day
- December 15: National Wear Your Pearls Day
- December 17: National Maple Syrup Day
- December 24: National Eggnog Day
- December 25: National Pumpkin Pie Day
- December 26: National Whiner's Day
- December 31: National Champagne Day



JANUARY

- January 1: National Hangover Day
- January 8: National Bubble Bath Day
- January 9: National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
- January 11: National Step in the Puddle and Splash Your Friends Day
- January 12: Kiss a Ginger Day
- January 13: National Rubber Ducky Day
- January 20: National Cheese Lover's Day
- January 21: Squirrel Appreciation Day
- January 27: National Chocolate Cake Day
- January 28: National Kazoo Day
- January 29: National Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day

February

- February 2: National Tater Tot Day
- February 4: National Homemade Soup Day
- February 7: National Fettuccine Alfredo Day
- February 9: National No One Eats Alone Day
- February 10: National Umbrella Day
- February 11: National Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day
- February 15: Singles Awareness Day
- February 17: National Random Acts of Kindness Day
- February 22: National Cook a Sweet Potato Day
- February 28: National Public Sleeping Day

Bev MacKenzie

Sue White

Kathy Arner

Beth Hebert

Annabelle Symons

John Laken

John Cafe

Mark Coulbeck

Sydney Neilson

Charlotte Cortese

Lisa Brown

Roy Symons

Rev. Robin

Donna Marsh

Dave Paterson

Ashton Rivait

Sadie Taylor

Sydney Coulbeck

Barbara Suominen

Normalie Voakes

Helen Burke

Kevin Bunt

Yve Banks

Gail Laken

Gayle Bruce

Heidi Weisshaar

Bonnie Rivait

Gladys Lauzon





Katie Bunt
Henry Boon
Lorraine Sayell
Jo-Anne Neilson
Columbe Provencher
Peter Scott
Allan Howe
Michael Tiplady
Mary Fournier
Heather Davidson
Baba Jha

Karen & Harry Devries

Happy Anniversary!

Mark & Megan Luckhardt

John & Judy McIntosh

Chris & Nancy Morand

Don & Barb Snyder





The persistent lawn sign "Keep Christ in Christmas" always makes me laugh. Are we worried he'll escape? Now of course I know that the slogan is meant to encourage Christians to keep the Nativity story alive in an increasingly consumerist culture. It's a signpost in a contest of symbols. I imagine the sign's owner is worried that secular symbols like Frosty, Rudolph or Santa will become the center of the Christmas story and push baby Jesus to the margins. This has never concerned me. I'm more worried about what made me laugh in the first place - that we are building a fence around Christmas to be sure that none of the warm feelings, generosity, "peace on earth" and "goodwill to men" get out into the rest of the year. As anyone who works or volunteers at a food bank can tell you - a lot of folks only give at Christmas. Why don't we persist in this spirit of goodwill, gift-giving and promises of peace? It might be that we've decided that the world just doesn't work that way. It's a world where violence and poverty are daily realities and it feels impossible to maintain the truth of what a pregnant teenage Mary sings in Advent, "God has shown strength with his arm, God has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, God has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree; The Lord has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich have been sent away empty". It is nearly impossible to believe these words in a world with such suffering but it's exactly because of this suffering that we must believe. So, let's run the risk and let him escape, allowing these wild claims of peace and justice to spill out into the year. Let's not keep Christ in Christmas.

-Rev. George Bonanich



Have a safe and cozy WINTER!