



## EMMANUEL COMMUNICATES

395 Lakeshore Drive  
North Bay, Ontario P1A 2C5  
705-472-1806

**Minister:** Rev. Roni Beharry  
**Organist:** John Henderson  
**Secretary:** Sheila Durand  
**Office Hours:** Wednesday—Friday  
9:00 am — 1:00 p.m.  
**Chair of Council:**  
**Envelope Secretary:** Sherri Pinder

*From the Pastor's Desk*

November 2019

Dear Friends,

The days and weeks leading up to Advent have been more stressful than usual. More than one person in my life, is living with cancer. Pastorally we face challenges in relationships and in leadership. The news about President Donald Trump and lead up to a possible impeachment. All this sadness makes it difficult to feel Christmassy.

I am so grateful that the season of Advent keeps it real. The preparation requires something from us, a disciplined faith. We are reminded on the first Sunday of Advent that Jesus is near at hand, when life feels chaotic and everything seems to be fall apart and we celebrate communion. On the second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to prepare our hearts through a turning away from the evils of this world as we prepare to receive our Saviour. On Advent Three, we remember that God gives the vulnerable and humble a song of joy and strength for the journey. On Advent Four we celebrate God's Love as we reflect of Joseph's bold decision to marry Mary, coming alongside her. We look forward to celebrate the birth of Emmanuel "God With Us".

Advent is the necessary preparation for receiving God's Good News at Christmas! Join us on Christmas Eve at 6:30 pm to celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

Let us prepare our hearts for the Good News of Our Saviour's birth.

Blessings,

Rev. Roni



### **Advent 2019 "The World Waits for Good News!"**

Each service during Advent begins with a Carol sing at 10:15 am.

### **Advent One "The Lord Is Coming Let's Be Ready!"**

We begin Advent with Communion.

Bread of Life and the Cup of Blessing for the Journey.

Old Testament: Isaiah 2: 1-5

Psalms 122 "Paraphrase"

Matthew 24: 36-44

Children's Book and suggested craft: "The Little Red Stocking."

### **Advent Two: The Lord is Coming: Let's be Prepared! Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup> White Gift Sunday**

Old Testament: Isaiah 11:1-10

New Testament Matthew 3: 1-12

Children's Book: "Flowers for Jesus". Craft "Making Poinsettias"

### **Advent 3: Joy for the Journey, the Lord Is Coming!**

Isaiah 35: 1-10

James 5: 7-10

Luke 1: 47-55

Children's Book: "Great Joy" by Kate DiCamillo  
illustrated by: Bagram Ibatoulline

### **Advent 4: "A Sign of Emmanuel: God's Expression of Love"**

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Matthew 1: 18-25 (Love reaches down to Joseph)

Children's Story : "Joseph's dream from the Christmas Story"

### **Christmas Eve Family Service 6:30 pm.**

The service will include the Christmas Story, reflections and favourite carols.

An intergenerational Christmas pageant will be a special feature of this service.

**Advent** ... a time of preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ for Christians.

But what is Advent and how do Christians prepare for Christmas?

Advent is the time leading up to Christmas meant to help Christian believers prepare for the coming of Christ, but many people who are not part of the Christian faith are not really sure what Advent is.

### *What does Advent mean?*

The name "Advent" actually comes from the Latin word *adventus* which means "coming." It was given to this time of year in December because Christians are waiting for the coming of Jesus Christ, who they believe is the Messiah or Son of God. This season is traditionally seen to be a time of waiting expectantly and happily and preparing for the Christmas season at the end of December. It is also a reminder of how the Jewish nation waited for the Messiah and how Christians are now waiting for the return of Christ.

### *When is Advent?*

Something that many people do not know is that technically, the beginning of Advent is the beginning of the liturgical New Year. Advent starts on Advent Sunday, which is always the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day. Depending on which day of the week Christmas falls on, Advent Sunday falls either at the beginning of December or, the last Sunday of November. This year it will be on December 1st.

### *What do you do during Advent?*

In the medieval era, Advent was celebrated very much like the season of Lent: with fasting, and then a huge feast and celebration at the end. It was considered to be a very serious time of year, and the first two weeks were almost like mourning. By the third week, Gaudete (which means "rejoice" in Latin) Sunday was celebrated, and Christians could begin to be more cheerful with the expectation of Christmas.

One of Advent's most prominent symbols is the candles lit at the beginning of each week. There are 3 purple or blue candles and one pink or rose candle – four total with one for each week. A fifth white candle may be added to be lit on Christmas day. Purple is a color often used in Christian traditions to emphasize penitence, fasting, and preparation. It is also used during the season of Lent. The pink candle is most often used on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday; although, some traditions light it on the final Sunday of Advent. At the beginning of each weekly service, a special ceremony is performed to light that week's candle. The candles' fires burn during the service so that by the end of Advent, all of the candles' lights shine.

A symbol that has gained popularity at this time is the Advent Calendar. What started in Germany in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as a simple piece of cardboard with 24 sweets from a mother to her child has become an iconic way to remind believers of the coming birth of Christ. The young boy, Gerhard Lang, went on to open a printing company that first began printing the modern symbol of Advent. Today, you can find them in stores everywhere, or even make one yourself.

Throughout Advent, believers often celebrate a variety of holidays including the Immaculate Conception, in celebration of Mary's virgin conception of Jesus, and the Feast of Saint Nicholas, more commonly known as Santa Clause. Advent's major themes for Christians are hope, love, joy, and peace for all people.



# COOKIE WALK



**SATURDAY DECEMBER 7, 2019**

Finely decorated homemade cookies and squares will be available to purchase between 10 a.m. and noon on Saturday December 7, 2019 in the Passmore Hall at Emmanuel United Church.

Cost is the same as last year ....

**\$8.00 for a dozen cookies OR \$10.00 for a dozen squares.**

These fresh, not frozen, goodies have been made by devoted cooks and you know they won't last long.



Sponsored by various church Committees as well as the Willing Workers, along with the support of our whole church. Goodies left following the sale, benefit the Brunch Program; Shut Ins and Emmanuel members living in Retirement Homes.



**CANADIAN SHIELD**  
**REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
The United Church of Canada

## ATTENTION LADIES

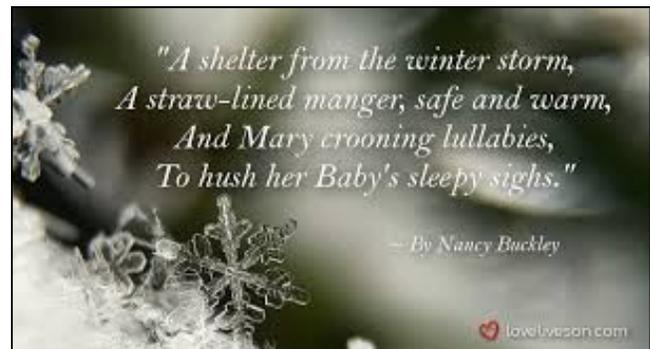
The Canadian Shield Region Fall/Christmas Newsletter 2019 is available on line at [canadianshieldrc.ca/wp-contact](http://canadianshieldrc.ca/wp-contact)

It has a lot of interesting information including results of the National UCW Survey that we answered questions for last year.

And, if you would still like to be a part of UCW even though Emmanuel's UCW has disbanded, individual memberships are accepted.

Contact Judy Biondi, Treasurer – Canadian Shield Region UCW –  
705-478-7781 for the amount of the assessment to pay.

### "Village " News"



The new LED illuminated sign for Emmanuel Village Apartments is in place and operational. It is a beacon illuminating our village area during then night and a clear indicator of the address for daytime activities.

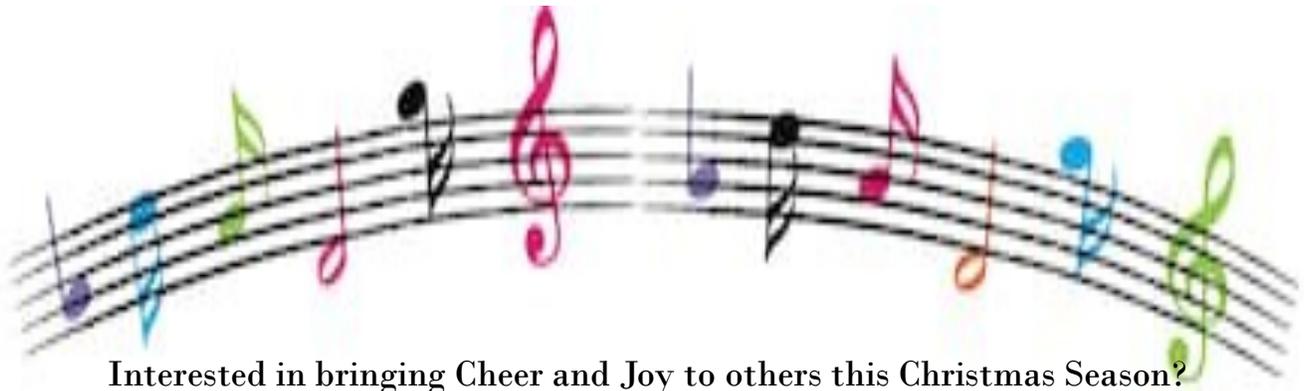
Residents of the apartment building will soon have access to state of the art fiber optic connections as Bell completes its retrofit work. The Board is optimistic that further enhancements modernizing the units will garner support through the Ontario Renovates (for Social Housing) component of OPHI.

The annual visitation/review of each of the 34 units in September was very encouraging. Tenants were generally very appreciative, having embraced their unit as their home within the village community. This yields a sense of gratification for Board members who have volunteered to serve.

The call is out for others from Emmanuel's congregation to volunteer and play a leadership role as the Corporation enters a new era. Please discuss your options with Board members (Carl, Elaine, Robert, David) or the Congregation Chair. Septembers "Emmanuel Communicates" indicated now is your opportune time as Emmanuel's "Incorporated Ministry" approaches becoming "mortgage free" (June 1, 2021).



Emmanuel Village Not-For-Profit Homes (North Bay) Corporation



Interested in bringing Cheer and Joy to others this Christmas Season?

Please join with the CL&W Committee in our annual Christmas Carol Singing Event on Saturday December 14th, meeting at the William Street entrance of the church at 1:30 p.m.

From there we will head out to bring smiles, and Christmas music to many of the residents at Waters Edge and the Empire Living Centre.

Following our afternoon of spreading cheer to folks, we will return to the church for a hot beverage and some well deserved goodies.

Please let Nancy Dixon (705-495-6944) know if you will be able to join us this year as we spread the Christmas Spirit to others, while enjoying ourselves.

We decided to have this event on Sat., Dec. 14 starting at the Church at 1:30 and going to only Waters Edge and The Empire for 45 minutes each and not to any individual homes of the Congregation. I have arranged with Waters Edge to be there in the lower floor to sing Carols with the residents that are there from 1:40 to 2:25.

I have also arranged with The Empire to be there in the usual main entrance area to sing Carols with the residents that are there from 2:40 to 3:05. We feel that it is too messy for people to go into homes due to the snow on footwear. There will be a gathering back at the church for cookies and beverages of either hot chocolate or hot cider when we are finished.

Everyone is welcome to join us at these places and people really enjoy it.



# Carol Caroling

# Turkey Supper Results



This year was our 51st Turkey Supper, and it was another success. We are becoming quite adapt at creating and working at these suppers, even if some folks end the evening with sore feet and sore backs, we all have the satisfaction of knowing we did well and the customers left full and happy.

This year we had a number of workers who were NOT members of Emmanuel, rather friends and neighbours of Emmanuel members.

To those who worked so diligently to make this a success, the Supper Committee would like to say a big "Thank You".

And to all those who came to eat and enjoy, we hope to see you at the next Emmanuel Supper!



AS A RESULT OF THE 2019 TURKEY SUPPER, AFTER ALL EXPENSES WERE PAID, A GRAND TOTAL OF **\$7,147.11 (which included the money from 20 'SAVED TURKEYS')** WAS ACHIEVED.



As a little child climbed onto Santa's lap, Santa asked the usual,

"And what would you like for Christmas?"

The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped:

Didn't you get my E-mail?"



What's the absolute best Christmas present?

A broken drum—you can't beat it!



How did the ornament get addicted to Christmas?

He was hooked on trees his whole life.

# Visitation

It has been awhile since we have updated you, the congregation, on what the Visitation Committee attempts to do. To let our people know we are thinking of them by visiting in hospital, nursing homes and sending cards. Our committee is made up of only three people, Pam Zygmunt, Robert Whitford and Nancy Lourie.



Pam does visiting at both Water's Edge and Cassellholme.

Robert and Nancy do hospital visits on a weekly basis.

Get well, sympathy, 1st anniversary after death, birthday cards for over 80 years of age are sent by Nancy.

To keep up to date with our church family we really need your input if you know of a sickness, death or special event.

A phone call to the church or to Nancy at 705-476-0305 would really be appreciated.

If you are unable to come to church and would like communion in your home we are more than willing to do this.



A phone call to the church at 705-472-1806 one week before Communion Sunday would allow us to do this for you.

If you are new to our church, welcome, and please let the office know of your address and phone number.

Now that you know what the Visitation Committee is doing, please keep in touch with us.

A little child,  
A shining star,  
A stable rude,  
The door ajar.  
Yet in that place,  
So crude, forlorn,  
The Hope of all  
The world was  
born.

Anonymous



Homemade  
GIFTS MADE EASY

## \$ and Sense - Emmanuel's Legacy Fund

September's "Emmanuel Communicates" featured an article on Emmanuel's Martha. Council approved the recommendation to accept the bequest and apply the gift consistent with the donor's wishes. Sustaining Emmanuel congregation efforts, now and in the future, will include the newly created "Legacy Fund".

The Legacy Fund is applied such that:

- (i) the current bank balance to pay expenses (local church and UCC) be at least \$13000 at the beginning of each calendar year.
- (ii) interest earned and, if necessary, invested funds be applied to achieve a balanced budget annually, or to assist in growing other means to sustain the church.

As previously reported, all short term investments have been liquidated. Dedicated fund monies have been used to allow Emmanuel to meet ongoing commitments in 2019. Dedicated funds have now been set aside and the remainder of the bequest establishes the Legacy Fund. The "Legacy Fund" will replace the 'Mortgage Fund' as an option for individuals to contribute.

The significance of this fund is clear when one compares "local church expenses" with "corresponding revenues". Emmanuel's 2019 budget as approved shows:

<u>Local Church Expenses</u>		<u>Corresponding Revenues</u>	
Staff	\$93,216	Offerings	\$82,000
Property	27,070	Suppers, etc.	24,300
Programs	11,620	Programs	100
UCC	<u>5,472</u>	<u>Rentals</u>	<u>4,000</u>
TOTAL	\$137,378		\$110,400

Council and Committees were to make every effort to balance the budget, however it is clear the \$24,978 projected deficit will not be overcome. The Legacy Fund funds would be applied to achieve the above year end objective.

There was \$61,464.81 in bequest after the mortgage was paid. Projections yield the deficit from 2019 will be \$20,000; thus the Legacy Fund balance (including self administered loan) will be approximately \$20,000 to start 2020.

The bequest affords Emmanuel an opportunity to pursue our mission in a manner clearly within our means.

EUC Finance Committee

# Exciting News from the Brunch Bunch

On Monday, September 30, about a dozen of the 30 volunteers who work at the Saturday morning brunches at St. John's on the second Saturday and Emmanuel on the fourth Saturday of the months gathered at Emmanuel for a Potluck supper. As the food started to arrive, it was beginning to look like we would be eating desserts. However, when the hot dishes arrived, we ended up with a delicious balanced meal.



After dessert, and before the dishes were done, there was a short business meeting. Statistics showed that 1,020 meals were served from September 2018 to June 2019 at a cost of \$2.98 per person. The bank balance was in the black by \$13.77. Funding has been totally by generous donations from the four church sponsors St. John's, Church of Christ, Holy Name of Jesus and Emmanuel and donations from some of our guests.



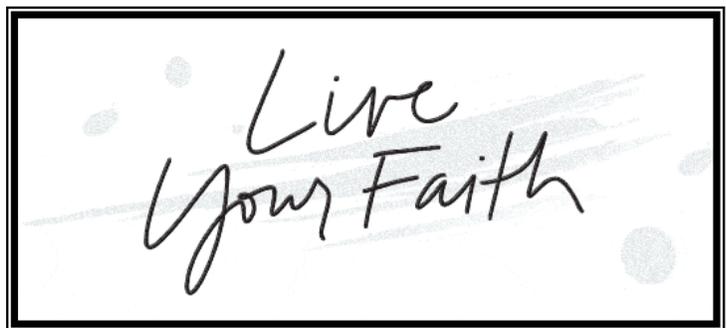
We have been operating for the past year without having a treasurer which puts more pressure on Co-ordinator, Raymonde Duchesne. She was very pleased to announce that next summer a large yard sale in the Church of Christ parking lot will help boost the financial picture for 2020.

Watch for more news about when you can donate items and for the date of the Yard Sale.

Ruth



Today, when I witnessed a 27-year-old breast cancer patient laughing hysterically at her 2-year-old daughter's antics, and I suddenly realized that I need to stop complaining about my life and start celebrating it again.



Today, I kissed my dad on the forehead as he passed away in a small hospital bed. About 5 seconds after he passed, I realized it was the first time I had given him a kiss since I was a little boy.



## Lessons from a Christmas Tree

- \* Be a light in the darkness.
- \* We all fall over sometimes.
- \* You can never wear too much glitter.
- \* Bring joy to others.
- \* Sparkle and twinkle as often as possible.
- \* It's okay to be a little tilted.

~ Jane Lee Logan



## At Grandma's House

Two young children were spending the night at their grandparents. At bedtime, the two knelt beside their beds to say their prayers when the youngest one began praying in the loudest voice possible.

**"I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE...  
I PRAY FOR A NEW NINTENDO...  
I PRAY FOR A NEW VCR..."**

The older sibling leaned over and nudged the younger and said, "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf." To which the little one replied, "No, but Gramma is!"



# EUC Willing Workers



## Thank You

Wow! Thanks to the support and help from friends, family and community, The Snowman Tea & Bazaar was super successful. Thank you to the people who shared their talents and supplies. The craft table brought in \$1,132.00 and the bake table sold goodies for \$757.55. Tea biscuits, cheese and jam served by younger willing workers raised \$490.00. Thank you to the servers and the men and women in the kitchen who kept up to the demand in the gaily decorated room on a sunny Saturday. Thank you to those who helped set up, decorate, and move things back. Thank you to Leader, Linda Shillington for pulling it all together, starting in September – a great accomplishment for her first try.



## *Giving Tuesday*

We are also participating in Giving Tuesday, supporting Boots on the Ground, help for homeless and Hope Awaits Men's Shelter on December 3 this year.



At our next meeting on December 10 at 10 am, we will fill cookie tins to deliver to 18 folks with our Christmas wishes.



**All women are welcome to join our regular meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at 10 am for devotions, business, fellowship and snacks.**

Ruth Trotter, Secretary.

# AVGEN GIFT CARD PROGRAM

Gift/Prepaid card orders are generally being taken on the second Sunday of each month (note next order is on December 8th) and cards are usually returned within a week (in time for Christmas). So far this year we have made 11 orders and have raised almost \$1400 for the church. Thank you for your contribution.

Please consider thinking of the gift cards as more than 'gift' cards, think of them as "pre-paid" cards. You can certainly use the cards as gifts but we encourage you to use them for everyday purchases. Groceries, hardware, gas and restaurants.

- Some people buy all their groceries with the cards they order through the church. Your spending for the month is set out ahead of time.
- Some people buy a coffee gift card for the month. Using the card to limit their spending... a way of budgeting.
- Some church committees have purchased cards for their spending or gifting.

There are many ways to contribute to the church this way. Whatever you use your cards for you are giving back to the church without washing dishes and without spending any money over the card value. And you still get your loyalty points.

*Tina tells me I am one of those who use Avgen gift cards most often. That surprises me, I am a single person who doesn't need to buy much at this stage in my life — just groceries, gas for my car and an occasional trip to Shoppers Drug Mart or Walmart. A \$250 Avgen card buy groceries for me for a month. A \$100 Avgen card buys gas for two months and I still get Optimum points. I seldom spend more than \$100 at Walmart. By writing one cheque for all the cards I order in a month, I save a trip to the bank to pay my credit card off. As soon as the cards come in, I get a phone call to set up the best time to have them delivered to me. It is so simple and helps earn some money for the church expenses without much effort.*

*Ruth Trottier.*

Since we started last fall we have purchases 906 cards and raised almost \$1900!

Thanks for your support,  
Tina and Greg Wilcox



As we look to the  
new year, hold on to  
what is *Good*. Let go  
of what is *bad*. It  
really is that **simple**.

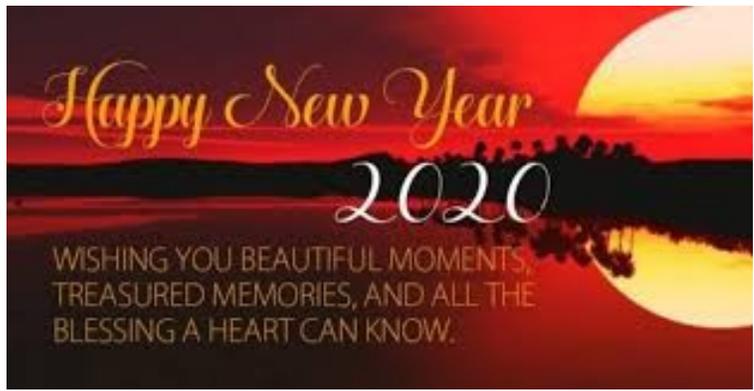
*-Mandy Hale*



**SCENT-SITIVE ...**

Scented products can aggravate health problems for some people with medical conditions.

Please, in consideration of others, do not wear scented products when attending church. Your cooperation is appreciated.



**IF YOU HAVE MOVED, OR PLAN TO MOVE, PLEASE INFORM THE CHURCH OFFICE SO THAT ANY CORRESPONDENCE TO YOU DOES NOT GO ASTRAY.**



**IF YOU HAVE A NEW PHONE NUMBER DO INFORM THE OFFICE SECRETARY SHOULD SHE NEED TO REACH YOU.**



Our church has an AED .....  
Automatic External Defibrillator  
on site.  
Do you know where it is located?



**NEW EMAIL ADDRESS .. PLEASE LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW SO THAT WE CAN STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOU.**

If you no longer wish to receive Emmanuel Communicates, please contact either the church office at 705-472-1806..or.. Karen Carmichael at 705-472-5444 or by e-mail to [carmichl@efni.com](mailto:carmichl@efni.com)

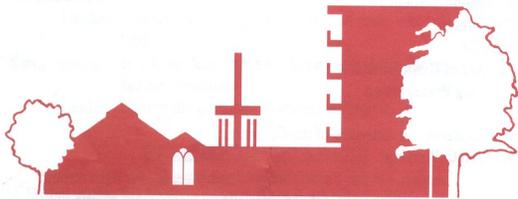
Visit our website at [www.emmanuelunitednorthbay.ca](http://www.emmanuelunitednorthbay.ca)

Comments, concerns and suggestions are always welcome.



**If you no longer wish to receive Emmanuel Communicates, please contact the church office at 705-472-1806 to have your name removed for the mailing list.**

**Thank you, editorial staff.**



## **Emmanuel United Church**

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