

# Emmanuel Newsflash

[www.emmanuelunitednorthbay.ca](http://www.emmanuelunitednorthbay.ca)

## A Message From Rev. Roni

Friends,

Did you ever wonder about the history of White Gift Sunday? I found this article published by St. Paul's Church in Ajax ON, which captures the history of this beloved tradition.

"The tradition of White Gift Sunday has its roots in a small Methodist church in Ohio in 1904.

What began as a humble way to reflect on the love and devotion of the giver and not the value of the gift has grown into today's white gift services in many churches across several denominations.

The story is told that a minister's wife initiated the idea to solve the problem of inequity of gifts given at the Sunday School Christmas party. Instead of focusing on receiving gifts, the focus shifted to bringing gifts to Jesus that could in turn be shared with people around the world who did not have much. All the gifts would come wrapped in plain white paper, so that no one would know which was an expensive gift and which was a more modest one. No one would feel ashamed of their gift

and everyone would share in the joy of giving to others."

Here at Emmanuel United Church, we keep the spirit of the White Gift tradition alive by bringing gifts to support those who live with poverty. This year you are invited to donate personal care items (e.g. toothpaste, tooth brushes, soap, toilet paper and shampoo) suitable for men and women. Gift cards for No Frills and Giant Tiger are also

suitable items. Small things given with great love is what Christ's birth is all about. Thank you for doing what you can to share goodwill and peace to all.

Thank you to Elizabeth Henderson, who will preside at worship this week (10:30 am) live. See you next week. Thank you for your kind thoughts and prayers over the past two weeks. So far they seem to be working.

Rev. Roni

**CHURCH SERVICE: 10:30am SUNDAY DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

**Elizabeth Henderson will be leading the service, while Rev. Roni attends to a health concern.**

**Advent ... a time of preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ for Christians. The name "Advent" actually comes from the Latin word *adventus* which means "coming."**



**Next Order of AVGEN gift cards is this SUNDAY December 6<sup>th</sup>.**

Contact Greg Wilcox [gtwilcox96@gmail.com](mailto:gtwilcox96@gmail.com), to learn more about this wonderful opportunity. *Gift safely and at the same time the church gets a financial benefit!*

***Sunday Services are also available Sunday evening on:***

YouTube: [Emmanuel United YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/EmmanuelUnitedChurch)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EUCNorthBay/>

Website: <http://www.emmanuelunitednorthbay.ca/online-services.html>

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/emmanuel\\_united](https://twitter.com/emmanuel_united)

**FOOD CUPBOARD CLOSED  
December 24 and 31  
Re-Opens January 7, 2021  
10am-11am**

### **Advent and Christmas Services 2020**

**Our Advent services begin at 10:30 am, compliant with COVID19 protocols.**

**Advent 2 Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup>:** Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13; Isaiah 40: 1-11; Mark 1:1-8

We remember that God promises comfort and peace to all people. Your white gifts of personal care items, or grocery store gift cards are welcomed.

**Advent 3 Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup>:** Psalm 126, Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11; Luke 1: 47-55

We celebrate Mary's joy and her strength that is found in the Lord.

**Advent 4 Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup>:** Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26; Luke 1-26-38; Romans 16: 25-27

We reflect on the angel's message of love and the power of God's love that makes all things possible.

**Christmas Eve Service begins at 4: 30 pm.**

Isaiah 9: 2-7; Luke 2: 1-14, 15-20

**We are working on the possibility of a safe Christmas Eve surprise, with more information to follow.**

**Sunday December 27<sup>th</sup> :** Joint service with Trinity United Church. You may attend the service by phoning ahead and booking your spot. The service is live-streamed and available for viewing on YouTube.

Great worship guaranteed!

### **ONCE IN A LIFETIME GIFT OPPORTUNITY!!!**

Emmanuel United Church is producing a 2021 date calendar featuring pictures of the lovely stained glass windows in our sanctuary. Beside each picture is a write up explaining the symbolism in each window. This calendar is a beautiful keepsake for all members of Emmanuel, as well as a unique gift for family members or friends. **In order for your calendars to arrive in time to use as Christmas gifts the deadline is coming up fast so don't hesitate to get your orders in!**

**Price: \$20.00 each Deadline for orders: December 14, 2020**

#### **How to order:**

1. **Submitting your order at church:** Print off the order form provided with the Newsflash. Fill it in and put it in a sealed envelope with either cash or a cheque. Mark the envelope "Calendar 2021 Order". If the church is open place the envelope in the Avgen Gift Card order box. If the church is not open drop your envelope into the mail slot at the church.

**NOTE:** If you are not able to access the printed form, on a blank sheet of paper, write the following information: Your name, address, telephone number, email address and the number of calendars ordered

2. **Orders can also be submitted by sending an email** to Elizabeth Henderson at [elizabethlovesmusic2@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethlovesmusic2@gmail.com). If submitting by email place your cash or cheque in a sealed envelope and drop it off at the church as described above. **Payment needs to be at the church by December 14, 2020.**

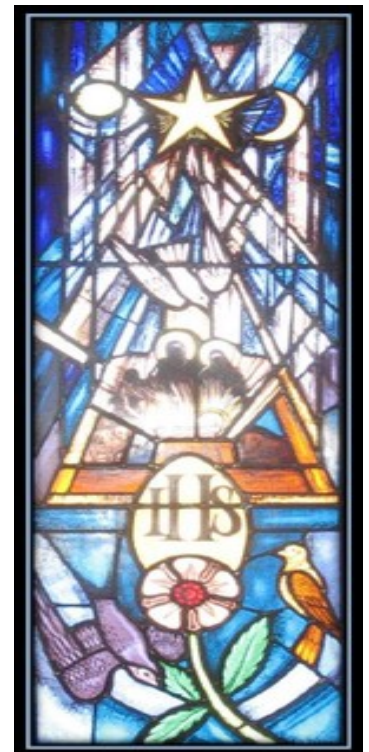
3. Etransfer payments can be made to our treasurer, Brenda Cote.

Email: [euctreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:euctreasurer@gmail.com) Telephone number 705-474-2607. Please include in your message that the payment is for ordering the 2021 Calendar. **Payment must be made by December 14, 2020.**

Stay tuned for further details on how we will get your calendars to you when they come in!

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! - from the Animation Team

### **THE BIRTH OF CHRIST**



### \$ And Sense (November 30, 2020)

Emmanuel's revenues to support local church expenses were:

	<u>November</u> <u>2020</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
Offerings	\$ 7,498	\$ 73,556
Fundraising/Rents	\$ 2,078	\$ 8,186
Trustees		\$ 5,654
Fed. Wage Subsidy		\$ 29,083
Total	\$ 9,576	\$116,479
Local Expenses	\$ 9,278	\$110,429

Emmanuel also received an additional \$10,000 from the bequest towards the Legacy fund, our means to sustain Emmanuel and its mission.

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual "Cookie Walk" continued an Emmanuel tradition while respecting protocols to minimize risk. Imagine over 350 dozen delicacies to choose from and over 100 participants baking, serving and enjoying the event. The reward also extends to former Emmanuel stalwarts through Visitation/Willing Workers and to regular customers of Emmanuel's Food Cupboard. The collective effort yielded \$1,864 to date in sales and donations. Thank you; it was fun, safe and rewarding.

With \$1,000 in support from Outreach, M&S offerings to the end of November totaled \$6,503 thus the year-end target (\$1,000) is achievable. There was \$100 in memorium towards the general fund and \$100 for the traditional Turkey Supper in November.

By the end of 2020 Avgen card sales will exceed \$100,000 and Emmanuel's reward will approach \$4,000 over the 26 months it has existed. Please consider your opportunity to participate and experience the convenience.

Monthly PAR offerings provide significant predictable revenue for Emmanuel (local church) and UCC (M&S). As we approach the new year please consider PAR as a means of mid-monthly commitment to the Church. Please contact Sherri Pinder, Envelope Secretary, to switch to or adjust your PAR offerings.

EUC Finance Committee

### AVENUES FOR FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING EMMANUEL'S MINISTRY AND MISSION.

\*AVGEN GIFT CARDS: Next Order December 6<sup>th</sup> (Contact-gtwilcox96@gmail.com or 705-303-4204).

\*PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance)

\*ONLINE GIVING (CanadaHelps.org from our Website)

\*E-TRANSFER (From your personal online bank account to Brenda at euctreasurer@gmail.com)

#### CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Thurs. Dec. 24, Fri. Dec. 25, 2020  
Wed. Dec. 30, Thurs. Dec. 31, 2020  
Fri. Jan. 1, 2021



Rev. Roni is offering a **lectionary-based bible study on Zoom** during the season of advent, Thursdays at 2:00 pm.

**"Known by Our Love"**  
Emmanuel United Church shall be a caring, welcoming faith community, nurturing spiritual life and sharing God's love and grace as experienced in Jesus Christ.

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