



Emmanuel Newsflash

www.emmanuelunitednorthbay.ca

Hi Everyone,

My mentor and former colleague Kathy Toivanen introduced me to this practice of saying thanks to almost everyone who contributed to the ministry of Erin Mills United Church at Christmas. We would sit in the board room and write cards: she would write her greeting and pass them onto me and we also made them available to our committee chairs, so they could leave a personal note. By the end we probably wrote over a hundred and twenty cards over a few days. You might think that it was an extravagant thing to do. However, the exercise reminded us of how extravagant our members were with their gifts, their time and their talent. The blessing was the heightened sense of appreciation for each person who contributed in whatever way they could: caring for children, folding bulletins, singing in the choir, leading our youth group or sitting on church council. It helped us to become self-aware of how blessed we truly are!

Someone once said, "Gratitude is indeed the attitude that gives altitude to our living." We know this to be true in our personal relationships; when we take the time to genuinely thank our loved ones our relationship soars to new heights. When we think of 2020, it's easy to focus on all the things we have lost and the freedoms we have had to give up. My Christmas message to you is this-let's focus on the blessings! Let's say thank you!

Thank you to:

- ◆ Those who donated food to the Food Cupboard, community donors and Caisse Populaire. A big shout out to the volunteers (Murray Bothwell, Norma Deller, Doreen Reid, Lorne Robertson and Pam Zygmunt)
- ◆ Support from the government for churches
- ◆ Brenda Cote for her initiative in helping us to secure these Government subsidies.
- ◆ Everyone who supported and participated in our transition to online Ministry.
- ◆ The congregation for financially supporting the ministry of Emmanuel.
- ◆ Your support for new ventures, such as calendar fundraiser. Thanks Jess, Greg, Bev, Phillip and Elizabeth.
- ◆ More collaboration with the North Bay churches (joint summer worship, sharing technical support).
- ◆ A Successful Cookie Walk with leadership by Elaine Simmens and Dave Robinson!
- ◆ Corporate support from "Dinner Is Served Food Market" for the Cookie Walk, and KFM Radio 1035 FM on Christmas Eve
- ◆ New friendships among members of our congregation during Covid 19.
- ◆ Members of the Reopening Committee, Church Committees and Church Council.
- ◆ Elizabeth Henderson for her worship leadership gifts.
- ◆ John Henderson and the Virtual Choir
- ◆ Those who have taken the time to offer the gift of encouragement and care during the pandemic.
- ◆ Karen Carmichael for years of service as creator of our Newsletter.
- ◆ Sheila Durand, John Henderson and Heather Gardner
- ◆ Everyone who has helped, served or offered leadership at church.
- ◆ Great ministry in 2020!
- ◆ A projected balanced budget in 2020!

When we are intentional about giving thanks for the gifts we received; in that moment, we become more aware of the joy of God, the blessings of God. Our spirits soar!

I leave you with a song, Rise Up Children's Choir cover of "Thankful".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkOEzP-nGZ8>

Thank you!

Wishing you the Joy of Christmas, Rev. Roni

Our online Advent and Christmas Services

In 2020 we provide a variety of ways to participate in the Christmas Eve Services.

On December 20th and 24th, 7: 30 pm I will be concluding our DIY Advent Candle Series on Facebook Live. Please search for Emmanuel United Church, North Bay on Facebook and like us to receive ongoing updates. In addition please tell your friends about our You Tube Channel and feel free to forward the link. We're doing Christmas Eve a little differently this year! We are going to bring together our home viewers and members in our sanctuary with a little help from technology. We will have friends from home lead in our service by sending in videos of themselves offering a reading!

Our at home viewers are also invited to email a greeting to eucnbminister@gmail.com which I will read to the congregation.

Our in-person worship starts at 4:30 pm, we are offering a short family service with Christmas readings and carols and communion. This service will feature an online Children's Christmas Pageant "A Pandemic Christmas" an online pageant made available by friends at St. Paul's United Church, Etobicoke.

Following the service (weather permitting), at 5:40 pm we will be lighting candles in the snow (luminaries) while KFM Radio 103.5 plays Silent Night and gives a shout out to our church. Friends in 2020, Isaiah's words resonates deeply, "The people who walked in darkness. Have seen a great light!" We have decided to share our faith by lighting candles to brighten the night.

Speakers will be set up so we hear the song and can still participate in this century-old tradition. Friends at home can choose to tune into the radio station at 5: 40 and light a candle in the snow or near a window, and feel a sense of connection.

In the event of bad weather, the candle lighting at the church, will be indoors.

The online version of the service will be posted available at 8:30 pm (best estimate).

We will be having online communion on Christmas Eve, our online viewers are invited to set aside a piece of bread, a bun or a cookie, or rice cake, or fruit cake or anything of your choosing for communion. You should also set aside a glass of your favourite red wine, port, sherry, chardonnay, grape juice, tea or whatever you like. You will be given clear instructions so you can participate in this online communion.

Thank you for embracing the adventure of Advent and Christmas in 2020. The possibilities are endless.



Advent 4 Sunday December 20

Psalms 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.

Thursday, December 24**Christmas Eve Service 4:30 pm.**

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

Sunday December 27 10:30am

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!

Rev. Kathy Mc Callum will be providing pastoral care supply, December 25 to January 1, 2021.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
20 Advent 4 10:15am Music 10:30 Service	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 4:30pm	25 Merry Christmas	26
27 Joint service with Trinity United Church 10:30am	28	29	30 Office Open 9am-1pm	31	Jan. 1, 2021 Happy New Year!	2

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

December 24, December 25,
December 31, 2020; January 1, 2021

Regular Hours resume
January 6, 2021 9am-1pm

*Special thanks to Pam Zygmunt who will
be in the office December 18 and 23.*

**There will be no Newsflash
for the next two weeks.**

Rev. Roni asks you to email your favourite carols to John at johnkeithhenderson@gmail.com. At each service, including January 3rd, we will begin worship at 10:15 am with a medley of carols and will end each service with a favourite Carol.

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

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

- *AVGEN GIFT CARDS: **Next Order December 6th** (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)

"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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