

STITTSVILLE UNITED CHURCH



December 10th, 2017

Rev. Grant Dillenbeck

Director of Music: Allison Houston

Board Chair – Robin Derrick

Office Administrator – Alanna Code

Youth Worker – Ruth Richardson

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We welcome all who have come to worship today.

Visitors are invited to sign our guest book on the table to the left of the doorway at the back of the sanctuary.

Hymns and most other service materials for worship are printed in the leaflet and are also projected on the screen.

We welcome you to stay for brunch served by our youth downstairs following the service.

As we seek to continue “Growing – Together – In Spirit,”

we begin our time together in the sanctuary.

Following the Theme Conversation everyone is welcome to attend the Spark Activity of their choice upstairs or downstairs.

We provide a staffed nursery downstairs for children up to age 3.

Colouring pages and story books are on the display rack and tables at the back of the sanctuary.

SPARKS TODAY

Sanctuary – Advent 2. Theme, “An Un-easy Peace.”

Preschool SPARK room - preschool children explore Bible themes.

Kitchen – Getting ready for brunch.

We thank the Canadian Military Wives Choir Ottawa for being part of our worship service this morning.

We thank Marilyn Elliott, Betty Robertson, Bonnie Lamb, and Fran Majors for helping to serve Communion, greet, and take up the offering this morning.

We thank the youth and adult helpers for providing brunch this morning. Please speak to Betty Young or sign up downstairs if you can prepare beverages and snacks some Sunday morning.

Hearing assistance: Our worship services can be heard on any radio in or near the church at FM 88.1. A receiver is also available at the back of the church. (You may use your own headphones.)

UPCOMING SPARKS

Dec. 17 – Sanctuary – Advent 3. Theme, “Tears of Joy.”

“Gifts of Love” to be collected. Our choir will offer several Christmas songs, including the Hallelujah Chorus.

Dec. 24 – 10:00 am - Advent 4. Lessons and Carols Service.

4:30 pm – Christmas Eve Family Service.

6:30 pm – Christmas Eve Family Service.

9:00 pm – Christmas Eve Communion Service.

Dec. 31 – Shared service at 10:30 am. St. Paul’s United in Carp.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

We thank all of those who worked so hard to offer “The Lorax” presentations last Sunday.

Funds raised from Brunch today will help with costs of the Youth Pilgrimage to Toronto Dec. 29 -31. About 20 youth and adults will spend two nights at St Andrew’s Presbyterian Church and join in their Sunday morning worship. They plan to visit a mission project working with those living on the street and will also attend the Mirvish production of THE LORAX at the Royal Alex Theatre. All financial support for this pilgrimage is greatly appreciated.

The Prayer Shawl group will meet on **Thursday, December 21 at 1:30 pm** in the Upper Room to knit or crochet prayer shawls which are distributed to people in the congregation to remind them that they are being held in our prayers. Everyone is welcome, invite your friends. If you know of someone you think would be blessed by having one of our prayer shawls, please contact the church office.

Information leaflets and copies of “Mandate” magazine, “Our Daily Bread”, and the “The United Church Observer” magazine are available on the display rack at the back of the church.

Poinsettias for Advent and Christmas: Again this year we will receive donations in memory of loved ones in order to purchase Poinsettias for Advent and Christmas, and other church decorations throughout the year. Envelopes for this purpose are available at the back of the church for the next few Sundays. Envelopes can be placed on the offering plate or dropped off to the church office.



CAROLLING FOR HOSPICE: Care to share the Spark of the music of the season? Come join Alanna & Allison on Thursday, December 14, from 1:00–2:00 pm at 67 Fowler St. in Richmond. We are going to sing carols for the Hospice Care Ottawa Day Program. We'll even give you lyric sheets!

United Church Observer: If you do not presently receive the United Church magazine “The Observer” but would like to, or if you do receive it and would like to be part of our Observer Family Plan, please call the church office. The Family Plan price remains at \$25, taxes included, for the coming year.

The Treasure Table is open! Come browse the treasures after church and shop for that perfect gift or item for your home - or do some Christmas shopping! All gently loved treasures are welcome. Thanks to all those who helped set the Treasure Table up this year.

TOURTIERES, BUTTER TARTS AND MINCEMEAT TARTS ARE READY FOR PICK-UP – Tourtières: small are \$7.00 and large \$15.00. Butter tarts and mincemeat tarts: \$1.00 each, 6 for \$5.00, and 12 for \$10.00. Please see members of the UCW downstairs following the service to pick up your orders.

DON'T FEEL LIKE COOKING DINNER? – The UCW has delicious frozen food available for you to enjoy. Shepherd's Pies are \$5 each or 3 for \$12. Chili is \$10 for large and \$5 for small. We also now have *Gluten Free Turkey Stew* available. To purchase frozen food, please see members of the UCW downstairs after the service.

Building Fund Appeal: In recent months we have had several unbudgeted expenses related to the building and property. We invite you to consider making a special donation to help cover these expenses by using the envelopes in the pews and indicating the donation is for the “Building Fund.” We thank you for your support.

Gifts With Vision: You can make a difference in our world through the United Church “Gifts with Vision” campaign. For a unique Christmas gift, check out the “Gifts with Vision Catalogue.” You can choose to make donations of \$10 or more in the name of a loved one to assist specific Mission and Service projects in Canada and around the world. Catalogues are available at the back of the church, or at www.giftswithvision.ca. Thank you for offering your gifts with vision.

Pathways Visioning Process – We have now completed our 3 Pathways Faith Forum discussions and several proposals are being designed to build on our gifts and strengths to enhance our ministry now and into the future. These proposals will be presented to the congregation for consideration in the New Year. There are specific proposals being designed in the areas of Tender Loving Care (Pastoral Care), Growth Opportunities, Belonging and Outreach.

United Together in Caring: Six west-end Ottawa United Churches are raising money for Hospice Care Ottawa, specifically to support the Hein House of the Ruddy-Shenkman Hospice in Kanata. We hope to jointly raise at least \$50,000 by the spring of 2018. Special Hospice offering envelopes are available at the back of the church or from the office. **So far you have helped us raise over \$6,000 in our congregation for the Hospice! Thank you for your support.**

FROM THE OFFICE

If you would like to receive offering Envelopes or PAR forms, please speak to our church Treasurer, Don Carson, in the church office any Sunday morning following the worship service. Those already on PAR are invited during the offering time in worship to use the donation cards on the table to the right of the doorway at the back of the sanctuary.

Church Office Hours: Our regular office hours are Tuesday to Friday from 9:00 am to noon.

Name Tags: If you would like a name tag, there is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church, or you can call the office. Please pay for them by adding \$7 (pin) or \$10 (magnetic) to your offering. Don't forget to wear them on Sundays!

MUSIC AND CHOIR



The choir practices on Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

FROM THE COMMUNITY

Donations to the Stittsville Food Bank can be made by placing non-perishable food on the Community Table at the front of the sanctuary. There is a special need for canned chili, canned stew, mayonnaise, large juice tins, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, fruit and pudding cups, canned potatoes and Cheez Whiz. (Please ensure “best before” dates have not expired on food items.) We



Stittsville Food Bank

have collected 189 items in December for a total of 3,343 items so far this year! Thank you for your generous support!

Stittsville Diners Club will be held here at Stittsville United Church on **Tuesday December 19** from 12:00-2:00 pm. Provided by the Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre. Tickets \$8.00. Call 613-591-3686.



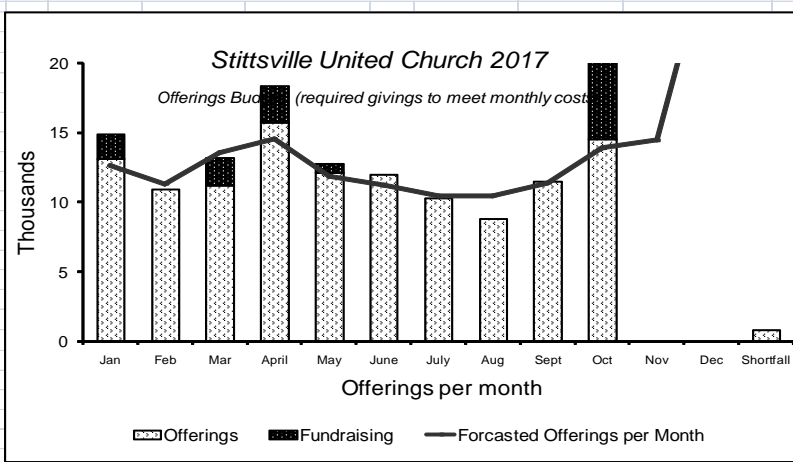
The Kanata Stittsville Refugee Sponsorship Group, which is supported by 8 churches in Stittsville and Kanata including ours, is sponsoring a mother and daughter from Afghanistan who are in danger of “honour killings.” We anticipate their arrival in the next couple of months, and family members here in Ottawa who are supporting them have requested the following furniture items: 2 bedroom sets (complete sets that include items such as beds, mattresses, box springs, linen head boards, dressers and night stands), one dining room set (dining table and chairs along with buffet/hutch) and a sofa set (sofa and chair.) If you are able to donate any of these items, please contact Penny at 613-825-5620 or penella@sympatico.ca .

Come Sing Noel! – A concert of local church choirs. The concert will take place at Barrhaven United Church tonight - Sunday, December 10th - at 7:00 pm. Admission is free and includes refreshments. A free will monetary offering will be gratefully received in support of the Barrhaven Food Cupboard.

Christmas Music with the Choirs of Bells Corners United Church: Today - Sunday, December 10th at 2:30 pm. The concert will feature music from the BCUC Choir, Grace Notes, Men's Chorus, CGS, Bell Canto and other special guest performers. A free will offering will be collected with proceeds going to the Ruddy Shenkman Hospice as part of the United Together in Caring campaign.

FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE

Our offerings so far in 2017 have been very close to our budgeted amount and we are presently less than \$1,000 below budgeted offering income. Production from solar power generation is about 6% above our projection. Our revenues from fundraising are higher than this time last year and we thank those who helped and attended the Trivia Night at The Glen restaurant which raised \$845. We thank you for your ongoing support of the ministry of our congregation.



Offerings (PAR and Sunday morning plate givings only)

	Forecasted Budget	Actual Offerings	Accumulated Balance		Forecasted Budget	Actual Offerings	Accumulated Balance
Jan	\$12,632.00	\$13,126.94	\$494.94	July	\$10,438.00	\$10,317.84	\$11.38
Feb	\$11,307.00	\$10,960.84	\$148.78	Aug	\$10,456.00	\$8,824.34	-\$1,631.66
Mar	\$13,595.00	\$11,248.64	-\$2,197.58	Sept	\$11,403.00	\$11,514.84	-\$1,519.82
Apr	\$14,524.00	\$15,762.04	-\$959.54	Oct	\$13,899.00	\$14,547.34	-\$871.48
May	\$11,857.00	\$12,141.44	-\$675.10	Nov	\$14,487.00	\$0.00	
June	\$11,217.00	\$12,023.64	\$131.54	Dec	\$29,185.00	\$0.00	
M & S givings to date			\$7,317.00				
Local Outreach			\$675.00				
Families on PAR			54				

***WANT TO HELP OTHERS DURING
THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON?***

Why not support the Youth Advent Project?

“Gifts of Love”

Help those assisted by the following agencies:

Interval House (Green)

Lanark County shelter for women and children
who are victims of domestic abuse

Harvest House (Blue)

program for men recovering from
substance abuse

Operation Come Home (Black)

program assisting street involved youth
to help them reach their highest potential

Here’s how you can help:

- 1. Choose one or more of the angel tags from the tree. (Colour of writing on the tag matches the agency.)**
- 2. Purchase the item on the tag and put it in a paper bag we provide or in a bag of your own.**
- 3. Place the “angel tag” on the bag and return your “Gifts of Love” by Sunday, December 17th.**

Thank you from your Youth Group!

Psalm of an Advent Ear

With prayerful pleas
and Advent songs of longing,
I await the birth of God's Anointed One.
Come, O Gift of heaven's harmony,
and attune my third ear,
the ear of my heart,
so that I may hear,
just as Mary, faithful woman of Israel, heard.

O God, the time is short,
these days are too few
as I prepare for the feast
of the birth of Mary's son.
Busy days, crowded to the brim,
with long lists of gifts to buy
and things that must be done.
Show to me, also your highly favored child,
how to guard my heart
from noise and hurry's whirl,
so that I might hear your voice
calling my heart to create an empty space
that might be pregnant with heaven's fire.

Quiet me within,
clothe my body in peacefulness,
that your Word
once again may take flesh—
this time, with me—
as once it did in holy Mary,
long Advent days ago.

Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim, Edward Hays