

# SEASON OF ADVENT

## December 2 - Christmas Memorial Service

December 2nd at 3pm at Jones Funeral Home - If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, please join Jones Funeral Home and their staff at the annual Christmas Memorial Service. All are welcome.

## December 3 - First Sunday of Advent

"The Candle of Hope" ~ 10am, Georgetown

*The first candle celebrates the hope we have received in Jesus, and that we ourselves are a gift of hope.*

### FOOD FROM THE HEART

Food from the Heart is a program of Community Unity that serves a protein-rich, hot, take-home meal (stew, chili, pulled pork, etc.) for clients of the Georgetown Bread Basket once a month. Food bank users are offered a carton (= 1 serving) of food for every member in their family. Support *Food from the Heart* by using the envelopes found in the pews on December 3 and 10. Thank you for your generosity.

~ Social Justice & Outreach Committee

### CAROL SING

There will be an after-service carol sing in Heritage Hall.

## December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent

"The Candle of Peace"

~ 10am in Georgetown and 7:30pm in Glen Williams

*The second candle celebrates the peace we are given in our minds and hearts when we come to God in faith.*

### WHITE GIFT SUNDAY

White Gift Sunday began in 1903 in Painesville, Ohio when a minister's wife, upset over her two daughter's arguing over gifts they had received in a Sunday School Gift exchange, came up with the idea. She remembered a story about the wise king Kubla Khan who received gifts from his people that were wrapped in white so that all the gifts looked the same. By doing this, the love and devotion of the giver became more important than the gift. The following year, it was suggested that the Sunday School bring gifts, wrapped in white, that would be given to people in need in the community. The idea caught on and is still practiced in many churches today. At St. John's United Church, white gifts are collected for the Georgetown Bread Basket. This is a local food bank in our town. Gifts such as 'stew' or other products with meat in it (not pasta/sauce) are all considered luxuries for those in need and are very appreciated. Bring your gift to church on December 10 at 10am and discover the true meaning of Christmas giving. Your gift can be wrapped or unwrapped.

### CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

The children and youth of St. John's will be presenting their Christmas pageant, of word and song, at the morning service.

### FOOD FROM THE HEART

Food from the Heart is a program of Community Unity that serves a protein-rich, hot, take-home meal (stew, chili, pulled pork, etc.) for clients of the Georgetown Bread Basket once a month. Food bank users are offered a carton (= 1 serving) of food for every member in their family. Support *Food from the Heart* by using the envelopes found in the pews on the morning of December 10. Thank you for your generosity.

~ Social Justice & Outreach Committee

### CANDLELIGHT AND CAROLS SERVICE

7:30pm, Glen Williams

Please join us in Glen Williams, for our annual candlelight service...including a carol sing. A beloved Christmas tradition of music and heritage in the cozy glow of our Glen church.

## December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent

"The Candle of Joy" ~ 10am, Georgetown

Christmas Choral Presentation

*The third candle celebrates the warmth and light. We are thankful for the joy we experience especially in this season.*

Come and share the Spirit of Christmas through the gift of music offered by the St. John's Choir, led by musical director Carolyn Maule.

## December 18 - Community Musical Presentation

"Community Christmas Choral Presentation"

~ 7:30pm, Georgetown

A freewill offering will be collected for "*Food for Life Canada*". *Food for Life Canada* is a not-for-profit organization based in Halton Region that picks up surplus food from grocery stores, bakeries and restaurants and distributes this food to 46 outreach programs and over 40 community social service organizations. St. John's has been one of the outreach programs since March 2012. Each week we serve 25 to 35 families representing 50 to 70 people; one third of whom are children. Once again, *Food for Life* has been chosen by Charity Intelligence as one of its 2017 top 10 proven high-impact social service charities in Canada. Come and share the spirit of Christmas through the gift of music offered by the St. John's choir, led by musical director Carolyn Maule. Audience members will have the opportunity to join the choir in singing the *Hallelujah Chorus*.

## December 20 - Advent Drumming Circle

There will be a drumming circle on Wednesday December 20th at 7:30pm at St. John's in Glen Williams. Come to drum the Christmas messages of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Come as you are, filled with joy and light, with sadness and grief, or anywhere in between. Come and allow the drum to honour the prayers of your heart this Christmas season. Bring your own drum or use one of St. John's. No drumming experience necessary.

## December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

"The Candle of Love" ~ 10am, Georgetown

*The fourth candle celebrates God's love and we are invited and welcomed home. God's gift of Jesus reflects the greatest love for us.*

## December 24 - Christmas Eve

"The Christ Candle" Georgetown

5:30pm ~ Christmas Eve Family Service

10:30pm ~ Christmas Eve Communion Candlelight Service.

*The fifth candle invites us to remember that the light of the world was born this night.*

The loose change collected at both of our Christmas Eve services goes towards a benevolent fund which is administered by our minister(s) to people in need.

## Sweater Sunday - December 31, 2017

~ 10am in Glen Williams

Join us with our Guest Worship Leader, Rosemary Riley, for our traditional Sweater Sunday service. Sweater Sunday was originated many years ago at St. John's, encouraging our congregation to wear their newly received Christmas sweaters. In the spirit of generosity, we are asking our church family members to donate a used sweater for members of our community, who participate in our *Food for Life* program. A special sweater box will be available at our church services on **December 31**, and **January 7**. This is another way by which St. John's can extend a warm and caring outreach to our community.