

*St. Paul's United Church  
404 Cleveland Ave.  
Riverview, NB E1B 1Y2*

November 2017



Dear friends,

Growing up, my family had lobster sandwiches between worship services on Christmas Eve. It started as a small luxury that my grandparents shared with my parents. In later years, it became my family's tradition – half luxury, half self-preservation – as we enjoyed the Christmas Eve worship marathon. Even now, starting in October, we keep our eyes open for sales on cans of frozen lobster, just for that busy and wonderful night.

These days, *tradition* is a word often derided as “that which holds us back” – ideas that keep us weighted down – but not at Christmas. During this season, we usually agree that our traditions connect us to times past and cherished memories of times, place and people. As we make our preparations, we remember, or call to mind, who and what is most important to us.

The prophet Isaiah called his people to “Prepare the way of the Lord.” He compared the call of God to a voice in the wilderness, crying out for people to remember that they were created for hope and peace, joy and love. Centuries later, John the Baptist reminded his people of God's promise, and created a new tradition which we still use today to proclaim the presence of God in our lives.

Like our families' Christmas traditions, the traditions of our church family also connect us with what is most important to us, and help us to prepare. We hear an ancient story of love that traverses the boundary between what is and what should be. We welcome a light that persists in darkness – even when the darkness around us is deep. We sing songs of joy that speak of a gift so profound it remains a mystery, even after so many centuries of reflection and prayer.

Advent, and the gift it brings, prepare us to live the promises of God: hope, the strength of faith despite despair; peace, which seeks justice and plenty for all; joy, the buoyant gift that lifts us even in loss; love, the reconciler and healer of all things. We hold this prism of promise up to the light of life, and the heavens declare the glory of God.

This Advent and Christmas, my prayer is that we might hear the story of love reflected in all our stories; that we remember those who leave an empty place at our table, and give thanks; and that we would rejoice together in the abundant grace of God, which inspires our song in the deep of winter.

Yours in Christ,

Andy



### Sunday, Nov. 26

(10am)

First Sunday of Advent  
Sacrament of Communion

### Sunday, Dec. 3

(10 am)

(7 pm)

Second Sunday of Advent  
Community Carol Festival  
Gunningsville Baptist  
Church

Please bring a non perishable food item in support of our local Food Bank. Sponsored by the Riverview Ministerial Association. A Free Will offering will be received.

### Sunday, Dec. 10

(10 am)

Third Sunday of Advent  
Special Music: Harpist  
Dorothy Brzezicki,  
**WHITE GIFT Sunday**

Contributions of non-perishable food items or a gift for a child (infant to 16 yrs) would be appreciated. Individual financial donations are also accepted (Cheques payable to Albert County Christmas Aid). Thank you all for your support.

(7 pm)

### Memorial Tree Service

Special Music: Harpist - Dorothy Brzezicki,  
This quiet, contemplative service is an opportunity for those experiencing grief to search for healing and hope in this season. At this service we remember loved ones we have lost, give thanks for their life and love, and find reassurance in the light of God's presence. If you would like to have a family member or friend remembered in this special service, please contact the church office no later than Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, and make a special contribution, of any amount, in their memory. During the service, each person will be remembered as their name is read aloud and our Memorial Tree is lit.

### Sunday, Dec. 17

(10am)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

Every seven years Sunday falls on Christmas Eve and this leads us to examine the worship schedule for that special day. Some people have commented on the rushed transition between the Christmas Eve evening services. Others have noted the attendance at the 4 pm

service has continued to grow and flourish while the 10 pm service has significantly declined. With these issues in mind we are making a couple of minor adjustments to the schedule this year.

### December 24

**10:00 am Sunday morning worship**

**11:30 am Communion**

**4:00 pm Service for families with younger children**

**6:00 pm Christmas Eve service**

**8:00 pm Christmas Eve service with choir**

The 11:30 Communion service will be a brief "chapel style" service that we trust will be meaningful for all who chose to attend. The extra 30 minutes between the two evening services will allow for a smoother transition and less pressure for those offering leadership.

We trust these changes will meet the desires of the congregation and offer meaningful opportunities for all of us to experience the wonder of worship on Christmas Eve.

### Sunday, Dec. 31

(10 am)

Lessons and Carols

Rev. Dr. Andy O'Neill will lead worship



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**November 29 @ 7pm – PUBLIC MEETING on HEALTH CARE – EXTRA MURAL, Private to Medavie.** Moderator: Rev. Steve Berube. Presentation by Coalition for Seniors & Nursing Home Residents' Rights. Cecile Cassista, Executive Director. For more info, call Lorraine Casey 381-3871.

### December 2 (9am – 11 am) RECYCLING DAY

**December 2 (9:00 -3:30pm) Women's Advent Retreat Day at St. Paul's United.-"THE JOURNEY TO ADVENT ~ IN"** Registration 9am with Coffee, Tea, Muffins. Program starting at 9:30 am till 3:30 pm) Price \$20 to be paid by Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>. Lunch included. Limit of 40. Sign up sheet in foyer. Leadership: Claudette Derdeale.

**December 8 @ 7 pm – Hope for the Holidays: Shelby Murray and Terri Croft in Concert.** An uplifting evening of exploring holiday, popular, jazz, and classical music that has given people hope at difficult points in history, performed by Violinist/fiddler Terri Croft and blind pianist Shelby Murray. Tickets \$20 children free.



**Poinsettias** may be received in honour or in memory of a loved one and can be dropped off Tuesday. to Friday (9am- 4 pm) at the church office. (**deadline Dec. 21st**). Names will appear in the Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> bulletin.

**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS**

Monday – DEC. 25	CLOSED
Tuesday – DEC. 26	CLOSED
Wednesday – DEC. 27	CLOSED
Thursday – DEC. 28	CLOSED
Friday – DEC. 29	9 AM – 2PM
Monday – JAN. 1, 2018	CLOSED

**December 18 at 6:30pm at - St. Paul’s United Church Festively Yours The east coast carolling Co** featuring John Lindsay-Botten and friends. Admission by donation. Since 2005, John Lindsay-Botten has been organizing a *cappella* Christmas caroling quartets for various functions and events, first in Nova Scotia, then in New Brunswick since 2008. This concert brings John back to Riverview and to the church John grew up in (from Grade 9 through university) as he and his cohorts of East Coast Carolling share in the joy and wonder with friends and family back home. Please feel welcome to join him in just some of the songs and stories the season brings, with their holiday harmonies and some yuletide “carol-oke” thrown in, too!

As per Canada Revenue Agency Charitable donations guidelines on **Year End Contributions:** Save on your taxes! **On December 29th the church office will be open from 9 am - 2 pm to accept any donations to St. Paul’s United Church for the year 2017.**

**A final deposit for 2017 will be made on Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>** to reflect these donations. We can receive Post Dated Cheques dated Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 at the office if you are away and not returning till after the new year.

**All donations received after December 31<sup>st</sup> 2017 will be credited to year 2018.**

If you any questions concerning this please do not hesitate to contact Wendy Marney, Office Administrator (386-3335) or e-mail: [stpaulsunited@nb.aibn.com](mailto:stpaulsunited@nb.aibn.com) for further information.



**Dec. 19 @ 1 pm (Tuesday) Thinking of You Outreach Christmas Baskets**  
We will be filling the baskets in the church hall and

delivering after they are filled. If you can help with any baking, or delivering, please contact Wendy at the church office, 386-3335

**Table Grace**  
**You can sing this grace to the refrain of “Jingle Bells”**

We give thanks, to our God  
Give thanks every day.  
For our food and our friends,  
And our family

We give thanks, to our God,  
Give thanks every day.  
Help us be a blessing to  
The world each day. Amen.



St. Paul’s **“Mitten Tree”** in support of Albert County Christmas Aid. Donations, either made or purchased, of mittens, gloves, hats, socks, and scarves

are very much appreciated. The tree is located in the foyer and will be there till **White Gift Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**. Your continued support makes such a difference for the clients at the Food Bank. Also, please remember teens and adults are recipients of these donations as well.