

# NEWS from the BRIDGE

*Life @ Bridge Street United Church,  
Belleville, Ontario, during COVID-19*

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2020**

**AN INITIATIVE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE TRANSITION TEAM**



We premier our weekly online worship services on  
**YouTube, Sundays @ 10 a.m.**

**DETAILS ARE PRINTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.**

Sunday, December 13, 2020

ADVENT 3



Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

John 1:6-8, 19-28



In order to add variety and depth to our spiritual nurture this Advent, the Faith Formation Team and Rev. David are providing a weekly resource that invites us to expand our thinking of the weeks (and days) of this season by offering additional focuses to the usual ones of hope, peace, joy, and love. This material will be forwarded in a separate e-mail, each Friday.

It is our prayer that they will stir within you affirmations, questions, and general wonder and awe relative to your faith journey.

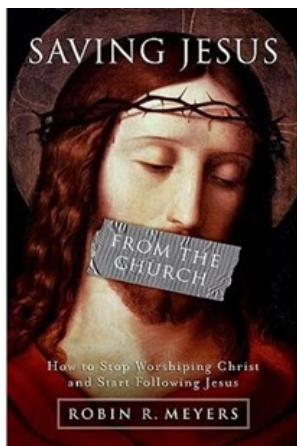
Rev. David welcomes you to share with him your insights or inquiries by email to:  
[interim.clergy@gmail.com](mailto:interim.clergy@gmail.com)

## WONDERFUL FLAVOURS OF CHRISTMAS IN THE AIR ...

During the week of November 9, Meal Program volunteers prepared, packed and froze 240 traditional turkey dinners for our take-away lunch guests and members of the congregation who live alone and may not be able to enjoy a Christmas dinner with friends or family this year due to the pandemic. Also, thanks to the generosity of spirit of our meal program volunteers, take-away lunch distribution will continue through the holidays, including Christmas day, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. THANK YOU MEAL PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS for helping to make Christmas during a pandemic special for everyone!



## FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY TEAM NEWS ...



**The Faith Formation Team** is pleased to offer an online study of the book "SAVING JESUS" by Robin R. Meyers, beginning in mid January.

Hosted by Rev. David, we will meet via ZOOM for up to 1 hour starting at 11 a.m. on Sundays, beginning January 17<sup>th</sup>. Each Sunday will see us explore one chapter; there are 10 chapters in total.

Since the book is out of print, 10 copies have been sourced from multiple sellers and purchased by BSUC. Copies will be "leased out" at a cost of \$20.00 each,

with a \$15 refund provided when the book is returned

To reserve your opportunity to participate, please email Carol Leslie ([admin@bridgestchurch.com](mailto:admin@bridgestchurch.com)).

Books will be available for pick up starting Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> in the church office. Please bring the loan fee in cash.

Zoom instructions will be issued to registered participants prior to the course's beginning.

If all 10 participant slots are filled and there's additional interest, a second program will be offered.

Please sign up early to avoid disappointment.

**NOTE FROM FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM  
& SPECIAL OFFERINGS UPDATE ...**

Finance Ministry Team SINCERELY THANKS THE CONGREGATION for their continued financial support through regular and special offerings and encourages everyone to make all further contributions for this year before December 31 in order to be reflected in your 2020 charitable receipt.

**Anniversary offerings** received to today's date total **\$1,390.**

Budget target approved by the Congregation for this special offering is **\$3,000.**

**White Gift offerings** received to today's date total **\$150.** Last year's White Gift offerings totaled \$1,060. See next page for more details about our White Gift offerings.

**Special Christmas offerings** received to today's date total **\$250.**

The budget target approved by the Congregation for this year's special Christmas offerings is **\$5,500.**

**Bridge Street  
United Church**

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**INTENTIONAL INTERIM  
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**Rev. G. David King**  
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**Steve van de Hoef**  
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*It's that time of year again...*

**2021 Offering Envelopes are now in.**

Here are some options for giving in 2021:

- ♦ Pick up your envelopes at the church office, Monday through Friday, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. OR 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. (If you're making a special trip out, please call first to make sure the office will be open when you plan to pick them up, 613-962-9178).
- ♦ If you don't currently have offering envelopes but would like a set, please contact the church office and a number will be assigned to you and ready for your pick up.
- ♦ Continue contributing by simply mailing or dropping off a cheque (without the church offering envelope) to the church office, 60 Bridge St. E., Belleville, K8N 1L7, and your offering will be credited to your offering envelope #.

***For other giving methods, see next page...***



## OPPORTUNITIES TO CONTRIBUTE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR ...



**Regular Offerings** - December provides a perfect opportunity to top-up your offerings to be reflected in your 2020 income tax receipt.

**White Gift Offerings** - As has been a tradition for many years, we invite you to make a "White Gift" contribution to the church to be directed to the area's "Christmas Sharing" program. (Your "White Gift" contributions will be tallied into your year's offerings and reflected in your end-of-year charitable receipt). "Christmas Sharing" has been operating since 1967 and now provides Christmas food boxes, toys for children and assistance with the area's community Christmas dinner for residents of Belleville, Thurlow Ward, those east to Shannonville, west to White's Road and south to Ameliasburgh. **Last year, our White Gift offerings totaled \$1,060.**

**Christmas Offering** - This end-of-year offering is your special Christmas gift to the church.

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**There are four methods of contributing during the pandemic:**

*Please be sure to denote where your offering is to be directed...*

**CHEQUE** - Please drop off or mail to 60 Bridge St. E., Belleville, ON, K8N 1L7.

**INTERAC e-Transfer** - Add **admin@bridgestchurch.com** to your INTERAC e-Transfer contact list and your donation will be automatically deposited into the church's operating bank account (no security questions/answers to worry about). Your INTERAC e-Transfer donations will be recorded and receipted at the end of the year.

**PAR** (Pre-Authorized Remittance, monthly, administered by the United Church of Canada) - Please contact the church office @ **admin@bridgestchurch.com** to arrange for this method of contributing.

**CREDIT CARD** - Click the "Donate Now" button on the home page of our website, [www.bridgestreetchurch.com](http://www.bridgestreetchurch.com), to contribute through "CanadaHelps".

*Thank you!*



**Of the many activities  
that contribute to the  
life of the Church,  
surely prayer is a  
prominent one.**

This week you are invited to pray for the following individuals and their circumstances. As seems right, please pray for their strength, pray for their soul to be comforted, and pray for a different and better future than is their current circumstance.

*Praying for one and  
another has long been a  
practice that  
communities of faith  
engage in at times of  
celebration,  
sorrow,  
uncertainty,  
fear,  
and thanksgiving.*

### **WE LIFT BEFORE GOD:**

**Those** who feel sadness, anxiety, frustration or loss during the Christmas season.

**Those grievers** who are walking through the valley of the shadow of death.

**Those** whose health is imperiled, or who are experiencing anxiety brought about by the challenges of life in the time of a pandemic.

**Folk** who are poor, hungry, homeless or provisionally housed, as they live with uncertainty and fear.

**COVID-19 doubters and deniers** that they might come to a more fulsome understanding of the challenges that still beset the world, our country, our provinces, and our cities.

**Those** whose challenges have yet to be conveyed to us and yet are so very real.

*Rev. David welcomes news of others for whom we can pray. Please reach out and advise.*



# worship ONLINE

**... for the week of  
December 13, 2020**

Click below to access Rev. G. David King's  
YouTube address ...

<https://youtube.com/channel/UCt8ig2lpQ8ILzRfKjNmCuSw>  
or go to the home page of our church website for  
a link, [www.bridgestreetchurch.com](http://www.bridgestreetchurch.com).

Available

Beginning

this Sunday,

December 13 @ 10 a.m.

## the Revised Common LECTIONARY

### READINGS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

Isaiah 62:1-4, 8-11      John 1:6-8, 19-28

## *Advent 3*

### **OPENING HYMN: People, Look East—VU #9**

- 1      People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the guest is on the way.
- 2      Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there:  
give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the rose is on the way.

3     Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
      guard the nest that must be filled;  
      even the hour when wings are frozen  
      God for fledging time has chosen.  
      People, look east and sing today:  
      Love the bird is on the way.

4     Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
      one more light the bowl shall brim,  
      shining beyond the frosty weather,  
      bright as sun and moon together.  
      People, look east and sing today:  
      Love the star is on the way.

5     Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
      Christ who brings new life to earth.  
      Set every peak and valley humming  
      with the word, the Lord is coming.  
      People, look east and sing today:  
      Love the Lord is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon 1928/Music: French folk melody; harm Martin Fallas Shaw 1928  
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