

# The Messenger

**FOREST HILL  
UNITED CHURCH  
KITCHENER  
November 2021**



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Greetings Friends,

Well I have finished a month of praying through '31 Short Spiritual Practices.' In our spirit circle, based on this book, we came to the conclusion that one of the greatest benefits to the practices has been that it has helped us see the spiritual in our daily lives. We see and experience the divine in eating, doing the dishes or laundry as much as going for a walk in the woods, God is everywhere and when we gift ourselves with a short reflective 5 minutes in our busy day, we glimpse that God in that day.

This happened today on my walk to work. I was thanking God for the marvel of the human body. I was effortlessly walking along the side-way thinking, "what a wonder it is to be able to walk!"



This prompted me to look at others along the road and wonder how their bodies were reacting and adjusting to the cold. One man was sitting right on the sidewalk waiting for a bus. "Give him some warm O God," I prayed. Then there was a couple approaching me on the sidewalk. I noticed the woman had a child in one of those slings that allows the baby to sit close to where it had spent 9 months. The sidewalk had some icy patches so I prayed that the couple would be sure of footing and that the baby might stay warm.

These people are strangers to me and yet there is something about the spiritual practices that has opened my eyes and heart to God's presence in each. That presence calls to me and reminds me that we are all connected. Each to one to another and not just in this city or time but in all places through all time. That means my prayer for that couple connects me to the Holy family so long ago. It was as if suddenly I was the innkeeper or stable hand or magi visiting that precious family. "Step carefully Joseph. Keep the child warm Mary." Seeing and caring for that unknown couple today on the street connected me to the Holy Family in a way that was surprising and pleasant. The power of the Christmas story is that it connects us to God but it often feels like the story is reaching out from the past to us in the present. Today seeing that couple allowed me in the present to reach back into the past and find the Holy One of that first Christmas. All of a sudden Christmas didn't seem to be so far away and so long ago. Christmas, God with us, Emmanuel, was a family, on a street in Kitchener, and I prayed for them as they walked by.

Merry Christmas and may it come very close to your life and heart this year.

Rev. Gary



# FündScrip

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**Where shopping  
is fundraising!**



**Did You Know or Forget?**

**There is Coffee & Conversation  
every Wednesday from 10-11 am.**

**On ZOOM!**

**Check your email for the link.  
Never used Zoom? Click the link and  
download. Yes, you can!!**



*Save  
the  
Date*



**COFFEE ON YOUR SUNDAE ZOOM MEETING**

**EVERY SUNDAY @ 11:30AM**

**A REMINDER AND LINK WILL BE SENT OUT TO THE CONGREGATION THE WEEK PRIOR TO THE MEETING WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE FOLLOWING THE WEEKLY CHURCH SERVICE**

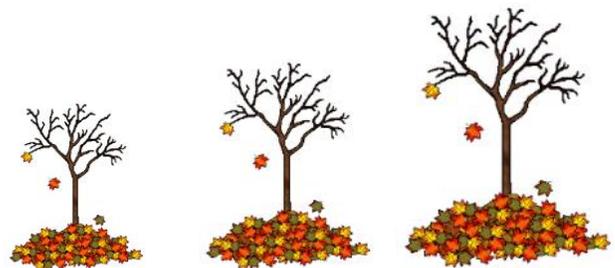
# Summary of November Council Meeting

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Below are the highlights of our last council meeting:

- Financial Update – Brian  
To the end of September 2021: Total Revenue: \$287,652.64    Total Expenses: \$274,565.20    Net Income: \$ 13,087.44
- Insurance premiums have increased significantly over last year. We will have Bob Elliot speak to the broker to see if/how premiums can be brought down
- FHUC will be moving ahead with the installation of a Card Access System for entry into the church. This system will give us better control and security for entry into the building.
- Clarification for registering for services. Registration should be mainly by the link sent by Kelly, If you do not have email access, call the office to register. Registration for only 1 week at a time is allowed.
- Christmas services - Blue Christmas - December 19th - not recorded, Christmas Eve - 6:30 pm and 9 pm. We may utilize other rooms in the church for overflow depending on the numbers signing up.
- New computers purchased for sanctuary and office through Black Friday sales - savings of almost \$2,000.
- AV Equipment needs up-dating. Brian is pricing through supply chain and will bring to Council.
- Starting process for search for Ellen's replacement - next meeting to discuss December 6th

The FHUC Council





## Blessings Box

**The Blessings Box can always use replenishing.**

**We are inviting the Congregation to replenish our Blessings Box supplies whenever possible.**

Donations can ***either*** be brought to the church office weekday mornings between 8:30am - 12:30pm or feel free to put them **directly into the box.**

**Thank you**



## As of November 1:

In the event of inclement weather, check the church website at [www.foresthillunited.org](http://www.foresthillunited.org), check your email OR call the church and a message will be on the answering machine by 8 am if the church is closed.



## Property Report

You have often heard the saying that “many hands make light work”. Nowhere is that more evident than with the Forest Hill Property Committee. These guys give without question of their personal time throughout the year to keep the building and surrounding landscape functional and beautiful. Murray and Rob are truly appreciative of all of your efforts! Thanks also to other members of the Forest Hill family who help the property group from time to time. We look forward to serving the church in the New Year.

Murray & Rob





Thanks to Bette Clemens and Ken Usher for decorating the vestibule for the advent season!



## Advent Service Schedule:

Advent 1 - Sunday November 28th @ 10:00 am

Advent 2 - Sunday December 5th @ 10:00 am

Advent 3 - Sunday December 12th @ 10:00 am

Advent 4 - Sunday December 19th @ 10:00 am

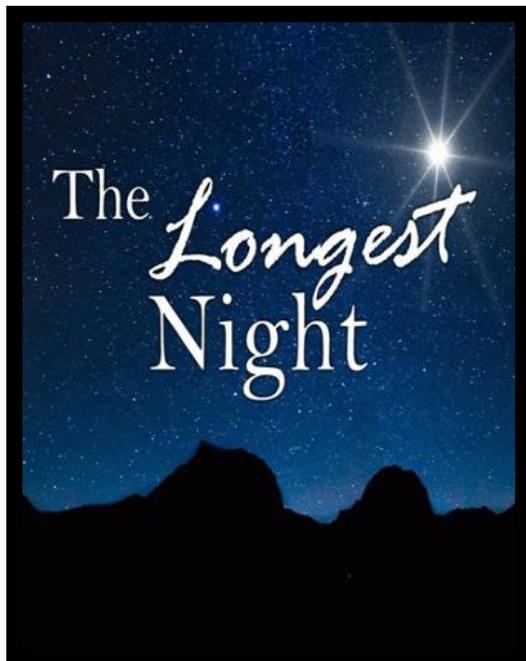
The Longest Night Service - Sunday December 19th @ 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve - December 24th @ 6:30 pm

Christmas Eve - December 24th @ 9:00 pm

Christmas Potluck Brunch - December 25th @ 10:00 am

1st Sunday after Christmas - December 26th @ 10:00 am



December 19th @ 7:00 pm

This service is for people who are living in the shadow of sadness at a time of year that screams, "It's Christmas, you should be happy." This sadness may arise from the death of a loved one or the loss of a job or feeling overwhelmed by life. This is a quiet service of candle lighting and reflection where there is no pressure to be happy.



## *All are Welcome!*

*Once again we are planning a Christmas morning  
POTLUCK in the Fireside Room here at Forest Hill.*

*The coffee and tea will be ready for 10:00  
(a.m. that is!)*

*Please come ... draw the circle wide and wider still so no one  
sits alone on this very special day!*



## LITTLE FREE DIVERSE LIBRARY

News! News! - **It is up and running!!!**

FHUC partners with Little Free Diverse Libraries

Please see this webpage to hear more about the project:

<https://www.kwlittlefreediverselibraries.com/>

Thanks to Patrice Thorn and Ron Morgan for keeping the little library stocked and running.

The LFDL is intended to give voice to Indigenous and marginalized writers. We hope that an exchange of books written by these authors will increase understanding in our city and country.

Our little diverse library is always looking for donations of Indigenous and marginalized writers books.

Please read and enjoy and remember to return the books!



Thank you

Bev and Murray Gordanier would like to thank everyone for all there kind thoughts and words for the loss of Murray's sister.

Bev & Murray

## Suddenly One

**'Suddenly One' is a supportive group for those who have lost their spouses. They meet the last Friday of every month. The next meeting will be Friday December 17th @ 10:00am in the Fireside Room.**



*The Irish Poppy.*

*I am not a badge of honor  
I am not a racist smear  
I am not a fashion statement  
To be worn but once a year*



*I am not the glorification  
Of conflict or of war  
I am not an ornament or a token  
I am so much more*

*I am a loving memory  
Of a father or a son  
A permanent reminder  
Of each and every one*

*I'm paper or enamel  
I'm old or shining new  
I'm away of saying thank you  
To every one of you*

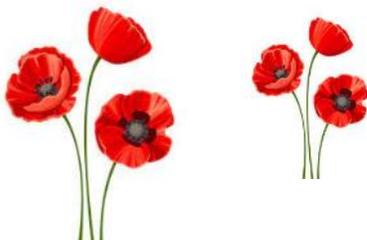
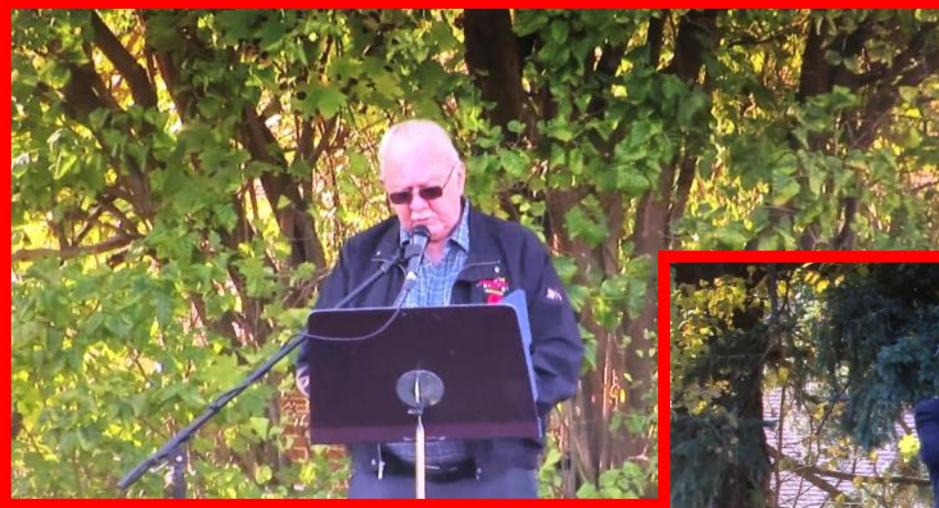


*I'm a simple little poppy  
A reminder to you all  
That courage faith and honor  
Will stand where heroes fall*

Thanks to Bob Johnston for sharing this old Irish verse in memory of the Irish Brigade battle of the Somme.

# November 7th, 2021 Remembrance Sunday

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## **Our Winter Wonderland Bazaar 2021 was an event to remember!**

Our Winter Wonderland Bazaar 2021 was an event to remember. It was a couple of days filled with chatter, laughter and pride. We were challenged to think beyond the familiar and vision how we could make it work following restrictions and protocols. I really feel that all our planning accomplished what was necessary. I think a first to sell out of Preserves, Cookies and Baking an hour early - thanks to our many shoppers.

A special thank you to my Bazaar Committee members Donna Dechert, Robin Maxwell-Nunn, Denise Ontonovich, Edna Bryce, Margot White, Wendy Irvin & Ken Usher for all their support, ideas and hard work to make this such a success. Without you, there would not have been a Bazaar.

Thanks to all who donated items for the Bake Table, Craft Table, Preserve Table and the Christmas Cookies and Shortbreads. Everything edible looked delicious and made the sanctuary smell like a Bakery. The wonderful mixture of Preserves did not disappoint either. The generosity of everyone was marvellous. It was heart warming to see so many donations considering the challenging times we have been experiencing.

We received many compliments about our Bazaar being very welcoming, friendly and people feeling safe due to our folks Controlling numbers, Checking proof of Vaccines, Screening and Selling.

Thank you so much.

Now for the Results:

**Bake Table ..... \$ 878.00**

**Christmas Cookies ..... \$ 884.00**

**Preserve Table ..... \$ 672.00**

**Craft Table ..... \$ 713.25**

**Donation ..... \$ 100.00**

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**\$ 3,247.25**

**Expenses ..... \$ 247.25**

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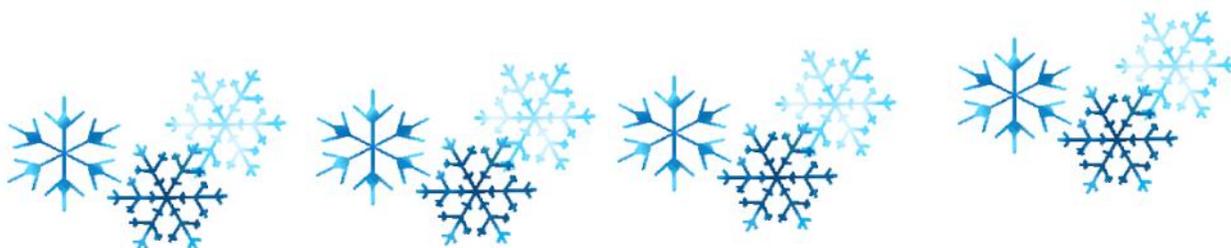
**Profit ..... \$ 3,000.00**

As I have mentioned before, this Bazaar is not just about revenue for the church, it's about being together and working together. This year it was all about bringing us together in a familiar place which we have been missing for a long time.

My hope is that this Bazaar is not compared with any other rather one that we will remember.

Thank you Forest Hill Church Family - WELL DONE.

Betty Kocher





# WINTER WONDERLAND BAZAAR 2021



**Looking for recipe submissions. Come on people lets share some good recipes!**

### Ingredients

- 2 T butter
- 1 cup finely chopped onion
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 1 (2 lb) butternut squash, peeled, seeded, cut up
- 2 teaspoons curry powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1/2 cup half-and-half
- 2 T honey
- 1/4 cup sour cream



### Instructions:

- Melt butter in a large pot over medium heat. Cook and stir onion and garlic in hot butter until softened and browned, 10 to 15 minutes. Add flour, pumpkin pie spice, baking powder, soda and salt (put aside)
- Stir chicken broth, squash, curry powder, salt, cumin, and cayenne pepper into onion mixture. Bring mixture to a boil, reduce heat to low, and simmer until squash is tender, about 15 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir half-and-half and honey into squash mixture. Scoop into cupcake liners and bake 17-19 minutes.
- Pour squash mixture into a blender no more than half full. Cover and hold lid down; pulse a few times before leaving on to blend. Puree in batches until smooth. Ladle soup into serving bowls and top with a dollop of sour cream.
- Very warming on a cold winter's night!

Recipe from [allrecipes.com](http://allrecipes.com)

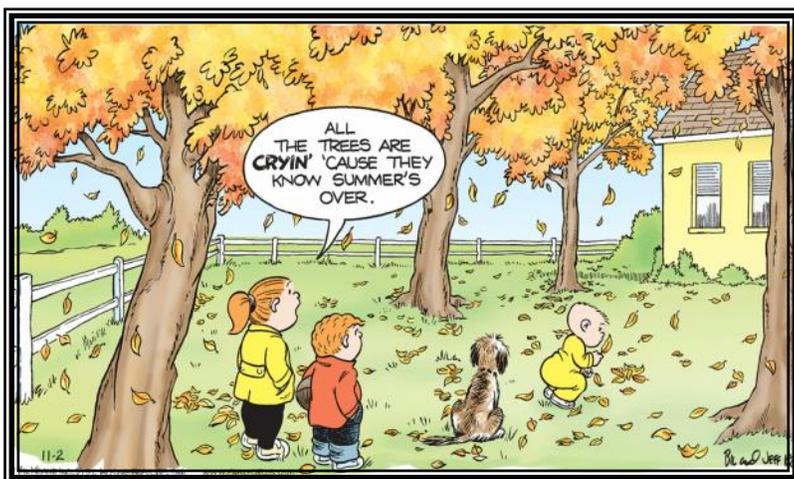


No shade, no shine,  
No butterflies, no bees,  
No fruits, no flowers,  
No leaves, no birds,  
November.

In November  
Dark comes soon.  
We turn on the lights  
In the afternoon.

No sunshine, lots of rain,  
No warm days, snow again!  
No bugs or bees  
No leaves on trees.  
You must remember  
This is NOvember!

# COMIC CORNER



## VIRTUAL CHOIR



### ONLINE CHOIR SINGING

The Forest Hill Choir is meeting every three weeks for a Sing-a-long on Zoom.

We gather on Zoom for 45 minutes to socialize, and then sing together with mics muted. New members or drop-ins are welcome.

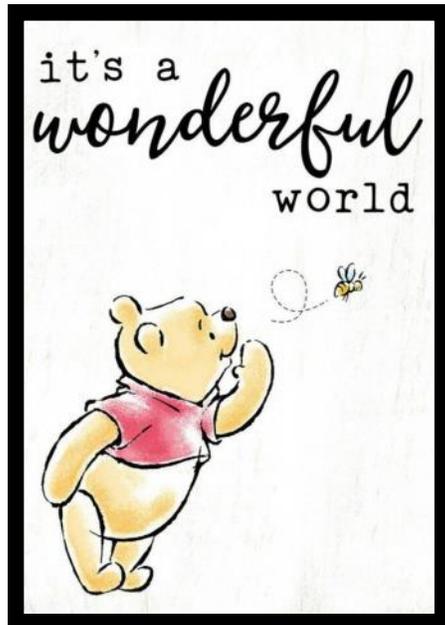
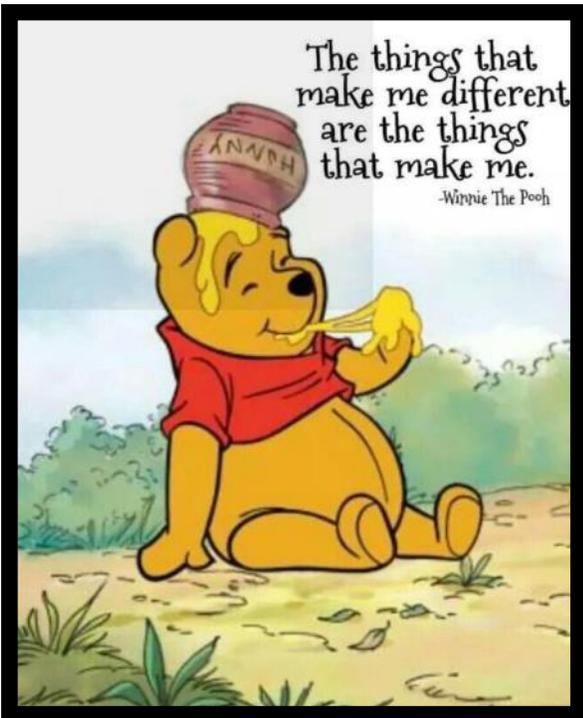
Please let M.J. know in advance if you would like to come so she can supply you with the music for the week.

### The Choir Sing-tastic Zoom Socials

The next date is:

Dec. 9







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