

## BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH

3955 Old Richmond Rd., Nepean, ON K2H 5C5

**Website:** [www.bcuc.org](http://www.bcuc.org) **Email:** [office@bcuc.org](mailto:office@bcuc.org)

**Facebook:** @bellscornersunitedchurch

**YouTube:** Bells Corners United Church

**Ministers:** Rev. Kim Vidal, Rev. Lorrie Lowes

**Music Director:** Abe TeGrotenhuis

**Office Administrators:** Ruth Timms, Ellen Boynton

**Chair, Church Board:** Rotating

**Church Office Hours:** Monday- Friday, 9:00 am-12 noon; 1 -4 pm

**ANNOUNCEMENTS: December 3, 2023**

### ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY

*We acknowledge that we are gathered on the unceded traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe First Nation. We pay respect to the elders past and present and honour all indigenous people's reverence of this land throughout the ages. May we live in peace and friendship to sustain the earth and all its people. All my relations.*

#### Meetings This Week:

**Property Use Committee** meets Monday December 4, 5:30 pm

**Seekers** meets Monday, December 4, 2pm in the Shalom Room with Social Tea Time. Please read Chapter 5 of the book for discussion. Bring some finger food to share.

**Lectionary Group Discussion** meets on Tuesday, December 5, 10:30 am in the Shalom Room. Theme & Text: The Comforting God (Isaiah 40: 1-11)

**Worship/CE** meets Wednesday December 6, 7pm

#### Seasonal Choral Music is coming!

**OWECC Ecumenical Choirs** fundraising concert will be held **Sunday December 3, 7pm** at St. Stephen's Anglican Church, 2821 St. Stephens St. (off Pinecrest). BCUC Choir is participating!

**BCUC Christmas Choir Concert** will be held **Sunday December 10, 6:30 pm**. Free-will offering in support of Operating Fund. Refreshments to follow.

**Men's Coffee:** Come on Friday mornings, 10:00 am, to join the men for coffee and conversation. Information: David Stafford 592-0296.

**INTERAC E-TRANSFER:** To transfer funds directly to BCUC through your online banking service, first set up BCUC as an Interac e-Transfer payee using 'treasurer@bcuc.org' as the email address.

Then, for each transaction to send money, please enter the dollar amount, select your bank account for withdrawal of funds and select BCUC as the payee.

In the Message line, add your Name and the Purpose of the Funds, if other than a regular donation, and, for a charitable receipt add your envelope number or home address.

Note: a security question & answer is not required as BCUC has enabled Auto deposit of your funds into the BCUC Operating Account.

**Final Step:** Review your transaction details to ensure they are complete & correct before pressing SEND.

Thank you for your donation.

**BCUC Name Tags** may be ordered by contacting the office. The price remains the same, \$12 for pinback and \$16 for magnetic back

**Help Needed for Our Youth Leader:** Our youth leader, Kael Fowler, needs someone to pick him up (one way) on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am or earlier to go to BCUC. Pick up location is the Tim Hortons parking lot on Fallowfield/Woodroffe in Barrhaven. He has a ride to go back home. If you are able to help, please speak with Kael Fowler or Dana Ducette after the service. You may also call the church office and speak with Rev. Kim. Thank you.

**Frozen SPRING ROLLS!!!** Only 20 dozen available. Sign-Up Sheet across from the Church Office. Pick up on December 16 (Wrap it Up Vendor's Market) 10 am-2 pm. \$20 /dozen; \$10/ half dozen. Cash or cheque payable to Kim Vidal or etransfer to [kim.vidal@gmail.com](mailto:kim.vidal@gmail.com).

#### Communion Services in December

**First Sunday of Advent & Communion - December 3, 10 am during the service.** We will go back to the traditional way of serving communion in the pews following health protocols.

**Christmas Eve Service & Communion - December 24, 6:30 pm.**

Communion will be served by intinction where people are invited to come forward to receive the elements. All are welcome.

**Hangers available:** Please help yourself to coat and/or pant hangers which you will find along the corridor toward the Shalom Room.

**Microwave Needed:** One of the Refuge NOW sponsored families needs a microwave. If you have one to donate please contact Bev Graham who will be happy to come and pick it up. Her contact info is [bgraham45@gmail.com](mailto:bgraham45@gmail.com) or 596-1454.

**Coffee and Friends:** Ladies, join us Thursday mornings, 9:15am for friendly conversation, laughter, cookies and coffee. Bring a neighbour and/or friend. Information: Bev Wilcox 829-1180

### **Announcing the 2023 Advent Project**

The SOSA committee has chosen the **Mission & Service Fund** for the 2023 Advent Project. A recent article in the December *Broadview* announced that "United Church Cutting Partnership Grants to Balance Its 2024 Budget". According to the article \$60,000 will be cut to our Eastern Ontario and Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC) along with reductions in grants to other Canadian and global partners. These grants made to EOORC come from the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church and are used to support local projects such as Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy and Centre 507. The M&S fund is very important for our church family as 69% of the M&S Funds are spent within Canada. We encourage you to make a flow-through donation to the M&S Fund either by an e-transfer to BCUC with M&S Fund in the message line, or a cheque to the office marked for 'Mission and Service Fund'.

Copies of the **2024 Canadian Church calendar** (United Church edition) are now available for purchase from the office for \$10 each.

**HEALTH CONCERNS:** We are again in the flu season and the rising number of cases of COVID is a concern that we do not want to ignore. We would like to encourage everyone to stay home if you are unwell, and to remind you that Ottawa Public Health continues to strongly recommend mask use for people at risk for severe illness, and for everyone when in a crowded indoor setting. We would also ask that everyone at BCUC respect the decisions of others who choose to mask and/or to avoid handshaking and other physical contacts while here at church. The Worship/CE Committee

**FAMSAC** began over 50 years ago to help families in need at Christmas with hampers. Today, FAMSAC provides emergency food support to about 150 families every month from our new permanent home at Hollyer House. Demand has been steadily growing in the past few years with a new record in terms of the number of food orders we provide and the number of people requesting assistance through our Christmas program. In 2022 we provided assistance to more than 300 families at Christmas and expect to surpass that record once again in 2023.

Donations help fund our Christmas gift card program, which, during the pandemic replaced our Christmas hamper program. While much more expensive, this offers families the freedom to purchase food items that suit their needs. We remain very grateful for the financial support that so many churches, businesses, community groups and individuals provide.

**From the Ministry & Personnel Committee:** Rev. Lorrie Lowes has been ordered by her physician to take several weeks off on stress leave. We expect that to extend into December at least! If you wish to send her cards and good wishes, etc., please send them to the BCUC office for delivery. Now is the time for all good congregants to step forward to see where you can lend a hand: Worship assistance; Sunday School; Youth; all need help. Contact Ruth or Ellen in the church office or Rev. Kim: 820-8103. -David Stafford, Chair

**Sunday Fellowship Time:** We need volunteers to prepare tea and coffee. Please visit the spreadsheet below to sign up for a Sunday or two. E-mail Pierre ([pierre.dugas@rogers.com](mailto:pierre.dugas@rogers.com)) and he will send you a link to the sign-up sheet. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1sOHGCwqvcO9-EYmwdiknlU5GUYNPQ3bIFRnnAD04A/edit#gid=0>

**Prayer Circle continues.** Join us from the comfort of your homes or wherever you are. Pray with us at 8 pm every Wednesday. If you have any **prayer requests**, please send them to Rev. Kim. Or you may fill in a prayer request form and drop it in the Prayer Chalice in the narthex or the Prayer Box at the entranceway. Continue to pray for one another.

**Friends for the Journey:** Although there has been some interest in a self-directed grief support group, the number of potential participants is currently too small to form a group. For individual grief support, please contact Rev. Kim or a member of the Pastoral and Spiritual Care team.



**Affirmation Station** will feature a few interesting words and expressions each week. Do you know these ones? Are there any surprises?

**gender:** refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities and attributes and appearance that a given society considers appropriate for men and women

**gender identity:** a self-determined identity that reflects an individual's understanding of gender in regard to their own embodied experience

**gender presentation/expression:** how a person chooses to express their gender identity through clothing, behaviour, activities, etc.

**\*Join Us for Onsite Worship \*\*** Please review the questions on the website before coming to ensure that you are well. We look forward to seeing you soon.

#### **Upcoming Worship Services Onsite and Livestream at 10 am**

Broadcasts will be available for future viewing. Text format of the worship service will be emailed to you and posted on our website at bcuc.org. Sunday sermons can be found under the header 'Worship at Home' button the following week.

#### **SEASON OF ADVENT:**

**December 3** – First Sunday of Advent / Communion Service

Sermon Focus: "The Hidden God" (Isaiah 64: 1-9)

**December 10** – Second Sunday of Advent

Sermon Focus: "The Comforting God" (Isaiah 40:1-11)

**Wed. December 13** – Service of Healing & Hope (Blue Christmas)

5 pm – Healing Tea in the Main hall with Guest Speaker, Judith Campbell

6 pm – Service of Hope – Shalom Room

7 pm – Labyrinth Walk – Main Hall

**Electronic Sign Update:** We have received news that the application package for building the new sign has been reviewed, all is in order and the permit should be received soon. Then the sign will be ordered and the hope is that it will be operational before Christmas.

**The West Ottawa Ladies' Chorus** will present "We Need a Little Christmas" **Friday Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. and Saturday Dec. 2 at 3 p.m.** at St Paul's Anglican Church, 20 Young Road Kanata. Tickets \$20 from choir members or \$25 online or at the door. <https://westottawaladieschorus.ca/events>

**Wrap it up Holiday Market - 2023 Season! Bells Corners United Church, December 16, 10 am – 2pm:** Once again BCUC is hosting a **Holiday Market** as a fund raiser for our Zambia Partnership. We invite a maximum of 40 vendors - an awesome mix of artisans, crafters, resellers and makers - to join together for a fun and festive day the week before Christmas. This is a wonderful opportunity for those "last minute" shoppers to find that perfect, unique item - for family, friends - or yourself! In addition to the market, we have an awesome Silent Auction and the "Wrap it Up Cafe" to sit and enjoy the spirit of the season! Contact Wendy Morrell - [wendy.morrell@sympatico.ca](mailto:wendy.morrell@sympatico.ca) - 613-299-9499

#### **For Sale in the Office:**

The following items may be purchased by visiting the office:

\* **Credit/Debit/Gift Card Tabs** are available. A package of four costs \$5. These tabs can be attached to your cards for easy access when hidden in wallet slots.

\* **Lanyards** for wearing on your wrist to hold your keys are available for \$5.

**Grocery Gift Cards Available for Purchase:** Please help support fundraising for BCUC by purchasing grocery gift cards. The office has the following grocery cards available for purchase:

Loblaws - \$50, \$100, \$250

Metro - \$50, \$100

Sobeys/FreshCo/IGA - \$50, \$100


You may pay with cash or cheque payable to BCUC, with 'gift card' in the memo line.

**KEEP INFORMED! Visit the Bells Corners United Church Facebook page? If you have a Facebook account, please follow us and like our BCUC page.**

**Information is posted on a regular basis. You can also subscribe to our YouTube page! Watch one of our church services and click subscribe!**

**Please visit our website [bcuc.org](http://bcuc.org) where you will find video recordings and text format of the worship services, Sunday School resources and weekly announcements and updates.**

**CONTINUE TO GIVE! Thank you for your continued love and support to BCUC!**  
**Please remember that costs of maintaining the church and paying salaries**  
**always need to be met. Your generosity is much appreciated. The following**  
**options are available:**




**Envelope Givings**

- Offerings\* may be cash or cheque.
- Place offerings in the plates on Sunday, OR
- Slip them through the kitchen door mail slot, OR
- Mail them to the church address.




**Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)**

- Monthly automatic withdrawal from your bank account, accompanied by an annual tax receipt.
- For more information, registration and amendments, call or email [office@bcuc.org](mailto:office@bcuc.org).



**E-Transfer**

- Donate anytime via your online banking service, addressed to payee: [treasurer@bcuc.org](mailto:treasurer@bcuc.org).
- Include your name, purpose of funds, and address\* in the message.



**CanadaHelps.org**

- Search for Bells Corners United Church as a Registered Canadian Charity.
- There are options to donate once, monthly, or to donate securities.

**- Contact the church office about donating Securities.**

\*Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more, if provided with a name and complete address.

**Long Term Care Facility Residents**

*Please keep the following people in your prayers*

- |                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>David Bell</i>                  | <i>Peter D. Clarke, Nepean</i>     |
| <i>Irene Bertrand</i>              | <i>Thornccliffe, Nepean</i>        |
| <i>Bea Blackwell</i>               | <i>Stillwater Creek, Nepean</i>    |
| <i>Irene Bossons</i>               | <i>Valley Stream Manor, Nepean</i> |
| <i>Jo Brunskill</i>                | <i>Red Oak, Kanata</i>             |
| <i>Peggy Burton</i>                | <i>Valley Stream Manor, Nepean</i> |
| <i>Betty Clarke</i>                | <i>Carlingview Manor, Ottawa</i>   |
| <i>Kathy &amp; George Eaton</i>    | <i>Starwood, Nepean</i>            |
| <i>Jack Fraser</i>                 | <i>Park Place, Nepean</i>          |
| <i>Geoff Gale</i>                  | <i>The Ravines, Ottawa</i>         |
| <i>Jim Gardner</i>                 | <i>Park Place, Nepean</i>          |
| <i>Helen Gordon</i>                | <i>Valley Stream Manor, Nepean</i> |
| <i>Carl Halchuk</i>                | <i>Park Place, Nepean</i>          |
| <i>Marion Helgason</i>             | <i>Stillwater Creek, Nepean</i>    |
| <i>George James</i>                | <i>Forest Hill, Kanata</i>         |
| <i>Bill Johnson</i>                | <i>Carleton Lodge, Nepean</i>      |
| <i>Barbara McFall</i>              | <i>Robertson House, Nepean</i>     |
| <i>Norah Pacey</i>                 | <i>Hillel Lodge, Ottawa</i>        |
| <i>Dave Peck</i>                   | <i>Valley Stream Manor, Nepean</i> |
| <i>Sheila Prince</i>               | <i>Granite Ridge, Stittsville</i>  |
| <i>Shirley &amp; Earl Schaubel</i> | <i>Bridlewood Trails, Kanata</i>   |
| <i>Pat Stoaate</i>                 | <i>Stillwater Creek, Nepean</i>    |



*If you know of other congregation members who should be included in this list, please call the office with details.*