

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH

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

Website: www.bcuc.org **Email:** 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 10, 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 11, 5:30 pm

Seekers meets Monday, December 11, 2pm in the Shalom Room with Social Tea Time. Please read Chapter 5 of the book for discussion. Bring some finger food to share. Next meeting – January 22, 2024.

Lectionary Group Discussion meets on Tuesday, December 12, 10:30 am in the Shalom Room with Social Tea Time. Theme & Text: The Challenging God (Isaiah 40: 1-11) – Next meeting – January 9, 2024.

Healing Tea & Service of Hope and Renewal – Wednesday, December 13, starting at 5 pm in the Main Hall. Detailed info under Worship Services.

Wrap it Up Holiday Market – Saturday, December 16, 10 am- 2 pm.

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

Lessons & Carols Service this week:

Stillwater Creek Retirement Home – Thursday, December 14, 10:30 am

Harmer House – Thursday, December 14, 2:00 pm

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.

One-Time Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant – Sunday, December 17 during Sunday School Time. Please speak with Wendy Morrell for more info.

2023 Advent Project

The Advent Project for 2023 is support for the **Mission and Service Fund** of the United Church. It has recently been announced that the grants from the M&S fund to the regions of the church including our local EOORC region will be reduced by 30%. This will significantly affect the ability of EOORC to support some key local programs in our area such as the Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy, the Carlington Chaplaincy, Centre 507 and three summer camps including the Camp Awesome leadership training program. It is often thought that this Fund is for support of partners overseas, but in 2022, 69% of the funds were spent within Canada. We encourage you to make a flow-through donation to the M&S fund - which will be a donation sent to M&S over and above what the church gives through the budget process. A flow-through donation can be made either by an e-transfer to 'treasurer@bcuc.org' with M&S Fund in the message line, or give a cheque to the office marked for Mission and Service Fund.

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

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

Thank You to everyone who donated Christmas cookies and/or gifts to The Haven Christmas party held on Sunday, December 3. It was a wonderful event with so many happy children and adults enjoying cookies, hot chocolate, carols, and gifts. The Christmas Story told by Paul Whynacht, minister of Manotick United, was enhanced by the tableau of Mary, Joseph, Shepherds and the baby Jesus portrayed by the Hill family. Carol singing was uplifted by Captain Laura VanSchaick's violin playing and singing by the choirs of the Salvation Army and Manotick United. This celebration of Christmas could not happen without your participation. We appreciate your support. Merry Christmas, Dianne Cardin

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 e-transfer to kim.vidal@gmail.com.

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

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

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 - 613-299-9499



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 10 – Second Sunday of Advent / Human Rights Sunday / Wear Blue
Sermon Focus: "The Comforting God" (Isaiah 40:1-11)

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

5 pm – Healing Tea & Guided Meditation in the Main Hall with Judith Campbell

6 pm – Service of Hope – Shalom Room

7 pm – Labyrinth Walk – Main Hall

December 17 – Third Sunday of Advent / Wear Pink or White
Sermon Focus : "The Challenging God" (Isaiah 61 : 1-4, 8-11)

Family Craft and Fun Time Sunday December 17, 11 – 1 :30pm

Come with your children or grandchildren for a fun time of craftmaking, baking, music and eating hotdogs!

Wear your ugly Christmas sweater or elf hat.

Please contact Olly Chuchryk at 613-296-8112 or olivia.32charing@gmail.com if you can help with the event.

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.

2024 Givings Envelopes are available on the table in the corridor. They are arranged numerically. If you wish to begin to use envelopes please contact the office.

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) and he will send you a link to the sign-up sheet. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1sOHGCwqvcO9-EYmwdiknlU5GUYNPxQ3bIFRnnAD04A/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.

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

Financial Update: Ross Mutton, BCUC Treasurer, will be providing an update on the church financial situation on Sunday morning. More details will be provided in next week's announcements. Extra contributions before year end will help ensure a balanced budget. Thank you!

Mitten Tree: As is our custom you will find a mitten tree outside the office waiting for your donations of warm mittens and hats for children and adults who are in need at this time of year.

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.

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 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.



E-Transfer

- Donate anytime via your online banking service, addressed to payee: 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

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



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