

ADVENT IV

December 16, 2022



Christmas Services at OUC



Christmas Eve

There will be three services on Christmas Eve, at **5 pm**, **7 pm** and **9 pm**, all led by Rev. Eric.

Christmas Day Worship

Christmas Day Worship - 10 am

Join us for a time of prayer and singing your favourite Christmas hymns followed by fellowship and refreshments in the Hall.

We would like to get an idea of how many people will attend. Please RSVP to Jasmine Vesque at jasminevesque@gmail.com.

Come in your jammies, your ugly sweater, or your Christmas finest. All are welcome!

New Year's Day

The service on Sunday January 1, 2023, will be led by David Clemis.



This Sunday, December 18 is our Advent 4 special service of music and readings led by the OUC choir. The choir's selections

this year are all Celtic-themed, so we invite you to wear your Scottish tartan or Irish attire on that Sunday!

White Gift Sunday

A big thank you to the Orleans United Church Outreach, who kindly donated \$1000 to the Orléans-Cumberland CRC's 2022 Christmas Program. Your donation is greatly appreciated!

<http://orleansunitedchurch.com/new-to-ouc/oucs-ministries/outreach/>

Christmas Eve Ushers

We are still looking for people to volunteer as ushers on Christmas Eve, especially at the 9 pm service. We will be taking up collection the "old way" and will need some help!

Inspiring Gifts from the United Church's Giving Catalogue

Still looking for a meaningful gift for that one person who has everything? Well, look no further.



"Every year, I purchase a gift from The United Church of Canada's Gifts with Vision catalogue for each member of my family -- children and grandchildren. I try to match a gift to each person's area of interest. That way we all feel connected to the Church's work toward social justice in Canada and around the world." Paul Sales

There is a gift for every budget and you can choose from a wide range of programs and services across Canada and around the world.

Gifts with Vision: You can make a difference this Christmas—anytime!
<https://mailchi.mp/.../you-can-make-a-difference-this...>

INTERCHURCH REFUGEE COMMITTEE [IRG] IMMEDIATE NEED

IRG is welcoming a Syrian family of five (2 parents and 3 children [son 22, daughter 19, son 14] on December 22 and at this time are **only** in need of the following **gently used** clothing items for their arrival and first week's wardrobes.

5 pair of warm pants (sweatpants) in medium and/or large sizes

2 pair of (temporary) men's winter shoes/boots, sizes 8-10

5 pair of pajamas (3 men, 2 women) in medium and/or large sizes

If you are able to donate any of these items before December 19, please contact Glen and Lynn Stoudt. IRG and the family are truly grateful for you caring support.



Un grand merci à Orleans United Church Outreach qui a fait un don de 1000 \$ au Programme de Noël 2022 du CRC Orléans-Cumberland. Votre don est grandement apprécié !

<http://orleansunitedchurch.com/new-to-ouc/oucs-ministries/outreach/>



Christmas Remembrance Tree and Blue Christmas Service

The Christmas season is a time when we are acutely aware of the empty chairs at our tables. As we move through the Advent season, and as we did last year, your HELP team will be hanging decorations in memory of loved ones on the Remembrance Tree by the Orleans Boulevard entrance. After Sunday worship during Advent, we invite you to visit the table in the Narthex where you can choose a decoration on which you can write the name of the loved one(s) you wish to remember. Decorations that were hung last year are also available for re-hanging. Alternatively, you may bring your own unbreakable and frost-friendly decorations to hang. During the week, the basket of decorations will be in the church office. You are welcome to hang decorations yourself, or leave them for a HELP team member to hang on your behalf.

Please join us on **Wednesday, December 21st at 7:30 pm** for our Blue Christmas service, when we will take some time to sit with our feelings of grief and love, and seek comfort as we head into Christmas.

Questions? Please do not hesitate to contact Cheryl Marvin at kenmarvin@gmail.com or Ruth Fox at ruthfox21@gmail.com.

Your HELP team



Available - Quantities are very limited!
We have some frozen food available for you to enjoy this Advent and

Christmas season. There are large 3-meat tourtières, large and small chicken pot pies, and vegetarian chili still available. Please stop by the office, or order on Sunday following worship. And, thank you again to all who have purchased frozen food and helped make the bazaar an amazing success!



Good news! Following on from our bazaar a few weeks ago, **Pat Young** has volunteered to take the lead for the 2023 bazaar. Pat has 10 years of experience with the OUC bazaar. Pat is a talented and creative crafter herself and we are lucky to have her skills leadership in this important role!



Coffee Time

We had another original pageant at OUC. Loved all the costumes and the story was well told. Coffee and fellowship was well attended.

Thank you for the following people for their help:

Set-up: Rob Orchin and George Teather

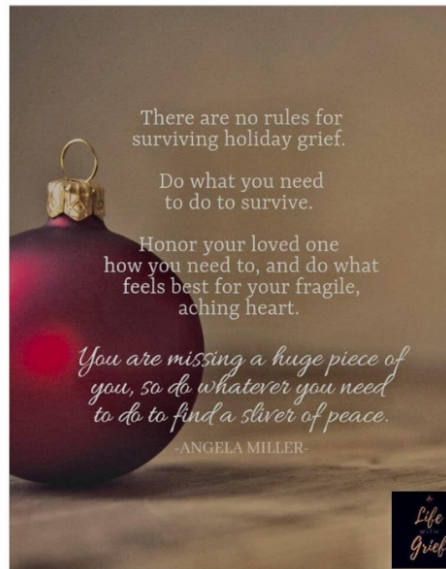
Baked goods: Wilma Davis (fruit cake), Rob Palo (blueberry muffins), George Teather (Christmas shortbread cookies), Denise Connors (chocolate and vanilla cupcakes), Emily del Castillo (cookies for next week) and Joan Brockelbank (donut holes from Tim Hortons). Yes, that's a lot of goodies but keep it coming because we love it.

Clean-up: Rob Palo, George Teather, Rob Orchin, Heather and Stephen Young, Emily del Castillo, Helen Guth

OUC has a Prayer Chain!



For many years now, OUC has offered a prayer ministry.



Check out supports in the community:
<https://www.communityhomesupport.ca>



Grocery Gift Cards

The **Grocery Gift Card** table is open in the hall after service. Purchases of gift cards for Metro, Basics, Independent, No frills, Loblaws, Sobeys, Farm Boy, and Shoppers Drug Mart will be available by cash, cheque, e-transfer, or debit. Please note there are **no Tim Horton** gift cards at this time. Gift cards are also available for purchase in the church office during regular business hours. Any questions regarding this long standing fundraiser (that costs you nothing extra) can be sent to:

dianne.davis@bell.net.

Please note: The Gift Card Table will be closed Dec. 25th and Jan. 1st. We will reopen Sunday, Jan. 8th.

Boston Pizza are still giving us a percentage back from our receipts. Please remember to print Orleans United Church on your receipt and put it in the box each time you eat there. Every dollar helps the work of the church.



2023 Offering Envelopes
The new envelopes will be

You can request that the members of the prayer team pray for you, for your loved one, or for a particular local or global concern. All prayer request are shared among the group confidentially. You are invited to send your prayer request directly to

ouc.prayersforall@rogers.com, an email monitored by only one CST member. For more information, please contact the office.

Community Corner



available in the Narthex on Sunday morning. You can also pick them up from the Office through the week.

Ways to Give

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORT OUR CONGREGATION WITH THEIR TIME AND WITH THEIR FINANCIAL DONATIONS

If you would like to contribute financially, you can do so:

- By cash or cheque to the main office
- By pre-authorized monthly donations (call office for information)
- Through your United Way contributions (simply choose OUC as the beneficiary)
- E-transfer to:

oucdonations@rogers.com

• Using a credit card Through Canada Helps: <https://www.canadahelps.org>

Be in Touch!

We would love for you to reach out to us.... we are here for you!

Website:

<http://orleansunitedchurch.com>

Email: orleansunited@rogers.com

Phone: 613-837-4321

If you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter, sign them up through the main office (call or email)

THE INTERCHURCH REFUGEE GROUP (IRG) - CHRISTMAS 2022 UPDATE

Dear Friends of the ministry to refugees and newcomers to Canada,

One of the things we consider during the Seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, is the travels of the Holy Family. The Gospel of Luke tells how the Holy Family makes their way from their home in Nazareth, to the town of Bethlehem. Jesus is born in a stable, because there was no room for this family. Then, in the Gospel of Matthew we hear about the Wise Men bringing their gifts. What we don't always hear is the story of the Holy Family becoming refugees. Herod, the ruler in Judea, is told about this new baby by the Wise Men. He is afraid that his power will be toppled, and so he decrees that all baby boys are to be killed. And so, Mary and Joseph, with the baby Jesus, flee from Judea to Egypt, to escape. The Holy Family became refugees, like so many, fleeing from their home in fear of losing their little boy, to shelter in Egypt....

This story is particularly poignant for the members of the IRG, because, in less than three weeks, we will be welcoming a Syrian refugee family ... yes, arriving from Egypt.

Since the last report in June of 2022, the Interchurch Refugee Group applied to sponsor and settle a Syrian family of five. And, Christmas joy abounds! The Alkhalaf family will be here in Ottawa, on Thursday, December 22, to start their new life as Permanent Residents. The Alkhalafs fled Syria three years ago, and have been sheltering in Egypt, waiting for resettlement in Canada.

We have been SO BUSY since learning of their imminent arrival. Top of the list is the search for their permanent home, preferably a three-bedroom apartment or townhouse. We are ready with everything they will need to furnish this new home, but we need to find

it first!

And so, we feel especially blessed that volunteers, the Washburn-Pichette family, are able to open their home to this family for the first few weeks after arrival.

And once they are here, we will be getting their documents in order, finding them a permanent home and furnishing it, looking for a doctor and a dentist, setting up schooling and language training, teaching them the bus system, helping them find suitable employment, and addressing the specific needs of this particular family as we support their growth toward a settled life in Canada.

As always, the IRG recognizes deeply that the ministry to refugees and newcomers is an important part of the justice work and advocacy of Canadian churches. At this time of year, and at all times, the IRG is endlessly grateful for your support – and that support includes being a volunteer settlement worker; donating furniture, clothing, and other housing needs; money, without which nothing could happen; your time, interest, and ad hoc work with us; and most importantly, your prayers for the persons being sponsored and settled, and for those volunteers working with them.

Please continue to pray for us! And THANK YOU for making our community-based sponsorships possible.

The Interchurch Refugee Group (IRG) is an ecumenical coalition of five churches located in the east end of Ottawa - Community Pentecostal Church, Epiphany Anglican Church, Orleans United Church, Navan-Vars United Church and Rothwell United Church. Since 1989 it has been sponsoring government-approved refugees, supporting their integration into Canadian society and facilitating their transition towards self-sufficiency. The Interchurch Refugee Group is a registered charity and is powered entirely by volunteers from our supporting churches, as well as from the wider community. To date, we have helped 27 refugee families from around the world. In addition to our member churches, the IRG works closely with the Refugee Ministry of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, as one of their Constituent Groups. We also acknowledge the great support of St. Mary's Anglican Church, Russell, for our current sponsorship. And we are a member of the Refugee Network of the Eastern Ontario and Outaouais Region of the United Church of Canada.

This Week at OUC

Friday December 16: Orleans Noon - Chapel, 11:30 - 1:30

TOPS - Nursery/Kitchen, 5 pm

Maria Cherry Recital - Sanctuary/Hall, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Saturday December 17: SDA - Sanctuary/Choir Room/Room 12, 9 am - 1 pm

HELP Ottawa - Library, 10 am - 3 pm

SDA - Hall, 1 - 2:30; 5:30 - 8:30

OUC Choir - Sanctuary, 2 - 3:30 pm

Sunday December 18: Service of Lessons and Carols,

in person and live-streamed, 10 am

Allegro Music School - Sanctuary, noon - 8 pm

SDA - Hall/Kitchen, 2 - 5 pm

Monday December 19: Scouts - Hall/Library/Choir Room/Chapel

TOPS - Nursery/Kitchen, 6 pm

Tuesday December 20: Lunch Bunch - Turkish Village, 12:30 pm

Scouts - Hall/Library/Choir Room, 6:30 pm

Wednesday December 21: Men's Breakfast - Gabriel's, St. Joseph Blvd, 7:30 am

Blue Christmas Service - Sanctuary, 7:30 pm

Joyful Yarn - Choir Room, 7 - 9 pm

Thursday December 15: TOPS - Chapel/Nursery, 8:30 am

Zumba - Hall, 6:45 - 7:45 pm

Senior Choir - Sanctuary, 7:30 pm

Beavers - Kitchen, 6:30 - 8 pm

Contact Us:



613-837-4321

orleansunitedchurch.com



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