

PARKWOOD PULSE

PARKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Stay tuned to your Parkwood Pulse and email newsletters for updates on in-person events.

Your Parkwood Pulse is in print and also online. Submissions can be sent in to parkwoodpulse@yahoo.ca

"We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

John 1:14

Join us online for worship on Sundays at 10AM, or, if able, join us in person!

***DECEMBER 2024 -
JANUARY 2025***

Christmas: Welcoming Christ, and welcoming all who are Christ's

I continue to be surprised, delighted, and thankful for newcomers who find their way to worship and fellowship with us at Parkwood Church.

In reflecting upon our pending celebrations for Advent, Christmas, and the New Year, I am struck by the vital connection between the welcome that Jesus received when He first arrived as a newcomer in the flesh as a baby in Bethlehem two thousand years ago, and the welcome to be extended to and received by those who arrive in our midst in the community of Jesus here and now.



Among those chapters of the Bible that are often read in conjunction with the celebration of Christmas, two of the most well known are found in Luke 2 and John 1.

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:8-16, KJV)

“To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:12-14, NIV)

From these two passages, it is obvious that the shepherds who first learned of Jesus’ birth “came with haste”, that is, “in a hurry” to see and welcome Him. It is equally obvious that the apostle John declares that “all who received” Jesus gained far more than they first recognized — they received the right and standing as “children of God”, fully adopted brothers and sisters of Jesus, into the family of God.

Now, let us join up these two passages with Jesus’ own words, recorded in Mark 9:37: “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.” (NIV)

The striking conclusion is that when we welcome each newcomer, in Jesus’ name, we are in fact welcoming Jesus. We are challenged to recognize that the “haste” with which the shepherds went to welcome Jesus is to mark the speed with which we greet those who come to us in Jesus’ name. We are

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called to reaffirm that our care and concern for the stranger and newcomer in our midst is to reflect the same care and concern we would offer to Jesus.

Our Lord Jesus is in our midst, in the life of each one who receives Jesus as Saviour and Lord, and any and all differences in language, culture, ethnicity, or place and country of origin are transformed by our union in Christ Jesus. We are called both to welcome and to be welcomed in Jesus' name. It is the birth and life, and the death and resurrection, of Jesus who unites all who believe and who are born anew of His Spirit.

May our celebrations of Christmas be marked by our union in Christ, and strengthened by our shared and common witness to Jesus whose arrival as Saviour is the reason for this season — and for life, in both time and eternity.



Your pastor, rejoicing in Christ and in our community in Christ,
James T. Hurd

Guerrilla Gardeners



Parkwood has participated in some "guerrilla gardening" along Meadowlands Drive.

Just west of the church, 600 tulip bulbs were planted in early November. A huge thanks to Brent MacDonald for clearing roots from the area, and to fellow guerrilla gardeners, Claire McPhee and John Huber. Look for a display of "Canada 150" tulips in the spring.



- submitted by Marcia Harten

Christian Salvage Mission



This winter, when you might be organizing your bookshelves, decluttering, re-arranging furniture, or getting your decorations out of storage, keep in mind any Christian literature that could be given away. The Mission Team asks you to consider setting aside any Christian books, Bibles, magazines, etc for donation - there will soon be a box set out and labelled for this purpose in the coat room of the church. After Christmas this year, and through the first three months of 2025, the Mission Team will start to collect these items for eventual donation to the Christian Salvage Mission.

- submitted by Derek Newton.
Mission Team

Parkwood Elves at the Christmas Craft Market

Saturday, December 7th

FISHER PARK CHRISTMAS

**A One Day POP-UP
Christmas Market**

**A unique gathering
of Local Urban
Artisans - Handmade
Items, Gourmet
Foods, Local Charities**

**Fisher Park School
250 Holland
9am – 3pm
Free admission**



Visit the
Parkwood Elves
at the **Fisher
Park Christmas
Craft Market.**

This will be the final
fundraiser for 2024.

They will be selling
Christmas planters along
with other items that that
they've collected over the
year, as well as donated
items from our
congregation.



From the Editor:
February Pulse

The next edition of the Parkwood Pulse will be
for the month of February. Send in
your submissions by Sunday, January 26th to

parkwoodpulse@yahoo.ca

Christmas Events

Please join us for a

Christmas Dinner

SAT | DEC 14 | 6 PM

Parkwood Church
Fellowship Hall
10 Chesterton Drive,
Ottawa, ON

free-will offering



Christmas Carols with the Letson Hall Blind Choir

Tuesday December 3 7:00 pm

Parkwood Church
10 Chesterton Dr
Fellowship Hall

For more info call the church office
613-225-6648 x 114

Lunch and Learn



At the November Lunch and Learn, we were guided through steps to create a painting. Everyone went home with their new, unique masterpiece. December Lunch and Learn will be a Christmas theme, with carols and Christmas memories.

Income Tax Receipts and Church Offering Envelopes

The Envelope Secretary reminds everyone that 2024 income tax receipts can include only those tithes and offerings received on or before December 31, 2024. This is in accordance with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) Policy.



Church offering envelopes are now available for 2025 in the Gathering Place on Sundays throughout December or by contacting the office to arrange pick-up. Offering envelopes are available for anyone who would like to financially contribute to the programming at Parkwood Church throughout 2025. Individuals are assigned a unique envelope number for the year and provided with a box of donation envelopes. The box includes envelopes for each Sunday and for special occasions such as Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Donation amounts are accumulated for the year and a tax receipt is issued at the end of the year. All donations remain private and confidential.

If you do not already have church offering envelopes, but plan to support the ministry of Parkwood through 2025, you may want to consider obtaining a box of church envelopes by contacting the church envelope secretary.

For the convenience of those who do not have offering envelopes or for those who have left their envelope at home, generic offering envelopes are provided at either end of the pews. Please be sure to include your complete name and address including your postal code for receipt purposes.

Also, if you wish, your contributions to Parkwood Church can be made by e-transfer, by PAR (pre-authorized remittance using automatic monthly debits to your bank account or credit card) or through Canada Helps. Please note that donations through Canada Helps will be receipted by Canada Helps. For those making donations by e-transfer and PAR, a tax receipt will be issued through Parkwood at year end based on the accumulation of annual donations.

If you have any questions concerning church receipts, envelopes or donations, please contact the envelope secretary by email: bettybrunswick@primus.ca or by phone: 613-225-4878.

- submitted by Betty Paul,
Parkwood Envelope Secretary

New Year's Eve

Following a survey undertaken after worship on November 17th and 24th, the 60th Anniversary planning committee has proposed, and session has approved, plans for a New Year's Eve celebration including both fellowship and worship. Details are still being developed, but for those without other plans on New Year's Eve, Parkwood will host a gathering on Tuesday evening, December 31st. We are inviting friends from the Korean and Portuguese congregations who use space within our building to join us. Watch the weekly bulletins closer to Christmas for more information!



Algonquin College Pause Table

Purpose:

- To give encouragement to students during the stressful examination period
- To help connect students with Algonquin Campus ministries and local Christian church programs

Date: Tuesday, December 10th, 2024

Time: 10:00AM-2:00PM

Place: Algonquin College E Building (Robert C. Gillett Student Commons Building)

- Front entrance of the Student Commons Building near Starbucks

Donations Needed! (for 300 to 500 students)

- **(NEW):** Prepackaged items (baked goods, granola bars, crackers etc.) with list of ingredients identified; fruit (e.g., bananas, oranges, apples); bottles of water, juice boxes **(NO HOME-BAKED GOODS)**.
- Donations can be dropped off at Parkwood on Monday afternoon, Dec 9th, 2:00PM-3:30PM.

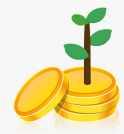
Volunteers Needed!

If you are willing and able to assist at the Pause Table during the day on Tuesday, December 10th, please contact John and Martha Fair at 613-823-9970 or fairmj@magma.ca. As well, please reach out if you are able to donate snacks or for more information about this cause.

Financial Giving Opportunity - December 2nd-5th

Have you ever thought of **donating stocks** to Parkwood?

In the past few years Parkwood has received donations from persons holding stocks. The Presbyterian Church in Canada has recognized the value of this source of funds and made arrangements designed to help folks considering this. Parkwood's Session thought we ought to make this info available to you.



Scotia McLeod is offering a commission-free week December 2nd-5th, 2024. During this time, they will sell stocks valued under \$10,000 CAD or \$10,000 USD without charging a commission. (The normal commission is \$140 for gifts under \$6,000; \$175 for gifts between \$6,001 and \$9,999).

The PCC has an account with them. To take advantage of this offer, securities must be in the PCC account by the end of the day on Thursday December 5, 2024. Multiple sales of the same stock that together exceed \$10,000 are not eligible. Anyone wishing to donate more than \$10,000, can donate different stocks as long as each is valued under \$10,000.

For more information, see www.parkwoodchurch.ca/donate/stocks-dec2024.pdf.

- submitted by Gord Walford,
Finance Team

Parkwood Church Activities December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Advent I White Gift Collection Sunday 10:00am Worship & Communion & Church School 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)	2	3 1:00pm Pastoral Care Team (Zoom) 7:00pm Christmas Carols with the Letson Hall Blind Choir 7:00pm Mission Team (Zoom)	4 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	5 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	6	7 10:00am Renewal Fellowship Prayer Meeting (Zoom) 6:00pm Young Adults' Christmas Party
8 Advent II White Gift Collection Sunday 10:00am Worship & Church School 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)	9 12:00pm Lunch & Learn. Topic: Christmas Memories 2:00pm Algonquin Pause Table Drop off to 3:30 pm	10 10:00am Algonquin Pause Table to 2 pm 7:30pm Budget Team	11 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	12 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	13 6:00pm Youth Group Christmas Party	14 6:00pm Christmas Dinner
15 Advent III White Gift Collection & Dedication 10:00am Worship & Church School 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)	16 7:00pm Session	17	18	19 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	20	21
22 Advent IV 10:00am Worship & Church School	23	24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Church Office closed 11:00am Christmas Day Worship Service	26	27	28
29 10:00am Worship & Church School	30	31 New Year's Eve Fellowship & Worship				revised 11/30/2024