

MacNeill Baptist Church

News and Notes

Church Moderator: Jonathan Purdy

Minister of Worship and Pastoral Care: Susan St John

Director of Music: Monica Admiral

Custodian: Sandy Palin

Associate Ministers in Chaplaincy: Robert Bond, Claire Gosselin,
David Jones, Felida Toledo

Dec 3, 2023

The service is live-streamed at Sundays at 11 am, with access to the video available for later viewing. See the link on our website.

For our in-person worship service, for accessibility for those with differences in hearing, there are a limited number of printed copies of today's sermon and scripture readings available at the Cline Street entrance of the church.

Next week: preacher David Jones

MacNeill has a scent-free policy. Masks are optional.

Wifi Network: MacNeill, password is 3485 6101 5200

Bible Quest Leader today: Jaxon

Pastoral Care: When you would like someone to pray with, to request a pastoral visit, or to publish a prayer request please contact Susan St John at 905-512-9897 or [sstjohn.macneill@gmail.com](mailto:ssjohn.macneill@gmail.com)

Pastoral Care Team: Heather Hobbs, Olga Jenkins, David Jones, Bruce Papky, Feli Toledo and Beverly Woods.

Your continued financial support of our congregation is appreciated. Donations can be mailed to the church or done through our website.

www.macneillbaptist.ca

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Community Carol Sing- Sunday Dec 3 at 2 pm at MacNeill- TODAY!!

There will be music, hot cider and Christmas goodies.... And lots and lots of carol singing. Come one! Come all! Bring your friends and neighbours! Admission is canned goods/socks/mittens for Wesley.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR PHOENIX PLACE- deadline Dec 17

Once again you Outreach and Service Board are hoping to help the families living at **Phoenix Place** by collecting essentials. We asked what would be most appreciated and were told that toiletries and winter hats and mittens are needed most.

A box has been placed in the sanctuary to hold our gifts. We would like to deliver them by Dec 17th. That gives us only two Sundays to collect. Wow, not much time!

Offering E-transfer

We now have a **new way to donate** to support the life and work of MacNeill!! You can now send an e-transfer to the church. This avoids costly service charges. You can even set up a monthly recurring e-transfer from your bank account to make it even easier. The address is

donations@macneillbaptist.ca

Offerings are still accepted by other means... cheques, cash, or Canada Helps (the donation link) on our website.... So this is just another option for you. Thank you Jon P for setting this up!!!

Advent & Christmas at MacNeill

Advent 1: December 3: Morning Service with Communion at 11AM

Our December Communion Offering will be sent to the
CBOQ Fellowship Fund

Community Carol Sing at 2PM

Advent 2: December 10: Morning Service at 11AM

Advent 3: December 17: Morning Service at 11AM

Blue Christmas Service: Dec 21 at 7 pm at St. Paul's Anglican

Advent 4 & Christmas Eve: December 24.

There will be no morning service.

Family Christmas Eve service: December 24 at 7PM

Sunday December 31: Shared community service at
Westdale United at 10.30AM.

New Grandbaby!

Bob and Lynn B wish to the birth of their new granddaughter, LUCA BOND weighing 8 lbs. 10 oz. Her proud parents are Wren and Jeremy and big brother Thurgood.

The **Women of MacNeill** group will meet in the Church parlour on **Saturday, December 9th at 2:30pm**. Please bring a Christmas story or poem to share. All are welcome.

541 Eatery & Exchange Reopening

541 Eatery & Exchange is a faith-based non-profit cafe offering good, health-conscious food in a folksy space where people can connect. Patrons may buy buttons to pay-it-forward, enabling those who cannot pay to enjoy the same good food and company. Outreach and Service have supported 541 for years. Last spring it became necessary for them to temporarily close in order to create an effective and sustainable model.

Now they are preparing to reopen and again provide good food and connection where folks from all walks of life can come together at the table. They are raising funds with a goal of \$75,000.

As part of the fundraising they're hosting a Holiday Market Reopening Celebration on **Friday, December 8th from 3 pm until 9 pm** where you can purchase lots of tasty 541 baked goods, hot beverages and some special gifts from a variety of local vendors and artisans. Members of the Outreach and Service gang are going and may be able to help with transportation. If **you would like to join us let Al, Beverly, Barbara, Ruby or Jean know.**

December's Benevolent Offering: CBOQ Fellowship Fund

Once again, the Deacons have taken the decision to assign December's Benevolent (Communion) Offering to the Fellowship Fund of the CBOQ. The focus of the Fellowship Fund is to aid pastors and their families who are facing financial difficulties as follows:-

1. contributing to payment for medical supplies and equipment (e.g.: hearing aids)
2. giving small gifts to retired pastors, widows, students, and retired missionaries as thanks for faithful service
3. assisting pastors and students in attending events that allow them to build their skills in ministry.

Individual congregations are invited to support one or all of these categories. MacNeill will request that the money be used for medical

supplies and equipment. Please consider giving a gift to the Fellowship Fund through your December Communion Offering.

Evening of Prayer for Christian Unity – Thursday January 18, 2024 (7PM)

There will be a special event planned by the Westdale ministries (St Paul's, Westdale United, St C's and MacNeill) to gather for worship and prayer for Christian Unity. This is in response to the Canadian Council of Churches national initiative. It will take place in the Westdale Theatre. Guest preacher = Peter Noteboom, General Secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches.

HELP!!!

Bible Quest is in need of at least two more people to work with the kids. We are down to just 3 teachers and need help. If you are willing to help please talk to Jessica Purdy.

AV HELP!

We would love to have more people on our AV team. Don't worry, we will teach you what to do. Please see Bev L if you are interested.

The Canadian Orpheus Male Choir is presenting its Annual Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 9 at 2:00 p.m. in nearby St. Paul's United Church, Dundas. This year we are featuring guest soloist, soprano Cristina Pisani, accompanied by her mother, Sandra, on piano. Tickets available at the door are \$25.00.

Prayer Requests

For **Marie**, Doug and Shirley W's sister-in-law, in hospital following a brain aneurism which necessitated surgery.

Lilly Grace, prayers requested for her recovery from surgery, physically and emotionally, in the coming days.

Please pray for **Bob & Lynn B.** and their family. Bob is in Welland Hospital, recovering from sepsis.

For **Cathy H**, friend and former member of MacNeill, who currently lives in Canmore, Alberta. Cathy is facing a serious problem with the sight in one of her eyes. She has undergone surgery and is facing more.

Please pray for **Michael and Jonie**, MacNeill neighbours, as Jonie's cancer recovery is ongoing.

For **Janis H**, friend of Sonia, who is fighting cancer.

Indra H. as she serves in support of her husband **Mel** and struggles with her own health issues.

Paul G., friend of Lynn and Bob, who is going through some serious and life changing health issues.

Ryan C, a friend of Susan S.'s family, who is struggling with addictions and severe health problems.

Ed S, who is dealing with the early stages of Alzheimer's.

Cheryl and Charles S who appreciate our ongoing prayers and concern.

Garth's parents, **Denny and Mair**.

Monica's cousin **Shelley K** and niece **Lyanne K**.

Martina S. whose health is quite fragile, and for John and son Danny who support her so well.

Bev M and Bruce W, friends of Nancy and John D, who are experiencing serious health issues.

Desert Dreaming

Expect a turning
in the pointless path,
a sign scratched
on a rock,
a curving bed of stones
that marks
an ancient creek
and suddenly
a garden and an inn.

Expect wild roses
on a dirt-brown road,
jonquils swaying
over sand, crocus blossoms
watered by a stream,
fig trees flowering
with their crowns of bees.

Expect a dance
from bare December stumps,
a litany from blackened leaves,
shoots sending forth
a healing hymn,
a hope-filled prayer.

Paula Papky