

SHALLOW LAKE



UNITED CHURCH.ca

"THE FRIENDLY CHURCH"

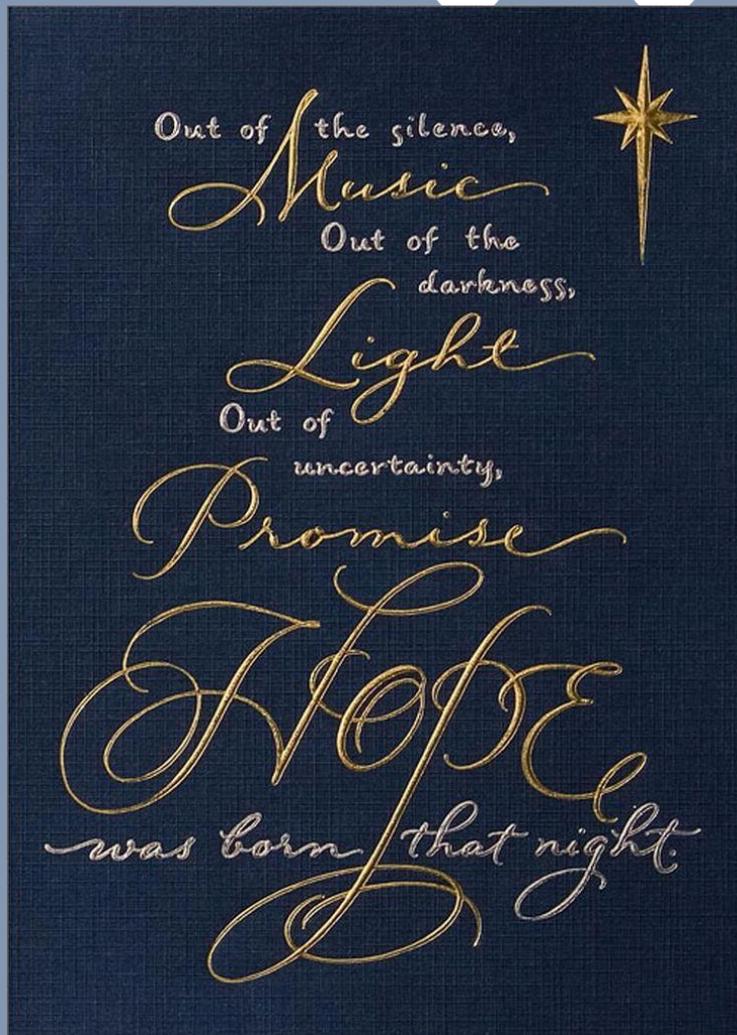
75 Cruickshank Street, Shallow Lake, ON

Christmas Update - December 2022



Special events

- Ladies Christmas Tea and Silent Auction – November 26th in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$5 Call Lynda Hiles at 519-935-0897
- Special Advent Service each Sunday at 9:30 am leading up to Christmas, beginning November 27th – all are welcome.
- Communion & Candle Lighting Service – Friday, December 23rd at 7:00 pm
- No Christmas Day Service on Christmas day



"MERRY CHRISTMAS"
from our family to yours!



A message from Rev. Ed

Merry Christmas Everyone!

This year we are really, really, hoping to have our Traditional Christmas Candle Lighting Communion Service (*for two years we have had to cancel it due to COVID*). The date will be Friday December 23 @ 7:00 pm. Hope you are able to join us.

Of course, the Christmas Season starts long before that. In Church it is called the Season of Advent. Advent means coming. It is the 4 Weeks before Christmas where we prepare for Christ's coming. Advent is also the root word for Adventure. We see this time as being something like an adventure.

It is a season where we look back to remember Jesus' coming, born in a stable, and the world that he was born into, with all its problems and hopes. We remember people like Mary and Joseph, and others who helped bring Jesus to the world. But we don't just look back, we use the past to live it in the Present. We ask ourselves where might Jesus be coming anew this year. Where do we/you need Jesus to be born in our/your life and the world. We also think of Mary and Joseph, and realize that like them, we are now the ones birthing, enabling Christ's coming. Powerful stuff.

Over the past few years, we have gone through a lot. We are living in a very different world. In the midst of tinsel and gaiety, the Church also recognizes this reality. Christmas has never been easy. It wasn't easy for Mary and Joseph. Mary, ostracized for being pregnant outside of marriage. Joseph, in spite of the shame, staying with her. It was a hard world.



Roman occupation and foreign rule. Outside forces forcing them to travel, more than 100 miles, probably walking, even though Mary was pregnant. Then forced to sleep and give birth in the back of a filthy stable. Why, because they kept saying yes despite all the obstacles. Faith, Hope, Love in all those yeses. And so, Love was born in the dark of a stable that night. A naked Baby. And they said yes once again, and bundled the child in swaddling cloths, and our world has never been the same. It was a Merry Christmas.

And so, in the midst of all the uncertainties you are experiencing, and the uncertainties in the larger world, COVID, a Planet and Climate in Crisis, Uncertain Economy, Super Powers vying for Power..., are you able to say yes like Mary and Joseph did. Are you able to let Faith, Hope and Love guide you. There is a little naked child, yet unborn, saying yes you can. Will you let that child into your life/ world and let him grow. Merry Christmas.

God Bless – Rev. Ed Laksmanis

P.S. – Thank you for your faithfulness, and the many ways you have been Mary and Joseph, birthing God's Presence in you, your home, and the world. And thank-you for the many ways you have Supported Shallow Lake United Church in its efforts to do the Same.



Our Christmas Schedule

- Ladies Christmas Tea and Silent Auction – November 26th 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Tickets are \$5 Call Lynda at 519-935-0897
- Advent I – Hope - November 27th – 9:30 am
- Advent II – Peace – December 4th – 9:30 am am – We celebrate this Sunday as White Gift Sunday (we traditionally collect items for the Wiarnton Food Bank. This year we have been asked to provide JAM
- Advent III – Joy – December 11th – 9:30
- Advent IV – Love – December 18th – 9:30 am
- **CHRISTMAS CANDLE LIGHTING & COMMUNION & SERVICE - Friday, December 23rd At 7:00 PM.** we will celebrate the birth of Jesus. Lights are dimmed and a wonderful sense of quiet takes over as we light our candles and sing Silent Night. A very moving few minutes
- No Christmas Day Service on Christmas Day



Silent night, Holy night
 All is calm, all is bright
 Round yon virgin, mother and child
 Holy infant, tender and mild
 Sleep in heavenly peace,
 Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night
 Son of God, love's pure light
 Radiant beams from thy holy face
 With the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord at thy birth
 Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Silent night, Holy night
 Shepherds quake, at the sight
 Glories stream from heaven above
 Heavenly, hosts sing Hallelujah.
 Christ the Savior is born,
 Christ the Savior is born.

The blue candles are lit on the first, second and fourth Sundays of Advent. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday, also called Gaudete, which is a time to be joyful and celebrate the approach of Christmas. On Christmas Eve we light the white candle which represents purity and Christ. It is called the Christ Candle and is lit at our Christmas service.



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A MESSAGE FROM SHALLOW LAKE UNITED CHURCH BOARD

This is the time of the year we traditionally reach out to all our members and adherents and recap the past year. This year we were able to meet in person again in March after more than two years of being open, closed, open again while always receiving the regular Sunday message from Rev. Ed by email – all due to Covid-19. We remain vigilant at all our services or happenings to keep us safe and free of Covid-19. It has been an experience we hope to never go through again. Having said all of that it has also been a great opportunity to test our faith and has taught us to be more compassionate and understanding with each other. And we seem to be better for it.

Shallow Lake United Church has an amazing congregation who remain strong. We are holding our own financially - we still support the Warton Food Bank. The food bank provides family and individuals with a helping hand in their time of need. The food bank gave 108,000 pounds of food to help in the community over the last year. The food bank gives food to the hungry so that they do not have to decide whether to pay the rent or feed themselves. We support the Canadian Foodgrains Bank by working together to end global hunger. Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of 15 church and church-based agencies working together to end global hunger. Our church supports the Foodgrains Bank by growing a crop each year. Our Foodgrains project is led by Keith Kirk and his many helpers. We also support the United Church Mission and Service (M&S) Fund. The United Church people across the country join together to share what we can with people and places in need through a unified fund called the M&S Fund

In addition to regular repairs and maintenance at Shallow Lake United Church, we are in the process of updating our elevator. Again, most of the funds for this project have been received by donations.

This is the time of the year we all think about how we can share and support the numerous charities there are to choose from. We would ask that you consider Shallow Lake United Church or any of the charities we support. Tax receipts for 2022 will be provided for all donations received by December 31, 2022. For your convenience a donation form is included below. Thank you for your support. All cheques should be made payable to: Shallow Lake United Church. Choose below which charity or charities you want to support.

Cut Here

DONATION FORM



73 Cruickshank Street
Shallow Lake, ON N0H 2K0

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ PROV _____ POSTAL CODE _____
TELEPHONE # _____ MOBILE # _____
EMAIL _____

Please accept my one time donation to the Shallow Lake UC, or Food Bank or Canadian Foodgrains Bank or M&S (Please circle your choice) in the amount of:

\$250.00 \$200.00 \$150.00 \$100.00 \$75.00 \$50.00 \$25.00 Other: _____

Thank you for your generous donation to Shallow Lake United Church. Your support and dedication to the ongoing work of God's people is so very much appreciated. Thanks.

Thank You for your Support!