

**wellington  
square**



Sunday December 23, 2018

## Home for Christmas

*Lord, you have been our dwelling  
place in all generations.*

(Psalm 90:1)

*You who live in the shelter of the  
Most High, who abide in the shadow  
of the Almighty, will say to the LORD,*

***"My refuge and my fortress;  
my God, in whom I trust."***

(Psalm 91:1&2)

# welcome!

**We're glad you're here today. We're a** group of people learning what it means to be followers of Jesus. This is a place where **everyone is welcome, nobody's perfect, and** anything is possible. We welcome and encourage you to share your life with us as we journey in faith together.

What can you expect on a Sunday morning? Our worship services aim to be about 70 minutes long, with a mix of praise singing & prayer, and a time of inspiration and learning through the teaching that explores scripture, and issues of everyday life.

We believe that by working together, sharing our faith and our lives, we can accomplish much more than we could individually. **With God's help and the power of** the Holy Spirit, we believe we can transform our community and our world as the hands and feet of Jesus on earth.

**If you're ready for us to get to know you, please fill out a "Welcome" card from** the pew and bring it to the Connection Point in the foyer after the service. We hope you too will find a place of belonging here, and share your life and faith journey with us.

# happenings

New to our church? We would like to get to know you. We invite you to fill out a Welcome Card which is in the pews. Please leave it in the box marked Connect/Reconnect at the exits at the front and back of the Sanctuary or at the Connection Point table. As a THANK-YOU for taking the time to fill out the **card, please accept a copy of "CASE FOR CHRIST". If you need assistance, please feel free to ask one of our greeters.**

COMMUNION: December 24 @ 10pm  
January 6th @ 10am

December 30th & January 6th, 2019  
ONE SERVICE @ 10am

Mitten Tree | is outside the office. We welcome any donations of mittens/gloves, hats and socks.

United Church 2019 Calendars | There are a limited number of calendars for sale. \$5 each available at the Connection Point after each service or please see Jennifer in the office during the week.

*Offerings for 2018 MUST be received by Monday December 31st in order to be included in your 2018 tax receipt.*

Offering Envelopes | Envelopes for 2019 are now available for pickup in the foyer on Sunday, or from the office during the week.

*Please destroy any of your unused envelopes at the end of 2018 as your number may have changed from the prior year.*

Message from the Ministry & Personnel Team – 11 am Music Director

We recently received a letter of resignation from Juanita Maldonado, our 11 am Music Director. Her final service for leading music worship at Wellington Square United Church will be

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 8 pm. We greatly appreciate the significant contribution Juanita has made to the growth and development of the 11 am music program and worship service and we wish her well in her future endeavours.

The search for a permanent replacement is already underway, and in the meantime we have arranged to have Ian Green lead the 11 am music program from December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Ian has been a guest music director at the 11 am service for us on other occasions and will maintain our high standard of musical excellence.

Footsteps Library - Overdue Book

If you checked out the book Fishing Tips: How Curiosity Transformed a Community of Faith by Rev. Dr. John Pentland, it is currently overdue. If you could please return it to the Footsteps Library.

Office Holiday Hours | The office will be closed Dec 24-26. We will be open Thurs Dec 27 10am-3pm. Dec 31 9am-12pm. Closed January 1. Regular office hours will resume Wed Jan 2.

Church Holiday Hours | The church will be open at noon (for Christmas Eve Service preparations) on Dec 24, closed Dec 25-26. Open Dec 31 9am-noon. Closed Jan 1. Regular church hours will resume on Wed Jan 2.



## Friday Community

This past Friday a lady came in our doors for the first time. She was looking for help for her friend, a single mom with 3 children who is now on disability, and thought she would be receiving back pay of Child Tax Credit, but it turns out she owes instead. Struggling financially, she called around to Christmas programs only to find out it was too late and they were all full. She was discouraged and at the end of her rope. We asked for the family's information and put together stockings, passed her a grocery gift card that had been generously donated by one of you, and will have gifts to pass on that we are receiving from a local car dealership. Her eyes welled up with tears with relief that she had found someone who would help her. She did not want to call her friend until she had some good news to share and help for her this Christmas.

We have some friends who are struggling with **greater needs of homelessness and we can't** always help with that. But we can offer a listening ear, prayers, toys and stockings, winter outerwear, a warm space for the afternoon and a hot meal. But more importantly we can provide hope, love and friendship to those who need it the most.

Most Needed Items:

- \*unopened donations of chocolates & candy
- \*Christmas candy for Santa's goodie bags**
- \*salad bar toppings (pickles, beets, olives...)**
- \*baking ingredients (chocolate chips, etc.)
- \*lemonade, iced tea crystals, hot chocolate
- \*smaller wooden or Ikea type high chair
- \*rain & snow stroller covers for baby

For information contact: [fnc@wsquare.ca](mailto:fnc@wsquare.ca)



CONNECT/GROW/SERVE

*"For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."* Matt. 18:20

**Acts 2: 42 "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."**

ADVENT CONSPIRACY CHALLENGE: As we are in this most beautiful season of ADVENT, I pray that we enter into the TRUE story of Christmas. The focus in our ADVENT CONSPIRACY STUDY GROUPS was to WORSHIP FULLY, SPEND LESS on gifts, GIVE MORE of ourselves & our resources & LOVE ALL. God is the ultimate giver who gave us the most precious gift, HIS SON JESUS to die on the cross for our sins. I pray that during this HOLY SEASON, we can WORSHIP FULLY by GIVING BACK of ourselves & our resources in a BIG WAY for GOD!! Our outreach team has a gift wrapped box where we can give to our Wellington initiatives. LET'S BE LIKE OUR GENEROUS CREATOR & GIVE BACK to HIS KINGDOM IN A BIG WAY!! WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!! LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO BY CHRISTMAS FOR KINGDOM WORK!! Wishing you all a CHRISTMAS filled with HIS PRESENCE & PEACE!

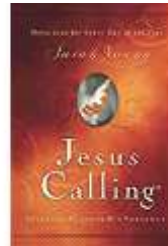
With much love,  
Joy

ADVENT CONSPIRACY BOOKS - a few copies are available at the CONNECTION POINT. Cost is \$17.

JOYFUL SPIRITS - Our next gathering is Thursday, January 17, 2020 at 7pm in the Pritchard Room. We will be discussing from the John Ortberg study, Session #3, "THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS". Please bring your bibles.

**"(JESUS) CREATED A NEW KIND OF HUMAN BEING, A FRESH START FOR EVERYBODY."**

Ephesians 2:15 MSG



JESUS CALLING now available at the CONNECTION TABLE. COST: \$15.

Thursday at Seven - New series on prayer - Before Amen - *The Power of a Simple Prayer*. Four week series; book and DVD study by Max Lucado. Please contact Bruce: [bmagwood@TORRLANE.ca](mailto:bmagwood@TORRLANE.ca)

NEW GROUPS: If you have an idea for a new group or wish to lead a group, please contact Joy. We are excited about what God is doing through our groups. It is AWESOME working together to share the GOOD NEWS of the gospel through our GROUP LIFE at Wellington.

# ADVENT CONSPIRACY

CAN CHRISTMAS CHANGE THE WORLD?

Christmas should be a joyous celebration of Jesus' birth that enriches our hearts and the world around us. But does it? We invite you to consider these "challenges" throughout this season of Advent. Jesus calls us to go into this broken world to both *tell* the great story of God's love and to *live* it. Our lives should show others a picture of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. We should be the ones to tell the story of Christmas, not the malls. Let God nudge your heart to make this Christmas different. Let Him whisper to your spirit how you can worship fully, spend less, give more and love all. And then respond to His invitation to help change the world.

## Consider the following:

- Worship like the wise men (extravagantly) - give abundantly of your time, resources, attention
- Make a donation to Partnership West Foodbank, Friday Night Community or a foodbank in your area
- Gather your friends together for fellowship centred around Jesus'
- Say 'hello' and speak kindly this week to someone you might usually walk by

This is the last Sunday remaining of the Advent Conspiracy and your opportunity to donate to these vital missions that urgently need the support of the whole congregation. This church walks along side our partners in Mexico, Sierra Leone and Malawi daily as together we participate in the building of the Kingdom of God across the seas. This church is blessed by this calling but needs your help.

***In your embracing of Advent Conspiracy, how are you called to Give More?***

***Please visit our donation table in the foyer.***



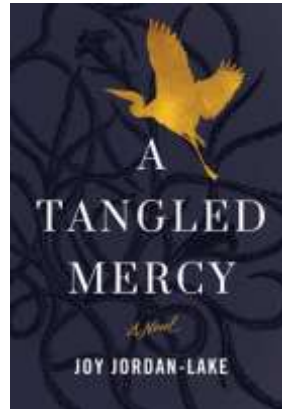


A Tangled Mercy  
by Joy Jordan-Lake

Goodreads Hot Reads  
selection!

#1 Amazon Bestseller  
Historical Fiction!

#1 Amazon Bestseller  
American Literature!



Cozy up with a great read over the holidays! A Tangled Mercy interweaves two stories, one in the past, one in the present, both set in Charleston, South Carolina. Back in 1822, Tom Russell, a gifted blacksmith and slave, grapples with a terrible choice: arm an uprising spearheaded by members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church or keep his own neck out of the noose and protect the woman he loves. In the present, Kate Drayton is trying to find answers about her **deceased mother's troubled past, and is determined, for her academic research, to unearth new information on the failed slave revolt of 1822. But Kate's present-day research is derailed by a horrific massacre in the very same landmark church. A moving novel that reminds us of yesterday's atrocities and today's ongoing racial travesties.**

## Joseph Brant Hospital Mental Health Consumer Advisory Committee

Presented in Partnership with: *Friday* night  
Community

### Friday Night Speaker Series

Friday January 11, 7pm  
(Pritchard Room)

## Grief and Loss

Experiencing emotions when we lose jobs, money, friends, our home, health, etc...

Presented by: Bonnie-Jean Barlow



GRACELAND - a place full of God's grace...where children learn the love of Jesus and how to shine His light everyday. Sundays at 9am. Nur to Gr. 6

December theme: A Christmas Journey  
Mary & Joseph  
The Saviour is Born!  
Angels & Shepherds  
Sharing the Good News!

Reminder to parents to take home our monthly Faith at Home Family sheets for GraceLand's theme, focus, scriptures, Prayers and Activities.

Participant Forms are required every year for children and youth to ensure safety for all. 2019 forms will be emailed out to families and can also be completed on-line by going to [www.wsquare.ca/children-and-family/events-forms/](http://www.wsquare.ca/children-and-family/events-forms/). Please complete and return to our GraceLand Reception Area. Thank you for supporting our Plan 2 Protect Procedures.

For further info and pictures regarding **Children's Ministry, please join our GraceLand Parent Group Page on Facebook.**



ROCKPILE + UP – Harry Potter Marathon–  
Thurs Jan 3rd -\$4 for dinner - Gr 7 and up  
Calling ALL Youth to come relax, bring a blanket and pillow, and \$4 for dinner (or simply e-mail Adam if finances are an issue!) and SETTLE in **for a day of everyone's favourite wizard!** We'll have video games going and get comfy in the Pritchard room as we marathon the first 3 films in the Harry Potter Series!



For all December events go to:  
[www.wsquare.ca/youth](http://www.wsquare.ca/youth)

## Joint Search Committee

On Monday December 3, 2018 Wellington Square was informed that our Joint Needs Assessment Report was officially accepted by Halton Presbytery, allowing us to move forward with creating a Joint Search Committee.

As with the Joint Needs Assessment Committee, a criteria list was established for the Joint Search Committee members.

- They have a mature faith.
- They have the gift of thoughtful discernment.
- They are someone who has held an active servant leader role within the church.
- They possess a specific type of gift (skill, experience, etc.) that will assist the committee.
- They have proven to be a positive team player.

It is the responsibility of the Joint Search Committee to follow the mandate of our Joint Needs Assessment Report for the purpose of hiring a new Lead Minister.

The congregation must vote to approve this committee so please join us on Sunday December 30th, 2018 for a very short meeting.

There will only be one 10 a.m. service that Sunday and this meeting will take place immediately following the service.



## Joint Search Committee Members



*Ryan Millar*

I have been a member at Wellington Square since I was 16. I have served in the music ministry for many of those years, including leading worship and playing whatever instrument I could get my hands on. I also served on the Worship Planning Committee for several years, helping to pick themes for worship services and participate in long-term planning. In my capacity at Wellington Square, I have led worship conference sessions, done music ministry consultation for other area churches and traveled to Mexico to build houses in Ensenada. More recently, my (now) wife Lauren and I got married at Wellington in 2017, with many of my Wellington friends and family actively participating in the ceremony. It has been a true blessing to be a part of this church community!



*John Crusoe*

My wife Kari and our 4 children have been members of Wellington Square United Church for 18 years. Kari volunteered **with the Children's Ministry** Prep Team when our children were younger and 3 of our children became classroom leaders in their early teens. I am currently fulfilling the role of Chair for the Ministry and Personnel Committee, a position that I held for 10 years prior to rejoining the Committee earlier this year. We thoroughly enjoy and feel very fortunate being a part of this church family!



*Nancianne Chin*

Nancianne became a part of the Wellington Square family 3 years ago after moving from a church in Toronto. You would see her at an 11am service which she attends, and sometimes participates as Greeter with her husband, Mo. They chose this church based on the warmth of the congregation, the outreach opportunities, and because of the small groups. Nancianne considers the small groups paramount to learning about and growing with God. She has participated in serving at Wellington including giving a church testimony, leading a Youth Alpha group in 2017, volunteering in the summer at Friday Community, Ribfest and knitting blanket squares for children in Malawi.



*Sam Hickerson*

**I've been part of the** wellington square family for the last 11 years, starting through the Sunday school programs and participating in various youth events. Over **the last few years, I've** had the opportunity to take more of a leadership roll in Graceland, with everything from actions **during children's ministry, to organization of youth events for our church's young people. I** work with the Friday night Community to help clean up during and after the dinner. Wellington Square has been a huge part of my life, and I would love to continue to further this connection!

## Joint Search Committee Members



*Wendy Alexopoulos*

**I've been attending**

Wellington Square United Church for about 11 years now, coming over from Burlington Baptist Church where I attended with my parents. I found the church to be warm and inviting and enjoyed the contemporary 9 am service right from the start. I immediately joined

small group studies and did a number with the same group of people, and still continue to take part in various studies as they come up. I also did my first Mexico Mission about a year after coming to Wellington. I have been involved in working with the Sierra Leone Outreach and help at the Friday Night Community Dinner whenever I have a chance. Recently I have become part of the WSU Greeters and help with the offering as needed. Katie has also asked me to help with our program involving visiting some of the elderly we have at the various retirement & long term care homes. **I'm blessed to have Wellington and its wonderful family as part of my life.**



*Lynn Kasprzyk*

When I first started attending Wellington Square I felt drawn to this church and church community. I became a member about seventeen years ago and joined my first small group. Since then I have been involved in many small groups and ministries over the years, including for the last 10 years prayer ministry

and Friday Night Community. God has richly blessed me by giving me the opportunity to be a part of this church family at Wellington Square.



*Tony Wilson*

My wife Janet and I have been members at Wellington Square for 19+ years. I have served on M&P and Stewardship in the past and I'm currently entering my 3rd year of service on the Board of Directors. I have led small groups in money management using the

Ramsey Financial Peace University material as well as the Christians Against Poverty Budgeting course. I currently volunteer for the Meals on Wheels program in Burlington delivering hot meals to seniors and shut-ins on Wednesdays. After entering the world of "retirement" six years ago, I also became active putting my money management and organizational talents to use serving on the Ministry in Motion Planning Team and on the Board of Directors for the charitable organization Cruxifusion Inc. Cruxifusion's goal and focus is to support, inspire and connect Christ-centered leaders and congregations in the United Church of Canada. During my 5+ year association with "Crux", I've come to know a great number of tremendous United Church ministers from coast-to-coast. Coupled with my recent service on the Joint Needs Assessment Committee, I believe my association with the Cruxifusion organization positions me well to serve on the Search Committee who will collectively search out our next Lead Minister.

## Joint Search Committee Members



*Noel Henderson*

Joan and I have been members of this church since 1977. We have never considered a change. I have served in many capacities over the years. Currently I am chair of the Foodgrains committee, a member of the Reach Out committee, a volunteer with the Friday Night Community and the

Property Committee. We cherish our association with Wellington Square



*Jennifer Kiers*

My husband Alvin and I have been members of Wellington Square United Church since 1999. We have three children; Megan is a leader in the Nursery, and William and Nathan attend Graceland. I have been a leader in Graceland and with VBC for more than 10 years. I coordinated and led the

**Moms 'n Tots group for**

about six years. I was co-chair of the Outreach Team for a number of years, and continue to be involved with this group. I have also served on a Discernment Team for a Ministry Candidate. We feel truly blessed to be a part of our Wellington Square community.



SEARCHING FOR  
**CHRISTMAS**

*Christmas Eve Services*

*4:30pm Fun, Interactive service for kids and their families*

*6:00pm Worship with the Band*

*8:00pm Worship with the Sanctuary Choir*

*10:00pm Candlelight and Communion*

PLEASE  
JOIN US  
FOR A  
*Retirement*  
PARTY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6th

*10 am Celebration Service*

*(lunch to follow)*

*at Wellington Square United*

Do you have a fond memory, funny story, pictures, or testimony about Orville that you'd like to share?

Please RSVP if you plan to attend, have stories, best wishes or short videos to:  
[orvilleretires2019@gmail.com](mailto:orvilleretires2019@gmail.com)

PLEASE TEAR OFF AND DROP RSVP OFF WHEN YOU EXIT SANCTUARY OR GIVE TO OFFICE

Please Drop off as  
you leave Sanctuary  
or Give to Office

*Orville's Retirement Luncheon - RSVP*

I (we) plan on attending on January 6th

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

905-634-1849

office@wsquare.ca    www.wsquare.ca  
2121 Caroline St, Burlington ON L7R 1L7



#### Ministerial Team

Rev. Dr. Orville James (ext. 19)

*ojames@wsquare.ca*

Rev. Katie Southon (ext. 14)

*ksouthon@wsquare.ca*

Rev. Tom Chire (*Voluntary*)

#### Children/Family Ministry (GraceLand)

Heather Mackey (ext. 21)

*hmackey@wsquare.ca*

#### Youth Ministry

Adam Cresswell (ext. 11)

*acresswell@wsquare.ca*

#### Adult Faith Ministry

Joy Magwood (ext. 23)

*jmagwood@wsquare.ca*

#### Music Ministry at 9am

Tim Watson (ext. 10)

*twatson@wsquare.ca*

#### Music Ministry at 11am

Juanita Maldonado (ext. 20)

*jmaldonado@wsquare.ca*

#### Friday Night Community Coordinator

Lisa Lunski (ext. 0)

*llunski@wsquare.ca*

#### Outreach Missions Coordinator

Karen Guyatt (ext. 0)

*kguyatt@wsquare.ca*

#### Finance

Karen Dobson (ext. 16) in Wednesdays

*treasurer@wsquare.ca*

#### Administration

Catherine Wagg (ext. 15)

*cwagg@wsquare.ca*

#### An Advent Affirmation of Faith

I believe that Christmas is more than just a time for parties and presents; it is a time for **remembering Christ and the Gift of God's love** in human flesh.

I believe there are gifts more important than the ones under the Christmas tree, such as the way we share ourselves with friends, and the diligence with which we set about reshaping the world in our time.

I believe that the finest carols are often sung by even weak voices, from hearts made warm by the wonder of the season.

**I believe in the angels' message that we** should not be afraid – that the Child of Bethlehem is able to overcome all anxieties and insecurities.

I believe in prayer and quietness as a way of preparing for Christmas – that if I wait in silence I will experience the presence of the One born in the stable.

I believe in going away from Christmas as the wise men went – **"another way."** I want to be different when these days are past – more centered, more thoughtful, more caring.

And I believe God will help me. Amen