

Order of Service:

Prelude: Little Drummer Boy

Welcome and Announcements

Songs: God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
Hark The Herald Angels Sing
Father of Lights

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Prayer

Puppets: Wise Men Looked Up and
Followed The Star

DVD slide show

Prayer

Scripture Readings: Matthew 2:10-12
Luke 2: 15-18

Reflection

Graceland Dancers: We Three Kings
GraceNotes: The First Noel

Song: The First Noel

Reflection

Prayer

Offering

Offertory Song:
Christmas Offering (Remain Seated)

Closing Songs: What Child Is This?
O Come All Ye Faithful

Blessing

Postlude: Go Tell It On The Mountain



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 24th, 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 30th, 2018 to January 27th, 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.

Journey to the Lands of the Bible (May 5-18)
Rev. Dale Skinner and Rev. Maryann Skinner of **St Paul's United Church in Milton would like to** invite you on a journey like no other this May 2019. An information session regarding the trip will take place from 7:30pm-8:00pm on Monday, January 7 at St. Paul's United Church, 123 Main Street East, Milton. Journey itinerary and registration forms can be accessed by Visiting: http://christian-journeys.com/destinations/israel-2/?event_id1=1670



Advent Conspiracy: Can Christmas Still 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:

- Participate in a local coat drive or donate gently used coats/boots to Friday Night **Community** or add an item to **WSUC's "Mitten Tree"**
- Spend half of what you spent last year on gifts
- Water week - Drink only water this week and set aside the money you would have spent on other drinks - **Give it to WSUC's Advent Conspiracy Donation Box** or another project that speaks to your heart
- Make a meal or baked good for a neighbour, **friend or WSUC's Food Ministry**
(contact hmackey@wsquare.ca)



Donations Welcome In The Foyer



Friday Community

This past Saturday we were blessed to host **another Ladies' Brunch event where over 90** ladies from Friday Night Community came together. Melinda Estabrooks shared her story of **God's love, grace, redemption and adoption.** It was a beautiful morning filled with powerful prayer and meaningful connections with many women on diverse spiritual journeys. We shared our lives and heartbreaking experiences **with one another...encouraging one another** to be strong and courageous no matter what our struggles .. because God is always with us, loving us, FOR us!

We will once again be collecting any unopened donations of chocolates and candy left from **your holiday parties or gifts for our New Year's raffle** which will take place on Jan. 4. Please spread the word to your families, friends and workplaces.

Most Needed Items:

- *larger sizes of winter coats, winter boots,
- *warmer ski gloves and mittens
- *candy canes & Christmas candy
- *salad bar toppings (pickles, beets, olives...)**
- *baking ingredients (chocolate chips, etc.)
- *lemonade & iced tea crystals
- *smaller wooden or Ikea type high chair
- *mattress covers (clean gently used)
- *Queen sized duvet & mattress covers
- *curtain rods, panel curtains and hardware
- *book cases (gently used & lighter)
- *large cooking stock pot, heating blanket
- *living room/bedroom lamps
- *rain and snow stroller covers for baby

For information contact: 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!

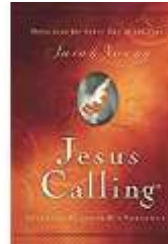
With much love,
Joy

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

JOYFUL SPIRITS - Our Christmas Celebration is Thursday, December 13 in the Pritchard Room. TIME: 6pm
POTLUCK- Please bring a finger food.
Contact Joy Magwood for more info.

"(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.

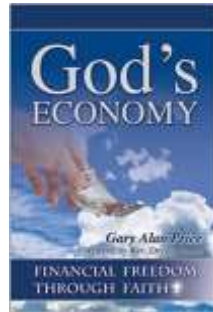
Kettles On Tea | Monday December 10th, 1:30 - 3 pm. The Singing Strummers will be performing. Please join us for fellowship and music. If anyone needs a ride, please call Joyce 905-637-5192.

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

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.



Gary Alan's book reminds the reader that if we handle our money according to the principles of scripture our fellowship with Christ will be richer and our lives will be richer.



This book is not a how to book on stewardship but is a book that reflects on scripture as it pertains to money. It offers inspirational and practical biblical wisdom for those who are seeking financial peace and a deeper God connection.



Thank you for your support of Angel Wings!

Another successful Angel Wings program has been completed as can be seen in the photograph of this year's boxes in the McMillan Room.



Gifts In Kind:

If you would like your Angel Wings gifts to be considered charitable givings (Gifts In Kind), please drop a copy of your gift receipts and your Church Account # into the Finance office and we will make sure that they are applied to your account.

Thank you for your generous support of this local outreach program.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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 and prayers.

Advent Devotional,
Candle and Prayer
Boxes:

Over the last two Sundays, each family received an Advent Gift Bag that included an Advent Devotional and Candle as well as an Advent Prayer Box with 25 scripture/prayer/activity cards. We encourage the whole family to use these resources over the Advent season to prepare our hearts for Jesus' birthday (Christmas).



Bring-a-Friend Gaga Ball Night!

Wed Dec 12th – 7-9pm –

Wellington Gym – Gr 7-12

One of our favourite games! If you've never played Gaga Ball before it's easy to learn, if you HAVE played before you know how fun it is.

Bring a friend to the gym this Wednesday night!

The Hub Youth/Young Adult

Christmas Worship Service

Gr 9+ -Sun Dec 16th 7pm



For all December events go to:

www.wsquare.ca/youth

Contact Youth Dir. Adam: Acresswell@wsquare.ca

*Songs
of
Christmas*

*For Unto Us a
Child Is Born*

*Sunday Dec 9
3pm*





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

- SAVE THE DATE -

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?

Send your written words or short videos to: 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 _____

I'VE BEEN THINKING...

...whether anyone needs 'reassurance'.

It's been suggested to me that I reaffirm and remind us all of the incredible truth and value of a friendship with the Living God.

Apparently somewhere there's a minister who now says she doesn't believe in God. 'She-who-must-not-be-named', (as my minister friends call her) is getting a few headlines and her 15 minutes of fame. Most have left her congregation – attendance is small on a Sunday morning (according to Toronto Star columnist Rosie Dimanno). United Church stats suggest Wellington Square is at least 5 times bigger than her congregation.

But she keeps her job, for the few years left until she is gone. It's important to note that it was not a decision of the full United Church of Canada. It was a decision of a small committee of Toronto Conference. The rogue minister was challenged for her 'fitness for ministry' (or lack thereof). She 'lawyer-ed up', threatening a long expensive lawsuit for wrongful dismissal.

The committee decided not to waste our church's money and time. Why bother? Were they correct, or should she be 'slam-dunked'?

ON the one hand, It does raise questions; and cause embarrassment; and make some angry and ashamed. On the other hand, she loves the attention, the headlines, and the spotlight- so maybe just ignore her, and keep living our faith with joy and gusto.

I kinda go in that direction. I've been influenced by the wisdom of Gamaliel, a teacher of the law in the ancient Jerusalem Council (Acts 5). The early followers of Jesus were excitedly telling everyone about the Resurrection, and of God's coming in the Christ. The authorities of the day wanted them to stop, shut-up, cease & desist. So they arrested them and dragged them into court. But when the judges were discussing what to do, Gamaliel said this: *"...keep away from these men and let them alone; because if this plan or this undertaking is of human origin, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them."* (Acts 5: 38 & 39)

Exactly right. This silly rogue minister will have her 15 minutes. And God loves her, and wants to embrace her with grace and mercy and truth.

Our task is to continue our quest as disciples of Jesus, trusting in the Living God who rolls across space and time, who has come in the baby of Bethlehem, and who has redeemed humanity and begun a great restoration project, in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

He is on the throne of history. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad.

Christ has come. Christ is coming again.

Thanks be to God.

Grace & Peace to you, *ORVILLE*