

## HCUC update for January 7, 2024

Happy New Year!

It looks like our streaming system didn't want to cooperate as usual for this morning's service. It appears that it didn't record any audio. Everything looks like it's working fine (including audio) and the recording can't be changed. We'll do our best to go live a little earlier next week and check.

In today's service, we wondered about the Magi and the gifts they brought. We talked about our favourite gifts we received this year. For most of us, it was the gift of the family getting together. The takeaway from the sermon was in always looking for hope, looking for light, taking risks, and trying new things. In my personal prayers yesterday, I asked God for inspiration as we look to being and doing church in 2024 and hopefully for many years to come. And I dreamt about the church. Some of the dreams looked like great realities and some were crazy. The pews were being replaced with comfy seating that was unique to just our church. The music was very different, in a good way. And young people came to church. Four groups met in the building at the same time and a fabulous community spirit was felt. So... I wonder... what things can we try this year to share our faith, to grow together, to become a stronger community? What and how do we do this while sharing the practical gifts that we were gifted to us from God – our talents, our creativity, our time, our skills, and our dreams. And as we try some different things out, please know that your feedback is important.

**In our prayers:** Cliff Bricker still recovering from surgery; Carolyn Wilson and her health (no updates since before Christmas)

**Nightwear:** Thanks to all who participated and purchased nightwear for the holidays. \$250 was earned. Thanks to Gail for that opportunity!

**Christmas Dinner for the Men's Shelter:** A huge thank you to all who helped with providing a Christmas dinner for the Men's shelter. The timing worked out well and all the food came on time. We'll put this support program on our radar for Christmas 2024. Don & Mary Hawkins dropped the food off and said that the residents and staff were extremely thankful and appreciative.

### **Seniors Lunch Speaker Series:**

Monday, January 29 at 11:00AM Lisa from Downsizing Diva will join us again for a presentation focused only on decluttering.

Monday, February 26 at 11:00AM Chartwell Retirement Residences will be making a presentation. The opportunity for a tour may be available that afternoon as well. Stay tuned.

**Annual Meeting Reports:** Annual General Meeting's committee/team reports will be due at the end of January. Please send your reports in to the office.

**A Few New Things:**

Fridays between 10:30 and 10:50AM those who are on a weight-loss journey can come in and get weighed in for some light-hearted accountability.

Reading the New Testament through 2024 – all are encouraged to read one chapter of the New Testament on weekdays (taking weekends off). Rev. Jan will offer questions for us to ponder. Conversations about the readings are always encouraged – especially in things you might not have read or noticed or some things you wonder about.

Week One (January 1 to January 5)

Monday – Matthew 1

Tuesday – Matthew 2

Wednesday – Matthew 3

Thursday – Matthew 4

Friday – Matthew 5

Questions: Did you read anything that seemed new? Why do you think Joseph's family line was included in Matthew 1? If you were to only read these five chapters of the Bible (nothing more, nothing less), what would your understanding be of who Jesus is and what Jesus does and does it differ from what you normally think?

Week Two (January 8 to January 12)

Monday – Matthew 6

Tuesday – Matthew 7

Wednesday – Matthew 8

Thursday – Matthew 9

Friday – Matthew 10

Questions: What are some assumptions we might make of the people Jesus was preaching to and teaching? How did Jesus heal others? If you were to draft up a simple contract for the disciples, what things would be included?

**Upcoming Worship Services**

Sunday, January 21 – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sunday, January 28 – Bell Let's Talk Day \*\*Annual Soup Competition

Sunday, February 4 – Candlemas

Sunday, February 11 – Transfiguration & Superbowl Sunday

Sunday, February 18 – Family Day Weekend

Sunday, February 25 – Annual General Meeting during worship \*Stew Competition

**Upcoming Schedule:**

**Sunday, January 7:** 8:00PM Weekly Prayers online only, live

**Monday, January 8:** Office Closed

**Tuesday, January 9**

Office closed and programs cancelled due to possible storm. (If the weather changes significantly and the storm is called off, we will resume programs.)

**Wednesday, January 10**

If the road conditions are okay and the weather is good:

12:00PM – Fairweather Walkers (indoor walking video)

12:30PM - Choir Practice

**Thursday, January 11:** Office Closed

**Friday, January 12**

10:30 to 10:50AM - \*New\* Accountability Weigh-In

11:00AM SMART Exercise Program (about 1 hour long)

**Saturday, January 13:** Office Closed

**Sunday, January 14**

10:30AM – Worship Service (World Logic Day)

Reader: Debbie Baker; Greeter: Sheila Orton; Refreshments: Darlene K

8:00PM – Weekly Prayers (Online only, live)

**Prayer:** God of revealing light, light the way of our community in the days and year ahead. Help us to share what sense of community you long for in our world. Be in our hearts, minds, and our souls as we try new things and dive into a world of possibilities. Help us to be hope. Amen.

Blessings from Rev. Jan

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