



Advent Theme- 2023 ‘A Thrill of Hope-the Weary World Rejoices’

The Worship Committee has chosen the Advent Theme- ‘*A Thrill of Hope-The Weary World Rejoices*’ taken from the beloved carol, ‘O Holy Night’.

Jesus was born into a weary world. King Herod ruled the land with a legacy of ruthlessness. The Romans treated the people of Israel with contempt, imposing harsh taxes and land seizures that forced many into subsistence farming. Poverty and destitution were pervasive. And yet, Christ was born, bringing good news of great joy for all people.

As Advent comes again to a weary world, we ask, this year, ‘how does a weary world rejoice?’ From the opening chapters of Luke’s gospel, we can find a few answers: we acknowledge our weariness, we find joy in connection, we allow ourselves to be amazed, we sing stories of hope, we make room, we root ourselves in ritual, and most importantly, we trust our belovedness.

In the parallel birth stories of Jesus and John, joy arrives—despite trepidation, fear, or grief. In these stories, we find rhythms for rejoicing.

And so, this Advent, we will hold space for our weariness *and* our joy. We will seek a ‘thrill of hope’ in our hurting world. We will welcome joy—even if, like the prophet Isaiah, we cry out for comfort (Isaiah 40:1). In this weary world, may we find many ways to rejoice.

Advent Calendars will be available on the Welcome Table for the next few Sundays; be sure to pick one up for yourself or for a friend!

The Worship Committee wishes you and yours a blessed Advent/Christmas season!

December 3 Advent 1 Hope

December 10 Advent 2 Peace Carols by Candlelight ‘Sing Nowell’
4 pm & 7:30 pm

December 17 Advent 3 Joy Pageant (virtual) **11 am**

December 18 Christmas Calm (Blue Christmas) 7 pm (Thompson Funeral Home)

December 24 Advent 4 Love Communion **11 am**
Christmas Eve Trinity Sanctuary **5 pm**

December 31 Christmas 1 Worship **11 am**



Aurora United Church

December 10, 2023~11 am

Church Office Hours 9 am ~ 12 pm (noon) Monday ~ Thursday

Aurora United Church Office 905-727-1935 x 21 ~ www.auroraunitedchurch.ca

Annual License w/Podcasting, no. A-718074 for Mar 01, 2023- Feb 28, 2024

Hearing assists available from the volunteer in the sound booth.



The Life and Work of our Congregation continues.....

December 10th to December 17th~ Advent 2 Peace

Sun. Dec 10 cash card order	11 am—Worship ~ Advent 2 Peace 11:15—Funday Sunday ~ children’s program 4 pm & 7:30 pm Carols by Candlelight
Mon. Dec 11	7 pm—AUC Council ~ Binions Hall
Tues. Dec 12	10:30 am—Sunrise of Aurora~ service 6:30 pm—UCW Pot Luck Dinner ~ Binions Hall
Wed. Dec 13	10 am—2 pm—Aurora Community Café ~ St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church 10:30 am Chartwell Park Place ~ service 5 pm Welcome Table ~ Trinity Anglican 5:30 pm – 6:45 pm – Faith-A-Peal, Handbells ~ Sanctuary 7 pm – 8:15 pm – Bellissimo, Handbells ~ Sanctuary 7:30 pm –Finance Committee ~ Sacristy
Thurs. Dec 14	11:30 am – 1 pm – Martha’s Table ~ St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church 7-8:30 pm—Chancel Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
Sat. Dec 16	9:30 am -10:30 pm—Rise & Shine Breakfast ~ Binions Hall
Sun. Dec 17 cash card order	11 am - Worship ~ Advent 3 Joy—Pageant 11:15—Funday Sunday ~ children’s program 2 pm—AgeCare Aurora ~ service

AUC Carols by Candlelight Sing Nowell

AUC Chancel Choir & Handbell Ensembles
Aldbury Gardens Brass Quintet
Tim Hendrickson, trumpet Wesley Bell violin

December 10th, 4pm and 7:30 pm

COME EARLY to join in the Christmas spirit with carol singing

Funday Sunday -Children’s Program



The Funday Sunday Children’s Program is for children from Grades 1-4. Children go downstairs to Binions Hall following the lighting of the orange candle.

Children will return upstairs following the service.



Advent Awareness!

The Outreach Committee invites you to join the Advent journey through the United Church of Canada's *Gifts with Vision* program – **The Basics of Kindness.**



Over 300 young mothers ages 13 to 24, with very low or no income, come to Abiona Centre (formerly Massey Centre and Humewood House) in Toronto for support each year.

Often, they are fleeing violence or difficult situations. They want to stabilize their lives and provide the best start they can for their babies. A large source of stress for the young mothers is the high cost of baby supplies like clothing, diapers, and formula. They will choose to go without food or care for themselves to ensure their little ones are taken care of first. Helping these women meet their babies' basic needs will allow them to shift their focus to parenting, so they can go back to school and plan for the future.

Your Gift of \$45 will help provide a month of formula for one baby.

Our goal is to raise \$2500 over the season of Advent to support the Basics of Kindness program.

Would your office co-workers, neighbours, hockey team, curling team, extended family etc. be interested in capturing the true meaning of Christmas giving? You may mail your donation to the church, with "Advent Appeal" in memo line (15186 Yonge St. Aurora ON L4G 1L9), make an e-transfer with the notation "Advent Appeal" in the comment box, drop it off at the AUC office during the week, or in Binions Hall to Rev. Andy on Saturday morning between 9:30 -10:30 am.

Contacting Our Church Staff by Phone 905-727-1935 or Email

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar x 23 Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care
Rev. Andy Comar x 22 Minister of Faith Formation & Pastoral Care
Suzanne Whitehurst x 21 Secretary
Trevor Gibbs x 24 Bookkeeper
Margaret Heney x 26 Music Coordinator
Lisa Kyriakides x 27 Handbell Choir Director

Thank you!

Thank you to all the people who purchased poinsettias and donated them for distribution to members of our AUC family in Retirement and Long-Term Care homes as well as families who have experienced a bereavement this year.

Thanks also to the team of people who helped to write Christmas cards and deliver them along with the poinsettias during the week after Dec. 1st.



Aurora Community Café

Running from November 29th, and runs until December 20th

10 am - 2 pm at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Aurora

Come and enjoy a pop-up, non-profit Café, serving fair trade coffee, tea, lunch items and fresh baked goods.

The café offers work experience for adults with differing abilities and a space for the community to come together.

Come and join us and see what is new at the Café

For more information see and weekly menu:
<https://www.auroraunitedchurch.ca/serve-at-aurora-united/aurora->

News From the Edge



Church Community Update November 2023

Fall has provided some exciting steps forward as the EDGE Committee met with AUC's new Project Manager, Scott McIvor, from the Dalton Company to review the construction plan for the Aurora United Church building.

Here are some of the updates we are excited about:

- The Dalton Company provided the EDGE committee with a Preliminary Construction Schedule that maps out the timelines of the project clearly identifying the milestones with dates.
- Construction scheduled to begin mid-October 2023 with the completion of the exterior slated for September 2024 at which time the interior work will commence.
- Substantial Performance, which by definition means the building is ready for its intended use, is slated for May 2025.
- Dalton has created spacious meeting rooms and work spaces in the basement of the church for their ongoing work.
- Currently the form work is being constructed for the two stair towers.

As the Amica building has been surging ahead in the past months, soon the AUC building will take the dominant role as the building rises up to meet the sky.

EDGE and our construction teams continue to search for savings in time and cost. Through value engineering, by identifying our priorities and deferring some building features to a later date, substantial savings have already been discovered.



UCW Potluck Dinner

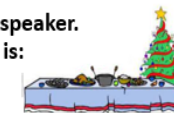
for all Women in the congregation

Come join us for a festive evening of good food and fellowship
on Tuesday, December 12 in Binions Hall.
We gather around 6:00 and dinner begins at 6:30.

Please bring a potluck dish as well as your plates, mug and cutlery.



Rev. Evelyn McLachlan is our guest speaker.
The topic of her presentation is:
"Do You Have Room?"



All women of the church are invited



Christmas Shopping made easy

Accepting orders any time up
to December 17th.

Everything from grocery, gas,
spas, food eateries and even
Amazon gift cards are
available.

For the full list see: [https://
www.auroraunitedchurch.ca/
connect/cash-cards--43](https://www.auroraunitedchurch.ca/connect/cash-cards--43)

The Life and Work of our Congregation continues