



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 17, 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.



December 17th to December 24th~ Advent 4 Joy

Sun. Dec 17 cash card order	11 am—Worship ~ Advent 3 Joy 11:15—Funday Sunday ~ children’s program 2 pm—AgeCare Aurora ~ service
Mon. Dec 18	4 pm- 6 pm —Embellished ~ Binions Hall 7 pm—Woman Spirit ~ Minister’s office
Tues. Dec 19	7 pm—AUC Book Club ~ Home of Nelson and Marilyn Patterson
Wed. Dec 20	9 am—AUC breakfast ~ Sunset Grill 5 pm—Welcome Table ~ Trinity Anglican 5:15 pm – 6:45 pm – Faith-A-Peal, Handbells ~ Sanctuary 7 pm – 8:15 pm – Bellissimo, Handbells ~ Sanctuary
Thurs. Dec 21	11:30 am – 1 pm – Martha’s Table ~ St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church 7-8:30 pm—Chancel Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
Sat. Dec 23	9:30 am -10:30 pm—Rise & Shine Breakfast ~ Binions Hall
Sun. Dec 24	11 am - Worship ~ Advent 4 Love

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.



Pastoral Care Committee

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

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

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

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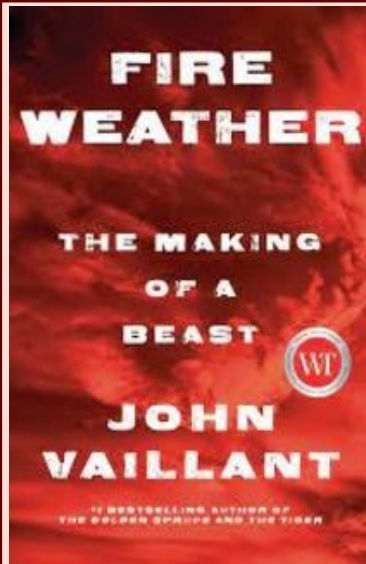


Funday Sunday - Children's Program

Please note there will be no 'Funday Sunday' on Sunday 24th, and the 31st.

The friends will be back meeting again Sunday January 7th.

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.



BOOK CLUB

(NEW YORK TIMES TOP TEN BOOK OF THE YEAR)

Fire Weather (John Vaillant)

Christmas gathering will be at the home of Nels and Marilyn Patterson.

Call or e-mail Rev. Lorraine for the address: lorraine@auroraunitedchurch.ca

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.

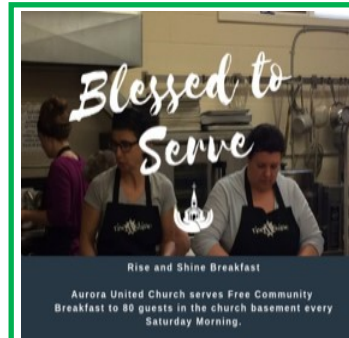
EDGE and our construction teams continue to search for savings in time and cost. Through value engineering, by identifying our priorities and deferring some building features to a later date, substantial savings have already been discovered.



Coffee Time

Join us following Worship to greet friends, ~ old and new.

-please note there will be no coffee time following Worship on Dec 24th, or Dec 31st.



Rise and Shine Breakfast

We are pleased to share that the Rise and Shine Breakfast will not be taking a break over the holidays.

Breakfast will be served both on Saturday December 23rd and on Saturday December 31st.

We hope you will join us!



Cash Cards

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>

The Life and Work of our Congregation continues...