

**RECOGNITION OF TERRITORY AND TREATY**

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and the Anishnaabe first peoples, covered by the Fort Albany Treaty in 1701. With respect for their history, their spirituality and their culture, we give thanks for God's gift of gathering in this space on this land.



**AFFIRMING STATEMENT**

Port Nelson is an Affirming Ministry of The United Church of Canada. We affirm, include, and celebrate people of every age, race, belief, culture, ability, income level, family configuration, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation in our life and ministry.

**PORT NELSON NOTEBOOK NOVEMBER 29, 2020**



**OUR VALUES**

*Affirming ~ Caring ~ Growing Spiritually ~ Reaching Out*



**CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMS**

**A staffed nursery** for infants and toddlers, with a pager system, is available from 10.00am. Please speak to an usher for assistance. All equipment and toys will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized before each use of the nursery.  
*Sundays at 10.30am*

**Adventure Crew** is for children SK to Grade 5 to explore Christianity through stories, music, crafts and games. Adventure Crew will also be available live via Zoom concurrently with the in-person program; contact Sharon for the link; this link will be active at 10.40am each Sunday morning. Contact Sharon Holmes:

[sharonholmes@portnelsonunitedchurch.com](mailto:sharonholmes@portnelsonunitedchurch.com)

**Pinnacle Young Leaders** is for youth in Grades 5 – 12 to build leadership skills and explore current issues from a faith perspective. Pinnacle will also be available live via Google Meets concurrently with the in-person program; contact Jay by text at 905-691-0148 for the link; this link will be active at 10.40am each Sunday morning. Contact Jay Poitras:

[jaypoitras@portnelsonunitedchurch.com](mailto:jaypoitras@portnelsonunitedchurch.com)

**UPCOMING WORSHIP AT 10.30AM**

**December 6** Second Sunday of Advent – PEACE  
*Service of Communion at 11.30am*



**\*\*NOTE:** A full list of Advent and Christmas events is available today and is also posted online.

**WITH MANY THANKS!**

This morning we thank Alex Hutchinson for his work as our AV Technician. Alex was instrumental in helping the church be a leader in live streaming services which we have been doing since March, 2019. Throughout the pandemic, Alex offered leadership with both live streaming and pre-recording services and other events to keep us connected when we were physically isolated. We are most grateful to him for this! Of course, Alex, Denise and Leo continue as part of our Port Nelson Church family.

**LIVESTREAM VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED**

Interested in learning a new skill, or have a passion for technology? The Port Nelson AV team is looking for additional AV operators to stream services and events at the church! This is a fantastic opportunity to learn a new skill and provide a valuable service to the community. Volunteer hours can be provided for high school students. No previous experience with AV or streaming is required! Please contact:

Grant Sweeny [grantsweeny@me.com/905-517-0286](mailto:grantsweeny@me.com/905-517-0286)

**TODAY**

**Ushers:** Ron Beckett, Nancy & Rod McGrath, Pat Gilmore

**Greeters:** Amber & Don Liddle, Susanne Zinkie

*Please check in with a greeter upon arrival (please provide full name and contact information).*

*If you have a name tag, please wear it to church.*



The church office will be **closed** on Monday November 30. The office will be re-open on Tuesday, December 1 at 9am

**FINANCIAL OFFERINGS**

There are several ways you can support the church's ministries:

**Cheques** - can be mailed, dropped off to the church, or placed on the Sunday offering plate

**PAR** - monthly Pre-Authorized Remittance

**Online giving** - [www.portnelsonunitedchurch.com](http://www.portnelsonunitedchurch.com)

**Etransfer** - [office@portnelsonunitedchurch.com](mailto:office@portnelsonunitedchurch.com)

**Credit and Debit "tap" now available in the office and on Sunday mornings!** Visit the table in the Gathering Place after services for contactless giving.

**Please Note:** unless designated otherwise, offerings will go to General funds.

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**



2	Ann Fleming	9	Nancy McGrath
13	Linda Barnett	16	Marilyn Parsons
19	Anneka Van Gemert	21	Scott Brooks

**The Staff of Port Nelson United Church**

- Michael Brooks, Minister
- Martha Reynolds, Minister of Pastoral Care
- Candy Harvey, Voluntary Associate Minister
- Stillman Matheson, Director of Music
- Sharon Holmes, Developer of Children's Ministry
- Jay Poitras, Developer of Youth Ministry
- Kelly Rogers, Nursery Coordinator
- Jennifer Bath, Church Administrator
- Paul Pincente, Bookkeeper
- Rick Tucker, Church Custodian
- Tina Depko, Security/Lock-up
- Tina Depko & Riley Denver, Communications
- Grant Sweeny, AV Technician

## SERVING AND CARING

### Food Voucher Program

Participants in this program will continue to be contacted by telephone and gift cards will be mailed to those in dire need. Please indicate "Food Voucher Program" when making a donation.

If you would like to support the food voucher program by purchasing gift cards for gift giving (or personal use)

Contact: [Joan Thompson 905-319-9202](mailto:Joan.Thompson@portnelsonunitedchurch.com)



**Last day to order for Christmas delivery is December 11!**

### Help to Families at Christmas

There are always families in our community who need extra assistance with gifts for children at Christmastime. We are looking for 6-8 people who would have fun doing some Christmas shopping for these families (all costs will be reimbursed and you will be given guidance on ages of children, requests, etc.), and 6-8 people who would have fun delivering the gifts. Interested in helping?

Contact Carolyn Ellison: [hal.ellison@sympatico.ca](mailto:hal.ellison@sympatico.ca)



### Meals of Hope

Our new "Meals of Hope" program is a continuation of the partnership that we have always had with the Friday Night Community. We will be making and packing meals in our kitchen to deliver to Wellington Square for distribution.

If you are interested in helping or would like more information please contact: [Pat Gilmore 905-802-8761 patgilmore3@gmail.com](mailto:Pat.Gilmore@portnelsonunitedchurch.com) or [Nancy McKenzie 905-483-0858 nancymckenzie59@gmail.com](mailto:Nancy.McKenzie@portnelsonunitedchurch.com)

Not a chef? Donations welcome, or sponsor a dinner for 50 for \$300. Please indicate "Meals of Hope" when making a donation.



### Burlington Food Bank

Donations can be made through the church or sent directly to the Burlington Food Bank 1A-1254 Plains Road East Burlington, ON L7S 1W6 [www.burlingtonfoodbank.ca](http://www.burlingtonfoodbank.ca)  
Please indicate "Food Bank" when making a donation.

### Seeds of Life Update

Our soybeans were harvested on September 30, and on October 9 we planted winter wheat which will be harvested in the summer of 2021. All of the proceeds from the sale of the soybeans, together with your donations after expenses, were a total of over **\$78,000**. On November 9 this amount was sent to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. The money will be used to help fund the overseas programs of our member churches, working to end global hunger. Many people have helped us to make this a successful year at Seeds of Life and thanks to you all once again for your support. If you would like to help us with next years' crop, please go to HOW YOU CAN HELP on our website [www.seeds-of-life.ca](http://www.seeds-of-life.ca). Your donations from now to the end of 2020 will receive an official tax receipt from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Blessings and stay safe

- Scott Brooks

## SMALL GROUPS

### Advent Reflection Group – Wednesdays

Michael Brooks leads an online Advent reflection group on Wednesdays in December from 11am to 12noon using Zoom. We begin on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, using the *Calendar of Devotions* available this morning. Visit the church website for the link, or look for it in the weekly email newsletter. If you would like a devotion booklet delivered to you, please contact the church office.

### Zoom Cafe

*The Tuesday Café will break for December. The Thursday Café will host their last meet for the year on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>*

Thursdays from 10.00am to 11.00am, hosted by Martha Reynolds: [marthareynolds@portnelsonunitedchurch.com](mailto:marthareynolds@portnelsonunitedchurch.com)

### Caring Wisdom Circle – via ZOOM

Thursdays from 1:30pm - 3:00pm via ZOOM. This is an open circle where all are welcome for conversation that challenges, enhances and supports our life-long learning journey! For more information and for the link to join, contact Laurel Grace: [laurelg43@gmail.com/905-699-2290](mailto:laurelg43@gmail.com)

### Candlelight Vigil: December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm

A time to reflect on events of the past and the present while sending intentions for a change in the hearts of those who have perpetrated violence, so that love and peace can prevail.



## From the Port Nelson United Church Archives

Did you know that the open Bible on the communion table (published in 1865) has the following inscription?

***Presented to Mr. Richard Cole by  
The Teachers and Scholars of  
Wellington Square Wesleyan Methodist Sabbath School  
As a token of their affection and of their appreciation  
of his valuable services in the  
School for many years.  
Wellington Square Feb. 3, 1870***

Richard Cole first attended worship in Fisher's Corners School (QEW and Guelph Line) and was one of the people responsible for establishing the Sabbath School. In 1868 Wellington Square Methodist Episcopal Church was built on the corner of Elizabeth St. (Royal Canadian Sea Cadets). In 1886 they moved to a new larger building further north on Elizabeth St. beside Knox Presbyterian. Renamed Trinity United at church union in 1925 it was demolished when Wellington Square United was built on Caroline Street. Renamed Trinity United at church union in 1925, it was demolished when Wellington Square United was built on Caroline Street. At that time, the need was identified for a new congregation in the growing Roseland area. The Fisher family was part of the original group from Trinity that was tasked to begin Port Nelson United. The Bible is a reminder of our roots and original connection with Trinity.

## **Advent and Christmas Services at Port Nelson**

*Sunday services will be in-person and live streamed on the  
Port Nelson YouTube Channel*

**Sunday, November 29 at 10.30am** First Sunday of Advent – HOPE

**Sunday, December 6 at 10.30am** Second Sunday of Advent – PEACE  
Service of Communion at 11.30am

**Sunday, December 13 at 10.30am** Third Sunday of Advent - JOY  
Gifts Service led by our youth with drama "A Pandemic Christmas"  
\*Carols at 10.20am

**Sunday, December 20 at 10.30am** Fourth Sunday of Advent - LOVE  
\*Carols at 10.20am

**CHRISTMAS EVE - Thursday, December 24**  
**Christmas Eve Family Service with Pageant at 5pm**  
*Online Only*

**\*\*Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service at 9pm**  
*Live & Online*

**\*\*Pre-registration required for this service.**

*Please phone or email the church office with contact information for all attending.  
Limit of 100 in-person attendees. Seating will be available at the door if space  
permits.*

### **Christmas in the Community - Sundays at 4.30pm**

*In this pandemic year, we offer two special musical events  
to lift spirits as we celebrate the birth of Christ*



**Sunday, December 13 at 4.30pm**

**Christmas Concert *Online Only***

Katelyn Emery, violin

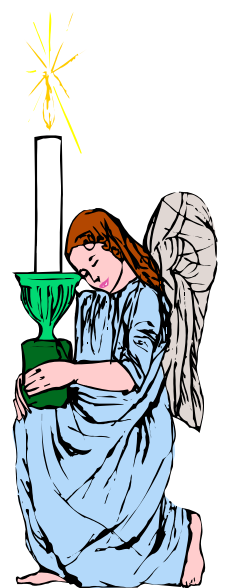
Christopher Gaudreault, piano

**Sunday, December 20 at 4.30pm**

**Festival of Lessons and Carols *Online Only***

Presented by: Soloists, Instrumentalists, and Readers

*Featuring traditional and contemporary carol*





## Gifts Service – December 13

Can you believe that December begins in just a few days? And with December takes our minds to Christmas. One of the wonderfully generous things that happens here at Port Nelson every December is our Gifts Service. This year our Gifts Service will be on Sunday, December 13th in support of Wesley Urban Ministries in Hamilton. With the pandemic, things at Wesley will look different. Christmas Hampers for families will be assembled rather than an in-person store shopping experience. The following items are needed:

### Toys, Food, Winter Clothing:

You are invited to bring new gifts of toys, as well as food items and new or gently used hats, mittens, socks, winter boots and coats (so if you missed the Coat Drive – you are still in luck).

### Gift Cards:

The greatest need this year is for gift cards. These will be easier to distribute in the hampers. Walmart, Giant Tiger, Food Basics, Supercentre, Canadian Tire are all popular ones. For us here at Port Nelson this is a win-win situation. If you purchase your gift cards through Joan Thompson, our Food Voucher Program will also benefit. Deadline to purchase through Joan is December 6.

### Stockings with Toiletries:

A couple years ago, the Adventure Crew and Pinnacle began the Red Stocking portion of the Gift Service. We are carrying on this tradition as toiletries are always in need. If you would like to fill a stocking with toiletries, there are a few stockings at the back of the church. Please take your stocking home, fill it with toiletries and bring your stocking back on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

### What if I am worshipping at Home?

Items can be dropped off at the church office Monday to Friday during regular office hours.

Thank-you! We look forward to the Gifts Service on December 13!



## Refugee Update

Hamza Raslan became a Canadian citizen in March. He now has his G driving licence. Hamza has worked throughout the pandemic, even on some weekends. Hamza is very concerned about his mother and two younger sisters in Syria. Marym, the older sister, finished high school and passed entrance exams to Al-Baath University in Homs. The family lived in the country and thought it would be better for the family to move to Homs as it was not safe for Marym to travel there and back every day on her own. One day when they were in Homs looking for an apartment their home in the country was robbed of everything of value, including \$300.00 that Hamza had sent them and they had hidden away. Hamza is their sole source of income and sends money to his mother on a regular basis. The family now has a 2-bedroom apartment in Homs near the university. Nour, Hamza's youngest sister is attending an elementary school in Homs. Marym is taking a 4-year Education program at the university which will qualify her to teach at elementary school level. Hamza sent money for Marym's admission fees, books, and tuition for the first semester. Hamza's family has two mattresses on the floor of their apartment but no furniture. The Refugee Group has given financial support for Hamza to send to his mother to buy beds, a kitchen table and chairs, etc.

A joint application was filed with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada by Hamza and the Port Nelson Refugee Group in May to sponsor Hamza's family to Canada on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. Because of the pandemic, work had stopped on refugee files. To date, we have not received a government case file number for the application.