

Dates To Remember

Church office will be closed Dec. 22 through Jan. 1, 2024	
Jan. 3	No Silent Prayer meeting. Will resume Jan. 10 at 3:00 p.m.
7	Baptism of the Lord
14	Holy Communion
21	Food Bank Sunday

NOTE: Some of these dates and times are subject to change.



Dhai, a woman in her early forties from Pakistan, has faced hardships throughout her life. She cared for her husband, who was disabled, until his death. She later became the sole provider for her family, working as a cook for a local landowner, which allowed her to support her family. Heavy rains in Pakistan in 2022 caused her house to collapse, leaving her family without a home. Through all this Dhai remained hopeful as she explained, "If the aid comes, it will be good." Fortunately, Dhai and her family found solace and assistance through the PWS&D-supported Humanitarian, Early Recovery and Development project, which provided them with essential food aid as well as better resilience to future disasters.



PCC Daily Prayer – We end the year in praise for God's loving kindness and care, and we pray for peace in the world.

One Mission, Two Funds

Your gifts to Presbyterians Sharing and Presbyterian World Service & Development make a difference!



Presbyterians Sharing supports the overall mission and ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Congregations are encouraged to raise an accepted allocation each year.

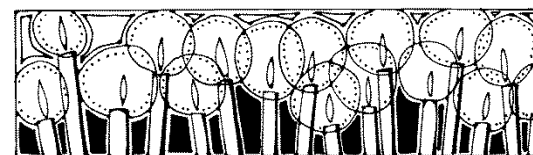


Presbyterian World Service & Development is the PCC's development and relief agency. PWS&D raises funds directly from congregations and individuals and through government grants - over and above gifts to Presbyterians Sharing. International Ministries mission staff funded through Presbyterians Sharing, often work with PWS&D partners.

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Monday – Thursday
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Phone: 519-438-3492 Hall: 519-438-3491
Email: contact@elmwoodchurch.ca
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**Community
Caring
Christ**



**First
Sunday after
Christmas**

December 31, 2023

Minister: The Rev. Dr. Andrew Fullerton

Music Director: Bonnie Neaves

Today's Organist: Lorraine Clark, A. Mus., B.Mus., B.Ed.

Organist Emeritus: Bert Van der Hoek, ARCCO

Welcome!

Our mission as a congregation, with the Holy Spirit as our guide, is to share the good news of Jesus Christ in the world, and to fulfill our responsibilities to God and our neighbours.

An offering can be made in one of the offering plates upon entering or leaving.

*If able, please stand where indicated with an * asterisk.*

Prelude: Noel Huron

Denis Bédard

Various Arrangements of Christmas Carols

Words of Welcome and Announcements

We Gather To Worship God

Lighting of the Advent Candle

*Call to Worship

*Hymn: **Angels from the realms of glory**

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Prayer of Adoration and Confession

L: Lord, have mercy upon us

P: Christ, have mercy upon us

L: Lord, have mercy upon us

Prayer for the Day

P: Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Passing of the Peace
L: The Peace of Christ be with you all
P: And also with you

*Hymn: **See amid the winter's snow**

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Hear the Word of God

Prayer of Illumination

First Reading: **Isaiah 61:10-62:-3** (pgs. 802-r, 725-w, 604-NRSV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord

P: Thanks be to God

Responsive Psalm: **148**

***Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.*

Galatians 4:4-7 (pgs.1250 -r, 1130-w, 947-NRSV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord

P: Thanks be to God

St. Luke 2:22-40 (pgs. 1099-r, 992-w, 832-NRSV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Risen Lord,

P: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

*Hymn: **Infant holy, Infant lowly**

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Sermon

We Respond in Faith and Service

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

L: Lord, in your mercy

P: Hear our prayer

The Lord's Prayer (debts)

*Hymn: **Joy to the world**

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*Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Amen

Postlude: Noel

L.C. Daquin



Please note: No photos or filming permitted without the express permission of the participants involved. Thank you.



Stewardship Moment: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before God with thanksgiving and extol God with music and song. *Psalm 95:1-2*



Our thanks to Lorraine Clark for leading the musical segments of our worship service this morning while Bonnie Neaves enjoys some much deserved time off.



Welcome Visitors! - Thank you for worshipping with us today, at Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church. You have enriched our community and we hope the service held meaning and beauty for you. Please feel free to remain after the worship service and join us in Fleck Hall for refreshments. You may wish to visit us on the web at www.elmwoodchurch.ca to learn more about us and what opportunities are available for personal spiritual growth and service to others. If you are not an involved member of a faith community, but seeking one, we invite you to return here any Sunday for worship and fellowship.

If you would like to speak to the minister, or have him visit, you are very welcome to be in touch with him. Please contact the church office 519-438-3492 or email afullerton@elmwoodchurch.ca



Annual Report time is fast approaching. The 2023 written and financial forms have been emailed to the group and committee leaders. If you require hard copies of these forms, please contact Karen in the church office.

Completion date is January 14, 2024....or earlier please! If you are not the person responsible for the completion of these forms, please ensure they are directed and received by the appropriate person. Thank you!



For the months of January and February, please consider donating the following items, either new or gently used: facecloths, hand towels, facial tissue, laundry detergent - preferably pods.

This collection will be available to our diners at our March 2024 Community Breakfast. If you prefer to donate cash or cheque, please feel free to do so. Cheques are to be made payable to Elmwood Ave. Presbyterian Church Mission Project, please and thank you.

Ark Aid Mission Top Winter Needs: underwear (long, thermal, regular), razors, chapstick, hand warmers, socks, blankets, sleeping bags, hats, mitts, scarves, flashlights & batteries, tarps, winter boots, backpacks, reusable bags, deodorant. For more information including specific needs and volunteer opportunities follow @Ark Aid London on Facebook. Donate: donate@arkaidmission.com or at www.arkaidmission.com

Give a gift with meaning! - The **2023-24 Gifts of Change** - catalogue supports marginalized communities across Canada and around the world. Not only is giving a gift from this catalogue unique, but you can be sure your gifts will be used to carry out life-changing programs that are responding to the needs of people affected by poverty, hunger, natural disasters and conflict. Catalogues available in the Narthex and church office.

Send a Gift of Hope card - Make a gift in the name of a friend or family member and a card will be sent acknowledging the donation. When you complete your online donation, enter their name, address and a brief message. You may also call the PWS&D office at 1-800-619-7301 ext. 291 and they will send them a card on your behalf. Your loved ones will be honoured to know that they inspired your generosity.