

# Streetsville United Church

## Fall Tidings 2020

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[www.streetsvilleunited.ca](http://www.streetsvilleunited.ca)



### CALENDAR

**Sunday Services** 10 am

In person services (while complying to Provincial and Municipal directives).

Also streaming live!

### Special Services

**Oct 11** Thanksgiving

**Nov 8** Remembrance Sunday

**Nov 29** Communion

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mon Nov 7 & 16 – Study Group “Our Stories of Faith” 7:00 pm.** For more information [Click Here](#)

**Mon Dec 7, 14 & 21 – Study Group “People Who Dream” 7:00 pm.** For more information [Click Here](#)

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### MINISTER’S MESSAGE

“For one minute, walk outside, stand there, in silence. Look up at the sky and contemplate how amazing life is.”

I came across this quote the other day on social media, it was not attributed to anyone, but whoever said it, perhaps in passing gave us a sage bit of simple advice that, in times like these we can easily put into practice. These are strange and difficult days. And having come through over six months of pandemic, a challenging time of reopening and back to school, and looking ahead to a very different Thanksgiving and Christmas season, it is very easy to get discouraged. We are anxious to see the covid numbers rise day by day, we are worried about our loved ones and what the future holds, we miss being able to gather with family and friends for celebrations or simple evenings out. We miss singing. And we miss the theatre. We miss concerts, ball games, hugs and handshakes. We are a people grieving. But we are also an Easter people. And we know that our God brings new life out of the darkest of days.

We are experiencing this grace too.

I am so thankful to be here at Streetsville as your new minister, and I am excited to see what new things God is doing here. I’m excited to see where God will lead us, how God will call us, and what new opportunities God will bring our way. I’m excited to do ministry with you in this changed and changing time, to see how God is bringing new life into our midst, and how we will reflect God’s love, together, in this community. And I hope you are too. This is a strange time to be starting new ministry together, but God is in this and will continue to guide us as we find our way.

There are so many things for which I am thankful this year, and here at the church I am especially thankful for the hard work of our reopening team who made our return to the sanctuary possible. I am also very thankful for our tech team who enabled virtual worship and who continue to work so diligently to livestream on Sunday mornings and provide a recording for those who cannot join us in person. I’m thankful to every one of you who has reached out with words of welcome and acts of kindness as I begin to settle in to this community. You know, as I do that change is difficult. But the love and support of community and faith in God help to make new roads so much easier to follow. Thank you!

This Thanksgiving take time to walk outside among the changing leaves, the crisp air, the smell of Fall, and look up. Contemplate how amazing life is, how faithful God is to God’s children. Take some time to truly reflect on the things in your life for which you are thankful. And as you do, I hope that you will see the blessings in your life that flourish despite the difficulties and that you will, for a moment, be truly amazed.

Be well,

Rev. Jessica





# IMPORTANT DATES

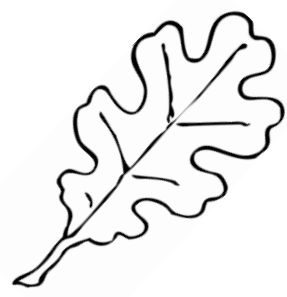
**MONDAY OCTOBER 12**



**SUNDAY NOV 1 2:00 AM**



**Set your clocks back 1 hour**



## CHURCH FOOD PANTRY

As many of you know, our food pantry has not been open for those in need due to Covid-19. The Outreach Committee and Rev. Jessica are working on a solution to continue to help those who need our help in the Streetsville community. Further information will be provided when details have been finalized.

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## WELCOME FROM MN&P!

It is with great pleasure that we welcome our new minister, Reverend Jessica McCrae to the Streetsville United family! Rev. Jessica joined us on September 1<sup>st</sup> and has started to make herself at home. If you haven't done so already, please introduce yourself by phone, email, or in person at Sunday worship.



Rev. Jessica was ordained in 2001 and in her years of ministry she has served pastoral charges in Montreal and Ottawa, London and Toronto conferences and Shining Waters Region, and has served as an on-call chaplain for the neo-natal intensive care unit at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto.

In these challenging times, we are truly blessed to have Rev. Jessica join us. She brings with her an energy and desire to help the church grow and thrive in challenging times, through the grace and hope of God. To learn more about Rev. Jessica, please visit our website, where you can find her full biography and welcome message:

<https://www.streetsvilleunited.ca/rev-jessica-mccrae-b-a-m-div/>

<https://www.streetsvilleunited.ca/welcome-message-2/>

Welcome Rev. Jessica! We look forward to your leadership and the journey ahead together.

MN&P Committee



## HODGEPODGE

### Book Sale Update

The books on the auditorium stage have been removed by Second Life Books. Part of their passion and mission is to increase literacy. By donating books to various institutions, they provide children and adults with an opportunity to own and read books. The result is increased literacy and smiles. They proudly donated over 150,000 books in the past year and a half. Many thanks to Adelaide Tapscott for creating and managing our book sale for many years. Unfortunately due to Covid-19, little to no traffic through our church and no one to take it over, it was decided to discontinue the book sale. **Please note we are no longer accepting book donations.**

### Has your personal information changed?

**More important than ever in these Covid times!** If any of your information has changed (address, phone, email), please let the office know. Up to date information is needed for tax receipts, tidings, etc. Call the office 905-826-1542 or send an email to [info@streetsvilleunited.ca](mailto:info@streetsvilleunited.ca)

## REV. JESSICA'S SCHEDULE

I work from home on Mondays. I take this time to focus on preparing for Sunday, writing the sermon, liturgy, and bulletin. Although this is a day for writing I am always available by phone (647-222-9683) or email should you need me.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays are in office days (hours in office and availability may vary depending on the needs in the week!)

Friday is my day off.

Of course depending on the needs in every given week this schedule is not set in stone.

Drop ins are always welcome but calling or emailing ahead will enable me to guarantee a time for you when

I'm available. I am also very happy to set up a Zoom call if you are uncomfortable with coming into the church at this time.



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## COMMUNION IN THE PANDEMIC

As you know, the pandemic has brought changes to the ways in which we can worship and experience our traditions. One change has been in the way we share communion. We had been concerned that communion would not be possible in the sanctuary throughout the duration of the pandemic.



But we may have found a solution! On October 4<sup>th</sup> we shared communion together as a church community both virtually for those joining via livestream and using the "Celebration Cups" in the sanctuary. Containing both prepackaged wafer and juice, the Celebration Cups provide a much safer way for us to partake of this important ritual in our worship. Many thanks to Bill and Katie Powell for discovering these cups and talking with other churches who have had success in using this method.

In consultation with the Reopening Committee it was decided to change the frequency of communion during this time as well. We celebrated communion on October 4 which was World Wide Communion. Assuming that we feel comfortable using this method we **will celebrate again on November 29 (Advent 1), and then the first Sunday in Lent, Easter, and Pentecost.**



## PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care committee has gladly continued to support our congregation over the last few months. Though our building remained closed, we kept in touch with the needs of our church family by phone, reaching out and showing our care.

We also coordinated and provided a 'grocery-shop' service for those who asked for assistance, matching up volunteer shoppers with members of our church family who needed to shelter at home.

These efforts allowed our church congregation to stay safe, and stay connected. Thanks to Bev Mathew and all committee members.

Looking ahead, please let the church office know of Prayer concerns within our church family. Reverend Jessica and the Prayer Chain are ready to pray as a unified group.

In addition, we welcome anyone who would like to be part of this prayer group, and will offer guidance on how and what to do.

Blessings to all this fall season.

Kate Sparrow  
on behalf of Pastoral Care



## UCW JAM SESSION SALE



On behalf of the UCW, we would like to thank everyone in our congregation for their great support of our Jam Session fundraiser for the UCW and our Streetsville United Church!

When we realized that we couldn't hold our usual Harvest of Crafts Sale, we came up with this alternate project of the sale of jams and jellies. We felt that we could tackle this project and with proper health care protocols, do so safely.

We have had 12 jam/jelly makers and many who offered funds for jam making supplies and labels for all the jars.

When all the jars have been counted we have collectively made 390 jars of delectable jams and jellies for sale! WOW!

By the time this Tidings comes out we will have sold the majority of our boxes of 3 jars of jam/jelly for \$20.00 each.

So, we want to sincerely thank you all for your generous support!

I'm sure there will be many happy recipients of our treats for themselves and as gifts for the coming season!

Despite these challenging times, we have much for which to be thankful!

Katie Powell and the UCW of SUC



## UPCOMING STUDY GROUPS

### "Our Stories of Faith"

Although we are restricted in how we gather right now we will still be offering opportunities for sharing and scripture study on Zoom in the coming months. I am looking forward to offering a two session storytelling and sharing opportunity called "Our Stories of Faith" which will be based on the motto of our church "Anchored in God's Word ... Moving Into God's Future". In the first session participants will be invited to share the scripture passage or story that anchors their life, or one that has become particularly meaningful in these pandemic days. You will also be invited to share why that story is meaningful for you or gives you strength. In the second session you will be invited to dream about what God's Future for Streetsville looks like – where do you feel God is calling us and who is it God's needs us to be in this "new normal". This is an opportunity to open ourselves to God's Spirit and dream about all that is possible through Christ.

**Zoom dates: Mondays November 2 and 16 at 7 pm**

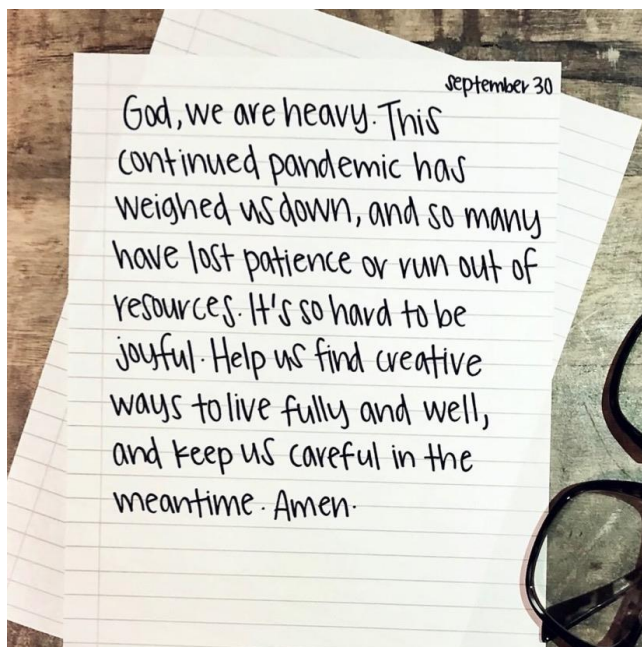
### "People Who Dream"

Continuing the theme of dreaming of what is possible with the power of God, we will spend time in Advent exploring scripture stories that meet people in the middle of darkness and uncertainty and prepare them for all that God is about to do. This will be a time for us to take time amidst the busy-ness (and this year, the uncertainty) of the season and be refreshed with a short time of worship and questions and conversations that help us to see the ways that God has been active in the lives of God's children before, and how God is working to bring light and hope into our time, too.

**Zoom dates: Mondays December 7, 14, 21 at 7 pm**

**To register for these study groups please email Rev. Jessica at [revjmccrae@gmail.com](mailto:revjmccrae@gmail.com)** Zoom coordinates will be sent out closer to the start date.

I look forward to the time when we can meet in person in study groups, safely. Until then I hope that meeting by Zoom will work for some of you.



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Photo from <https://katebowler.com/>

## NEWS FROM UCW

### UCW Units are Changing!

The UCW has had 2 active units for the last couple of years. Now we have some changes:

**Friendship Circle** meets monthly, the second Tuesday afternoon, in the Fellowship Lounge at 1:15. Group Leader is Lorraine Treanor (905-826-3761) Sunshine Circle has traditionally met in the evening. Now as most are retired, it has been suggested that the meetings move to an afternoon. This could not happen, however, without an alternative for the few women in this unit who are still working. Hence a new unit is being created for those women who are working and raising families.

The **Sunshine Circle** will be meeting the third Tuesday of each month in the Fellowship Lounge. Due to Covid the October meeting will be virtual on Zoom. Group leader is Katie Powell (905-824-6851 or [william.powell@sympatico.ca](mailto:william.powell@sympatico.ca))

The **new unit**, yet to be identified, had an informal get together on October 4. This group is aimed at those women in our congregation who are working, raising families, and yet would like to connect with those of similar interests through Faith and Fellowship. We do have a commitment from 3 and interest from 7 women, so this group will come to exist, just how and when is yet to be determined. For further information please contact Bev Mathew (905-826-5005 or [bev.mathew@rogers.com](mailto:bev.mathew@rogers.com))

### UCW Welcomes Rev Jessica



UCW leaders Bev, Lorraine and Katie welcomed our new minister on her first day at SUC with a gift basket of homemade jams and treats. We look forward to her ministry here and feel blessed to have her with us.

*Thankful*