



Fall/Advent 2022

# ON THE ROAD

Learning, Living, Loving, Affirming ♦ News and Stories



Grape & Wine Parade Float  
September 24, 2022

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# MINISTER'S MESSAGE

By Rev. Karen Orlandi



Advent is a wonderful season. There's so much hustle and bustle to be had. The world seems to come alive in light, and glitter and music. It's a magical time when folks' faith and the world around them can seem in sync, if only for a while and only if you look through it with a specific lens, but it's worth it.

Our old church year is ending and the new year is about to begin. We'll spend the next four weeks cleaning and decorating to make sure we're ready for Christmas, just as we do in our homes. If you ever have the chance, it's really special to be in the Sanctuary after dark, when it's all decorated for Advent, and the lights are sparkling and the wreaths are hung. It feels very special, very expectant; a wonderful time filled with anticipation for the celebration of the birth of the child.

That blessed child, born into a frightening time, into poverty and danger, who fled at such an early age. A child who embodied the future, who embodied a way of living on this earth, and in community with other. A child to lead us in Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. That's a lot to place on a small child, but he was the perfect choice. Jesus showed us that no matter where we're situated in the world, we can still live in a state of believing in our future, believing in a theology of abundance.

As we prepare to enter into a new church year, a new calendar year and a new budget year, we are all aware that we are in transition. And there is an abundance of fear of where the church is going, what can we afford to do, how are our investments doing... I hear fear. I can't help but think of the family, with no room to stay, in a strange place, giving birth to hope in the midst of political occupation and persecution, giving birth to hope in the midst of fear. I can't help but think of the courage of that family – but more importantly of their faith in a God who provides.



This last year has seen us come partially out of pandemic, changed. We have lost loved ones, who will be so missed this Christmastide. We have opened our doors when everyone else closed theirs. We have tended to the homeless, the wanderers, the folks who feel they don't fit in. And many more have come through our doors. Folks that have joined us in worship in so many ways. We have welcomed new members, baptized, and married folks. We have grieved with friends here in these pews. We have celebrated milestones and anniversaries.

Silver Spire is a beacon of hope – a reminder that God is alive in the heart of the city of St. Catharines. Be not afraid. Challenging times are what our faith is all about. It's into this that our faith is born and grows. Our God is awesome, and we are poised to do awesome things. Jesus was born into a world full of tumult and turmoil, oppression and fear. He was born to lead us into the realization that no matter what is happening around us, we are commanded to build God's kin-dom on earth. We are in the perfect position to do just that, if we are not afraid.

As we all sit down to our Christmas festivities, I wonder if each prayer of thanksgiving could also include those who are in their first few Christmases without a loved one. Grief is powerful, and it gains in strength around special holidays. For those who are suffering, allow others to help, and to enter into your circle. Let us all learn to receive as to give.

And now... hush, let the anticipation roll over us, and through us. Take some time this advent season to breathe, let the cacophony around you fall away, and prepare your heart for the celebration of the birth of Jesus – our path to hope, peace, joy and love.

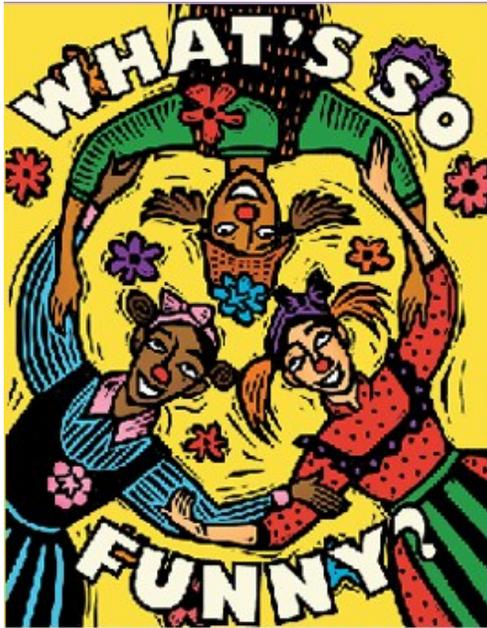
Blessed Be.

# Silver Spire @ Cave Springs Camp

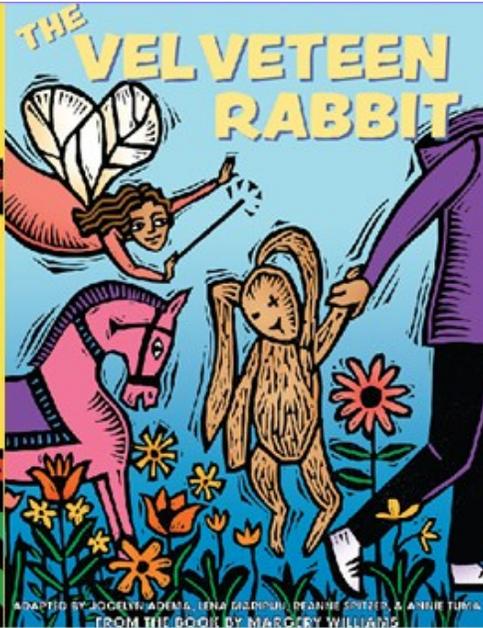


# Carousel **50** YEARS OF Players

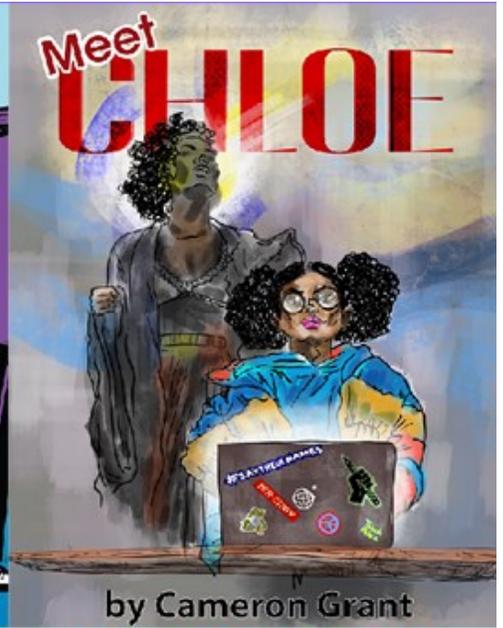
• • • THEATRE YOU NEVER OUTGROW • • •



**FOR GRADES 4 TO 6**  
in schools Nov. 21 - Dec. 9



**FOR ELKP TO GRADE 3**  
in schools Mar. 27 - Apr. 21



**FOR GRADES 7 TO 10**  
available digitally all year

## BOOK MORE TO SAVE MORE

MULTI-SHOW DISCOUNTS: BOOK 2 SHOWS AND SAVE 10%, BOOK ALL 3 TO SAVE 20%

As we return to theatres, gyms, and communities with our live touring productions in 2022/2023, we are thrilled to offer a **Season of Hope** to young people everywhere.

Each of our plays has been crafted with care to bring messages of hope, optimism, and joy to our audiences. We invite you to share these experiences with your students and families as, together, we rekindle the unique excitement of live performance." Monica Dufault, Artistic Director

"What's So Funny? is booking now! Book your school's performance and get all the details at [www.carouselplayers.com/bookashow](http://www.carouselplayers.com/bookashow)"

# Festival of Giving 2022

## Loving Our Neighbours – Near and Far

Here at Silver Spire United Church, we love our neighbours near and far by working for God's mission in our community and in the wider world. We are grateful for the many ministries of Silver Spire. As an inviting, affirming and welcoming community, centred in Christ, we work with individuals and partners to transform lives. This fall we celebrated our sixth Festival of Giving with the theme "Loving our Neighbours-near and far". We shared personal, congregational stories about why we give, how our generosity makes a difference here at Silver Spire, how we have an impact on the community around us, and how through the Mission & Service fund we help to heal God's world.

As you read the following stories, we invite you to prayerfully consider how Silver Spire has touched you and your family's life. Where have you witnessed Silver Spire having an impact on the lives of our community? We hope the Festival of Giving is a rich opportunity for you to reflect on the blessings in your life and how you can live out your own response.

In this issue of On the Road, we are sharing several the "Why I Give" stories that were submitted by people at Silver Spire. As you will read, there are many reasons for giving. Some people like Babs McKnight remember how they were taught to give, and the times others generously gave to them. Read how Wayne Schmidt and John Kumpf have come to Silver Spire because of contact with a minister. There are stories about times when people had only their time and talents to give. Read how the Boyce family learned to give from the example shown by their father. Some folks, like Duncan and Beth Tolley or Jim Graham want to become part of a community, others, like Vanessa Perkins, look for opportunities to volunteer and some, like Julia Dickson-Eckert enjoy opportunities to explore their faith.

Through the gifts of time, talent and treasure this congregation has created a vibrant place of worship. We hope that you will remember your own giving story as you read the “Why I Give” stories in this newsletter. We are very grateful to those who have shared their inspiring stories. “Loving Our Neighbours-Near and Far” opens us to the way of Jesus and fills our hearts with abundance. May all of us live with thankful and generous hearts. We are blessed to be a blessing!

### **Babs McKnight FoG 2022**

As a young child my family were members at Queen St. Baptist Church here in St. Catharines. I learned early in life about giving from these faithful Baptist tithers. As a young woman, I met a young man and his family who were lifelong members of the United Church, and also generous, faithful givers. I married this young man, and we attended Kew Beach United Church in Toronto. One evening after choir practice Jim told me he wanted to go back to university for 4 years in order to qualify for ordained ministry in the United Church of Canada. I cried my eyes out right there and then in The Dip and Sip Donut Shop on Kingston Road. However, during Jim’s 4 years at Emmanuel College, while we were still members of Kew Beach United, an amazing thing occurred. Every so often, perhaps 2 times each year, over those 4 years, the minister summoned us to his office in order to give us cheques, which anonymous church members had wanted us to have. For me this gesture of giving has been a beacon of kindness, generosity, and love for the past 34 years. These folk were acting out Christ’s teachings right before my very eyes. How could I not follow their lead! This is why I give.

### **Wayne Schmidt FoG 2022**

I would admit that my experience with church has primarily felt like an obligatory one. I was sent to church as a child, and I appreciate learning about Christian values and the impact they have had on me during my life. I was blessed with two daughters and went to church with them to share the same experience as I believed it was the right thing to do. I had not attended church for some time until my involvement with volunteerism in our community brought me into contact with Rev. Orlandi. As I learned more about the wonderful outreach work that Rev. Karen champions, I realized there was very real work happening there that I felt was necessary and beneficial to our community and wanted to get involved. I admire when someone identifies a cause and steps up to contribute. I would like to see more people do that including myself. I also find the sermons address very contemporary issues head on that need to be talked about and no better place to start than from the pulpit. Please keep it going. This is why I give.

### **Vanessa Perkins FoG 2022**

Silver Spire is important to me because I feel safe, included and a part of a wonderful and giving community church! I give to Silver Spire by being on a counting team and a greeting team. Also, I recently joined the Willow Arts Community. I try to donate food and hygiene items because I know how hard it is out there! The ministers, staff and congregation are kind and caring people and that is what we all need! We're family and we care. I look forward to coming to church every week. We do important work here and I am proud to be a member of Silver Spire. I want us to continue to do our important work and that why I give.

### **Barb Nesbitt FoG 2019**

In the summer of 2019, I visited a gallery in Bracebridge. The artist, Donald Stuart, had created thirty-eight pieces of exquisite jewelry, each piece honouring a Canadian woman of note. They weren't all famous women, but each had added, or are still involved in making Canada the diverse and wonderful place we live.

It's just like the variety of people we meet, worship and work with in the United Church, each person is very unique. Everyone who comes through the many doors of our church come with different needs, talents and reasons for coming. What a gift it is to be able to all meet here in this safe place to share all these life experiences. There are not many places where this still happens. I think it is so important for the United Church of Canada to be here so that this will be so now, and in the future. And that is just one reason why I give.

### **Julia Dickson-Eckert FoG 2017**

My family has a long history with the United Church. As a child, my brother and I attended each week and our mother taught Sunday School. Throughout my life, my mother and father have loved attending as often as they could, and they both especially enjoyed the music. Steven and I were married in the church and have always valued our faith connection. We have been involved in a variety of ways. Work responsibilities often keep Steven away, but he attends as often as possible. The United Church has helped me to explore my faith by providing the opportunity to obtain a certificate in Youth Ministry. I am a member of the Christian Nurture team and love being involved with our amazing youth and young adults. My children, Jade and Patrick, were confirmed here. They have benefitted from attending Worshiplude, Rendezvous, the Niagara Youth Festival, and other events and opportunities that have helped them grow in their faith. In our family there have been times when our time and talents were all we could give but, as we are able, we share our treasures to ensure these opportunities continue and that Silver Spire remains a strong presence for God in the downtown of St. Catharines. This is why I give.

## **Hugh Fraser FoG 2022**

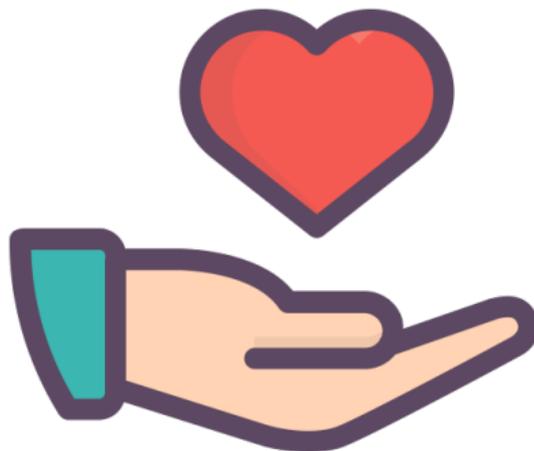
This year, we're celebrating our Festival of Giving by focusing on more than just how much treasure (i.e. money) we plan to give to the church in 2023. We want to celebrate the time and talent we give too. Treasures are hugely important, but we could not operate a big successful church such as ours without the valuable contributions people give of their time and talents. This got me thinking about how my time, talent and treasures have changed over my lifetime in the church.

When I was a teen, I attended Huntingdon United Church in southwestern Quebec. It was built in 1927 after a fire destroyed the Methodist Church on the same site in 1926. Curiously, this was only a year after the United Church of Canada was formed. Makes you wonder if there was divine intervention. I didn't have any treasures to donate to the church. However, I had time to donate, so I attended Sunday School with about ten others my age and helped out with the younger kids. I also shared my talents by singing in a quartet at a couple of local events. Thus ended my (short) musical career.

When we were young parents, Judith and I attended St. George United Church north of Brantford. It was in a former Presbyterian Church. With two young pre-school girls and a baby son on the way, we were in no position to ramp up the treasures we gave to the church. However, Judith worked part-time as the church administrator and her meager church wages helped subsidize church funds, so in effect this was a way of donating treasures. I gave of my time by being on the membership committee, sorting out our membership rolls which were in disarray, and being an 'Elder'. Judith was on the Outreach Committee.

Both Judith and I started an adult group called 'Odds and Sods'. We did less 'churchy' things like car rallies, progressive dinners, and beef dinners. Apparently, we had good organizational talents, as this is something not everyone likes to do. Our beef dinners were legendary at the time, as we'd serve 350 people over six staggered sittings and three hours. We raised huge biannual treasures for the church.

Now, as empty nesters, we are able to give more of our treasures to the church. It's never enough, but we give what we can. Judith is still helping to subsidize the treasures of the wider church as part-time church administrator at the new Trillium United Church, an amalgamation of Mountainview United Church, and First-Grantham United Church. I've been involved in several time and talent things over the past 14 years of Silver Spire's life and recently was elected to serve on the Board of Trustees. I know this will be a challenge, but maybe I can find a hidden talent to assist with this important group. You never know until you jump in and find out. I encourage anyone to consider how you can give a little more of your time, talents, and yes...treasures....with our church...And that is why I give.



### **Beth and Duncan Tolley FoG 2019**

Sixty-one years ago, December, The Imperial Optical Company, Prince Albert, Sask. transferred Duncan to St. Catharines. We found an apartment on Eastchester Avenue. We didn't have a car, so Duncan walked to work to their office on James Street. One morning, Cliff Boyd, a neighbor, picked Duncan up and drove him to work. As they passed St. Paul St. United Church, Cliff said that was his family's church and he asked Duncan what church we attended. When he heard United Church, he asked if we would like a ride to St. Paul St. United on Sunday. That was our first Sunday there and shortly after we joined the church and have been members since 1959. Rev. Forsey was the minister and told us his first charge was Shell Lake, Sask., a small village just outside of Prince Albert. It felt like home to us.

Cliff, Lois and daughters Lori and Lisa lived not far away, and we cannot begin to tell you how wonderful they were to us over the years. They were certainly God's gift to our family.

We feel we have been truly blessed and are happy to share what we can through our givings to the Church, Mission and Service fund, and our community charities to further their good works. Our health now does not allow us to attend church regularly, but we so appreciate having the services streamed each Sunday. This is why we give.

### **The Boyce Family FoG 2019**

Recently our family has had a time of reflection on our faith as a family because of the loss of our father, Richard. Richard came to know God as a young boy when he lived on farm in Vineland when he was a ward of children's aid. He would attend church in the village of

Campden with this family. This was his introduction to his faith. One of the lessons he learned here was a belief that one of God's gifts to us was that God would always provide for us throughout our entire life, including things like the loss of a job or the loss of a loved one.

As much as he believed that God would give to us, he believed that it was important to give back to God. Giving back to God meant many things to him but giving to others to help with their faith journey was probably the most important. During his life, he tried to live out this belief. With him, things such as giving a bunch of flowers to brighten someone's spirit, giving words of encouragement to someone so they could carry on in their faith, teaching a Sunday School class so young people could start on their own faith journey, or having a discussion about a sermon to challenge someone to think more about their faith were just a few examples of his giving to others in God's name.

After his passing, his brother Wallace, sent a letter to our family. To quote the letter, his brother wrote, "It is somewhat difficult to sum up a person's life. What can we say of Richard? He had four children, and each were raised with a belief in close family ties which he secured a very large measure of success. Each of them believed in contributing to our world given the talents they had. And perhaps best of all he introduced them to God, it was his greatest achievement".

So, giving can take many forms whether it be financial, an investment of time, items that can be used to further the work of the church, all of which he thought were vital. However, he believed the most important thing was sharing our belief in God and how that can make for a life well lived in faith. He instilled in each of us the importance of sharing our time, talent and treasures. That is why we give.

### **Jim Graham FoG 2019**

I've been attending Silver Spire United Church for over a year and a half (this was written in 2019). Within my first few visits I was already getting the sense that this was a church for me. Several members of Silver Spire identified my partner David and me as visitors to the church, warmly greeted us and introduced themselves. Over the next few weeks, we met more people before the service, while chatting over coffee after the service and were invited to peoples' homes for more sharing and discussions. Roots were beginning to grow. Over time we continued to learn that we were entirely welcome and encouraged to journey in our Christian walk, without "glass ceilings", openly as a same sex couple. This is a source of much joy and tranquility for David and me and endorses our flourishing. I believe it's a natural human desire to belong and have community. It's difficult to explain the feelings I had when the congregational vote to proceed with the Affirm United designation was unanimous. Up until this moment, this was only a dream of mine. The love of God was truly being demonstrated towards us as Jesus tried to teach. I was home.

My story so far is merely a short list of the gifts I've received at Silver Spire. I have more gratitude for this church community than I know how to express. I feel so blessed to have found this community in my own neighbourhood.

One of my great sources of joy is having opportunities to give back to this church, to local, national, and international efforts to support those in need. Giving back can take many, many forms . . . not just giving money. For me, being a member of a vibrant community means giving back too. By giving back I can use my gifts to support others through committee work, participating in the Sunday service and to walk with the Bear Clan Patrol. By doing this my sense of purpose grows and my spirit is fed by helping others. Each week I see in the Order of Service the many active ministries in our church – I hesitate to list them for fear of leaving one out. Engaging in providing service to those in need or simply attending and participating in a ministry are wonderful ways of giving back. I think it's also important to understand that there are expenses in running such an active church and that my financial offerings are important too.

I invite everyone to give, serve and receive the many gifts of community at Silver Spire United Church. This is why I give.

## **John Kumpf FoG 2019**

It had been more than 25 years since I had attended church when I had a chance encounter with Rev. Bill Thomas at a reception after a funeral. He was sitting opposite the last available seat in the room. Conversation with the man in the clerical collar was unavoidable, and it turned out to be transformative. I was intrigued when he spoke with such passion about social justice, and of a church that reached out to the marginalized people in the city's core. His words resonated with my long-held values in two careers working with disadvantaged students, and later with victims of brain injury. When it was time to leave, I jokingly asked if his church had room for a confirmed heathen, and he replied that at Silver Spire there was room for everyone. The following Sunday, my wife's surprise was only matched by my own when I announced that I was going to church.

I can't remember what the sermon was about, but I do remember that it was a Communion Service and the invitation to participate was totally inclusive, completely unconditional. To qualify to participate you just had to be. That spoke so loudly to me of the value that I believe to be inherent in every human being. Finally, I remember that one of the hymns at that service was Amazing Grace, one of my all-time favourites. Whether it was the inclusivity or Amazing Grace, I was tempted to return the following Sunday and the Sunday after that and so on. And on all of these Sundays I met wonderful people who welcomed me warmly. I heard sermons that were challenging. I don't mean that they were difficult to understand. They somehow challenged me to be a better person. Sundays became increasingly special, increasingly joyful. Later Mondays became special too, because on Mondays I had the privilege of waiting tables at

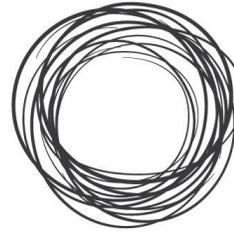
the Out of the Cold suppers. I say privilege because to make our guests smile or feel special, if only for a moment, gives me meaning.

I still struggle to reconcile the concept of a loving God with all the pain and horror that exists in the world. Sitting in my comfortable pew, it's easy to believe in a compassionate God who loves me and watches over me, but then I remember the Rohingya refugees in Myanmar, the children sheltering from bombs in Yemen, our guests at the Out of the Cold dinners etc., etc. and my belief in that God is stretched beyond limits.

I don't like the term Non-Member, or even adherent. Rev. Jane has characterized me as a "Doubter and a Seeker". I am comfortable with that, but I would also like to think of myself as a participant in the life of Silver Spire. So, I will continue to find a place in the fellowship of the community that is this church. I will continue to enjoy the uplifting music, and to be inspired to be a better me by the messages of the sermons. Oh yes, and I will continue to give and consider the cost to be an investment and a bargain. This is why I give.



# FROM OUR FRIENDS AT



WILLOW  
ARTS  
COMMUNITY

## Fall 2022 Arts Showcase at Silver Spire

Monday, December 12, 2022

6 – 8 PM

Silver Spire Sanctuary and Auditorium

We invite our friends, families, colleagues, partners, and supporters in the community to celebrate the new work created this season! Come enjoy Songs from the Willow music performances and visual arts displays from the mask making and watercolour courses, and more! Our latest zine “Your Personal Protest” will be available for purchase. Light refreshments will be provided. This event is free and we are accepting donations at the door to support our mission of reducing barriers and providing opportunities for artists and creatives living with mental illness/substance use in Niagara.

Our programming this season is made possible with thanks to a grant secured by Rev. Karen Orlandi. We are so grateful to be able to continue to provide free arts programming and creative and social opportunities for the people we serve at Willow Arts. Come and say hi, bring your friends and families, and enjoy an evening of creative and personal celebration. We look forward to showcasing our members and their talents to you all on Dec 12.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

<p><i>Christmas Spire Cafe</i> <b>December 3rd, 7:00 pm</b></p> <p>An evening of stories and song to celebrate the season. You are invited to dress up in all your best Christmas fashion. (free will offering)</p>	<p><i>Rainbow Christmas Party</i> <b>December 10th, 4:30 – 6:30</b></p> <p>An evening for 2SLGBTQIA+ and Allies to celebrate the Christmas Season. Join us for a Chilli dinner (vegan/gluten free options) and activities, games and crafts for all ages.</p>	<p><i>In Light and Darkness</i></p> <p>A weekly devotional based on scripture showing how light and darkness exist together. The short reflections explore the theme of light and darkness in Advent scriptures. You can pick your own copy from the church office, download it from the enews or join Thursday 9:30am coffee group.</p>
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# Advent Services



**ADVENT 1 – NOVEMBER 27TH**  
**HOPE**  
**COMMUNION SERVICE**  
**SOUP LUNCH**  
**AND**  
**ADVENT ACTIVITIES AFTER CHURCH**

**ADVENT 2 – DECEMBER 4TH**  
**PEACE**

**ADVENT 3 – DECEMBER 11**  
**JOY**  
**ON THIS SUNDAY CELEBRATING JOY,**  
**YOU ARE INVITED TO WEAR PINK.**

**ADVENT 4 – DECEMBER 18**  
**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**  
**PRESENTED BY THE CHOIR**  
**BROTHER HEINRICH'S CHRISTMAS**



# CHRISTMAS SERVICES

24 December, 2022  
Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Family Service

7:00 pm Christmas Communion  
and  
Carol Service

# On the Road to Palestine

## Ineke Medcalf

Last November, I once again went to Israel. I had been in the Netherlands for a week waiting for the covid rules to change for visitors to Israel which they did on November 1st allowing individuals in after completing the required questionnaire.

Having been in Israel at least seven other times, I knew how to get around. I took a high speed train from Tel Aviv to West Jerusalem and a tram from there to East Jerusalem. It was crowded and very few with masks. I usually stay at Ecce Homo Pilgrim House on the Via Dolorosa for a day or so but it was still closed as were many of the hostels, etc. So after having a drink near Damascus Gate, I took the Checkpoint 300 bus to Bethlehem. The Bethlehem Inn was also closed but fortunately I had a friend where I could stay and she lives beside the wall near Checkpoint 300. I was grateful she was home since she did not know I was coming.

Two days later, I left took the yellow van to Hebron and then another to Yatta. The vans leave as soon as they are full - they seat nine people and they are an inexpensive way to go. I met a friend, Fatma, and we went to her village of Susiya. I was happy to see some Israelis at the village who stand alongside Palestinians to protect them from settler attacks and try to stop demolitions. One young man was a member of the group Breaking the Silence. These are former IDF soldiers speaking up about what they had to do and now working for justice.

Susiya appeared much the same as when last there except for one notable addition. There was a playground that Save the Children had constructed. It looked out of place among the makeshift shelters. Their homes have been destroyed time and again and their only way to resist is to refuse to leave. Within sight is a settlement with running water, electricity, well-built homes and good roads – all denied to the Palestinians in Area C (62% of the West Bank).

I had left Susiya on Friday. Then on Saturday about 100 settlers from the nearby Israeli settlement went into Susiya and broke the gate to the playground and played on the equipment. Some Palestinians, including children tried to protect the playground but were pushed aside and a few sustained injuries. Can you imagine grown men taking over a playground! Eventually soldiers (Israeli Defence Forces) came but not to arrest the settlers but to let them do as they please. The settlers eventually tired of their “occupation of the playground” and threw rocks on the makeshift shelters in full view of the IDF as they walked back to their settlement. If a Palestinian picks up a stone, he/she is immediately arrested. They cannot defend themselves.

The sad part is that the children learn that there is no safe place for them. The settlers or soldiers can come anytime and their parents are powerless to protect them.

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have both declared Israel to be an apartheid state and guilty of crimes against humanity. Those who have been in the West Bank and Gaza know this first-hand.

I spent my last night in Jerusalem at St Georges College where there are guest rooms. It is near the Palestinian neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem – an area being cleansed of Palestinians to move Israelis in and change the demographics to make all Jerusalem for Jews only. I also took the opportunity to visit Omar Haramy at Sabeel Liberation Theology Center, a partners with the UCC. Omar did the reflection for our justice service for Palestine.

Covid was actually to my advantage as getting in and leaving Israel was easier. The last two times, I was pulled aside and put in a small black room and thoroughly searched, my stuff taken and I was questioned about where I went. They are suspicious of people travelling alone. Now it was just about covid and vaccines and no other questions.

From Tel Aviv, I went back to Amsterdam and booked a flight to Toronto which had a layover in Portugal. I was not allowed to board the plane to Toronto from Portugal without getting another antigen covid test although I had the arrivCan app stating that I was fine to go to Canada and could just show it at the boarding gate. So another 150 Euros for the test and booking a new flight. I did so for the next day.

If you would like to know more about the situation in Palestine and what you can do, contact me at [ineke@nmjpi.org](mailto:ineke@nmjpi.org) or by phone 289-929-0362. I compiled a silent video which shows the faces of the occupation and reflects the silence of the Canadian government in speaking for human rights and international law. You can find the video on vimeo. (<https://vimeo.com/722767450>)





**Church After Dark**

Exploring the unspoken

**4th Sunday  
of every month  
@ 7 pm**

**Join us!**

**Our Vision**

As a downtown St. Catharines church, we will participate in the creation and growth of a healthy and vibrant community as we seek justice and live in kindness in the world.

**Our Mission**

As an inviting and welcoming community, centered in Christ, we work with individuals and partners to transform lives.

**Our Values**

We strive to be . . .

**Christ-Centred** - We live out the teachings of Jesus Christ, embodying compassion through listening and responding to others.

**Reverent** - We treat the earth and all creation as sacred gifts of God.

**Welcoming** - We are intentional about being invitational, building relationships and community.

**Open and Accepting** - We affirm diversity by including and celebrating people of every age, race, belief, culture, ability, income level, family configuration, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation in life and ministry. Full participation of everyone is included in all aspects of the life and work of our ministry.

**Committed to Learning** - We inspire, explore and grow together in our faith.

**Truth Seeking and Truth Telling** – We seek reconciliation with those historically harmed through their relationship with the church.

**Good Stewards** - We give to God of our time, talents and treasures and use them wisely in service of our community and the world.

*www.silverspire.ca*

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**Ministers**

*Rev. Jane Capstick &  
Rev. Karen Orlandi*

**Music Director**

*Lynne Honsberger*

**Office Administrator**

*Megg Watkinson*

**Custodians**

*Jim Sauvé &  
Cheryl "Queenz" Deslaurier*