



ADVENT- Christmas 2018
“the Light shines in the darkness
and the darkness did not overcome it”
.... John 1:5

The days are getting darker and sometimes it feels like the world is too. Whether it is family illness, relationship disruptions or the rise of local and international rulers who abuse their power, it would be easy to give in to the darkness with despair.

But don't! None of this is new....

2000 years ago, a light shone in the darkness when the tiny, infant Jesus was born. Like Moses before him, God acted with compassion to give people HOPE and to save us, especially those victimized by human and spiritual forces of oppression.



The season of Advent and Christmas reminds us of all these things. The heart of God we see in this story of the baby in Bethlehem is one of love and justice giving hope for peace and reconciliation. JOY!!

So... join us in acknowledging the darkness & light in the world this Advent.

Come to our *Longest Night Service*. It is a quiet, gentle worship service on December 12th, 7 PM. We will lament about those things that bring darkness into our own lives this season. We will focus on the loss of loved ones and acknowledge that there are many things that bring darkness into our lives and the world; but even in the midst of this darkness, the Light, that is Jesus Christ, shines.

This Light that shines in the darkness will be the focus of our celebratory worship on Saturday, Dec 1st, 7 PM. Join us as we light up the sanctuary and the tree outside and sing carols that have been dedicated to those we love. This joyous celebration is not to be missed!

We are all working SUPER hard in our various ministries to create opportunities where our community is invited to find meaning in this season. There is great music, worship, ways to explore what the real meaning of Christmas is, and our wish is that you find transformation in that small babe who was laid in a manger.

God's kingdom is present and growing, even when it is difficult to see and sooner or later it will come in its FULLNESS “on earth as it is in heaven”.

Christmas Blessings,

**Bob Rushton, Phillip Kennedy
Ruth Boutilier, Shelley Clee
Shannon MacLean &
Mary Lynne Whyte**



Your SUPER Staff Sincerely wishes you a *Superb* Christmas Season.

Advent, Christmas & New Years 2018 at Woodlawn United

DATE	TIME	EVENT & INFORMATION
Saturday December 1	7:00 PM	Light Up The Night Carol Sing & Tree Lighting
Sunday December 2	8:00 AM	Santa Claus Breakfast & Mystery Friends Reveal
	10:00 AM	1st Sunday of Advent – HOPE White Gift Sunday led by Sunday School
Sunday December 9	10:00 AM	2nd Sunday of Advent – PEACE
	11:30 AM	Bedlam in Bethlehem* (<i>see below for details</i>)
	7:00 PM	Woodlawn United Church Choirs and the Fairview Citadel Salvation Army Band, Present the 31 st Annual Christmas Concert (Free Will Offering)
Wednesday December 12	7:00 PM	Longest Night – A Service acknowledging the darkness (<i>previously called “Blue Christmas”</i>)
Sunday December 16	10:00 AM	3rd Sunday of Advent – JOY
Sunday December 23	10:00 AM	4th Sunday of Advent – LOVE
Monday December 24	4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Youth & Child Led Service
	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Family Service
	9:00 PM	Christmas Eve Family Service with Communion
Sunday December 30	10:00 AM	Worship – Celebration of Song Jerry Jackson and Jim Farmer
Tuesday January 1, 2019		HAPPY NEW YEAR

bedlam In Bethlehem

* Join us for Bedlam in Bethlehem as we experience the TRUE meaning of Christmas through interactive activities and crafts while building relationships and having FUN! Find Bethlehem in the midst of Bedlam! We will share lunch together (provided by the CD committee) and then participants will start their journey to Bethlehem. Families of all sizes, ages welcome..... as well as ANYONE who would like to join in the experience of celebrating Christmas. *Sunday school aged children must be accompanied by an adult*. Must RSVP by Dec 7th to shannon.maclean@woodlawnunited.ca or 902-434-8302.