

## ADVENT- Christmas 2019

*The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:5*

### Advent Greetings:

It's getting darker outside. Until December 21<sup>st</sup>, each day has a little less sunlight. My dentist told me that he thought humans were "solar powered" and he completely understood the impact of SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder.)

The world is also a mixture of darkness and light, speaking metaphorically. Maybe it's my age, but sometimes the darkness seems to be getting darker with climate change, more overt racism, the gap between rich and poor more prevalent.

But the darker things are, the more significant the light is, no matter how small! Even a baby in a manger!

Even when we don't see it, the light is always there, growing, pushing back the darkness.

In the midst of the darkness, we need to remember the word of the writer of the Gospel of John: *the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.*

Advent and Christmas are a time of waiting, and preparation and hope. It is a time of anticipating the birth of Jesus; the Light of the world and the way his life and Spirit can transform us.

Christmas is Incarnation; The Word of God becoming flesh and dwelling with us. We are not alone. And so we celebrate with Joy and give thanks for the Hope, Peace and Love which comes in Jesus.

We want to invite you to come and celebrate the Light of Christ with us in worship and song this Advent-Christmas season. Merry Christmas!

**Rev. Phillip Kennedy on behalf of:  
Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte, Shannon MacLean  
Ruth Boutilier & Shelley Clee**



## Join us for Advent, Christmas & New Years 2019 at Woodlawn United

### Enjoy our wonderful Holiday music

DATE	TIME	EVENT & INFORMATION
Sunday December 1	10:00 AM	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent - HOPE</b>
Sunday December 8	8:00 AM	<b>Santa Claus Breakfast &amp; Mystery Friends Reveal.</b> Join the Youth Committee for Breakfast With Santa on Sunday, December 8th. Pancakes will be served from 8:00 AM – 8:45 AM! If you have been involved in the mystery friends program, you will meet your friend at the breakfast! Cost is only \$3 per person and available at the door! (Gluten Free pancakes available).
	10:00 AM	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent - PEACE</b> White Gift Sunday led by Sunday School
Sunday December 15	10:00 AM	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent - JOY</b>
	7:00 PM	Woodlawn United Church Choirs and the Fairview Citadel Salvation Army Band, Present the 32nd Annual Christmas Concert (Free Will Offering)
Wed. December 18th	7:00 PM	<b>Longest Night</b> – A service acknowledging the darkness ( <i>previously called “Blue Christmas”</i> ). As we approach Dec 22 <sup>nd</sup> , the longest night of the year, we are reminded of the darkness that sometimes surrounds us. We may find this “joyous” time of year especially difficult, or we may be longing for just a quiet, reflective time to acknowledge that life is not always filled with joy. Perhaps a loved one has died. Perhaps you have lost a pregnancy. Perhaps you’re struggling with loss, the state of the world, or illness. This service will acknowledge the darkness as together, we look for little glimmers of hope that shine in that darkness. All are invited to come.
Sunday December 22	10:00 AM	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - LOVE</b> (With Communion)
Tuesday December 24	4:00 PM	<b>Christmas Eve Worship</b> ~ Youth & Child Led Service
	7:00 PM	<b>Christmas Eve Worship</b> ~ Family Service
	9:00 PM	<b>Christmas Eve Worship</b> ~ Family Service With Communion
Sunday December 29	10:00 AM	<b>Worship</b> – Celebration of Song Jerry Jackson and Jim Farmer



Marlene Nolet and Gus Webb

Join us for our wonderful Christmas music provided by Woodlawn Choirs, Organist Gus Webb, and Choir Director, Marlene Nolet.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Woodlawn United Church . 54 Woodlawn Road . Dartmouth, NS . B2W 2S1

Please visit our website and Woodlawn Calendar for further details

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

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