

# WHAT'S UP AT WESLEY

Friday, Dec. 6, 2024

## SUNDAY WORSHIP AT WESLEY

Theme – Let Peace Begin With Me – Sun., Dec. 8, 2024, 10 am

Watch the Wesley Worship Services live on YouTube by clicking [here](#) or going to <https://www.youtube.com/@wesleyunitedchurch1105>

Thank you to all the people who have given their time to make our Sunday worship successful.

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### From the Minister's Desk

## Beauty is Within Us



Hello Friends!

As we enter into this Advent season, I would like to take a moment and reflect on the brightness of our Lord's love. Recently, someone told me how this time of year is really not the best for him. He said, "Daylight is short. The hours of darkness are long." My heart went out to him in that moment, and I shared with him a few words from John's Gospel: "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it."

It is true that the dread of darkness during these short December days can make us feel lost at times. We may feel that we have lost God's friendship or that God has forgotten us.

We may feel we have lost our friends or even family. And sometimes whatever emotional wounds we carry seem to open up to make life a bit more unbearable.

When these get the better of us, we may think that God and other people have given up on us. This is, of course, is not so. What I know is that the true light of God is within us.

Elisabeth Kübler-Ross puts it correctly when she said - "People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is light from within."

I have been pondering the definition and the nature of beauty and have come to the conclusion that there is absolutely nothing that cannot be beautiful. Beauty was the essence of God's creation – and everything God has created, and continues to create, is beautiful – or at least holds within it the potential for beauty; however, the Light coexists with it. Aristotle said, "Beauty is the gift of God." So too is Light. Beauty and Light go hand in hand with God, and I can think of no example in which they are not linked inextricably together in a tightly woven trinity.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world to whom the prophets spoke and who was manifested at Christmas. That the beauty of Christ is within us is an important part of the Advent story of today as we aspire to ignite hope and beauty in others. So the words of the song, *Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me* is a reminder for us to play our part in constantly radiating the light of Christ so that others may be inspired to switch their inner lights on as well.

Blessings!

Lennox

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## Food Pantry welcomes your donations

Our Food Pantry had its first week of being open. We had a few Niagara College students come to help themselves to a few items they needed and they will pass on the word to others.

Thanks to those who provided some needed items for this.

Other groups that use our church are also helping provide food items. We are very grateful for everyone's help.

*Your Membership and Outreach Committee*

# Harvest Kitchen



There was a great group of Wesley volunteers at last weekend's Harvest Kitchen.

We all had fun and worked well together! We worked Saturday morning with prep work here at Wesley and Sunday we cooked and served the meal at Central United.

Our "guests" were thrilled to be having a roast beef dinner and were very appreciative.







Our next Harvest Kitchen dinner at Central will happen on Sunday, Jan. 5 with pre work at Wesley on Saturday, Jan. 4.

If you'd like to get involved, please sign the Volunteer Sheet in the Narthex and indicate what day and month you would like to help. The dinners take place the first Sunday in January, February and March.  
*Your Membership and Outreach Committee*



### Wesley walks on Thursdays

The next Wesley Walk will be on Thursday, Dec. 12 at 8 a.m. We will meet at the Walker Sports and Activities Centre at 1812 Sir Isaac Brock Way, near Brock University in St. Catharines. My car will leave the Wesley Church parking lot at 7:40 a.m. If you need a ride with me, please let me know. Everyone is welcome to join us. Hope to see you there.

- Submitted by Dan Barrett

### BIBLE BULLETS

1. If your enemies are hungry, feed them. Rom 12.20
2. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. Rom.12.20
3. Overcome evil with good. Rom.12.21

*Submitted by Dan Barrett*



## Give a Christmas Card to Wesley!

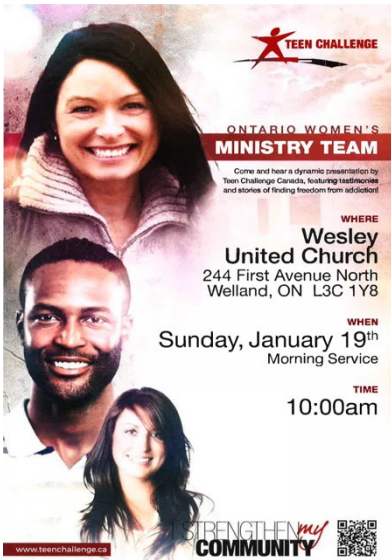
The Finance Committee has initiated the “Christmas Card” fundraiser again this year.

As you may give a Christmas gift to a member of your family, you may want to give a “gift” to your Wesley Church Family.

You may enclose a monetary gift inside a Christmas card and send or bring it to the Church, or drop it in the collection plate, with your name or PAR or envelope number on the envelope.

The cards will be placed on the Christmas tree in the foyer once the knitted goods on the Mitten Tree have been distributed.

Thanks for your consideration at this time of the year!



## Birthdays!

Birthdays are going back to being celebrated in Robins Hall after the service. If you'd like your birthday recognized, please sign the sheet in the Narthex!

## Wesley Question of the Week

*Why did Joseph, Jesus' father, go to Bethlehem, a city of David, to be registered?*

*Find the answer in Luke 2.4*

## Who's blowing that horn this week?



Wesley would like to welcome French horn player Michael Rosenberger to our service on Sunday.

Michael holds a Bachelor of Music in Performance from Wilfrid Laurier University and a Master of Music in Orchestral Performance from the Manhattan School of Music where he studied with Michelle Reed Baker, former 2nd Horn of the Metropolitan Opera.

He won a position with the National Youth Orchestra of Canada three times, and was a two-time member of Boris Brott's National Academy Orchestra.

Overseas, he has played in the Opera Ischia Festival Orchestra, and taught and performed at the Orfeo Music Festival in Vipiteno/Sterzing, Italy.

Michael is an active freelancer, playing with the Hamilton City Ballet, Mississauga Symphony Orchestra, Niagara Symphony Orchestra, Oakville Chamber Orchestra, Southern Ontario Lyric Opera, Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra, Toronto Concert Orchestra, and Windsor Symphony Orchestra.

He recently collaborated with George Cleland, performing Weber's Concertino for horn and orchestra with the Peninsula Orchestra.

Michael coaches with the Niagara Youth Orchestra, with whom he is an alumnus of, maintains a private teaching studio, and is an avid music arranger.

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### Holy Humour

A priest, a minister, and a rabbit walk into a blood bank.  
The rabbit says, "I think I might be a type o."

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The Mitten Tree in the foyer will be taking donations until Dec. 12.

## The Mitten Tree is growing – thanks to you!!

Wesley United Church's mitten tree is in its final few days! There are lots of hats and mittens on there. People have been coming in with new hats and mittens and placing them on the tree. All donations will go to Birchway Niagara (formerly Women's Place).

Wesley is also accepting new toys on their behalf. While any gifts for young people are gratefully accepted, it's important to remember teenagers and gifts for teens are being urgently called for. Even a gift card with a denomination as low as \$5.

All items must be at the tree by Dec. 12 as they're being delivered to Birchway on Dec. 13.

Please help make this Christmas nicer for those in need. Remember, all items need to be new.

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### A note from Shelley Gault

Shelley Gault, who was featured in WUAW last week, wrote in to ask for a small addition. Here it is: "From the very first sermon I had the privilege of hearing in September of 2012, Rev. Kim caught my attention, moved me to tears and laughter, and welcomed me with open arms. I knew then, I had found my church."

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## Hospice Niagara

We are extremely excited and pleased to announce that Hospice Niagara will be running their Wellness Programs here at Wesley on Thursday mornings starting on Jan. 9. Alexandra Plato, the Community Programs Co-ordinator from Hospice will be coming to speak to us on Dec. 29 during our Worship Service. Alex and our own Tanis Laramée, Rose Hotte's granddaughter, will join us for Coffee Hour to answer any questions. This is such a wonderful Outreach for Wesley and our whole community!!! Join us on Dec. 29 and invite your friends and family.

*Your Membership and Outreach Committee*



## Cookies For Shut-ins



*Your Membership and Outreach Committee*

On Tues. Dec. 17 at 9:30 am. we will be making up plates of cookies to take to some of our Wesley Family Shut-ins to say that we care about them and truly miss them.

Please consider helping by making some cookies for us to give out and/or take some to our Wesley Family who are no longer able to attend in person. Please contact Wendy Reed if you are able to help.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat., Dec. 7 – **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROL SING** – 7 p.m. St. David's Anglican Church in Welland, 369 Thorold Rd.

Sun., Dec. 8 - **BIRCHWAY NIAGARA** representative Samantha Forbes will speak at Wesley about violence against women (during the service) – 10 a.m. - Wesley United Church, Welland

Sun., Dec. 8 - **CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT** – 7 p.m. - Central United Church, Welland

Sat., Dec. 14 - **"IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE"** – A live radio play being performed at Silver Spire United Church, St. Catharines. Tickets are \$25 per person and include refreshments. Contact the church at 905-682-8328.

Sun., Dec. 15 – **CHRISTMAS CANTATA** – 2:30 p.m. - The choir at St. John's Stevensville United Church presents their annual choral cantata, called "The Wonderous Story!" Bring your friends and family for a free Christmas concert, no tickets needed, and then join afterwards for snacks and light refreshments. A freewill offering will be accepted, with the proceeds going towards the outreach centre, The Embrace.

Sun., Dec. 22—**VOCALIST DIANNE TICKNOR** -10 a.m. in the Wesley Sanctuary

Tues., Dec. 24 – **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** – 7 p.m. in the Wesley Sanctuary

Sun., Jan. 12, 2025 – **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** – to approve the budget for the new year, to be held in the sanctuary following morning worship