

*St Paul's United Church*

# *December*

Newsletter 2020



*Merry  
Christmas!*

## In This Newsletter

- \* Ivy's December Message
- \* Birthdays and Anniversaries
- \* Join Zoom Worship
- \* Community and Important Notices
- \* Upcoming Events



**St Paul's United**

**December 2020**

**You Are Welcome Here!**

[www.stpaulsunitedkelowna.com](http://www.stpaulsunitedkelowna.com)

Facebook/StPaulsUnitedKelowna

Instagram/StPaulsKelowna

Sunday Service via Zoom: 10am

Visit us online for all of our current news and events at: [www.stpaulsunitedkelowna.com](http://www.stpaulsunitedkelowna.com)

## Rev. Ivy Thomas: December Message

How do you wait? Are you patient and calm, allowing time to pass peacefully? Are you an anxious wait-er, worrying about the what ifs, and the how comes? Perhaps you're an impatient wait-er, pacing the floor, checking your watch and tapping your toe, finding it hard to believe that time could possibly pass so slowly.

Advent is a time of waiting. It lasts a mere four weeks (at most) and leads us into the celebration of the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. In any typical year, the world would have us shopping for gifts, decorating our homes, and baking in preparation for the days ahead when family will gather to celebrate Love. Of course, there are also, usually, the preparations for Christmas concerts, school recitals and breakfast and photos with Santa.

Indeed, any "normal" Advent season flies by in what seems like the blink of an eye and before we know it, it's Christmas, New Year's Eve and the beginning of the slow climb out of winter darkness into the light of spring.

But this is no "normal" Advent season. This year, waiting will take on a whole new look. Any shopping to be done will mostly be done online. There will be little need to bake or prepare the house for visitors, as everyone cocoons in their own small, family bubble. Concerts and other seasonal celebrations have been cancelled in an effort to prevent the spread of Covid and nobody wants to get close enough to the Jolly Fellow to sit on his knee for a picture!!

So how will you wait, this year? What new tradition might you engage, to bring light and hope into the darkness of these winter days? How will you shift your engagement with others so that connections are made, and love is shared, if only at a distance?

It will be important, this year, more than others, to take the time to consider how you will engage this waiting time. With so many extra minutes on our hands, it seems like a perfect time to begin (or expand upon) a practice of prayerful listening. When we stop, listen in the silence, and relax into the moment, we just might hear God's voice, offering us words unexpected, wisdom unsolicited, and comfort longed for.

As we wait, in our own unique way, for the coming of the Christ child, may we know that, despite how it may seem, we do not wait alone. God's love is always with us, Christ's light is always shining, and Spirit's voice is always at the ready, to lead us out of darkness, into new life.

May this Advent (and Christmas) season, bring its own unique gifts to each of us, as we learn new ways of waiting and celebrating the birth of the Word Made Flesh among us.

**Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!**

*Ivy*





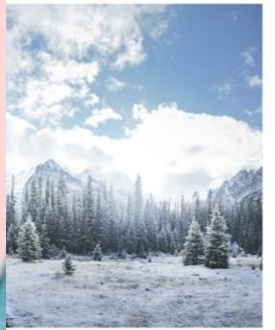
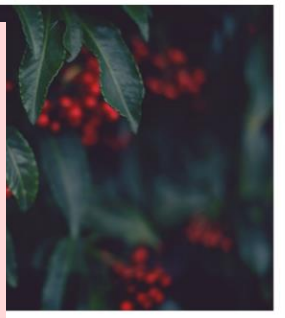
# December

## BIRTHDAYS

Bill Caswell 1st  
Leo Chabot 10th  
Terresa Augustine 12th  
Patsi Godin 14th  
Carol Byrnes 14th  
Lois Richards 14th  
Shawna Banman 16th  
Delores Caswell 20th  
Cliff Serwa 23rd

## ANNIVERSARIES

Duck Key Kim & Mee Ja Kim 15th





## Zoom Worship Services

Sunday at 10am Join in via Zoom .us  
Share the link with friends and family  
who may like to join us live!  
Details for Christmas Eve Zoom worship  
will be emailed soon.



**All Welcome!**



*With Rev. Ivy Thomas*

# WORSHIP US

*Online*

**EVERY SUNDAY**

**10AM ZOOM MEETING**

 STPAULSKELOWNA

 STPAULSUNITEDKELOWNA

Each week an email reminder will be mailed out to our subscriber list with the details of how to connect to Zoom. The meeting details are the same each week. The videos of these Zoom Worship meetings are posted weekly onto our website for you to view. If you know anyone who would like to be added to our subscriber emails, please email [admin@stpaulskelowna.ca](mailto:admin@stpaulskelowna.ca)

**Christmas is in the air!**



## Winter Book Study

**Thursday Mornings 10:30am to 11:30am, Starting Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> 2021**

This winter we will look at what decolonization means for us as people of faith. We will consider the history of Indigenous - settler relations through focusing on our own stories in this ongoing relationship. We will use as our guide *Unsettling Spirit: A Journey into Decolonization*, by settler educator and activist Denise Nadeau. This seven week book study will involve discussion of the book and sharing our own stories, as well as a brief introduction to some of the teachings of the *Syilx/Okanagan peoples in whose territory we live*.

*Denise Nadeau ( MDIV, DMin) is a writer, educator and activist of mixed European heritage from Quebec, now residing in Lkwungen territory on Vancouver Island. She is a trained somatic educator and is an Affiliate Assistant Professor in the Department of Religions and Cultures at Concordia University in Montreal where she taught Indigenous Traditions, Women and Colonialism for several years.*

***Join us on Zoom – Contact the Office or Ivy to Register.***

### *Book Description:*

*Unsettling Spirit: A Journey into Decolonization*

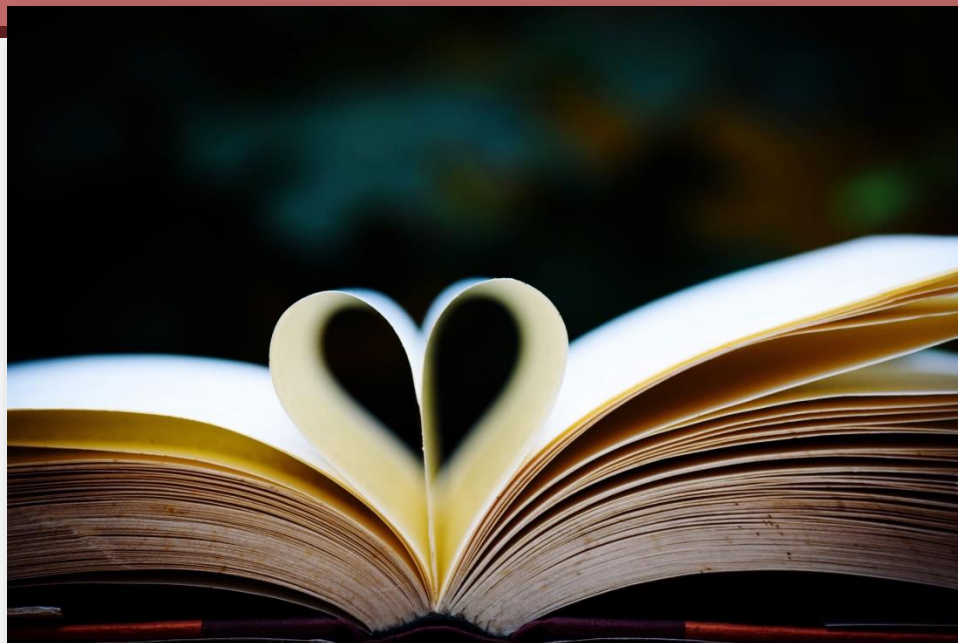
By Denise M. Nadeau / Foreword by Deanna Reder

What does it mean to be a white settler on land taken from peoples who have lived there since time immemorial? In the context of reconciliation and Indigenous resurgence, *Unsettling Spirit* provides a personal perspective on decolonization, informed by Indigenous traditions and lifeways, and the need to examine one's complicity with colonial structures.

The author shares stories from her early and brief experience of "Native mission" in the late 1980s and early 1990s in northern Canada and Chiapas, Mexico, and the gradual recognition that she had internalized colonialist concepts of the "good Christian" and the Great White Helper. She goes back to look at her family's history in Quebec and uncovers the responsibilities that come with facing this history. Incorporating insights from Indigenous ethical and legal frameworks, *Unsettling Spirit* offers an accessible reflection on possibilities for settler decolonization

A foreword by Cree-Métis author Deanna Reder places the work in a broader context of Indigenous scholarship. The cover image is by Mi'gmaq beader Bernadine Martin

**Copies of the book can be purchased at Mosaic Books**







## Giving & Donations During COVID19

Are you wondering how you might continue to support the congregation financially, while in-person gatherings have been suspended? Here are a few options for you:

- Join Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)
  - o How it works – An amount that you determine will be automatically withdrawn from your bank account and deposited in St. Paul's account
  - o How to sign up – Contact Delaine and she will forward the form to you via email. This is a fast and easy donation solution.
  - o
- Mail – yes, you can mail your cheque to the church, or simply address it to us, and drop it in the mail slot just right of the main church entrance, and we will make sure it gets recorded and deposited. **Our address at First Mennonite: 1305 Gordon Dr, Kelowna BC V1Y 3E7.**  
**Also please note whether you would like your cheque to be deposited in the General Fund, or Mission and Service, or any other special designation you may prefer. Thanks!**
- Canada Helps – there is a tab on the church website that allows you to make a donation online. <https://www.stpaulsunitedkelowna.com/> Note that you will require a credit card for this transaction.
- E-transfer – If you do your banking online, you can e-transfer your donation directly to the church with the use of our finance email: [finance@stpaulskelowna.ca](mailto:finance@stpaulskelowna.ca)

**\*Please Note:\* Due to Covid-19 we are not ordering special donation envelopes this year. Personal cheques may be mailed in as usual. All donations made under your name will continue to be recorded as usual for Tax Purposes.**

## Outreach Committee Report

Hello St. Paul's,

Your Outreach Committee met recently to disburse 2020 Outreach funds to some of the many worthwhile programs in our community that are helping those in need. On your behalf, we will contribute to the following:

1. As in prior years, we will provide 40 \$25 Independent Grocers gift cards as Christmas presents for the residents at Willowbridge.
2. In a normal year, the Outreach Willowbridge Team provides a meal six times a year for the residents. This year, with COVID lockdown, Canadian Mental Health started providing the residents with one meal per day. In March, St. Paul's contributed \$200 towards the cost of the meals. These daily meals have been discontinued. Willowbridge is now providing a meal in-house each weekend. They are also planning a Christmas meal on December 18<sup>th</sup>. St. Paul's will contribute an additional \$500 towards the ongoing cost of the meals.
3. Canadian Mental Health: Kelowna administers a Graduated Rent Supplement program that is part of the Journey Home Society's initiative to end homelessness. We will contribute \$1,000 to this vitally important program. Our 2020 potluck money was to go towards this program.
4. Childhood Connections – Okanagan Family and Childhood Care Society, Nourish Families Initiative, is putting together Christmas hampers for a special Christmas dinner for their clients who do not have access to other programs. We will contribute \$1,500 towards filling these hampers with Christmas goodies.

Thank you St. Paul's. Without your offerings the Outreach Committee could not assist worthwhile community programs.

If we were meeting in person we would be having a separate Christmas Offering. If you would like to make a specific Christmas Offering to any of these causes, you can send your donation to St. Paul's with the money specified for Outreach, in General or to a specific purpose. These are only a small number of worthy causes such as Salvation Army, Food Bank, etc. that are worthy of our help.





## Nourish Families: St Paul's Outreach

Nourish Families - <https://nourishfamilies.com>

When people buy a local restaurant meal online from Nourish Families, the restaurant makes an extra meal for one of their clients. Currently there are 20 families receiving meals, with 10 families on the waiting list. The children of eligible families must be under the age of 12. When a family receives a meal they also receive a play component to enhance the therapy the child is receiving.

We asked the ladies if there was any way that St. Paul's could assist their program. Here are some possible ways:

- if you buy a meal, a meal is provided to a client family. Meals can be purchased online from

<https://trellis.org/nourishfamiliesinitiative>

- if you know anyone in the restaurant business that may be willing to participate in this program please let them know. They are continually looking for participants.

- monetary donations are accepted so that they can purchase meals for their clients in those weeks where there are not enough participants.

*A Note from Nourish Families weekly email news:*

As you know, we have this desire to give our client families a little something extra this Christmas. It has been a rough time for all of us but especially for those in poverty with food insecurity and young children. We can now confirm that we have funds for a proper ready-made Christmas dinner for ALL of our families (almost 60 families!) thanks to Minister Ivy Thomas and Linda Hutchinson from St. Paul's Church for raising \$1,500 to cover the cost of Christmas dinner!



# Thank You!

Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who worked this fall making sandwiches, baking cookies or buying granola bars/fruit cups/candy for distribution at First United on their regular Tuesday/Thursday Outreach program; and to those who contributed their time and service and food donations for the special Thanksgiving turkey dinner that was distributed on October 6th. I know Cheryl Perry from First United is so grateful for the involvement of St. Paul's people in the First United Outreach programs and she would thank each of you individually in person if she could; but for now you will have to settle for thanks in writing. Thank you Alma Burnett, Sylvia Clerke, Donna Fletcher, Jim Harnden, Cliff Hardy, Rose Hoffman, Linda Hutchinson, Joyce Philpott, Karen Rennie (Sylvia's friend), Lois Richards, Susan Sullivan and Diane Walton (SongShine).

*PS - If anyone would like to contribute to the Outreach programs at First United, especially over this Christmas/New Year's period, please feel free to contact me at any time for further information on opportunities to get involved.*

*Jayne*



**What better way to begin the first week of Advent then to join in a virtual screening of the documentary 'Common Strength'?**

It is the story of two women inspired by hope who do the hard work of making sure everyone gets to eat around a family table - Colleen Dyck, a farmer from Niverville, Manitoba travelled to western Kenya to live and work alongside small-scale farmer, Lucy Anyango. After the screening, we'll be joined by Colleen Dyck, Wangui Gitai (World Renew Kenya staff in Nairobi) and the film's producer, Meagan Silencieux, together for a conversation and Q&A.

**Register in advance at:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAkdemupzwtG9dzePXGLH3JU--N6oUxVB>

Questions? Contact Debbie Hubbard at 250-469-4468, [sowingseedsofpossibilities@gmail.com](mailto:sowingseedsofpossibilities@gmail.com)

# A Screening of **COMMON STRENGTH**

## A Short Documentary Film



**Thursday,  
December 3,  
2020**

**at 7:00 PM  
Pacific**

**Online via Zoom**

***The story of two  
women farmers in  
two countries  
feeding their  
families.***



**Register in advance on Zoom.**



# Amir Hussain

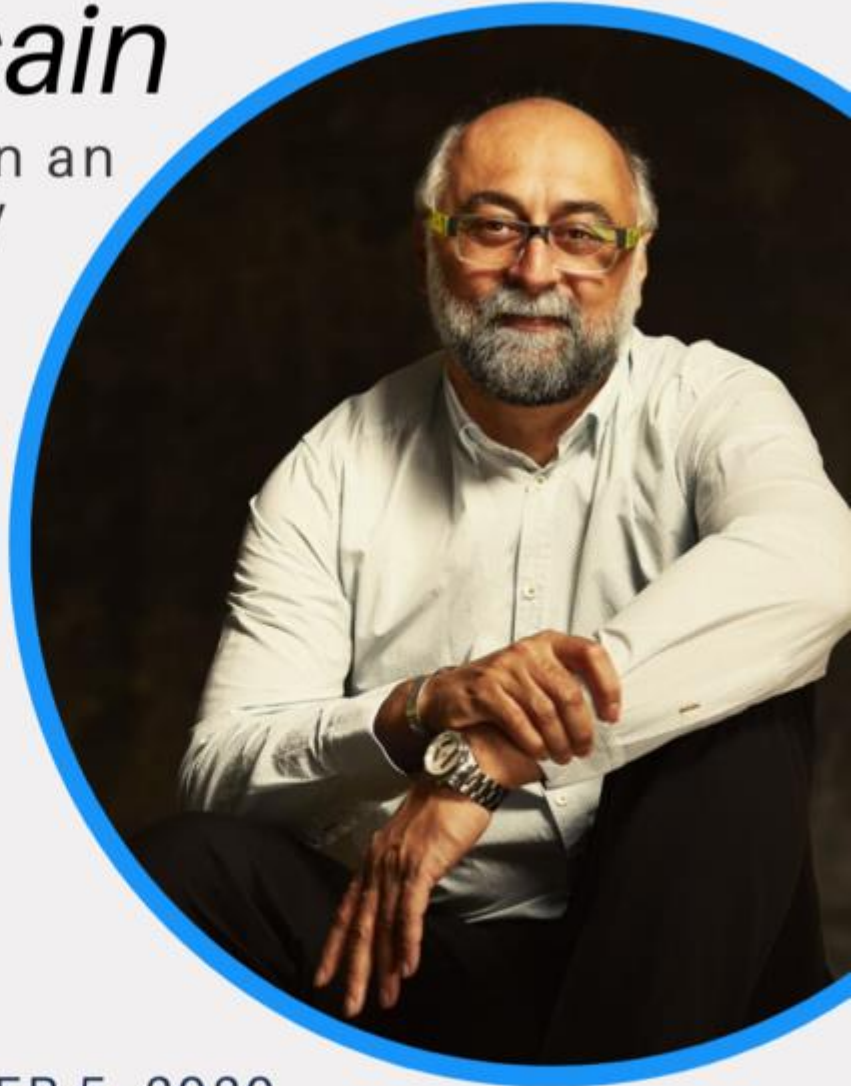
Muslim Professor in an  
Ignation University



**POSTMODERN  
PROPHETS:  
4 WINDOWS  
ON OUR  
WORLD**

**SPEAKER**  
LeaderShift   
**SERIES**

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1:30-3PM PT  
SATURDAY DECEMBER 5, 2020  
FREE - SPONSORED BY LEADERSHIFT

Register Online:

<https://www.leadershiftpm.ca/register/postmodern-prophets-12-05>

A hand is shown typing on a white keyboard on a dark wooden surface. To the right of the keyboard is a white cup filled with dark coffee. Below the keyboard, there are three star-shaped cookies, one red and two white. A cinnamon stick and some other small items are also visible on the table. The background is a wooden table.

# Zoom Cafe

Grab a cup and pull  
up a chair.

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Friday December 11th  
@ 10am - 11am



Join in for an Advent Sing a Long each Sunday!  
Zoom Link emailed each week.

St Paul's United Church Welcomes You To:



# Zoom

## *Sing the Spirit of Christmas*

Sunday  
7:30pm

Join Choir Director Sylvia Clerke  
each Sunday evening to Sing your  
Christmas favourites!

[www.stpaulsunitedkelowna.com](http://www.stpaulsunitedkelowna.com)



<https://www.stpaulsunitedkelowna.com/post/st-paul-s-year-end-2020-video>





Sing A Long Wednesdays in December: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>

JOIN IN THE MUSICAL FUN!

# HAPPY HOUR

HOSTED BY CHOIR DIRECTOR:

*Sylvia Clerke*

JOIN IN FOR A SOCIAL SING-A-LONG WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS



**EACH WEDNESDAY  
4:00 PM - 4:30 PM**

ZOOM LINK WILL BE EMAILED OUT ON TUESDAY

**Please Note: SONGSHINE dates: Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.**