



# Trinity Talks

## Winter 2021

# Welcome Christmas!

*“Welcome Christmas,  
come this way!  
Welcome Christmas,  
Christmas Day!*

*Christmas Day in in our grasp,  
So long as we have hands to  
clasp.*

*Christmas Day will always be,  
Just as long as we have we.”  
- Dr. Seuss*

And this year, many of us will have hands in clasp. Ok... maybe we need to clasp elbows instead of hands, but still. You get the point. This year many of us will be able to attend Advent services, Christmas activities, and the Christmas Eve service in person for the first time in what seems like forever! But for those

of us who cannot, we will continue to come together as a community through our hybrid activities, thanks in large part to our newly-created and highly-devoted Tech Team.

Let’s look upon this Christmas season with renewed hope and spread love, joy, and peace in our families, our community of faith, and our community at large. Wishing you and your loved ones a very merry Christmas,

*Sheri Cameron*  
Trinity Talks editor



## It's Christmas! Time to Celebrate!

### **Sunday, November 28**

\* Advent I at Trinity

### **Saturday, December 4**

\* Breakfast with Santa  
\* Dough Holy Night

### **Sunday, December 5**

\* Advent II at Trinity  
\* Congregational Meeting

### **Thursday, December 9**

\* Blue Christmas service

### **Sunday, December 12**

\* Advent III at Trinity  
\* Youth Pageant

### **Sunday, December 19**

\* Advent IV at Anjou  
\* Messy Church at Trinity

Friday, December 24

\* Christmas Eve service at Trinity



“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. [...] For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”  
– Isaiah 9:2, 6



## Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

Advent is here and just in time! For aren't we all in need of a time to slow down and take stock? We have been like a people "walking in darkness" over the duration of this pandemic. We have consistently tried to keep looking for the light that will bring us through this time – looking to Jesus as our light, our compass, our Way. This season of preparation for Christmas once again gives us the chance to rekindle our hope, peace, joy and love for ourselves, our communities and this world.

The hope of the child to be born can be our hope once again. God will provide a new generation to take up the challenges the world is currently now facing. God will provide a new generation who will take up the faith that keeps us going! Be it meta-issues such as the climate crisis, reconciliation with and justice for indigenous people, for feeding the hungry – God shows us that life, that love, is meant to be lived incarnationally. Our bodies, our relationships with others, our caring for our planet home, all are part of the hope we can set before the Christ child, a gift to him and a gift for us and future generations.

We need peace in our lives, now, too! So many of us suffer from anxiety in these times, or live with chronic pain. Or we feel lonely or isolated, despite being able to get out and into community again. The peace of the child to come is yours as you reach deep down into yourselves, knowing your inner goodness, knowing you are loved by your Creator and by me and by your church. We can achieve greater peace as we reach out to each other and get to know each other. Christ's peace comes as we ask for help and trust God will provide what we need.

Joy can return in this season! If we've been too busy, too overloaded with work, not enjoying what we do or how we do it, needing more time for family, friends, the Child waits for you to let go, or ask for help, or reorganize how you do what you do so it can take on new life, bring new joy. Especially in what we bring to the church, God wants our efforts to be meaningful and valued! The child invites us to become community, to belong to and care for one another. Our lives can become centred in gratitude for the joy we give and receive like gifts to the world.

Love. This one word says it all, eh? In Advent we await the rebirth of love at Christmas. It is a love that takes us outside of ourselves, our needs, our wants – to focus on the Child, and all who need a little love in their lives. That could be you – it could be me! It could be a friend in need, or an animal companion that embodies love for us. God loves us unreservedly in giving to us this Child!

May this Advent help you know the deep love of the Child, the Christ. I am available to meet for any pastoral need. You can reach me through the office at 514-721-1830 or my private confidential line: 438-380-5850.

In Christ's big love!  
*Rev. Read*



## *Bible Basics: What is Advent?*

Advent (from the Latin *adventus*, "coming") marks a period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. We prepare our homes, our hearts, and our minds to receive the gift of Jesus.

During Advent – which starts four Sundays before Christmas – we light candles on an Advent wreath: one for each Sunday and one for Christmas. Traditionally, each of the four Sundays has a theme: love, hope, peace, and joy. The candle in the middle of the wreath is the Christ Candle and is lit on Christmas Eve.

This Advent season our church will be using "God with Us – An Illustrated Advent" as a basis for worship. We will experiment over the four Sundays by including an all-ages interactive discussion of 10-15 minutes while our youth and children are still in the sanctuary with the rest of the congregation. We anticipate a time for a craft activity adults would enjoy too!



## *Advent Dates:*

Nov. 28

Dec 12

Dec 5

Dec 19





# Christmas Events

## *Breakfast with Santa* Saturday, Dec. 4 at 11:00 AM

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It's time to welcome Santa back to Trinity in person! A lovely breakfast of pancakes, eggs, sausages, coffee and tea await you and Santa at this year's Breakfast with Santa. According to the rules of the Quebec Government, only 25 people are allowed so you must RSVP with Diane Best at (438) 765-7904 or [diane\\_red-pink5@live.com](mailto:diane_red-pink5@live.com).

*COVID Procedures: A Vaccine Passport is mandatory and masks must be worn whenever you are not eating. We need to keep Santa safe!*

## *Dough Holy Night* Saturday, Dec. 4 at 1:00 PM

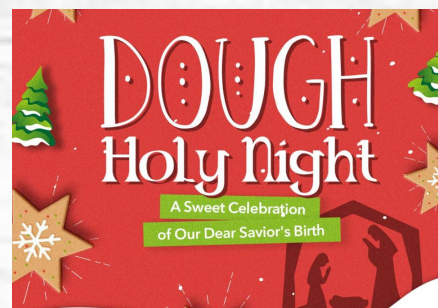
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Last year we held our first Dough Holy Night experience over Zoom. Participants baked cookies together, shared cookie memories and secret tips, and celebrated the Christmas story together.

This year we will do a hybrid Dough Holy Night: some of us in Trinity's kitchen and others at home via our usual Zoom link. A \$5 donation is appreciated for people baking at church to cover the cost of ingredients.

Fun for the whole family! Reserve with Sheri at [kids@trinityuc.net](mailto:kids@trinityuc.net)

*COVID Procedures: A Vaccine Passport is mandatory and masks must be worn at Trinity.*



## *Blue Christmas* Thursday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 PM

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It can be hard to celebrate Christmas when you're missing a loved one, but we are here for you. Come participate in the Blue Christmas service and light a candle for your loved one. The Memorial Tree will also be lit at the service.



## *Christmas Pageant* Sunday, Dec. 12 at 10:30 AM

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What do you get when a bunch of teens decide they still want to perform a Christmas pageant for their congregation? A Misunderstood Christmas! Come out and enjoy the antics of these funny youth and their smaller counterparts, as Myrtle, Frankenstein and a Few Wise Guys show up for Christmas!



## *Best Gift Shopping* Sunday, Dec. 12 after worship

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Our youth will go on their annual Best Gift Shopping Extravaganza on Sunday, Dec. 12, after church. All school-aged children and youth are invited to participate in this shopping spree for children from underprivileged families!

Please RSVP with Sheri at [kids@trinityuc.net](mailto:kids@trinityuc.net)

## *Christmas Eve Service* Friday, Dec. 24 at 7:30 PM

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Come celebrate Christmas Eve IN-PERSON at Trinity! After what seems like an eternity, we gather together once again for our candlelight Christmas Eve service. Both Anjou and Trinity congregations will be coming together at Trinity, but not to worry – our Tech Team will make sure the service is broadcast on Zoom, too!







# Announcements

## *Christmas Tree of Thanks, Memories, & Hope* before Monday, Dec. 6

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Again this year we are having our special Christmas tree of thanks, memories and hope. The money raised from these special memorial ornaments will help us with ongoing expenses of our church.

We are asking for a donation of \$5.00 or more per ornament. Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$10.00 or more.

Please e-mail [diane\\_red-pink5@live.com](mailto:diane_red-pink5@live.com) with the name of the person you wish to honour.

Your ornaments will be placed on our special Blue Christmas tree and will be removed to be given to you just before Christmas.

*David Garland*  
Blue Christmas Ornament Committee



## *Ways to Give This Christmas* before Sunday, Dec. 12

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### *The Benevolent Fund*

Christmas is a wonderful time of year. The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ – a time of celebration with family and friends.

But there are those who are in need, emotionally, financially, and spiritually.

Please give to the Benevolent Fund – a fund to be used at the Minister's discretion for those in need.

Donations are especially important during this Festive Season. Every little bit counts.

Peace & Blessings,  
*Christine*  
Secretary at Trinity United Church office

### *The Best Gift Fund*

The Best Gift Fund – a youth-led mission initiative – is taking place once again this year. The Fund started by Trinity's Youth Group in the early 2000s arose out of a discussion regarding needy children and their lack of new toys at Christmas. The youth decided they wanted to do something about it and the Best Gift Fund was born!

Today's youth still go to buy toys to donate to Sun Youth and are careful to ensure that the toys are multicultural and non-violent.

Please support our youth in their wonderful initiative!

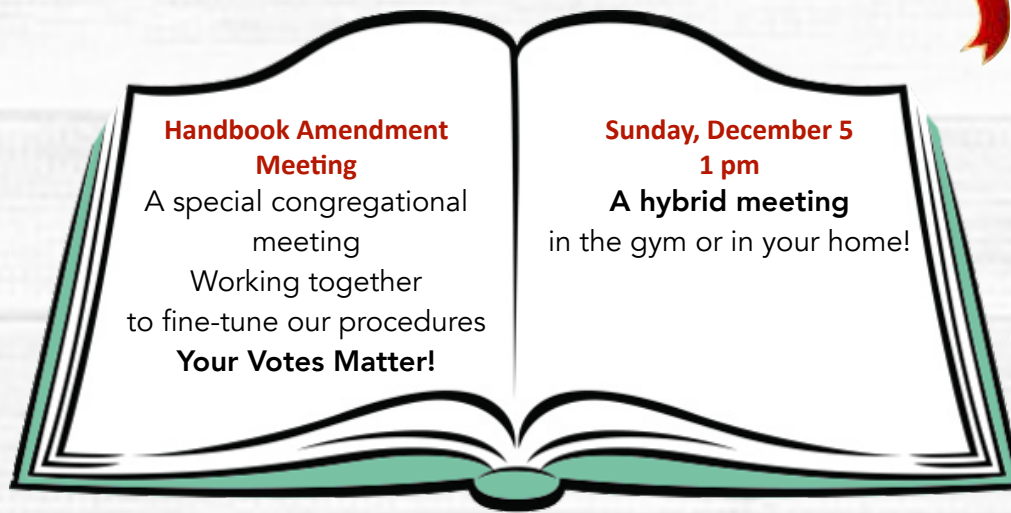
*Sheri & Sabz*  
Youth Leaders



# Congregational Meeting

Sunday, Dec. 5 after worship

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## Handbook Amendment Meeting

A special congregational meeting  
Working together  
to fine-tune our procedures  
**Your Votes Matter!**

**Sunday, December 5  
1 pm**

**A hybrid meeting**  
in the gym or in your home!

**2022 January: Distribution of updated Handbooks**  
**2022 March, TBA: Annual Congregational Meeting**

## Tech Team Update

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The Tech team has continued to work hard to deliver hybrid services. They have done that up to this point by utilizing their own personal equipment.

In-person training has begun amongst the Tech team members so that Mikayla-Aimee can teach the other members how to use the software and systems that have been developed for our tech production and delivery.

After more meetings with our friends from the Baptist Church, a collaborative agreement has now been reached and the Tech team is now beginning the process of acquiring the necessary equipment to outfit the church for our tech needs.

The Tech team has begun installing a temporary production area (behind the brick wall), and putting the equipment into service as it arrives. The configuration of new equipment sometimes has hiccups and the Tech team appreciates the patience of the congregation.

In the meantime, the team has been searching out and consulting with contractors in order to have a permanent tech booth installed at the back of the sanctuary.

Thank you to the leadership of Mikayla-Aimee, Rosemary Warren, Gary Tompkins and Glenn Funamoto for all of your hard work.

*Mikayla-Aimee*  
Trinity Tech Team





## Confirmation Classes

Gary Tompkins and Rev. Read Sherman will begin confirmation classes for our youth and anyone else who is interested in exploring their faith with the possibility of getting confirmed in the United Church. Classes will start in January. RSVP with Gary Tompkins at [welcome@trinityuc.net](mailto:welcome@trinityuc.net).



## Weekly Offering Envelopes for 2022

I will be giving out the weekly Offering envelopes for 2022 in the next month. If you would like to have the weekly offering envelopes, please contact me. Also if you would like to start giving by PAR ( Pre Authorized Remittance) directly from your bank account, please contact me. If you do not wish to have the weekly offering envelopes anymore, please contact me.

Thank you,  
*Shirley Cartmill*  
Envelope Secretary.

My contact info is : Phone: 514-376-2159 or e-mail: [tazmagoo@sympatico.ca](mailto:tazmagoo@sympatico.ca)



## Handbell Choir

We are looking to re-start the Ding-a-Lings, Trinity's handbell choir. If you would like more information or to join, contact Sheri at [communications@trinityuc.net](mailto:communications@trinityuc.net). Please note that you need to be able to read music in order to join the Ding-a-Lings.

## VBS 2022 Theme Reveal

Wondering what this year's VBS theme will be? Well, it's top secret for now, but wait until our theme reveal in January!





# Christmas Memories

## *A Polish Christmas*

So, here is my favorite memory.

Coming from a Polish Family, my parents taught me from a very young age how holy Christmas is, especially Christmas Eve.

On Christmas Eve, my mom would make her Polish Christmas Bread, Dumplings, and fish. Our house would smell so good. My dad would play Polish Christmas songs. My dad's favorite song was Today in Bethlehem.

My dad has been gone now for 25 years, but I continue to play and sing it.

The best part was supper. My mom and I would set the table. The table was

gorgeous, covered with a traditional Polish Christmas table cloth, napkins, and her favorite and most delicate Christmas plates and saucers. My dad would take bread, open the kitchen blinds, and look up to the sky. When my dad saw a star shining up in the sky, he would then break the bread and give us each a piece.

The first star that he would see in the sky he called the Christmas Star.

We would say a prayer, and then, and only then, would we be allowed to eat.

And that is my favourite and most memorable Christmas memory.

*Christine Tatarewicz*

## *A Magical Christmas*

Christmas was my mom's favourite time of year and she always made it magical.

When I was little, she would bake gingerbread men and have my brother and I decorate them, which we did for hours (sneaky Mom - way to keep the kids busy!).

She loved all things Christmas and filled our home with delicious smells, Raffi and Boney M Christmas music, and love.

On Christmas morning she even woke up earlier than us kids to see if Santa had arrived! After waking us up, we would all pile on to my mom and dad's bed and my brother and I would tear into our Christmas

stockings, which always contained Crayola markers for me, of course!

As I grew up, she continued to make Christmas magical. She would cry at every pageant and watch me lovingly as I danced around on the back pew so the Sunday School could follow my dance moves. When I told her she was supposed to be watching the kids she said, "I am. I am watching my kid." Touché, Mom.

Christmas will not be the same without her. But to honour her, I plan to carry on the traditions that she set forth and to try to love unconditionally, as she did. I can only hope that I can make Christmas half as magical as she did.

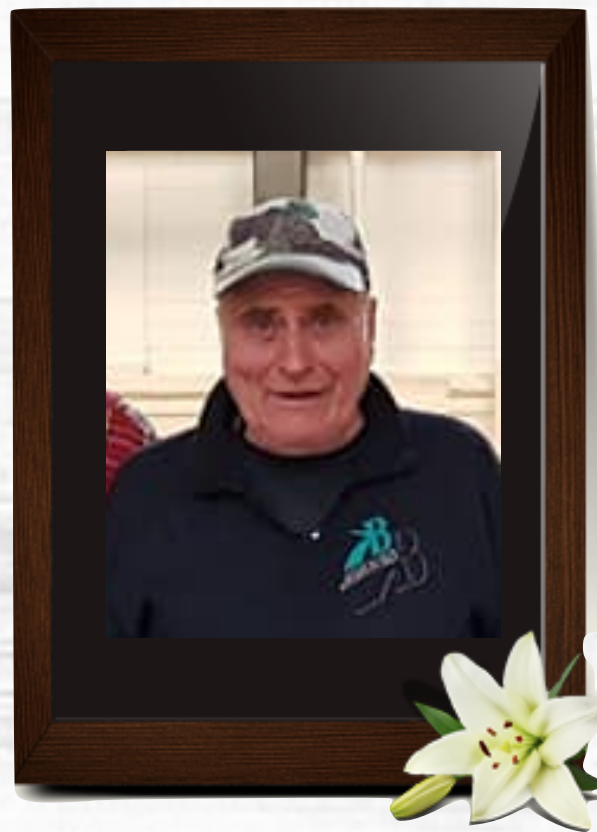
*Sheri Cameron*

# In Memoriam

This Trinity Talks is dedicated to Gordon (Gordie) Bailey who was a mainstay of the Busy Beavers, the group of men who for years spent their Tuesday mornings at Trinity to repair, rake, mow, garden, and decorate. He and Michael Monaco, Frank Massarelli, Don Cameron and Garry Garland would often have lunch down in the kitchen with much laughing, joking and telling of stories.

In more recent years, Gordie, Garry and Ashley had become Busy Beaver mainstays. Gordie always tried to make himself available to help the church. He was also a dear friend to many others. He will be missed.

May the angels in heaven welcome you, Gordon.  
May you find safe harbour,  
profound rest  
and peace at the last.  
Amen.



Keep in touch!  
We love hearing from you!

Trinity United Church

3050 Rosemont  
Montreal, Quebec H1U 1M2  
phone: 514-721-1830  
email: [welcome@trinityuc.net](mailto:welcome@trinityuc.net)  
website: [www.trinityuc.net](http://www.trinityuc.net)

