



Salisbury United Church

*“Connecting hearts, minds, and lives
in community with God”*

And she wrapped
him in swaddling
clothes and laid
him in a manger?
Luke 2: 7

December 23, 2022 ENews

SOMETHING TO PONDER BY REV BRITT

Far be it from me to upstage The United Church Moderator at Christmas time!

Our Moderator, Carmen Lansdowne, has provided a Christmas Message for communities of faith across Canada. In her Christmas video message, Moderator Carmen Lansdowne reminds us that when so much seems uncertain and the news amplifies all the hard news stories, there is One who came to show us that all the ends of the earth should see the salvation of God—and that through that One, we are capable of coming together to achieve the impossible. You can read her message below or listen to it at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJk922g8JPA>.

My prayer for all of us this Christmas is that we find that our hearts are full this year with the simple things that sustain us through thick and thin, summarized as love for self, neighbour and God. Finding our hearts with room to spare this Christmas will be the best way to celebrate the birth of Jesus. May there be room for Christ’s coming within the boundaries of your life through to the New Year and each day beyond in 2023!

Moderator’s Christmas Message 2022

My church family,

Christmas greetings to you in the name of the one who came to us as the Word made flesh—in the form of a baby born into lowly and humble beginnings.

We recite through the Gospel of John, “In the Beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...” It’s cryptic at best, but there is a reason we read the gospels alongside the Hebrew scriptures. Listen to the words of the Prophet Isaiah [52:7–10]:

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they shout for joy; for in plain sight, they see the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth, shout together for joy, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

We often associate the prophetic texts with dire warnings against our human fallibility and worst individual and corporate character defects.

But in this case, Isaiah is preaching a good news story. One of beauty, peace, good news, salvation, joy, comfort, redemption, vulnerability, and salvation.

What could be a better news story in the arrival of the Christ child than remembering all that good news promised to us through our faith? Not that we get to those things because of our faith, just that our faith reminds us—every year in the remembering of the coming of the Christ child—that all things are made new or possible again. That God wishes us to have life and to have it in abundance.

Sometimes it's hard to remember with the constant assault of bad news stories meant to keep us in a state of perpetual stress and believing the worst in each other. In fact, all empirical evidence points to the opposite: Humans are generally decent and committed to the fabric of our societies and our social contracts with each other. That we are capable of great feats of innovation, kindness, overcoming obstacles, and achieving the impossible. We were born to achieve the impossible. And not only in the absence of crisis, but even more strongly in times of crisis.

So this year, when so much seems uncertain and the news amplifies all the hard news stories, remember that when the Word is made flesh, there is One who came to show us that all the ends of the earth should see the salvation of God—and that through that One, we are capable of coming together to achieve the impossible.

From the Office of the Moderator and on behalf of The United Church of Canada, I wish you the very merriest and most inspirational of Christmases. May you be the good news and see the good news and share the good news this Christmas season.

UPCOMING DATES:

- Dec 24th – Christmas Eve
- Dec 25th – Christmas Day, No Sunday service
- Jan 1 – New Year's Day Sunday Service at 10 am



TEA AND BAKE SALE THANK YOU!!

Thank you to everyone for your participation in our Tea and Bake sale. We had a wonderful day with lots of visitors and we consider it a great success with \$2,972.55 raised.

MEMORIAL TREE LIGHTING

Thank you for joining us on such a cold night to remember all our loved ones during this holiday season. They will forever be in our thoughts and prayers.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

On December 24 join us at 7 pm for a service of Carols, Candlelight and Communion. All are welcome to join us on the holy night of Christ's birth. Service will be livestreamed online on both Zoom and YouTube. Links are available on our website.

BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Gail Soucy, Eric Soucy and Nicholas Dowdell. Gail and Eric were baptized and confirmed on December 18, 2022. Nicholas was baptized and confirmed on December 21, 2022. We celebrate God's love for you and warmly welcome you into the community of Salisbury United Church.

REV. BRITT ON STUDY LEAVE & HOLIDAYS IN JANUARY

What does our minister do right after Christmas and New Year's? Why go back to school!!! From January 4-14, Rev. Britt will be on study leave. During this time, she will be attending the third course in her Doctor of Ministry program: "Thinking Before God". Rev. Britt will then be on holidays from January 15-29th and will be visiting family in Colorado. Britt will be back from study leave/holidays and in the office on February 1, 2023.

CONGRATULATIONS COLIN BONNEAU

Please join Colin Bonneau on Friday, January 13th at Millennium Place. Door opens at 18:30, event starts 19:00. Reception to follow. Colin is being inducted into the Strathcona County Sport Wall of Recognition. Colin Bonneau aka "The Organist with Pipes" entered competitive powerlifting at the age of 52. Colin continually impressed during local, provincial, national then internationally organized events. He has set and broken around 90 world records – many of which still stand today. Colin is well remembered at Salisbury United Church as a past music coordinator of many years. We offer Colin our heartfelt Congratulations!

TOGETHER WE WORSHIP FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

During Rev. Britt's study leave/vacation, worship will be provided by a United Church connected service called "Together We Worship". This service provides a bulletin, PowerPoint and a video sermon which are adapted by us for our needs. Each sermon is from a different United Church minister, which means we get to experience preaching from a variety of clergy in January. Lay members of the congregation will be leading the services:

Jan. 8 Gail Astle

Jan. 15 Sylvia and Larry Ewanchuk

Jan. 22 Lucille Birkett

Jan. 29 Grant Lovig



MEDITATION CIRCLE AT 10AM ONLINE

Meditation Circle will meet on Wednesday, December 28 at 10 am online. After that the schedule for meeting will be under advisement during Rev.

Britt's study leave and holidays in January.

CHURCH OFFICE UPDATE

Members of the Search Committee were interviewing candidates for the job of Office Administration during the week of December 12th. A successful candidate will be announced in the near future. Thank you as always to Cherry Frampton for so ably filling the role of Interim-Administrator.

TRUEARTH ONGOING FUNDRAISER

We are having an ongoing fundraiser with TruEarth, a Canadian company which sells environmentally friendly cleaning products for your laundry, kitchen, and bathroom.



By purchasing any of “TruEarth’s products, not only are you helping the environment, but also Salisbury UC as we will receive 20% of the profits from any online purchase made through our link provided on our website or you by selecting the following link:

<https://fundraising.tru.earth/salisburyuc>



UPDATE

For those of you who are not comfortable making purchases online we have a new option for you! Salisbury United Church will make an online order on the 30th of each month. Just send your order and money to Salisbury United Church by the 25th of each month and we will place an order on your behalf.

FINANCE CORNER

Update for January 1 to November 2022



| | ACTUAL | BUDGET |
|----------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Income: | \$224,933.18 | \$218,775.15 |
| Expense: | <u>\$218,312.87</u> | <u>\$212,874.69</u> |
| | <u>\$ 6,620.31</u> | <u>\$5,900.46</u> |

Salisbury's financial position took a giant step forward in November thanks to the unwavering support of our members. The \$18,500 deficit reported in October improved to a small surplus by the end of November. However, we've collected about \$12,300 Mission & Service funds that have yet to be transferred to the national church, so we're still actually about \$11,600 in the red to the end of November with one month to go in 2022. Thanks for helping to ensure we finish the year in the black. We're definitely on the right track!

If you need any help with giving envelopes (new supply, pick-up, etc.) or other giving options (monthly giving through PAR, E-Transfers or donating online through Canada Helps on the Salisbury Website), please contact Roxanne at the Church Office. Phone: 780-467-7310 E-Mail: salisburyuc@telus.net

Thank you for your support of Salisbury United Church and congratulations for helping your church to meet ongoing ministry obligations.

Click Here

TO DONATE ON-LINE WITH CANADA HELPS



We are now set up to accept Interac ETransfers. If you are familiar with Etransfers, just use our email address salisburyuc@telus.net to send your donation.

NORTHERN SPIRIT REGION NEWS & EVENTS



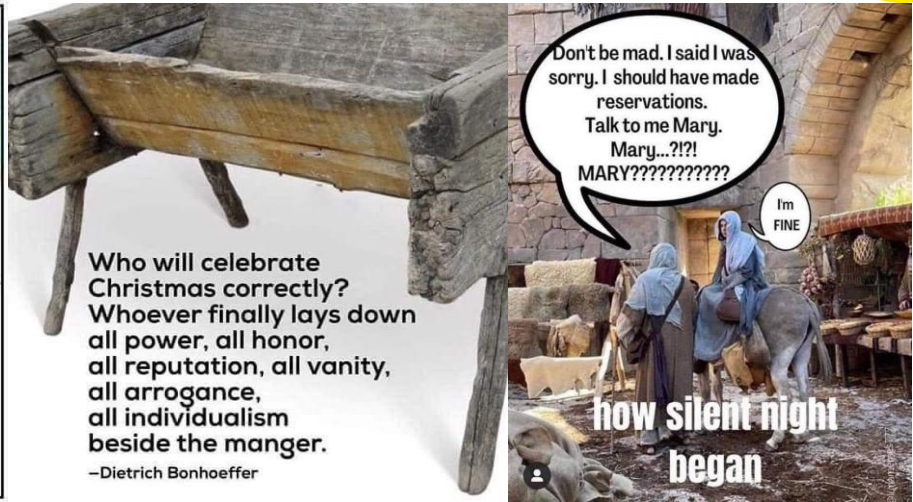
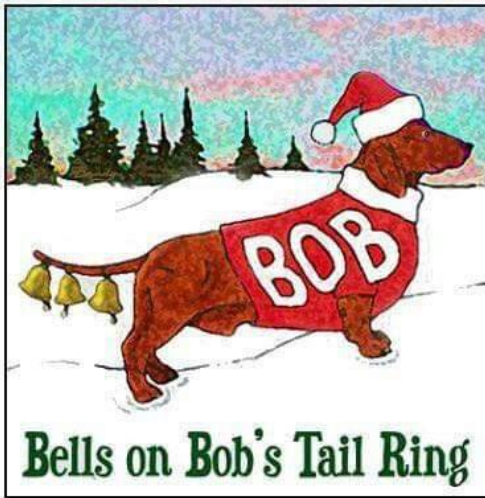
NORTHERN SPIRIT WEBSITE

Northern Spirit has a website!

Go to www.northernspiritle.ca for more information.



TODAY'S FUNNIES



RECOGNITION OF LAND



We worship with respect on land where people have lived, prayed, and held ceremonies since long before Canada was a nation. This is Treaty Six Territory, and we affirm the traditional relationship of the Cree, Blackfoot, D ne, Assiniboine, Nakota and later the M tis people with this land, along with our ongoing treaty relationship with each other.

Following are the email addresses that are from Salisbury United Church:

salisburyuc@telus.net –Church Office Administrator

salisburyminister@telus.net – Rev. Britt's church email

revvedtoo@gmail.com – Rev. Britt's personal email



Contact Us:

2 Mission Street, Sherwood Park, T8A 0V3

Church Office: 780-467-7310

Church Office Hours: Noon to 5pm

Tuesday – Fridays

Minister: Rev. Britt AERHART

Children's Church Coordinator: Lynne Wilson

Music Coordinator: Lucienne Holzman

Church Office Administrator: Cherry Frampton