

# MOUNT ROYAL UNITED CHURCH

2022 Christmas Letter



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Nov 27 - 10:30am

**Advent 1**

Donate: Hats

Dec 4 - 10:30am

**Advent 2**

**White Gift Sunday**

Donate: Gift cards & gloves

Dec 11 - 10:30am

**Advent 3**

Donate: Handwarmers

Dec 18 - 10:30am

**Advent 4**

Donate: Socks

Dec 21 - 7:00pm

**Blue Christmas**

Dec 24 - 4pm

**Children's Christmas Eve**

**Service**

Dec 24 - 7pm

**Family Christmas Eve**

**Service**

Dec 25 - no service

**Merry Christmas!**

Jan 1 - 10:30am

**New Year's Day Service**

Jan 8 - 10:30am

**Epiphany Sunday**

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

My faith family, the Advent Season is filled with traditions which take us back to the people who created them. Perhaps you have a tradition of marching out into woods and cutting down your own Christmas tree or maybe your tradition is baking tin upon tin of cookies to share with your community and family. One of my traditions, at the start of Advent, is picking up the book "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. In stave three is one of my favorite scenes as the Cratchits all sit down for Christmas dinner. We all know, of course, the meal was a modest one to say the least and yet here is the response:

*"Bob said he didn't believe there ever was such a goose cooked. Its tenderness and flavour, size and cheapness, were the themes of universal admiration. Eked out by apple-sauce and mashed potatoes, it was a sufficient dinner for the whole family; indeed, as Mrs. Cratchit said with great delight (surveying one small atom of a bone upon the dish), they hadn't ate it all at last! Yet everyone had had enough, and the youngest Cratchits in particular, were steeped in sage and onion to the eyebrows!"*

It was a simple meal that many would overlook, but to the Cratchits, who knew the difficulty of poverty all too well, it was a feast unlike any they had had before.

Throughout the Advent Season, it is easy to become distracted by the festive lights, the decorations, and the shopping, but at its heart, the first Nativity is a story born out of poverty. An unwed couple without the means to secure shelter for the evening, giving birth in a barn surrounded by animals, witnessed by the least and the lowest that society has to offer. **The great miracle is that this profound scarcity is turned into abundance by a God who will stop at nothing to be with us!** Our God chooses to be born into abject poverty and yet has all He needs surrounded by loving parents and the warmth of that simple stable.

(continued)

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

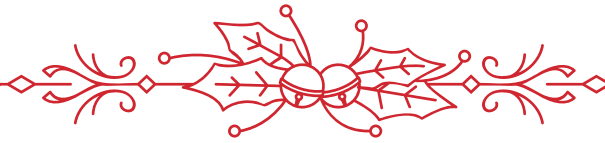
As a faith community, we have traveled through scarcity throughout COVID only to find great abundance. We have reached out online, connecting with members who would have otherwise been unable to worship. The dedicated volunteers of this community have not only continued allowing us to function as a United Church but have also met the needs of our members on a variety of levels and dared to dream and vision for the future. The rummage sale was an overwhelming success and most recently we had more volunteers show for the pancake breakfast than we had jobs to give them. We are an engaged and engaging community of faith who have an abundance of gifts, talents and skills that have enabled fellowship and the continued work of Jesus in this world.

On this journey into the season of Advent, as we all once again edge our way to the manger, hoping to catch a glimpse of the Christ child, it is my prayer we do so knowing the abundance of God's love for us, and the abundance of our love for one another in this wonderful community of faith. In this season of waiting, Jesus will stop at nothing to be with us. May we stop at nothing to meet Him at that simple manger that has been filled with the abundance of God. On behalf of Catherine, Ethan, and myself, we wish you all the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of this Advent season.

In the Light of Christ,



Rev. Scott Stuart



## CHAIR OF COUNCIL'S MESSAGE

I was looking for a quote to share with you this Christmas of 2022. There are loads of them available online, quoting Christmas carols, comic strip character, Charlie Brown, politicians, and writers; all of them meaningful and worthy of a second read and deeper thought. Here is one I quite like, attributed to Agnes M. Pharo; an artist, writer and musician. *"What is Christmas? It is the tenderness of the past, courage for the present, and hope for the future."*

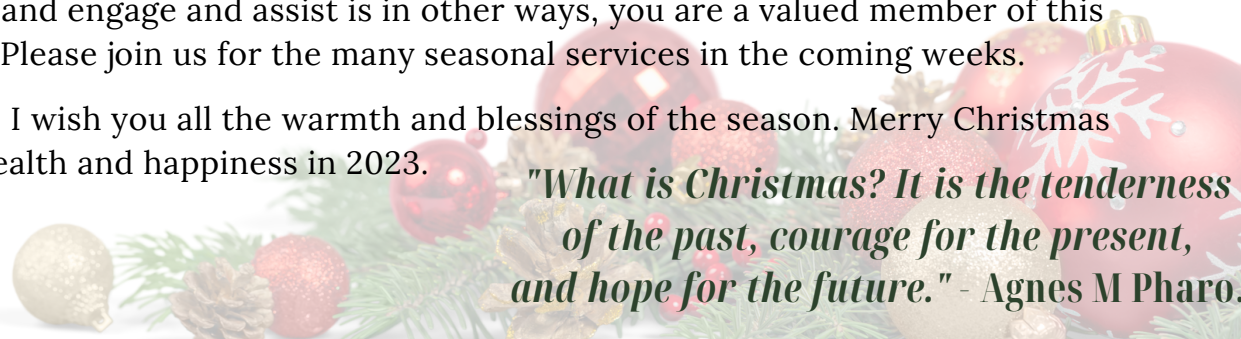
Her message really struck home with me because of where we find ourselves as a Community of Faith. We are always asking what we can do to be more relevant, have a stronger presence in our community, be the light God calls us to be. In December Council will be reviewing the recommendations presented by the Visioning Committee and the challenging task of determining which, if any, are right for our Community of Faith. Council will be sharing its thoughts on what gives us hope for the future in the months to come. I encourage you all to consider where we want to be in 3-5 years and 10 years plus and what it might take to get there.

Many people are working very hard to keep Mt. Royal warm and welcoming – with that sense of Christmas hospitality all year long. Whether you join us for in person worship, groups and activities, or participate online and engage and assist in other ways, you are a valued member of this Community of Faith. Please join us for the many seasonal services in the coming weeks.

On behalf of Council, I wish you all the warmth and blessings of the season. Merry Christmas and may you enjoy health and happiness in 2023.

*Susan*

Susan Fowler  
Council Chair



*"What is Christmas? It is the tenderness  
of the past, courage for the present,  
and hope for the future." - Agnes M Pharo.*

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

MOUNT ROYAL UNITED CHURCH

Financial Results

10 months to October 31, 2022

For the period ended October 31	Year to date	
	2022	2021
<b>Current operations</b>		
Receipts		
Local offerings	\$ 113,100	\$ 112,265
Sobeys gift cards	1,884	1,728
Grants earned	30,000	-
Others	30,466	45,257
	<b>175,450</b>	<b>159,250</b>
Operating expenses	<b>215,403</b>	168,822
<b>Current period deficit</b>	<b>(39,953)</b>	(9,572)
<b>M &amp; S Funds received</b>	<b>9,911</b>	10,042
<b>Outreach Funds received</b>	<b>4,333</b>	3,632

While to date we have had increased total receipts, we are only now getting back into our regular fundraising events, which are turning out very positive. However, operating costs have increased significantly mostly due to the major repairs this year.

Your continued financial support is appreciated. We enclose a special envelope and encourage you to give generously towards the operations of our Community of Faith.

## HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Regular office hours are: **Mon - Fri 9am-2pm**

**Please note:** Office will be closed on **Dec. 26 & 27** as well as **Jan 2**.

Office will close at 12pm on Dec. 23 and Dec 30th.

Last day to drop off 2022 offering to be processed in 2022 is Dec. 29th.

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS!



**Mount Royal**  
United Church

106 Mount Royal Blvd., Moncton, NB, E1E 2V2 506-855-5771  
office@mountroualuc.ca www.mountroualuc.ca