

December 13, 2020 - 10:30 a.m.

**SEEKING THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT
Sheila Laursen & Friends**

This year, more than ever before, we yearn to find creative, safe and caring ways to share the traditional messages of “comfort and joy” with others, and to replenish our own battered spirits. Have you struggled this year, or in past years, to find that “Christmas Spirit”? Do you have special memories of that spirit touching you, and staying with you?

How are you finding and nourishing the spirit of these holidays, in this year that has brought so much disruption, of our “usual” gatherings? If you would like to share your thoughts during this service, please let Sheila know by December 7.

Service Leader - Sheila Laursen

Musicians - Kerry-Anne Kutz & Michael Cartile

Greeters - Nancy Schmidt & Jane Edwards

December 20, 2020 - 10:30 a.m.

**WHAT THE DICKENS! A CHRISTMAS CAROL
LUUC Children and Youth**

The LUUC Senior and Junior Youth Groups have come together to bring you their rendition of the Charles Dickens' favourite *A Christmas Carol*. The dedicated and talented youth have tirelessly worked through the challenges of trying to put on a play during Covid, which is humorously touched on in the film they've created for all of you.

What the Dickens! A Christmas Carol has all of your favourite characters; Scrooge, 3 Spirits, Cratchit, the Ghost of Jacob Marley, Belle, Fezziwigs and of course, Tiny Tim, but you'll have to watch carefully if you're to catch a glimpse of the busy little Covid Elves!

Please join us for this special Christmas service – with a cast of our 16 amazing youth, produced by Catherine Forbes, with music direction by Karine Deschamps. Be ready to sing some of your favourite carols or just grab a coffee, kick back, and enjoy the show...

Senior Youth Leader - Ariel Amstutz.

Junior Youth Leader - Cormac Lutes

Musicians - Kerry-Anne Kutz & Michael Cartile

Greeters - Nancy Schmidt & Isabella Gavanski

December 24, 2020 - 5:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Our Christmas Eve service this year will be different, but still filled with beautiful music, songs for you to sing, and stories to enchant us. Please join us on Zoom at 5:30 p.m. on December 24.

Service Leader - Christopher Thomson

Musicians - Kerry-Anne Kutz & Michael Cartile

Greeters - Nancy Schmidt & Rev. Heather Fraser Fawcett

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



CHRISTMAS BASKETS: The Pandemic Version (Details provided by Social Action Sheila Laursen)

Usually in December LUUC prepares one or more Christmas baskets for delivery to deserving families in need. This year we are already interacting with asylum-seeking families headed by women, and know that they have major needs and few resources.

It would be wonderful if we could work together to help 4 of these families we have come to know. In 3 English speaking families, there are 5 boys - ages 15, 10, 8, one almost 2 years and another 3 months old. And there are 3 girls - ages 12, 8 and 6. While those families speak English, their school-aged children attend Classes d'accueil in French...so graphic or easy to read books with great illustrations in French would be welcomed. The 4th family has 2 children, a boy 7 and a girl who is 4. They are from Rwanda, and so are French-speaking. So all together, that is 10 children or youth to whom we could bring some joy this Christmas...

HOW CAN WE DO THIS? Please let **Sheila Laursen** know if you would like to buy gifts for a specific age and gender of the children listed (we want to be sure each one receives something....).

WE WILL HAVE A COLLECTION TIME FOR YOUR GIFT(S) AND FOOD CONTRIBUTIONS (AND OR MONEY YOU WISH TO DONATE TO THESE FAMILIES FOR THEIR HOLIDAY MEAL) AT THE CHURCH ON **SUNDAY DECEMBER 13** AT 2 P.M. If that timing does not work for you, please contact **Sheila** (514 697-4195 or at sheila.laursen@bell.net) to make different arrangements.

Becoming a snow-bird: After many years (since winter 19970-71) of working on convincing myself that I am a fan of winter, this winter I'm going to be a snow bird! You may remember that I went to Florida for August to be with my sister after her operation on a spinal-cord blockage, and had to confront the reality of her memory issues that impact her ability to function. So I am going again for a lengthier stay and have decided: "why not just avoid the brunt of winter". I am leaving on Sunday, December 13th, and staying until March 2.

But I won't just be negotiating the emotional impact of dealing with her brain atrophy. When it comes to politics and religion, my sister and I are polar opposites. It is interesting to help her write checks in support of organizations that I write checks trying to counteract!

~ **Susan**

SOUPS AND SAMOSA SALE



All you good people who came out on **Soup & Samosa Sunday**, November the 8th, did indeed help to grow our little LUUC fundraiser into a big success!

Twenty-nine home cooks created thirty-five types of soup, most of which sold out in only three days! In all, 101 containers of sumptuous soups were sold, the collected funds of which amounted to just over \$500 for our congregation's coffers.

And yet that was not all: S.E. youth members were also successful with their "side-order" sale of, count 'em, 24 dozen scrumptious samosas! Along with **Catherine Forbes'** brilliant backing, our industrious children collected just over \$110.00 for their Spiritual Exploration programming.

Big "Thank-you" to each creative cook, to every energetic volunteer, and to each generous customer who shared, whether in-person or from home, in this supportive community event. Double thanks to our two "numbers people", **Margaret** and **Christopher**, who helped to manage our online orders and e-payments, and who managed to balance, to the dollar, our fundraiser's final figures! Especially, let us all send our warmest appreciation to our event's initiator, **Heather Falconer**. Your enthusiasm and sound advice made all the difference, **Heather**. Thank YOU. Bless you & Bon appétit, everybody!

~ **Selina Ann Rooker-Sanchez**

NB: We heard from some satisfied customers –

Phil Prince writes: Both the Carrot soup and the Lentil and Pancetta soup were excellent and very tasty. I'd like to thank whoever made them - so - please pass on my gratitude to them. Thanks!

My friend **Edwina** said: I enjoyed all the soups I purchased - but the clam chowder was particularly excellent.

~ **ed**



KNITTING LADIES

The Knitting Ladies have taken to Zooom! They met on November 10th to strategize – and plan further meetings every other Tuesday morning. Inevitably, more chat than knit goes on – it is not easy to do the two activities at the same time on zoom – but we are not deterred. The lap quilts will continue plus finger puppets for young children – and of course everyone is free to create whatever they fancy. Ideas are always welcome. **Margaret Godbeer** is our zoom-master and **Nancy Schmidt** is our inspiration.



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SE YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The **Junior Youth Group** is still working with the Senior Group on their film: *What the Dickens! A Christmas Carol*. Through this process, the children are learning about patience, listening, following direction, taking-turns, teamwork and cooperation, while developing their confidence and public speaking abilities. Best of all, they're starting to bond as a group and, despite the Covid restrictions, we're having a lot of fun together.



In addition to the play/film, our **Senior Youth** are continuing to take on roles during the regular Sunday Service. On **Nov. 29th**, **Bella** will be giving a talk on Active Listening and **Olivia** will be her Service Leader. At the **Dec. 20th**, Youth-led Service, **Cormac** will be our Junior Service Leader! You'll see **Brianne** and **Sionna** amongst our play narrators on the 20th. In addition to his roles in the play, **Damian** has become our go-to Chalice Lighter. On **Jan. 3rd**, **Ariel** will be speaking to us and **Talia** will be service leading. They all appreciate your continued support!!



Junior Youth Group Halloween 2020 Get-Together

Cormac, Henry, Tyrese, Luna, Emalyn, Alba, Nabil, Simone, Kati and Jeramyuh (pumpkins carved by Nabil, Emalyn & Henry). Huge thanks to **Susan Cz** for the pizza!

~ **Catherine Forbes, SE Director**

CARING



We all wish **Susan Hawker** a safe and complete recovery from her recent operation – she is home now and recuperating. We hold Susan close in our hearts.

Good news - **Jean Merrifield** and **Hélène Auer** are now visible on the Zoom Sunday morning services.

I had a mini visit with **Maud Bonnier** today – she was feeling a bit down – the thought of a long lonely winter is depressing for us all. ~ **ed**

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HETTY CRUMLING ECO-FRIENDLY LAUNDRY SOAP



For several months, **Briony** and I have been experimenting with laundry soap that is friendly to our rivers and oceans – and we are very pleased with our back-to-basic efforts. The product is quite different from laundry detergent: - it does not foam up, it does not smell awful, it is powder - not liquid, use hot/warm/cold water, one tablespoon does a regular wash and no plastic container. We have bottled it up in 35-load batches at \$6.00 each. If you would like to try the *Hetty Crumpling Laundry Soap* – please let us know: heather.falconer@videotron.ca or 514-630-4206.

(PS: the name comes from one of our 18th century ancestors – 4th great grandmother.)

~ **Heather**



A Very Happy Birthday to all our December LUUCers:

Nancy Graham on December 2nd

Hélène Cimon-Auer on December 6th

Sari Kelen on December 9th

Irene Hausknost on December 18th

Annelise Ogle also on December 22nd

Talia Sanchez-Rooker on December 22nd

Caleb Willms on December 23rd.

Enjoy your special day everyone!

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BOOK NOOK CORNER



For some strange reason, I have been drawn to reading books about the early years in Canada, and recently finished reading Susanna Moodie's "*Roughing it in the Bush, or Forest Life in Canada*". First published in 1852, it chronicles her first 7 years of struggles, adventures and reflections as settlers in the region now known as Ontario. She and her husband came to Canada from England in 1831.

In Susanna's own words, "In 1830 the tide of emigration flowed westward, and Canada became the great landmark for the rich in hope and poor in purse.....What the backwoods of Canada are to the industrious and ever-to-be-honoured sons of honest poverty, and what they are to the refined and polished gentleman, these sketches have endeavoured to show."

It is not an "easy read", and her language and reflections are seen now as offensive and judgmental at times, but it definitely immersed me into the unvarnished daily challenges such families faced to survive as early European settlers. I would be happy to lend my copy to anyone who would like to discover Canada of the 1830s through her experiences and hard-learned lessons, and how she grew to love and describe as "Canada, the blest, and the free!"(sic)

~ **Sheila Laursen**

SHEILA LAURSEN OF LUUC – AN INSPIRATION

Ingrid Gellis of the West Island Church Network wrote this pertaining to the *Love Your Neighbour Project*: "As a member of a small church it is wonderful to be part of the West Island Network. As we connect and gather together as members from different churches we can share, support each other, pray and work together to reflect God's love in our communities.

This is one story of the ripple in a pond. Two years ago, we had an information session about the situation of refugees and asylum seekers. We had knowledgeable speakers from three different organizations and we learned a great deal about the challenges that so many face. One of the speakers was **Sheila Laursen** from the grassroots organization, "West Island Refugee Network."

She has the biggest heart and had many personal stories to share and her passion is infectious.

Following this event led our church to focus a Christmas gift giving drive for refugees through these organizations, and everyone was happy to have a clear focus and to see where their gifts could make a difference for a family who was starting over.

Through this connection I have met a number of families, and it has been a gift to get to know them even with Covid restrictions. It has been amazing to hear their stories and see their tenacious efforts to establish themselves here.

I shared one story with two of my neighbours, who were more than happy to get involved in helping in some way. One of them donated a bike and the other carefully refurbished it with new parts. It was a joy for them to see the happiness they brought to a young boy. Both neighbours like to hear news about how he is doing and are eager to continue to be involved. One of them is already speaking about what he would like to give for Christmas.

It has brought us closer together as neighbours as we reached out to make a difference and do good in our community."

~ Ingrid Gellis





TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

No, I have not thrown my computer out the window yet but there have been moments....

The good news first! Our investments continue to do well and have recovered from the March downturn brought on by the first wave of the pandemic. The not so good news is that as of mid-November our deficit is almost \$4000 and will continue to increase as the months pass. I have withdrawn \$5000 from our investments to cover this shortfall. Expenses have not gone down as a result of the pandemic. We still pay rent, pay our Administrative Assistant, our SE Director and our Musical Director as well speakers for our Sunday Services (and let's not forget insurance, telephone and all the other expenses).

Many thanks to those of you who continue to support our congregation with contributions on a regular basis. These help us to budget and anticipate shortfalls.

A part of our income used to come from what we call "Sunday Plate". We can't pass the plate on Zoom and it is difficult to offset that loss. If those of you who used to contribute during the offering could put those dollars aside and send a cheque or an e transfer it would be very appreciated. Your contributions add up to a significant amount.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: We can only issue tax receipts for 2020 for amounts received AND deposited before December 31, 2020.

We know that these are difficult times and that many have lost income and some have lost their jobs. Whatever small amount you can spare is truly appreciated.

Cheques should be made out to Lakeshore Unitarian Universalist Congregation and mailed to:

LUUC
5065 Sherbrooke
Lachine QC H8T 1H9

Or if you prefer, E-transfers can be sent to: lakeshoretreasury@gmail.com

~ Margaret Godbeer, Treasurer

HOW ABOUT A NICE WALK?

Sari Kelen writes: Would anyone or a family like to join me and **Nabil** one Saturday to walk up Mount Rigaud? It's an easy walk and only gets a little bit steep for the last five minutes. Amazing views of the valley are in store. We will be physically distanced.

From the parking at the outdoor shrine Notre-Dame-des-Lourdes, it's a hike of about forty minutes. If you are interested, please call **Sari Kelen** at 438-275-3272.



DORI HAD A BIRTHDAY

Dori Abbott was born on Armistice Day and she recently had a very special birthday. Her family collaborated together to make her a video – each of them sending her love and birthday wishes by singing and dancing and letting her know how much they treasured and admired her. It was such a special gift and **Dori** was thrilled.

~ ed

STE. ANNE'S MARKET



The Ste. Anne's Market has now successfully returned to its winter quarters in St. George's church basement. During the winter season the market is open from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm weather permitting – with most of the usual vendors in attendance.

~ ed

CAN YOU SMELL THE FRUITCAKE BAKING???

Sheila reports that her home will be filled with wonderful odours of spices and fruitcake over the last week of November as some of the **74 lbs** of light and dark cakes that were ordered will be baking in her oven.... Special thanks to **Sari Kelen**, who kindly offered to help with the time-consuming preparations, by chopping 6 lbs of red cherries at her own home before delivering them to **Sheila** to add to the figs, dates, green cherries and pineapple and other delicious ingredients that make these cakes so welcomed each year!

MONTREAL'S CHILD HAVEN EVENT



Thanks to everyone who organized, performed, attended and donated at our October 17 "virtual" Child Haven fundraiser - **we were able to raise just over \$15,000** for that worthy charity. That included raising over \$4,000 for some renovation needs of the Homes; those generous donations will repair the kitchen floor in Kaliyampoondi's Home, and provide new shelves for the girl's dormitory in Hyderabad, and a solar hot water heater for the kitchen in the Nepal Home.

Money is not the only good result from our learning, seeing and hearing about Child Haven's wonderful support of children and youth in India, Nepal, Tibet and Bangladesh at our Montreal Zoom event...

Kerry-Anne's friend Lavanya, whose songs we enjoyed hearing, has said she enjoyed the evening so much that she wants to attend our hopefully "physical" event next year. And a former CH volunteer, **Martine Galarneau**, wants to join our organizing committee to plan that event.

I spotted a familiar name among the list of participants at our event - **Wendy Jane Hugessen**, and I was able to contact her by email. Her parents, **Andy & Jane Hugessen** had been very active members of our congregation back in the 1970s - and Wendy, their daughter, who is a nun in Vermont, was able to attend thanks to Zoom. She was delighted to re-connect with LUUC and the **Cappuccino family** - "I remember the Lakeshore church very well - LRY (*Liberal Religious Youth*) was a huge part of my life then, and the Cappuccinos as well."

~ **Sheila**



RECYCLING



Once upon a time, not so long ago, cities started collecting certain reusable materials in a separate collection. The initial materials were glass bottles, newspaper, and aluminum cans. They were to be put into containers with partitions to keep them separate. Over time, other categories were added to the materials accepted, and recycling was declared a benefit to the environment.

But the amount of stuff that we produce has overwhelmed the amount of money that we are willing to spend on dealing with it. At one point economic conditions in poor countries came to the rescue. Those on the bottom rung could live on what they could get from sorting our trash. Over time, we noticed that less and less was being required of us to deal with our glass and paper and plastic: just put it altogether in one big bin. Fantastic! Eventually poor countries saw massive deleterious consequence from the international trade in trash – and closed off this escape hatch for our profligacy.

At the moment we are still sending those big bins to sorting stations – but it is rather unclear what is actually happening to the content of those bins. Having glass bottles in the waste stream immediately degrades the entire content, because of broken glass.

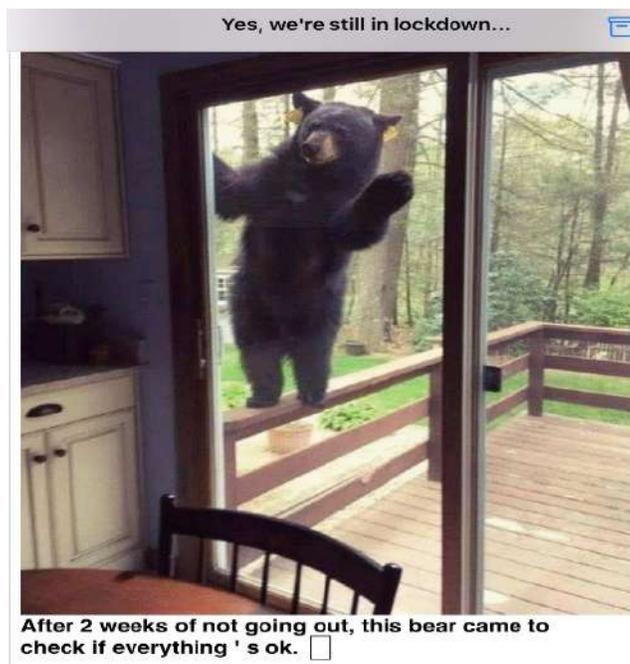
Local initiatives are springing up. In Ontario, apparently, glass bottles can be taken to depots for recycling. Here on the West Island, **Paul Sullivan's** wife **Susan** is leading a local movement which many of us are supporting, to have food stores phase out 'single-use plastic'.

My personal concern is with paper. Paper can be composted and returned to nature, but this requires keeping it separate. Good quality paper is reusable – but again it has to be separated out. Universities and office buildings often give office workers a separate bin for their paper, which can be sold to wholesalers. When I started sorting through 40 years of accumulated paper-work, I separated out the reusable quality paper, thinking that it would be easy to locate depots where I could take it – but so far, I have not found any,

Recently I was listening to the CBC midday program. The announced topic for the call-in segment was 'recycling' and the guest was Karel Ménard, Directeur du *Front commun québécois pour une gestion écologique des déchets*. I dialed my phone and hung on the line – and I was the first caller. Full of hope I asked about recycling so-called 'unmixed paper' – but unfortunately, he had no information to provide. He did however pick up on my complaint about the huge waste which results from unsorted bins. He was quick to point out that the city is fully in agreement and plans to implement changes by – 2023!!

~ **Susan Czarnocki, President**

IN TIMES OF COVID - A BEAR COMES A-KNOCKING



STOP THE PRESSES!!!

Due to Covid – there were thoughts to forgo the Annual Bazaar this year – but that was before the **Knitting Ladies** were consulted! They are adamant that we keep up our tradition of a **Christmas Bazaar** and that we hold a **Christmas Baking and Preserves Event**.

All the usual suspects will be contributing to the baking – with muffins, lemon bread, a variety of cookies, pies etc. **Sheila** and **Margaret** have made loads of crab apple jelly, also there will be marmalade, spicy red pepper jelly and pickled beets. **Selina** has kindly agreed to head this event.

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As we contemplate this year's **Christmas** and **New Year**, which will be very different from any other we have experienced – many of us will be alone – probably for the first time in our lives. I will count my blessings for Christmases past, for my family and their unconditional love, our precious congregation - and I'll look forward to our Christmas Eve Service and the Children's Pageant.

Enjoy your holidays – things will get better - and let us hope that 2021 brings the end to this pandemic – and good health to us all.

As Tiny Tim said, “God Bless us every one!”

~ ed

WELCOME TO LAKESHORE

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: **December 15th, 2020**

OUR WEB-SITE: www.LUUC.org

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
AND A HEALTHY, COVID-FREE NEW YEAR
TO YOU ALL

