

MOE

- **M & S Snippet:** Our gifts for Mission & Service offer support to congregations like Northern Arm Pastoral Charge in Newfoundland, which receives a Mission Support Grant funded by Mission & Service. We sing thanksgiving for the giving heart of communities of faith whose gifts change lives and offer hope!
- The **mitten Christmas tree** in the lobby is ready to decorate with warm hats, scarves, mittens, gloves and socks, which will be distributed to our outreach projects.
- **St. Paul's Daily Bread:** The **cart** is the Atrium and there are **white baskets** located throughout the church for your donations of non-perishable food, toiletries, etc.
- **Running Shoes:** We appreciate your donations of gently-used running shoes for London Inter Community Health Centre.
- **Congratulations FSA** - Thanks to your combined generosity, Nancy Howard (FSA and ELUCO) received \$2622 worth of cards for her ELUCO community for stores in her area to which her Marconi folks can easily get to.
- **CFGB - Grow-A-Row:** Another big "pat on the back" to our generous FSA congregation! This year we raised \$5749.55. At the 4-1 ratio set by our Canadian Government, this amount is a great help.
- **Jan. 26th at 7pm: Jazz Cabaret with the Sonja Gustafson Quartet.** A fundraiser for ELUCO, enjoy some hot jazz on a cold winter night! Watch for more information.

UCW

- Please notify the church office if you wish to put **memorial flowers** in the Chancel to honour a loved one for Christmas. Include the memorial information and address your cheques to "F.S.A. U.C.W." and indicate "flowers" in the memo line.

Christian Development

- **Christmas Eve Family Service:** Join us at **6:30pm** for an interactive and meaningful evening for the whole family. Come as you are, all ye faithful, and journey to the manger as an angel, shepherd or wiseman/woman as the story of Jesus' birth unfolds before you. Or, perhaps you would like to be Mary or Joseph! Come a little early if you want to get a costume from us and we'll celebrate the true reason for the season together!
- **Fri. Dec 29th:** FSA will host the famous **SWELL**, a seasonal youth worship service, **at 7pm**. Celebrate the season in teenage-style with live band music and many art forms, not limited to rap, dance, drama, painting & voice.
- There will be no nursery care or church school on **Sun. Dec. 31st**.
- A CD series, **Self-compassion and Loving Kindness** facilitated by Deanne and David Pederson will run from **2 to 4pm on Jan. 17th, 24th and 31st**, in the Parlour. In Mark's gospel, Jesus offered two commandments; to love God and to love your neighbour as yourself (Mark 12:30-31). For some of us, on some days, our neighbours would probably want to move away if we loved them as we love ourselves. Many of us are very self-critical and are challenged to show ourselves compassion. Based on the work of Kristin Neff, Christopher Germer and Tara Brock, we will explore ways to develop self-compassion and kindness.
- The church school is filling Christmas stockings for the **Merrymount Overnight program**. Check out the list in the Fireside Room to see if there is something you want to contribute. We ask that you bring 6 of one item. See Allyson Watson with questions.
- **FSA Book Club: Reluctant Genius** by Charlotte Gray, **Feb. 13th**.

Membership & Nurture

- **The Lunch Bunch** will meet next in Proudfoot Hall at noon on **Thurs. Jan. 18th** when our guests will be Meagan Pyper, who is a Circles Coach with Bridges Out of Poverty, and the liaison person for the FSA team with Goodwill. She will be joined by Jessica Justrabo, the Coordinator with Goodwill, and Joanne Girvin, the FSA Team Leader. FSA is one of only two London churches that support the Bridges Out of Poverty program. Bring a sandwich and learn just what do we do in support of Bridges Out of Poverty.
- The next meeting dates will be Feb 8th and March 8th. The guest speakers are not yet finalized so these dates are tentative.

Finance

Christmas Appeal: "*It's the most wonderful time of the year,*" is a very popular and uplifting tune at this time of year. The FSA members and adherents make it possible for the entire year to be the most wonderful time through your generous support of time, talent and treasure. Without you, FSA could not finance the various programs that we, as a congregation, have determined to be our witness as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Finance Committee truly appreciates your financial support throughout the year either by your envelope givings or PAR and for other events, that help us raise the finances to support the work of this congregation. As we approach the end of the year, we ask you to prayerfully and carefully consider this year's **Christmas Appeal** to help us reduce or eliminate the projected deficit for 2017. The Christmas Appeal envelopes will be in the pews and in your Bulletin for the remaining Sundays in the Advent season. Thank you in advance for making FSA your charity of choice.

Stewardship Campaign: As the campaign for 2017 winds down, your Finance committee extends a big THANK YOU for the pledges that have been received to date. If you have not returned your pledge form for 2018, there is still time until the end of the year (maybe into the new year as well). The more pledge forms that are returned, the greater accuracy we have to complete the Revenue portion of the 2018 budget. If you have misplaced the pledge form, there are blank pledge forms available beside the door of the church office. Completed pledges can be returned by mail or on the offering plate. You can also give them to Heather, our Church Administrator, or Kathryn, in the office. There is a mail slot in the office door should you arrive during closed office hours.

The Bulletin

for Sunday, December 17

We are an inclusive Christian family, encouraging spiritual growth through worship, friendship, learning and action



Council and Admin

- TheChurch Office will be closed from **Dec. 25th to Jan 1st inclusive.**
- Rev. Michelle Down will be away **Jan 1st-5th.**
- From the UCC: Read about the missive “Clarity on Finance, Clusters and Networks” by linking from the item on the left of our webpages.
- **Christmas Day Lunch.** Joyce and Michelle are hosting a lunch on Christmas Day. If you are home alone, then come and join with family at the table. We would love to have you **Dec. 25th at 12 noon in Proudfoot Hall.** Please RSVP to Joyce at 519-494-3737 or Michelle at revmichelledown@fsaunited.com so that we know we have enough potatoes in the pot! Merry Christmas to all.

Worship

PROGRAM CANCELLATION: The Art of Advent Series that was scheduled for Thursday mornings has been CANCELLED due to lack of attendance.

- **Tues. Dec. 19th 7pm - Longest Night Service:** Join us and pass the word along to those you know who have suffered a loss and find this a particularly difficult time of year.
- **There will be three church services on Dec. 24th**
 - 10:30am: Advent IV
 - 6:30pm: Family Service
 - 9:30pm: Candlelight Communion (note time)
- The Rev. Dr. David McKane will take the service on **Sun. Dec. 31st.**
- **Liturgist's Workshop.** Interested in leading worship, wondering how to compose a prayer, ever wonder why we worship the way we do? Come share, discover, learn. Join us in the Sun Room **Mon. Jan. 8th, 7-9pm.** Facilitator. Rev. Dr. David McKane.

Neighbourly News

- There will be a **Christmas Recital: Wed. Dec. 20th at 7pm** in the FSA Sanctuary with Pamela Deacon and guest artists. Free will offering.
- **Cards for Kids** is so grateful for your support in 2017. The cards really make a difference to the recipients. We will happily keep accepting used cards for any occasion. Thank you.

Below are the coming week's space bookings. Note booked times don't always correspond to the public aspect of an event.

<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Bible Study-SR • 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Advent 3: Joy: Sunday School Pageant Presentation • 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM Amabile Women SA, FR, PH, PAR • 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Soul Care, PAR 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Getting Ahead - PH, KIT • 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Recital rehearsal - SA • 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM ProMusica - CH • 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Property Committee--Off-site 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Pastoral Relations--SR • 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Staff Meeting - LIB • 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Recital rehearsal • 7:00 PM Longest Night Service - CH 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Getting Ahead - PH, KIT • 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Brown Bag Lunch Par • 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Recital - SA, Par 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Advent Series - CH • 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM FSA Strings-PH • 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Choir Rehearsal - SA 	<p>22 23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Lunch Prep - PH, KIT
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