

## Announcements – December 10, 2023

New St. James is a mask-friendly environment. Masking is now optional, however, we continue to encourage masking (especially while singing or when distancing is difficult). If you are feeling unwell, please consider joining Worship online, avoiding in-person attendance, and wearing a mask.

Please join us following worship for **refreshments and fellowship** in New St. James Hall.

**Highland Group** welcomes young children into **the nursery**, outside the west doors of the Sanctuary.

The **Highland Group** will meet this Tuesday, December 12, 7:00 p.m. in the parlour for our annual Christmas party. Please bring an unwrapped gift for the Mothers at the Pregnancy and Family Support Centre. It has been suggested that a \$5.00 gift card for Tim Hortons or the Dollar Store would be appreciated. Also, please bring a wrapped gift worth no more than \$15.00 for our Christmas gift exchange. For any further information, please contact Karen Buchwald at (519.641.6742 or karenbuchwald@hotmail.com).

The **Bible Study** continues this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Please knock at the Wellington Street door between 6:45 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and someone will let you in. If you are later than 7:00 p.m., please phone Linda Robinson's cell (519.615.0559).

The Salvation Army **Christmas Toy Drive**: your donation of a new, unopened, unwrapped gift will help provide a Merry Christmas to many children in our community. A nonviolent toy that does not require batteries is preferable, and please do not wrap the toy. You will have until this Tuesday (December 12) to drop off your toy in the large toy box near the entrance of the NSJ Hall. To find out more and to see their "Wish List" visit <https://londoncfs.ca/christmas-hamper-donations>

On Sunday, **December 24**, we will enjoy two Worship Services at New St. James. At 10:30 a.m., we will offer our Sunday morning service, celebrating the Fourth Sunday of Advent. At 7:00 p.m., we will celebrate the Nativity of the Lord with our Christmas Eve service.

### Financial Update, end of November, 2023:

	Jan - Nov 2023	Jan - Nov 2022	\$ Change	% Change
Total Income	\$ 276,469	\$261,161	\$ 15,308	5.9 %
Total Expense	\$ 337,903	\$292,460	\$ 45,443	15.5 %
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ -61,325</b>	<b>\$ -31,299</b>	<b>\$-30,135</b>	<b>-95.9 %</b>

There are now several options for you to provide regular **financial support** to New St. James:

- For Offering Envelopes, please call the Church Office (519.434.1127)
- Cheques may be mailed to NSJ: 280 Oxford St. E., London, ON N6A 1V4
- Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) it is a convenient way to give—and the church benefits from your steady contributions. Contributions are automatically debited from your bank account on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. To sign up for PAR, call the Church Office or visit [www.newstjames.ca/donate-2](http://www.newstjames.ca/donate-2)
- To make an offering through e-transfer, please email Judi Le Blanc (Office Administrator) at [admin@newstjames.ca](mailto:admin@newstjames.ca)

Income Tax statements are issued by New St. James each year by the end of February.

Thank you for supporting the life and mission of New St. James!

**Save those stamps!** We are collecting cancelled postage stamps for the Canadian Bible Society. Sales from these stamps help pay for the translation and distribution of bibles around the world. Stamps can be placed in the small box attached to the wall just inside the Wellington Street door. Note: there must be at least a 1/4" border around the stamp.



## Second Sunday in Advent

# Peace

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**Voice 1:** The prophets call and an apostle writes that peace comes from God.

**Voice 2:** "For a child has been born for us...and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ...and there shall be endless peace."

*(Isaiah 9)*

"The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

*(Philippians 4)*

**Voice 1:** The world, our relationships and our lives are all too often torn by conflict and injustice. Advent calls us to pray and work for peace—shalom—in the world God loves and to which Christ came. But God's shalom is not simply the absence of conflict. Shalom is the peace that comes when we live life in the balance, loving God and one another.

**Voice 2:** Holy are you, Source of all new life among us.

**All:** **Jesus Christ comes as the Prince of Peace.**

**Voice 2:** We join with all creation and lift our hearts in joyful praise.

**All:** **We light this candle to shine for peace.**

*(while lighting the candle of peace)*

*Sing verse 2 of #119 Hope is a star*



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THE DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

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# “This assistance has provided me relief”



In Pakistan, Hafiza Bibi, a single mother of four, suffered the loss of her husband and daughter and saw her home crumble before her eyes during a devastating monsoon season.

Hafiza’s husband had worked as a farmer labourer, while Hafiza stayed at home, caring for her four children. “Our relatives would sometimes help us by giving wheat or money as charity. However, after the floods, everyone suffered badly, and no one we know was able to help,” she explains.

Hafiza and her family were selected to participate in a food assistance project supported by PWS&D through our local partner Community World Service Asia, with support from Canadian Foodgrains Bank. “I bought essential food items such as wheat flour, rice, sugar, tea, milk and vegetables. This assistance has provided me with some relief and allowed me to put food on the table for my children,” she shares, with peace of mind.

**This Advent season, faithfully respond to Christ’s call to provide comfort by ensuring families have the necessary resources to sustain their lives.**

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