

# Stairs Memorial United Church

*Faith that Matters*

*Love that Matters*

*Community that Matters*

## Weekly Announcements

December 1, 2017

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### Upcoming:

Property & Finance Meeting	December 3	9:45 AM in parlour
Advent 1 (Communion Service)	December 3	10:30 AM
UCW Vesper Service	December 3	4PM
Elsie Aitken Unit Meeting	December 7	1:30 PM in parlour
Auction	December 9	Viewing/Dessert 12 Noon – Auction 1PM
Advent 2 (Pageant)	December 10	10:30 AM
Memory Tree Service	December 10	7PM
Advent 3	December 17	Potluck following service
Advent 4	December 24	10:30 AM Carol Service
Christmas Eve Service	December 24	7PM
New Year's Eve Service	December 31	10:30 AM

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**Communication Center** - At the back of the sanctuary is a board where we will try to communicate everything that is going on. This is where you can sign up to indicate your interest in events. If you would like to initiate an activity of any kind at Stairs, you are welcome to fill out one of the forms on the bulletin board and put it in the envelope, and an elder will be in touch with you shortly.

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The Fair Trade community includes individual citizens, schools, academics, unions, activists, religious organizations, and more, all unified in their desire to make the world a better place. Personalized Fair Trade Christmas packages are available for ordering from \$15 and up. Please see Lorna or Jim.

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### Stairs' Contact Information:

Rev. Sarah Reaburn: sreaburn@eastlink.ca  
Church Office: stairsmemorial@eastlink.ca  
Office Phone No.: 902-466-4389  
Facebook: Stairs Memorial United Church  
Website: www.stairsmemorial.ca

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**Emergency Contact:** In the event of a pastoral emergency, please call 902 469 4472 or 902-466-4053.

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The new music minister is interested in talking to a range of musicians from our congregation for one-time team-ups (or more, depending). We are embarking on new works and are interested in percussion or guitar especially, but there are also opportunities for solo instruments e.g. violin, flute, etc. Please see Emanuel after service for more information.

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**The Annual Auction**—is scheduled for December 9. We are now accepting merchandise. Request letters are available in the church office. Blaine Hendshaw has agreed to be our auctioneer again this year. Dessert will be served at noon with the auction beginning at 1PM. Admission: \$5. All proceeds will be used to cover church expenses. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

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"Camp Kidston/ Lawtons Drugs Partnership" - Camp Kidston will receive \$2 for every prescription members of local United Churches have filled at Lawtons Drugs stores. Those who sign up for this program will receive a 5 to 10 per cent discount card for every non-drug purchase at Lawtons Drugs. Those already getting prescriptions filled at Lawtons Drugs or who would like to sign up for this excellent program are to contact Jim Bauld, Chair of Executive Committee. Please support Camp Kidston and save money at the same time!!

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The Stairs Memory Tree Lighting Service will be **Sunday, December 10th**, 2017 at 7PM. If you would like to have lights on the tree dedicated to loved ones, cards are available from anyone on the Mission and Outreach committee.

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**Spirit Café** - Join us on Tuesday, December 5th at Spirit Cafe, for fellowship and discussion on the topic "The Reason for the Season...Exploring the Spirituality of waiting and anticipation." Rev. Stephen Fram of Grace United Church will moderate. Spirit Cafe is a twice-monthly series of non-traditional spiritual gatherings sponsored by Dartmouth United Churches. First Tuesday: faith-based discussion. Third Tuesday: music in a sing-along format. It is held at Ma Belle's Cafe, 44 Ochterloney St., Dartmouth, at 5:30 pm. A selected menu is available. Further information: 902-466-4389.

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#### **Church Finances: November**

Church offering, November 26	\$1128.
M&S	\$ 215.75
PAR	\$4308.37
Total offerings for month of November	\$8744.17

**Online giving:** If you prefer to give online, there is a "donation" button available on the Stairs website: [www.stairsmemorial.ca](http://www.stairsmemorial.ca)

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Readers' Circle will meet again January 18 at noon. Our book will be The Birthday Lunch by Joan Clark. Joan grew up in Nova Scotia.

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We are trying to be environmentally conscious. If you read the announcements online, please don't take a paper copy on Sunday. Also, please only take one copy per family. Thank you.

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#### **Upcoming Worship Hosts**

Dec 3 Larry MacDonald & L J Roche   Dec 10 Paul Gunn   Dec 17 Susan Thorpe

#### **Worship Hosts are needed for the following dates:**

January 14, 21 and February 11, 25. If you can assist on any of these dates please contact the church office. I will be doing up a new schedule soon, so if you would like to book a specific Sunday ahead of time please let me know.

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**Card Campaign** - Cash cards will be available to purchase this Sunday at coffee time or at the church office with one day's notice.

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The first Sunday of each month is designated Canned Milk Sunday. Those who are able are asked to bring in canned milk for the foodbank on the first Sunday of each month. Thank you.

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### Building Security

Please be sure to check that all exterior doors are locked when leaving the building.

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There are a number of people who worship among us who are quite sensitive to scents. For the comfort of those around you, please avoid using perfumes, colognes or heavily scented products when coming to the church. Thank you.

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At this time of year the food bank (North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Centre - NDORC) begins its preparations for the Christmas food hamper and gift bag program. Registration is underway and we expect to distribute 225-230 hampers and gift bags on Tuesday, December 19. The food hampers are provided by Feed Nova Scotia. The gift bags, given to adult men and women are provided through donations. We need your help with donations of full-size personal care items for men and women such as – bars of soap, deodorant, razors, shaving foam, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, facecloths, hair brushes and individually wrapped treats. All donations are most appreciated and can be left in the box in the narthex no later than December 3.

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The Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO) Halifax presents its annual Christmas Carolfest, Monday, December 4, 7:00pm at the Cathedral Church of All Saints, 1330 Cathedral Lane, Halifax. Open to the public. Freewill Offering.

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As part of the Commemoration of the Halifax Explosion - December 7<sup>th</sup>, 10AM-12 noon Homelessness and Hunger Symposium – St. Mark's Anglican Church. Some ideas on the origins of social work concepts help and relief guidelines and ideas that that began in 1917 in the aftermath of the explosion are being considered. We will then take a look at how are methods and tactics have changed, if at all, and what are today's needs. This will be set up as a panel with reps from places like Shelter Nova Scotia, Feed Nova Scotia with Wendy Keen as moderator. Modest lunch follows: a very basic soup and roll or bread along the theme of what type of food would have been given as aid in 1917. St. Mark's original building was destroyed in the explosion and the rebuild was completed in 1921. The church has a strong connection to north end Halifax, an area so profoundly affected by the explosion.

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**FAMILY CHRISTMAS DINNER** - St. Paul's Church, 197 Windmill Road, Saturday, Dec. 2 @ 6PM - \$15. Reserve tickets by calling Bill - 464-0334.

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There will be a Christian Men's Christmas Prayer Breakfast (DCMFPB) on SATURDAY, Dec. 9 @ 8AM to be held at WOODLAWN UC Fellowship Hall. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte, now serving on the ministry staff of Woodlawn UC. Also trained as a musician, she will sing and play her harp as part of the special program. All interested men are invited to register on the website by 10AM Friday, Dec. 8 or call Bob at 902-434-3438. Come and bring a friend - cost is \$10.

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