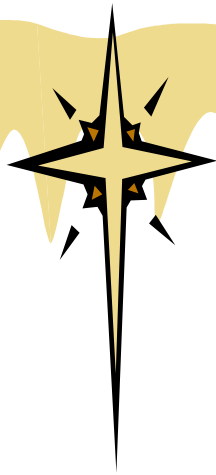


A Northminster United Christmas

www.northminster.ca



Fridays in December, 10:00 am	Coffee & Conversation for Advent
Sunday, November 27, 10:30 am	Advent 1 Worship & Communion - Hope
Sunday, December 4, 10:30 am	Advent 2 Worship - Peace
Friday, December 9, 7:00 pm	Bruce and Cheryl Harding in Concert Tickets \$10
Sunday, December 11, 10:30 am	Advent 3 Worship - Joy Children's Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 18, 10:30 am	Advent 4 Worship - Love
Saturday, December 24, 7:00 pm	A Christmas Eve of Stories and Carols
Sunday, December 25, 10:30 am	Christmas Day Worship Service at Symon's Valley United Church
Sunday, January 1, 10:30 am	Worship at Northminster United Church



ADVENT REFLECTION

After an overnight snowfall, people get into the cars parked on their driveways, and they leave for work. People passing by later can see a snow-covered driveway except for the large rectangle bare patch where the car was once parked. The snow lying on the ground is clear evidence that something substantial was there while the flakes were falling from the night sky. That something was now gone but no one could argue with the fact of its having being there in the first place. The vehicle was a very tangible reality and a fact you can't argue with.

For me Advent has this same sense of presence even though it can't be seen: we wait, we hope, we feel longing and expectation; there is a tingling sense of promise in the air. We know the birth we wait for has already happened long ago, but we wait for it again. Love is stirring up wistfulness, wonderment, remorse and regret. Darkness is prepared for enlightenment, there's hope amidst life's challenges, and there is a yearning for fulfilment in our lives, in the world, in our church.

All around us the quiet work of love, compassion and prayer leaves an outline of presence in our common experience and I can see it in my own life in many ways: the women who care for my children at daycare and who make them feel loved and important, the volunteers who so faithfully serve this church and who make it inviting for others, this congregation and the ways you have welcomed my family and my ministry with you, the kind words of support from friends who also balance work and family life, and my husband who supports me tirelessly and enables me to be the minister I am. These are some of the many ways God is at work in my life and I am so thankful. Unseen yet tangible is God's being with and amongst us. As you reflect on the year that has passed, how are you giving thanks for the ways you have experienced the presence of God in your mist?

Be sure to take time in this busy season – away from the demands of shopping lists, tight schedules, work demands, and the many emotions that can be a reality during Christmas – to nurture your spirit. Reflect on the meaning of this special season. The other side of this page lists many opportunities to feed your soul. You can also find more information by calling the office at (403) 277 0322, or go to our website www.northminster.ca. Please join us!

Blessings to you as you journey to Bethlehem.

Rev. Nancy Nourse