



ST. JOHN'S IDA

1758 County Rd. 10, Cavan, ON 705.944.5350
stjohnsida@nexicom.net

Worship

Please join us each Sunday at
9:30am.

First, Third & Fifth Sundays,
we celebrate Holy
Communion.

Second & Fourth Sundays are
Morning Prayer.

A Children's program is
offered each Sunday.

Come as you are; everyone is
welcome! No reservations
are required.

Christmas Services

December 19

Advent IV - Lessons &
Carols @ 9:30 a.m.

December 24

Christmas Eve @ 7 p.m

December 25

Christmas @ 9:30 a.m.

December 26

1st aft Christmas @ 9:30 a.m.

We come together in

Joy



As we enter the season of Advent, we would like to
welcome everyone back to our in-person services.
What a joy that we are also now able to sing together!

Although we will continue to live stream our services,
we would prefer to see your smiling eyes in person!!

Feel free to join us - knowing that we are following all
COVID 19 precautions. There will always be a seat
available and a warm hello to greet you!

Oh Come Let Us Adore Him....



“To whom shall we go?”

One of the saddest lines in the Gospels and perhaps in the entire bible is in John. Jesus has just concluded his long teaching on the Bread of Life by saying that unless we eat and drink the flesh and blood of the “Son of Man” we have no life in us (John 6:53). Then comes the saddest verse, “From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.” (6:66). Jesus turns to the Twelve and asks, “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Simon Peter, always the one to answer for the group says, “Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” (6:67-68).

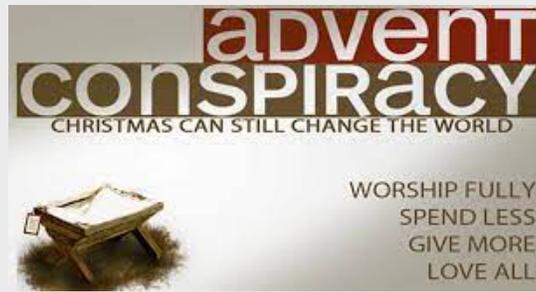
For most of history everyone believed in God or gods. It was just the way they lived. God was “the one in whom we live and move and have our being”, as the Greek poet expressed it. People took for granted that God was the creator and sustainer of the universe. But that was before the two world wars of the last century and the rise of science and massive technological advancements. In recent months the revelations regarding the unmarked graves at the Residential Schools, has damaged the witness of the Church. Whatever the cause, we find ourselves in an age of unbelief. This can be disheartening for us who call ourselves Christians and who long for others to come to know, for themselves, the life of Christ. We are swimming against the cultural tide, so to speak, but remember, “it’s only the dead fish that go with the current”. If we are tempted to throw in the towel, we do well to ask Peter’s question, “to whom shall we go?” Is our culture offering us anything else that is truly compelling? What is it that our secular world offers us? Too often what our world offers is violence, fear, and loss of hope. The response to the atheism (or is it more apathy?) of our day is a Christological one. Jesus has the words of eternal life: redeeming love, friendship without shame or fear, a love for God’s Law, joy in serving others, deep love for others and God, and a vision for what can be. It is in rooting our lives in him that we find all that is truly true and life that is life indeed.

We begin the season of Advent, a word that means “coming”. And we confess our faith in the Triune God who has come, is coming for us, and who will come again. He is the source of our hope, and joy. Hope and joy that is not only for us but, we pray, for our family, friends and neighbours and indeed for the world.

Grace and peace,

Peter





IT'S ADVENT - TIME FOR THE CONSPIRACY

How about joining in the Advent Conspiracy??

It's all about celebrating a Christmas that is less focussed on "stuff".

Instead of spending money on a present your loved one(s) may not need, make a donation to help communities that have a real, pressing need - drinkable, running water!

Donations to the Advent Conspiracy fund the Mishamikoweesh Water Project, helping Indigenous communities within the Indigenous Spiritual District of Mishamikoweesh (of the Anglican Church of Canada in Northern Ontario and Manitoba) achieve a variety of locally determined projects for healthy water.

Donations may be made through St. John's, designated to PWRDF - Mishamikoweesh Water Project.

More information will be distributed at St. John's in Advent. Gift cards, instead of presents, for giving to loved ones, are available at both entrances of the church.

Advent Conspiracy calls us to:

Worship fully

Spend less

Give more

Love all

OUTREACHOUTREACHOUTREACHOUTREACH



STAR-GIVING by Ann Weems

What I'd really like to give you for
Christmas
is a star
Brilliance in a package,
something you could keep in the pocket
of your jeans
or in the pocket of your being.
Something to take out in times of
darkness,
something that would never snuff out or
tarnish,
something you could hold in your hand,
something for wonderment,
something for pondering,
something that would remind you of
what Christmas has always meant:
God's Advent Light into the darkness of
this world.
But stars are only God's for giving,
and I must be content to give you words
and wishes and
packages without stars.
But I can wish you life
as radiant as the Star
that announced the Christ Child's
coming,
and as filled with awe as the shepherds
who stood
beneath its light.
And I can pass on to you the love
that has been given to me,
ignited countless times by others
who have knelt in Bethlehem's light.



PRAYER...

Over the past number of months we have been unable to come together to worship and pray. We give thanks that we can once again join in worship. What we are still unable to do is bring our personal prayer requests to our lay anointer, Cathy, and to our prayer team.

We can, however, make requests to our prayer chain, a group of men and women in our church family who have been called upon to humbly and confidentially pray for the concerns presented by members of our church family. The prayers continue as long as they are required. The Prayer Chain members pray knowing that God loves each of us more than we can imagine, and He wants the best for us. We trust Him in His answers and give thanks in all things.

We can also join others for prayer (social distanced) before church any Sunday. Just check for the time with Rev. Peter.

We too can personally talk to God about anything, any time. We don't need special words, in a special order, at a special time – any time, any words, or a psalm, or just stillness. God loves us to come into His presence.

If you would like to use some prayers written by others who love God, a good place to find some are on the table as you enter the hall (next to the pantry). They are free for the taking and suitable any time.

Remember:

- Bishop Carey's prayer to The Holy Spirit
- John Stott's prayer to the Holy Trinity to start the day
- Our own prayer for St. John's church family (partly adapted from a prayer of Dag Hammarskold)

These are all on that table for your use.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

ADVENT

Advent, a season of preparation. Preparation for celebrating the coming of Jesus; Son of the Father, Promised Messiah, our Redeemer. We look back on His first coming as one of us in a stable in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. We look ahead to His second coming at the close of the age and in the present we look to Jesus to come into our hearts and minds and wills.

During Advent, as we pray the collects over the four Sundays, we say-

Advent I - "Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light....."

Advent II- "...inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you....."

Advent III – "Remove those things- that hinder love of you....."

Advent IV – ".....fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will...."

As the collects indicate, throughout Advent we invite God to change us – "to give us grace", "to inspire us", "to remove those things that hinder love of [Him]", "to embrace [His] will". These changes of heart, mind and will are the work of the Holy Spirit in us. The world claims that such personal transformation can be accomplished through the power of positive thinking or that new meditational techniques will give rise to "meta humans". But we are created by God in the image of God. It is only through the work of God in us that we can be made into the people we ought to be.

As Jesus says to Nicodemus, "to enter the Kingdom of God" (i.e. where our human wills are in harmony with God's will) we must "be born of water and the Spirit". (See John 3: 1-11)

In other words when we are baptized and enter into the life of a Christian community (born of water), God, in the person of the Holy Spirit can create us anew (born of the Spirit). We must learn all over again what it means to be a human being, to live a God-centered life as opposed to a self-centered one. This is a lifelong process and the secular world we live in, with its opposing values, priorities and criteria for success, constantly works to impede and erode our progress in following Jesus. Consequently we must work to keep this from happening through an ongoing commitment to pray, read scripture, worship together and follow the direction of the Holy Spirit throughout each day to bring Christ's love, hope and healing into the lives of others. In Christian community we learn "to die to self" and "come alive in Christ." Jesus call us in a direction that completely opposes the world's wisdom "to be ourselves".

(CONT ON PAGE 8...)



Dear friends of St. John's, Deb & Chris Wood, celebrate Halloween with their neighbours in British Columbia.

Returning to Church and seeing good friends again...



A note from Fred Marshall:

We returned last Sunday and were welcomed like we had been away for nearly a lifetime. Lots of arm bumping, even a few handshakes, lots of exchanges and inquiries about health, The one thing I was not able to do was rise to the occasion. it felt like coming home. I missed my friends and family, I wonder now why I let an epidemic hold me back. God Bless you all and Thanks for your Kindness. I enjoyed the choir so much that I could not keep from singing under my mask. I will be back.





Live Streaming - Behind the Scenes...

Have you had the opportunity to watch a live service from our own St John's Ida on the internet? Did you wonder what it takes to make this happen? Or have you attended in person recently and wondered what the tech team was doing? Or maybe you thought that you would like to help with the live stream in some way, but didn't know what was involved?

Our live streams have certainly evolved over the course of the pandemic. It all started in the Mills' residence, and later moved back into our church building, where we continue to push the limits of the available rural internet service!

During each live streamed service, there is a two-person tech-team. One person is responsible for the live video feed using the camera, as well as the sound level that is broadcast from the existing sound system microphones in the church. The other person is responsible for advancing the slides, selecting the position of the slides on the screen that is broadcast, and controlling the sound level that is broadcast from any recorded audio and video.

The live stream uses a standard desktop computer with Microsoft PowerPoint software for the slide presentation, and OBS live streaming software to broadcast each service live to St John's Ida YouTube channel. The existing projectors and sound system are an integral part of the live stream as well, with an added video camera supported on a permanent mount for stability.

Our weekly Tech Team members have included Joel Mills, Laura Mills, Timothy Mills, Ben Conrad and Jason Conrad. We have recently welcomed Elizabeth Hazlitt to the team, while Amanda McCamus and Wyatt McCamus are in training, and also helping prepare a training manual.

Every service requires PowerPoint slides to be prepared in advance, which has frequently included musical contributions from Linda Parsons and many soloists. Marilyn Marshall prepares the slides every week and uploads them to OneDrive then Laura Mills adds the notices, images and any audio or video recordings.

What started as the only means for worship together when no in-person services were permitted early in the pandemic, has continued to grow and evolve, and remains just as important as ever for those who are not able to join us for in-person worship. With the live stream, St John's Ida has reached far beyond our local community, easily reaching regular viewers from coast to coast in Canada and the United States.

It is very rewarding to know how much the livestream is appreciated, and to be part of the team providing a connection to St John's as we continue to recover from the effects of the pandemic.

We are actively looking for volunteers to participate in this ministry, to ensure broadcasts can continue and to provide flexibility in scheduling for our volunteers.

Contact Jason Conrad or Rev. Peter if you would like to learn more or to join the team!



A Conversation with Marilyn Marshall - our Church Secretary

We asked our church secretary, Marilyn Marshall, about her experience working as Church Secretary during the past 20 months. We are grateful for her continued contributions to our life in the parish and give thanks to God for her talents!

1). You have been the secretary for St.John's, Ida for many years. During that time you worked from the church at least one day per week. How has that changed during COVID.?

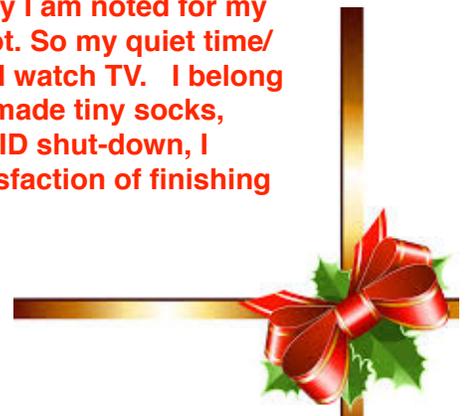
COVID has sure changed how I work, that's for sure. Despite the fact that I need a new knee and can't get around easily these days, I have a system at home where I work with a list and have deadlines. I work in my home office using the church laptop. Rev. Peter and I are in constant email communication and also by phone. The fact that I don't work at the church right now is not conducive to being able to talk to visitors or church friends that might come into the church hall. I miss the fellowship of those days. I recently have gone back to church with my husband and have really appreciated the help of great friends there to help us into the church. It is so wonderful to be able to participate and experience the fellowship again. We thank the Lord for making this possible.

2). How has your communication with the congregation changed?

I still have communication with some members of the congregation as I look after the church family lists and call to speak with a couple of families each week to ask if we can pray for them during the Prayers of the People. I find that this communication link is rather special. Before COVID struck I was a regular attendee at the church services, was a choir member, and got to speak to members of the congregation on my travels through the church. I really miss that fellowship. One really nice thing about communicating about the prayers is that I also get to speak to the various members of our sister church, Christ Church, Omeme as I am also their church secretary. I have had great conversations with everyone I have spoken with. So the method of communication with the congregations has changed as all things must during COVID.

3). I know that you used to knit and quilt. What do you do now during your quiet/spare time?

I don't quilt these days but I still knit and do some crochet. Apparently I am noted for my creation of cotton dish cloths and ladies socks. I also like to read a lot. So my quiet time/ spare time is not wasted as I always have a project going even while I watch TV. I belong to an organization that yearly gives knitted items to charities. I have made tiny socks, hats, and mitts for children and for some adults. During the first COVID shut-down, I made 11 pairs of ladies socks and gave them away. I just like the satisfaction of finishing a project.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - ADVENT....con't from page 5

A little book well worth reading this Advent (or any time) is "Why Being Yourself is a Bad Idea" by Graham Tomlin, the Bishop of Kensington in London. In its 170 pages Bishop Tomlin explores the counter cultural notions of our faith, challenging the unexamined assumptions of our secular society. Here are a few of the chapter titles to give a sense of this.

"Why love is and is not all you need."

"Why justice matters and why we don't really want it"

"Why everyone needs an identity crisis."

"Why praying is dangerous."

These are just a few of the provocative topics Bishop Tomlin examines presenting his idea with a bright clarity.

A copy of this book was given to each of our students graduating from high school, college or university this year. Consider giving it as a Christmas gift. It is suitable for anyone, from a spiritual seeker to a long-time follower of Jesus – or treat yourself to an informative read!

Why Being Yourself Is A Bad Idea

By Graham Tomlin

ISBN 978-0-281-08179-0

Who is this masked woman??



Our very own Lila Carrier who has been vaccinating people in Northumberland County against COVID since March 2021. Thank you Lila!!!



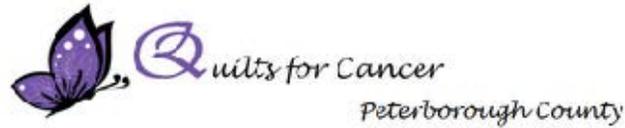
Do you ever wonder who that person is sitting on the other side of the church? "I just forget their name.....". An updated church photo directory helps everyone get to know each other.

Do you have a current photo of your family that you could send via email??

Please email your photo to cathyolley@nexicom.net. Cathy will upload your photo into our "Instant Church Directory" and we will print updated copies of the directory early in 2022.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask one of the wardens or Cathy Olley. If you would like someone to take your picture, please also just ask. We would love to capture your smile!!





On October 27th nine fully vaccinated and masked members of St. John's Ida Quilters for Cancer were excited to gather, socially distanced. This was the day we had all been looking forward to for the past nineteen months. We would like to thank the wardens of St. John's, especially Jason Conrad, who worked hard to make this day possible. Protocols for re opening set down by the Diocese, the Health Department and Quilters for Cancer Peterborough County were all closely followed.

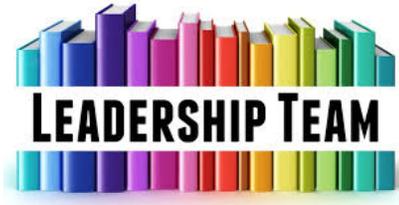
Although we have not been together throughout the pandemic the ladies have been busy working at home and Rev. Peter was able to bless six of the more than one hundred quilts which have been finished. Throughout the shut down quilts which were delivered were blessed by Rev. Bill.

Please remember these quilts are given free of charge to anyone suffering from cancer and can be requested by contacting Quilts for Cancer Peterborough County @ 705-875-5596 or by email at cancerquiltsptbo@gmail.com.

Be strong and of good courage, do not be afraid, nor dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9



JOY
NOEL
ANGEL
JESUS
PEACE HOPE
WISEMEN
CHRISTMAS
BELIEVE FAITH
PRINCE OF PEACE
THANK YOU



Today, the first Sunday in Advent, 2021 we give thanks to God that we were able to gather to worship and raise our voices together in song and praise to His glory! It has been a long time (March 2020) since we were allowed to sing as a congregation at St. John's. With the arrival of Advent we celebrate the beginning of a new church year and we wait in anticipation for the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

For many of us, it might seem like we have been continuously waiting as we persevere through the challenges of the pandemic. But our church family life has not paused and waited. For example, ongoing Tuesday night Zoom Bible studies, monthly zoom prayer meetings and let's not forget weekly Sunday night zoom coffee hours were part of our church lives even when we were unable to meet in person. We give thanks to God for the the tireless efforts of our tech teams and the creativity of Rev. Peter and his talented family! To everyone else who helped make online streaming of our weekly services possible, we also thank you!

The beginning of Advent also brings, for the leadership team, preparations for the next year in the life of St. John's. As most of you know, our sister church, Christ Church Omeme, will close as of Dec. 24th, 2021. This means that St. John's, Ida will become a "single point parish" as we move into 2022. We pray for our brothers and sisters at Christ Church during this time of difficult endings and new beginnings.

We will also have a change in wardens as of February with the retirement of Donna as People's warden. We are thankful for all that Donna has contributed to the team and the church over her 4 year term! If there is someone you would like to nominate as new deputy people's warden, please speak with a member of the team. We would ask that you continue to hold the leadership team up in prayer during these important conversations.

Our parish activities continue to evolve to accommodate restrictions surrounding COVID. Danielle, Phil & Peter have hosted some Zoom youth events, our monthly advisory board meetings are held via zoom. Our quilters have, once again, started meeting bi-weekly to sew quilts for those afflicted with cancer. We also have welcomed back our children to Sunday services and are offering Sunday school for any child over 4 years of age.

As part of our continuing growth, we are eager to welcome the members of the Christ Church family to St. John's. Beginning on Sunday Jan. 2nd, our weekly service time will move to 10:00 a.m.



We, the wardens, would like to thank everyone for their continued financial generosity through the past year. As we gather together over the next few weeks to prepare the 2022 financial plan, we continue to ask for God's guidance over this process. Becoming a single point parish offers new opportunities for us as a church family but also means we have increased expenses. Please continue to prayerfully consider your financial support. If you aren't already using pre-authorized giving (PAG), feel free to chat with Kelly C. or any member of the leadership team. We would be thrilled to explain how easy it is!

Yes, Advent 2021 brings to St. John's Ida a sense of anticipation of what is to come; yet, a sense of uneasiness still surrounds us. We take comfort in the words of Isaiah as we are told:

For I am the Lord your God
who takes hold of your right hand
and says to you, Do not fear;
I will help you.

Isaiah 41:13

Wishing you all the Peace of Christ and God's blessings for this Advent and Christmastime.

Donna, Adrian, Don & Jason





The Bricks and Mortar of St. John's...

The Property Management committee seldom, if ever, has a formal meeting and yet a lot gets done owing to the many willing and capable volunteers who help with projects. It certainly makes my job much easier. I'm going to talk about some of these tasks and name the people who helped with them.

Chad, Ben, Ab, Adrian and Don laid down and packed recycled asphalt on the sloped entrance to our west parking lot and created a water runoff ditch that wouldn't wash out. (we hoped) After learning that it did wash out with heavy rain runoff we came back in with Cold Patch Asphalt repair to fix that. So far it seems to be holding up and I apologize for leaving the ditch a little too abrupt and creating a speed bump. I should also add a big thank you to Jim for letting us use his little backhoe for some necessary digging and to Woodleigh Farm for use of their skidsteer.

Chad has been a great help and the Lord's blessing for our church family beginning with his faithful shovelling and scraping of our sidewalks all winter. He and Kelly were part of the Christmas tree crew last December, not just in finding it, cutting and hauling it out but in setting it up in the church and decorating it. I think that Jim was part of that crew also but I'm unsure who else may have been involved. This reminds me that I'll soon have to call Stan White of White's store in Lindsay to once again prevail upon his kindness to allow us to

once again prevail upon his kindness to allow us to find another tree for our Christmas celebration.

My thanks to Ben for bringing his tractor to our garden east of the hall twice over the past two years. The first time was to pull out a dead conifer by the roots to allow for its disposal. On the second occasion, he brought a large bucket load of rich barnyard compost to top up the northeast corner of our garden after it had been dug up, backfilled and sunk over time as the soil settled. I know that Ab also helped Ben to repair the corner of the foundation wall in that area by patching with concrete.

Ab is also a great help for many reasons, one being his wide range of expertise on a number of repair issues. He certainly is the "go to" guy for dripping or otherwise misbehaving faucets in the kitchen or washrooms. He recently brought the steps leading out from our hall emergency exit up to code by ingeniously and skillfully adding some patio slabs to the existing steps. By the way Peter also helped to set them in place. Ab and Adrian also recently collaborated in repairing the screen door at the back of the kitchen.

I should mention with gratitude others who have willingly taken on tasks or helped out as part of a work crew over the past couple of years; Gary H, Ted H, Jim M, Phil W, John S, Jason and Ben C, and I may have missed someone.

Going back a little further I give thanks for others who were front and center in doing whatever they could to serve our property needs; Fred M, Bob S, Ken J for his considerable work with our gardens around the building and Linda M, who did considerable work preparing our heritage windows for the addition of plexiglass storm coverings. This goes back several years but was much appreciated. And of course Reid Watson who we miss greatly was always up for a job and helped retrieve several Christmas trees as well as painting some doors at the church.

And me, I took water samples for testing, and made sure the holding tank was pumped out when needed, and took part in some of the work parties. I am forever grateful for all who have been doing the rest of the necessary work.

Yours in Christ,

Don W.



Sing for Joy!!

(AKA The Choir)



What a joyous experience for our choir members and I to be back singing together again! Our practice times have been shortened to accommodate singing while wearing masks but we are all enjoying practicing our hymns each week for our next Worship Service, working on an uplifting piece called "Under the Cover of His Wings" as well as a new Christmas Anthem entitled "Child of the Poor/What Child Is This". As you might surmise, it is a lovely medley of the old familiar Carol "What Child Is This" which interweaves beautifully with a new Carol, "Child of the Poor".

Not all of our choir members have returned at the present time due to some members finding it difficult to sing while masked while others are experiencing health issues; however, those who have returned harmonize so beautifully together and are extremely faithful in attending choir practices and our Sunday Worship Services, bless their hearts!

The appearance of our choir loft has changed radically in order to maintain the social distancing required during the Covid pandemic. Many thanks to Ben Conrad, Jason Conrad, Ben Dickinson, Chad LaPerle, Adrian Olley and Don Winslow for helping Ab and I remove the pews from the choir loft to the basement and then replacing them with chairs. I purchased desiccant which has been placed on the seats of the pews to protect them from possible mildew as well as shrink wrap which we used to cover the pews. Ab also brought 2x4's from home to raise the pews off the basement floor.

After consulting with Rev. Peter, the choir now receives Holy Communion from the top of the chancel steps while maintaining social distancing. This process is more efficient time wise and enables the choir to participate in the singing of the Communion Hymns.

My deepest thanks are extended to Kelly Capper, Jason Conrad, Sheila Duncan, Marcia Johnson, Tim Mills, Trish Mills, Bill Montgomery, Cathy Olley, Kathryn Parsons Aldrich, Danielle Rodosky, and Don Winslow for the endless hours they spent in perfecting and recording their glorious solos! Our past online services have been enhanced so richly with your heavenly singing! Thank you also to Jason Conrad for accompanying me with your beautiful mandolin and guitar playing! It is always so much fun to be able to play our instruments together!

I know that we are all looking forward to the day when everyone will be able to sing without having to wear a mask. What a day of celebration that will be! In the meantime, may the music which we lift up to our Lord always be to His honour and glory.

With my best wishes for a blessed Christmas,
Linda Parsons