

Pioneer Memorial - St. Columba

Two Churches - One Heart - One Community

eNews - Wednesday, November 28, 2018

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018, AT 10:30 A.M.
AT OUR ST. COLUMBA LOCATION, 1540 Main Street East



Worship This Sunday

Advent I - Sacrament of Communion

Fun, Free and Festive!



Everyone is invited to a Family "Christmas Craft & Cookie Night" (we will be decorating Christmas cookies!) at Pioneer on Friday, December 7, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Call the Church Office, 905-545-9552, or Karen Andric, 289-684-7384, to register. We will need small glass jars (jam jars or relish-type jars) for our craft. If you have some you could donate, please see Karen Andric or bring them to the Church Office.

Share In This Important Ministry!

Be a part of the **Hospitality Team** at **Pioneer-St. Columba!** (to welcome the congregation on Sunday mornings and hand out bulletins). The new sign-up sheet for January, February and March 2019 is on the table at the back of the church. Questions? See Ruth Mahy or call her at 905-561-0974 or email ruthmahy@rogers.com.

December 9 is White Gift Sunday!

What is "White Gift Sunday"? White Gift Sunday is an Advent tradition in many churches which had its beginnings in a small Methodist Church in Ohio in 1904. The story is told that the minister's wife initiated the idea to solve the problem of inequity of gifts given at the Sunday school Christmas party. Instead of focusing on receiving gifts, the focus shifted to bringing gifts to Jesus that could in turn be shared with people who did not have much. All the gifts would come wrapped in plain white paper, so that no one would know which was an expensive gift and which was a more modest one. No one would feel ashamed of their gift and everyone would share in the joy of giving to others. All gifts would be anonymous.

At Pioneer, our White Gifts (unwrapped please - we want to be environmentally friendly!) have traditionally been collected for the Wesley Urban Ministries Christmas Store. Each year, Wesley provides us with a list of suggestions for donations. This year's food list includes: baby food & formula, tea & coffee, rice & oats, canned soup, sugar & flour, canned juice & juice boxes, pasta & pasta sauce, tetra & powdered milk, macaroni & cheese, dried soup mixes, canned vegetables, granola bars, dried lentils & beans, canned stew, cereal, canned meat. Suggestions for gift items (\$25 value) include diapers, new clothing and educational toys for infants and toddlers, dolls, arts & crafts, cars & trucks, Lego sets and gift certificates (Walmart, Toys R Us) for children 5-12, sports equipment, hair appliances, hygiene sets, small kitchen appliances, towels & linens and gift certificates (Walmart, Shoppers Drug Mart, Tim Hortons) for teens and adults. If you prefer, you may give a financial donation instead. These allow Wesley to mass purchase items at a discounted price, "top up" gifts for specific age groups and bulk order food items when the shelves begin to empty.

2018 Advent Projects

Advent begins on Sunday, December 2nd. These four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day provide an important opportunity to prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ – God's gift of love. We are pleased to announce TWO Advent Mission Projects for our faith community.

First Advent Project - Again this year, the Wesley No Charge Christmas Store will be hosted at Pioneer Memorial in McMillan Hall and the Club Room from December 12-21! This is an excellent opportunity for St. Columba and Pioneer to "put feet to our faith" and to support God's work in the east end of Hamilton. Every year approximately 5,000 people benefit from the Store. Families and individuals in need, qualifying by income, can register themselves and their family members. Each family or individual may access only one Christmas assistance program across the city which is confirmed by a central database. Once registered, "shoppers" at the No Charge Christmas Store are then given food and gift points, based on family size, to redeem for donated items off the store shelves. The element that sets Wesley's approach apart from other assistance programs is that shoppers are given the dignity to choose all items for themselves; items to fit their dietary concerns, their traditional holiday celebration, and their distinct preferences.

Second Advent Project – We will be providing Christmas Baskets for a number of young mothers & their families living in East Hamilton. Envelopes will be available at the back of the church for financial contributions (please put in the mailbox or on the collection plate) and Canadian Tire money is gratefully received. Donations will be received through Sunday, December 9th. THEN, on Sunday, December 16, we will all gather together for a special Family Christmas Luncheon following worship. We will eat, celebrate, and assemble these baskets together. Baskets include a gift for each person in the family and an item of clothing for each child as well. Please do not donate gift items as these are purchased to meet each family's specific needs.



The St. Columba-Pioneer Memorial
Faith Community invites you to
Carols, Crafts and Cookies



On Thursday, December 13th, 2018 at 6:30pm
At St. Columba Presbyterian Church

Come and enjoy a fun filled evening of singing our
beloved Christmas Carols.

UPCOMING *Mark Your Calendars*
EVENTS



This Week & Upcoming

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29 - 6:30 p.m. Yoga has been cancelled.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2 - 10:30 a.m. Worship at St. Columba.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3 - 6:30 p.m. Ball Yoga at Pioneer.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4 - 6:30 p.m. Yoga in the Parlour at Pioneer.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5 - 9:00 a.m. Stretch Yoga in the Parlour at Pioneer.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7 - 6:00-7:30 p.m. Family Christmas Craft & Cookie Night at Pioneer. See above for more details.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 - White Gift Sunday. See above for more details.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11 - 12:30 p.m. All seniors of the church and community are invited to join the Keenagers for a Christmas lunch in the Parlour at Pioneer, followed by an afternoon of cards and games. Cost: \$5

Naming and Branding Initiative

The Shared Ministry Team has been discussing finding a new name for our joint ministry - a name that speaks to who we are and what we are about. A number of possible names have been suggested and are listed below for you to consider. The congregation is encouraged to submit further ideas. There will be a "Suggestion Box" on the Gathering Area table at Pioneer for the month of November (with paper & pens) - you may put your name suggestion in the box or on the offering plate. In December the names will be compiled and posted and you will have the opportunity to "vote" for your favourite. The top 3-5 names will be brought to the congregation for a further vote. This is the next step in our Shared Ministry journey - everyone is encouraged to participate!

- East End Faith Centre
- East End Community Church
- New Hope Community Church
- Mosaic Church
- Mosaic Community Church
- Rosedale Faith Centre
- God's Grace Church
- Grace Fellowship Community Church
- Grace Community Church
- Unity Christian Centre
- Hope Centre
- New Hope Church
- GoodLife Church
- All-Seasons Community Church
- New Life Church
- New Life Community Church
- New Life Victory Centre
- New Ventures Church
- Bartonville Church
- Bartonville Community Church
- Bartonville Faith Centre
- New Horizons Community Church
- New Horizons Church
- God's Grace Church

- Journey of Faith Church
- New Life Fellowship

New Suggestions:

- ❖ Christ Community Church (Hamilton)
- ❖ Heartland Community