

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT CENTRAL!**

Sunday **Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.**  
**Soup Lunch**  
 Monday Alanon at 7:30 p.m.  
 Wednesday Choir Rehearsal at 7:15 p.m.  
 Thursday **Comfort Service at 7:30 p.m.**

**FOR THE CHILDREN...**We welcome children of all ages to worship with us. We offer **Sunday School** for those aged 2 ½ through Grade 6, following Children's Time in the worship service. Although not staffed, we also have a nursery room available for parents and their younger children should they find they need to leave the service.



**SOUP LUNCH...**Your Small Groups committee will host a Soup Lunch in the Main Hall **TODAY** right after the worship service. Everyone is welcome to join us as we celebrate the beginning of Advent!



**INVEST IN YOUR FAITH CAMPAIGN...**Revenues to date are still tracking about \$5,000 under budget, so the Finance Committee is continuing with the "Invest in Your Faith" campaign that was part of the budget presented last January. Please read the letter emailed/mailed to you recently and pick up an "Invest in Your Faith" envelope from the narthex. Thanks in advance for your support.



**FROM THE "OVER 80 BOARD"...**  
 Congratulations to Branch Duncan who is celebrating her birthday **TODAY!**



**YOUR CHURCH FINANCES...**A summary of our receipts and expenditures relating to the operations of the church are as follows as of November 30, 2017:

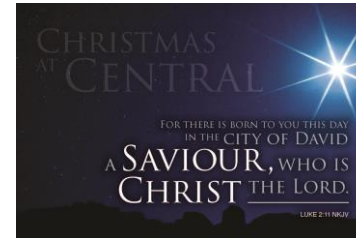
	Year to Date <u>Actual</u>	Year to Date <u>Budget</u>	Year to Date <u>Last Year</u>
Receipts	\$244,810	\$249,993	\$240,816
Expenditures	\$256,798	\$270,805	\$257,499
<b>(Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$ 11,988)</b>	<b>(\$ 20,812)</b>	<b>(\$ 16,683)</b>

Thank you for your prayerful and continued support to the life and work of your church.

**CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS...**will be for sale **TODAY** with all proceeds used to support the Markham Food Bank. Bags, which include a tree ornament, cost \$20 and are a perfect gift for a gift exchange, teacher, hostess, etc.



**"CHRISTMAS WITH CENTRAL" POSTCARDS...**have been prepared so that you may invite family, friends, neighbours, work associates, etc., to Central for any or all of our Christmas services. Please pick up a supply from the narthex today and help promote our church to the community.



**2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES...**are now available in the narthex and are to be used as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. (At that time, it is imperative that you discard any unused envelopes from previous years so that your givings are credited correctly.) Also, be sure to read the information insert. If we have missed your name and you would like a set of envelopes, please speak to Sally and she will be pleased to look after that for you.



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS NEEDED...** Two weeks ago Rev. Clubine spoke of our need for people to help in the Children's church ministry on Sunday mornings. If you could assist with this important part of our congregation's ministry please pick a date(s) and sign up on the bulletin board or speak to Rev. Clubine or Karen Coll our Council chair.



**POINSETTIAS...** If you wish to buy a red or white poinsettia to place in the church at Christmas time in memory of a loved one, please pick up an envelope from the table in the narthex and return same to the marked red basket. (Please do not put on offering plate).

You may also pre-order plants for your home –

they will be available for pick up on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$10 and the **deadline for orders is TODAY!**

**FOSTER YOUTH...** Today is the deadline for the gifts purchased for the York Region Children's Aid. Please leave your gifts in the outreach cupboard. If you prefer to make a cash donation, just mark your envelope "**stuff a duffle**" and place it in the collection plate. The deadline for monetary donations is next Sunday, **December 10th**. Any questions, please contact Heather Keeling at 416-706-6519 or [heather.keeling@migroup.ca](mailto:heather.keeling@migroup.ca). Thank you.

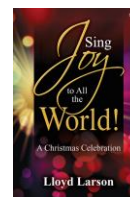


**OUR ANNUAL COMFORT SERVICE...** will be held on THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> at 7:30 p.m. This service is offered to those who have experienced loss of a loved one and is a good opportunity to reach out to our congregation and community at large. All are welcome to attend and invite family and friends who may benefit from such a service.



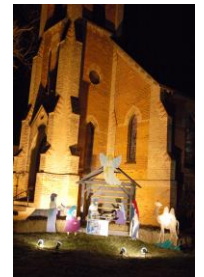
**THE MITTEN TREE...** is now up in the Friendship Room and we appreciate your donations of **hats, toques, scarves and gloves for all ages**. Items should be brought to church on or before SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> so that we make delivery to "Salvation Army" before Christmas.

**WHITE GIFT SUNDAY...** will be celebrated on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> during the morning worship service. Your donations of unwrapped non-perishable food are appreciated. Cash gifts will also be received – special "White Gift" offering envelopes are also available from the Greeter's Table. Your gifts of food/money will be used to assist the Markham Food Bank.



**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MUSICAL...** Under the leadership of Sarah Wyse, your choir will once again present an Advent III Musical entitled "Sing Joy to All the World" on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> during the morning worship service.

**DECEMBER 24TH SERVICES...** We will worship as usual that day at 10:00 a.m. for Advent IV and the Sacrament of Communion. Then in the evening, we will celebrate with three Christmas Eve "Lessons and Carols" services at 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. The early service will include a special children's feature while the two latter services will include the Sacrament of Communion and congregational candle lighting. (Special Note: the 7:00 p.m. service will include a repeat performance of the musical presentation "Sing Joy to All the World".)





**THANKS TO OUR DECORATING COMMITTEE...**for preparing the church for the Advent and Christmas Season. A job well done as always.

**M & P/SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS...**As most of you know by now, Sally Sandiford is retiring in early 2018. The position, Office Administrator & Communications Coordinator, will now be a part time position and is described on Central United's website. If you are aware of any qualified candidates that might be interested, they can view the position summary on our website and apply to [ministrypersonnel@centralunitedchurch.com](mailto:ministrypersonnel@centralunitedchurch.com). Your referrals would be appreciated.



**"PAR" (PRE-AUTHORIZED REMITTANCE)...**is available to help you contribute to your church on a regular basis. It also helps the church maintain a regular and dependable flow of contributions to support its ongoing commitments. If you are not already on PAR, please consider making your offering in this way. Enrollment forms are available from the literature table in the narthex. (Then simply return completed forms with a void cheque to Sally who will process on your behalf.)



**NAME TAGS...**So that we may be a welcoming congregation we remind you to wear your name tag. For those of you who don't yet have one, just let Sally know and she will make one up for you for next Sunday. (Name tags can be found in the file boxes in the display cabinet in the narthex.)



**CHRISTMAS BOOKS & DVD'S...**are now on display on the cart in the library. Come and have a look! Feel free to borrow any items anytime!



**COMMUNION SERVERS NEEDED...**for Christmas Eve – morning and evening. Please sign up at Sally's bulletin board. Thank you.

**HELP FILL OUR WATER JUG...**Feel free to donate your loose change (including pennies!) to help purchase bedkits provided by Sleeping Children Around the World to needy children in developing countries. You can also donate via your offering envelope any time – just mark the "other" section "SCAW". Check out the narthex for more information and pictures of children who have benefitted from our support.



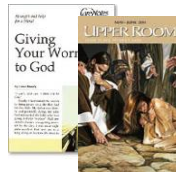
**RIGHT NOW MEDIA!...**We encourage everyone with computer access to enrol in this free service. Just send Sally an email at [sally@centralunitedchurch.com](mailto:sally@centralunitedchurch.com) with Right Now Media in the subject line. Within a few days you will receive an email invitation and instructions on opening a user account.



**A FRIENDLY REMINDER...**Please **do not park** in the church driveway – it is a fire route! Also, when parking on local streets, you will want to be aware of the parking signs and Highway Traffic Act regulations.



**UPPER ROOM & CARE NOTES...**Check out the shelves in the narthex for a variety of Care Notes. Also, the current issue of the Upper Room is available from the literature table – help yourselves.



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**CENTRAL'S PRAYER CHAIN...**would like to support you, your friends and family in prayer. Please submit prayer requests to this group via Sally in the church office and/or to Rev. Karl Burden. All requests remain confidential amongst the church staff and prayer chain.



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**PASTORAL CARE...** Should you become aware of any illness, bereavement, hospitalization, etc., among people of our church; please notify the minister and/or church office by email or phone (905-474-0183) as soon as possible so that we may respond with pastoral care, and, if desired, Sunday prayers.

