

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2017

A Month of Blessings

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

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Ministers: Everyone is called to share in God's work

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Who we are...

"Uniting People Who Share God's World"

We are an imperfect community of Jesus' followers. We hope that God will be present as we work, worship, play, pray, reach out, serve, learn, and grow in the way of Jesus!

We come from diverse backgrounds, cultures, languages, beliefs and understandings, yet we are one in Christ! We worship in an inclusive manner that celebrates and honours our differences as we seek to create a sacred space where all who gather might experience God's love.

We find God through the teachings of Jesus, in ancient scripture texts, in our music – both traditional and modern, through the performing arts and inspirational readings and poetry. We gather in small groups that allow us to connect and know one another and transform our whole life – our bodies, minds, and spirit --- as we find ways to partner in God's mission and ministry in our local and global ministries.

Come... learn about Jesus' teachings . . .

Come... dance with the Spirit - thru worship and witness!

Come... find a place to belong . . .

Know you are welcome here!

December Worship at Emmanuel

Sunday, December 3 Advent 1 ~ HOPE Worship at 11 AM	Blessing of the Prayer Shawls Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11 Theme: Comforters
Sunday, December 10 Advent 2 ~ PEACE Worship at 11 AM	Blessing of the Toys Scripture: 1 Thess. 5:16-24 A Wonderous Story A Cantata for Christmas
Sunday, December 17 Advent 3 ~ JOY Worship at 11 AM	Blessing of the Gift Bags Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11 Theme: Rejoice
Sunday, December 24 Advent 4 ~ LOVE Worship at 11 AM	Blessing One Another Scripture: Luke 1:26-28, 30-32, 38 Theme: Theotokos
Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve Worship at 7 PM	Communion & Candlelight Scripture: Luke 2:1-14 Theme: Jesus, Our Brother
Sunday, December 31 Sweater Sunday Worship at 11 AM	Family service with music, readings & more

DECEMEBR ~ A MONTH FOR US T COUNT OUR BLESSINGS

There is an old favourite hymn based on Psalm 40:5 that reminds us to

*Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done.*

This month we are encouraged to write down each day a blessing that we have received or experienced that day. Keep track of the many ways you have received a blessing this month and bring your list to church on Sunday, January 7 when we celebrate Epiphany when the magi brought their gifts to the Christ Child.

DECEMBER 2017 ~ COUNTING MY BLESSINGS

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Sunday, Blessing of the Prayer Shawls

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Sunday, Blessing of the Toys for the Fire Department Drive

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Sunday, Blessing of the Gift Bags for Regeneration

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22

23

Sunday, Blessed Are You

24

Christmas Blessings

25

Here are suggestions from www.Gratefulness.org to help you think about and name your blessings.

Ponder . . .

- What am I grateful about in my life right now? Why?
- What blessings does nature offer in my life?
- What situation is offering me the opportunity to handle it gracefully?
- What has surprised me lately?
- What makes me hopeful?
- When I consider a difficult situation and the impact it had on me, can I identify an aspect of the situation (or impact) that I can feel grateful about?
- Who inspires me? How?
- What unexpected things have brought me gratitude?
- What challenging situations have brought out the best in me?
- Who might I be wrong about?
- What act of kindness did I notice or experience today?
- What can I commit to not taking for granted from this moment forward?

You may want to . . .

- Take a moment each day this week to notice the sky — the changing clouds and colors. Describe what you see and experience to a friend. What new perspectives arise when you gaze at the sky?
- Commit each day to looking directly into the face of another and simply smile without words. What happens?
- Experiment with using only a flashlight to move through the darkness of a day/evening to truly embed appreciation for the gift of light. Consider all those who went before to make electric and battery light possible and bring to mind the millions of people around the world who don't yet have access to electric light. How does this reflection impact you?
- Write down something at the end of the day that describes how you left the day better than you found it. Take in the positive impact that you do and can have on our world.
- Go for a walk and notice any natural and human-made wonders that give you a sense of "awe." What is the impact?

Blessed holy days, blessed holidays to you and yours,
The Rev. Rose Ann Vita