



FAMILY News Christmas 2018

Dear Friends,

It is a real pleasure to write to you in advance of the Advent and Christmas Season. As I write we are in the midst of our Annual Stewardship Campaign another hopeful time in our life and work together. I am always truly amazed at the thoughtful, prayerful and generous support that God's people provide to Fifth Avenue Memorial. So as we close out our year I want to thank you for the many and varied ways you all have contributed to making our church a community of faith that provides excellence in Worship, radical Hospitality, and practical Outreach.

As we turn towards the end of the year there are so many events and special things happening in our church, traditions dear to many and inspiration in some of the darkest days of the year. We gather for communion on the First Sunday of Advent which is December 2. December 9, our children take over Sunday morning presenting their annual Christmas Pageant which is always awesome! For those of you who like music you are not going to want to miss December 16. Our Choir will be leading the service and singing us through the Christmas story. Our Handbell Ringers will be playing as well.

On Christmas Eve we will be offering 2 services. Our first service will begin with Carol Singing at 5:30 p.m. with worship starting at 6:00 p.m. This service is contemporary in nature and a good fit for young families and those who appreciate the wiggles and wonder of kids at Christmas. At 8:00 p.m. we will be having our more traditional service that is more contemplative and a little quieter. Both services feature candle lighting as a part of our ritual the later service will offer the Sacrament of Communion!

The Christmas Season can be difficult for some. Many of us long for lost loved ones at this time of year, perhaps there are relationships that are strained and broken that make family gatherings difficult or not possible. We at Fifth Avenue Memorial are here for you in those moments where life is not comfortable or hard, even awkward. To that end we are offering a Blue Christmas Service on the afternoon of December 2.

Tara and I and our children look forward to our Advent preparations and our Christmas celebrations with our church family. So from our family we hope you will pause to pray, be mindful of the anticipation of Jesus' birth, and not worry about everything being postcard perfect this Christmas. May you be blessed in this season of wonder and delight!

Happy Christmas,
The Reverend Dave Pollard B.A. M.Div
Lead Minister: Fifth Avenue Memorial
United Church.



**Fifth Avenue
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Office Hours:

*Monday through Friday
9 am—12 & 1 pm—4:30 pm*

Sunday Worship 10 am
Sunday School & Nursery
Fellowship follows Service





There are still 3 more sessions of Living the Questions 2.0 Discussion Group, happening Wednesdays 7pm to 8:30pm. Please feel free to attend any or all evenings. With "Lives of Jesus" on Nov. 14, "A Passion for Christ: Paul" on Nov. 21 and our final session, "Out into the World: The Challenges facing Progressive Christians" on Nov. 28. Snacks and drinks provided in the kitchen; DVD & discussion in the Memorial-Salem room. We look forward to the next 7-unit session, "Honouring Creation", starting in January!

FAM Library:

"Bat in a cave. Snake in a rock pile. Raccoon in a log. Squirrel in a hollow. Mole in a tunnel. Rabbit in a hole. Wolf in a den. Chipmunk in a burrow." When It Starts to Snow by P. Gershator. This and many other Christmas and winter books for children of all ages. The Christmas Angel, Christmas Moccasins, Bethlehem's Brightest Star are examples.



Christmas Dinner



The 3rd Annual FAM and Salvation Army Christmas Dinner will be Dec. 21st in Wesley Hall. We will be serving Salvation Army clients to a turkey supper. If you can help that evening or if you can cook potatoes, make turkey dressing and/or tarts please email piehl11@telus.net.



You are invited to our
Family Fellowship

Get-a-Jump-on-Christmas Event

Saturday, November 24th 5:00 – 8:00pm At the Church
Supper will be provided and will be served at 5:30pm

For our November Family Fellowship event, we will gather at the church and offer activities to help us get prepared for Christmas at home and at church.

The event will include a Sunday School Christmas Play practice for the kids, to give us a head-start on the speaking parts and songs. If there are props and costumes needed, the parents will work on them while the kids are practicing.

As we did last year, we plan to offer some Christmas workshops for the parents to help us all get some of our pre-Christmas tasks completed.

Listed below are some possibilities for Christmas workshops, but we are open to more ideas. If you can offer assistance with baking, photography or computer skills, please let me know. If you are not able to offer assistance – please come anyway!

- Baking: We could use the kitchen to make cookies that can be frozen so you have baking in your freezer when you need it
- Writing a Christmas Letter: We could talk about computer programs that are helpful and hints on how to write a great letter – bring your laptops
- Christmas card writing: Bring your cards and have the time and space to get them written
- The hard-to-buy-for: Bring any catalogues or website addresses that you have found helpful in finding that perfect gift and we will share ideas.
- Christmas craft for the kids: We will help the kids build Christmas cards that can be given to Grandparents or Aunts and Uncles.
- Quick family pictures: Families could pose for quick family portraits that can be emailed and included in Christmas cards or letters.

Please let us know whether you can attend and whether there are any food allergies in your family.

We hope to see you there!

Sunday School Schedule – November 2018 to January 2019

- Saturday, Nov 24th Get-a-Jump-on-Christmas Family Fellowship Event. After supper we will present the Sunday School Christmas play to the kids, assign parts and practice the music that goes with the play. Parents will be asked to help prepare props and costumes. **If your child would like a part in the play but cannot be present at this event, please let Brenda know.**
- Sunday, Nov 25th Regular Sunday School classes
- Sunday, Dec 2nd Full practice of the play during Sunday School time downstairs. The kids will be fitted with costumes during this practice. **If children would like a speaking part, it will be important to be present on this Sunday.**
- Sunday, Dec 9th The Christmas Play will be presented during the morning service. We will ask the kids to be at the church at 9:15am so they can get costumes on and practice using the microphones. There will be treat bags for each of the kids following the service. If extra kids will be attending that day, please let me know so we can make extra bags.
- Sunday, Dec 16th Choir Service. The kids will be upstairs during the service at the back of the sanctuary with Christmas crafts and activities. The older kids will be asked to help with compiling craft bags for the Christmas Eve Services.
- Sunday, Dec 23rd Christmas movies and crafts in the Memorial Salem room (room with couches near the gym)
- Sunday, Dec 30th Christmas movies and crafts in the Memorial Salem room
- Sunday, Jan 6th Regular Sunday School resumes



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Year End Givings

It's coming to that time again to finish off the season with year end givings. Please consider giving early this year. Final Day for contributions is Dec 28, 2018

What's Happening:

Nov 24—Get-a-Jump-on-Christmas Family Fellowship Event.

Dec 2—Advent I
Blue Christmas starting at 4 pm at FAM

Dec 9—Advent II
Sunday School Christmas pageant “A Modern Visit of the Magi”
Carol Fest 7 pm

Dec 16—Advent III
Cantata

Dec 21—FAM & Salvation Army Christmas Dinner starting at 5 pm

Dec 23—Advent IV

Dec 24—Carol Sing—5:30
Family Christmas Eve Service at 6:00
Communion Christmas Eve Service at 8

Dec 24—Jan 1—Church office closed

Jan 20—2019 Proposed Budget discussion after Church Service in
Memorial Salem Room

Jan 27—Annual General Meeting after Church Service. Potluck lunch

Feb 12—Full Board Meeting



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Deadline for next FAM newsletter: March 25, 2019