

A Time Called ... EPIPHANY:

After Christmas and New Year's, Epiphany could seem like a bit of an anticlimax. But think about a time when you received some wonderful news, so wonderful that you could scarcely believe it. Did you take it all in at once, or did you find that the full meaning was revealed over time? Epiphany is our time to contemplate the Christmas story and feel the wonder of the Magi as they saw the baby.

Historical Roots of the Christmas Season

January 6 is Epiphany. It is believed that Epiphany was initially based on the Jewish Feast of Light. In Western Christian tradition, over time, December 25 was established as the date to celebrate Christ's birth, but the Eastern (Orthodox) tradition continues to celebrate it on January 6. In many parts of Canada, this day is referred to as "Ukrainian Christmas."

Finding Meaning in the Tradition

For Christians, Epiphany begins on January 6. Epiphany, with its focus on the coming of the magi (traditionally representing various races of humanity) celebrates the universality of the gospel. God came for all people. Instead of putting away the crèche scene, it is a good time, in our homes, to gather the magi – especially if they have differing skin colours – and set them in the middle of the dining room table where we can gaze at them and consider God's revelation to all nations.

The season of Epiphany leads us toward the baptism of Jesus and the Sunday called "Transfiguration."

Questions for Personal Meditation

What does it mean to me to say that God is revealed to all people and all nations?

"For some people today, 'God' is an empty word indicating no reality they have ever consciously known. They do not believe there is a God." *Living Faith* (9.3.1). How would you share the amazing news of God's revelation with unbelievers? Think of someone specific.

FORGIVEN

TO GLORIFY, WITNESS & SERVE



KITCHENER EAST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Established 03rd May 1987

Minister:

Minister in Association:

Music Director:

Rev. Dr. Mark S. Richardson

Rev. Jeff Smith

Sarah Pottier

Sunday 04th February 2024 10:30 am

*The community of faith Celebrates the Good News
In the Spirit, the Presence, and the Power
Of the risen Lord Jesus
To discover New Dimensions of & New Possibilities for
Living the Christ-Life*

Celebrating the Truth of the Presence of God – Alleluia!

Call to Worship:

Praise: “Open our eyes, Lord” SB #63

Welcome, and announcements:

Celebrating the Truth of Forgiveness – We Receive New Life!

Praise: “Jesus, stand among us” BP #323

Prayer, and the Lord’s Prayer:

Celebrating the Truth of God's Word! - We are Listening!

Scripture: St. Luke 2:22-38 NLT

Message: “Faith of ordinary people”

Celebrating the Truth of God’s gifts to us – We Are Accountable

Presentation of our Tithes and Offerings:

+ Offertory

Doxology: “**Praise God from whom**” BP #603

Prayer of Dedication

Praise: “God is here” SB #19

Celebrating the Truth of our Going Forth – We Leave for Ministry

Benediction:

Interpersonal Benediction: “Lord be glorified” vs 3, 1 SB #60

WORSHIP AND SACRAMENTS TEAM: PRAYER REQUESTS

Warnock Aitken – St. Joseph’s Life-Care Centre, Brantford

Frank De Vries – at home

Pearl Howden – Trinity Village LTC

Bob Kenzie – Sunnyside Home

Mary Master – Conestoga Lodge

Dolly McCormack – Court at Laurelwood Retirement Home

Marg McCorriston – at home

Terry McCorriston – at home

Julie Phoenix – Southbridge London Long Term Care Home

Curt Ryan – AgeCare West Williams LTC

Shirley Steinberg – Highland Place Retirement Residence

Glen Verheye – at home

We are thankful for Rev. Jeff Smith, and Janet Harmer as they lead us all in worshipping God together this morning!

Sunday School:

We are having bi-weekly Sunday School running in 2024:

February 4, & 18; **March** 3, 17, & 31; **April** 14, & 28; **May** 12, & 26; **June** 9, & 23. We have split the group: Grade 5 and under, and Grade 6 and up, to create a more engaging experience for our older children.

We are looking for more Sunday School teachers, helpers, or back-ups to join the team. If interested, please contact Cathrine (gcejtaylor@gmail.com), Nicolene (nclemens7@yahoo.ca) or Johnson (srikanthjohnson@gmail.com).

We can’t wait to share and grow with the children this year.

Peace and Joy, Cathrine, Nicolene, & Johnson

Worship & Sacraments Team: Soup Luncheon Fundraiser:

to be held on Sunday 18th February 2024 following the worship time together, and at the start of our Annual Meeting.

If you would like to contribute a pot of soup, or have any questions, please speak with Marg Fannon or anyone from the Team, and sign up on the list on the bulletin board.

Mission & Outreach Team will be meeting in the Fireside Room on Sunday 11th February following the worship service.

Mission Moment – Sunday 04th February 2024:

For decades, Presbyterian World Service & Development has faithfully dedicated itself to serving those in need across the globe. In collaboration with our valued partners, PWS&D is actively contributing to positive transformation within our global community. From responding to emergencies to helping families and communities access nutritious food, clean water, adequate health care and quality education, PWS&D is helping people thrive. As people of faith, we respond to Christ's call to walk with the distressed and marginalized, work towards equality, the restoration of human dignity, peace, and care for God's creation. Together, we are working towards a sustainable, compassionate and just world.

From the Finance Team: Offering Counters:

We'd like to add a few team members and provide full training & support to help new team members become established. We hope you will consider offering your talent for this role at a KEPC and can contact Barb Cook (519-998-2183) or Rob Gloin (519-781-4379) to discuss further.

From the Finance Team: options for financial giving to KEPC:

- 1) **Canada Post:** send your offering envelope in an envelope addressed to the Church: 10 Zeller Dr, Kitchener, ON, N2A 4A8
- 2) **E – transfer:** This involves using your online banking application using the e-transfer option & sending the transaction to the Church email: kepc@golden.net
- 3) **PAR: pre-authorized remittance.** This is set up once and an amount is withdrawn from your bank account monthly until you choose to stop it or change the amount. Contact Chris Clemens clemensc78@yahoo.ca and he can set you up.
- 4) **Tithe.ly** on our website, (click on the menu "Donate Now") and donations can be through your Visa, Mastercard, or Debit.
- 5) The locked, **black box** on the wall of the sanctuary by the main doors for your offerings.

Thank-you for your ongoing and prayerful support of the mission and ministry of KEPC.

Congregational Financial update:

Here in the early days of 2024, we find that we ended the year 2023 with an \$7,400 deficit. Thank-you so much for helping us to bring it down from roughly \$30,000 earlier this in 2023 to this new amount!!

We will continue to keep you informed of the financial situation and ask that you join us in praying for guidance and solutions to address the current situation. Thank you.

Offering Envelopes: 2024 Offering Envelopes can be picked up in the front foyer, please let Chris know if any updates are required. If you are interested in having assigned envelopes for 2024 and are not on PAR, please reach out to Chris.

For anyone that changed addresses in 2023, please let Chris and Mark know so that we can check our records and update them as required.

Grocery Cards:

We are participating in the grocery gift card program in our Region. If you would like to purchase grocery gift cards for the PC group of stores, and/or the Metro group of stores, please speak with Barb Cook, Rob Gloin, or Emmie Richardson. They are available every other week. We receive a small amount back from the Community Charity Services, for each card we sell.

2023 Tax Receipts have been prepared. Please check your hanging files. For those without files, they are in the mail and should arrive next week.

For those of us not yet retired, please check to see if your employer offers a Donation matching program, this can help make your donation go even further. Although I am not able to check on particular companies, do reach out if you have any questions.

EVENTS THIS WEEK: 04th – 11th February 2024

- Sunday:** 10:30 am – Sunday Worship Service; Sunday School; Coffee & Conversation
Monday: 1 pm – Music Therapy
Tuesday: 9:30 am – Bible Study via Zoom
11:45 – 1:30 Music Therapy
6:30 pm – Sparks
7 pm – Worship & Sacraments Team meeting in the Fireside Room
Wednesday: 7 – 9 pm – Scouts in Gray Hall
Thursday: 9 am – Sonshine Corner in the Gray Hall
Friday: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Music Therapy
Sunday: 10:30 am – Sunday Worship Service

The Seniors' Group:

Valentine's Day Lunch for KEPC Senior's at Concordia Club.
Wednesday 14th February 2024
NOON arrival at Concordia, 429 Ottawa Street South, Kitchener
Phone (519) 745- 5617. Opens at 11:30

Menu Options:

Schnitzel Dinner \$21.00
Fish and Chips (1 piece of fish and French Fries) \$15.00
Sesame Ginger Stir Fry (Vegetarian) \$17.00
Chicken Quesadilla \$15.00
Rueben Sandwich \$15.00
Gratuity tax 13% Taxes 17%

KEPC Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday 18th February 2024 following the morning worship service, with a soup fundraising luncheon to start the meeting in the Gray Hall. Annual reports are due in to Barb Cook, email her at: mjblcook@outlook.com by 31st January 2024.

VBS 2024:

Hello everyone and happy new year!

We are starting to plan our VBS at KEPC this summer and I just wanted to check in to see who would be interested and available in volunteering again this year.

Dates are July 8-12 9am-noon. The theme is SCUBA.

Please let me know so I can get an idea of interest/availability of volunteers and we will start putting out announcements, etc to further our planning.

Kindly, Sarah