

John Black Memorial United Church

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Church office hours: Tues – Fri 9- 12 & 1– 4 pm
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Ministers' Office Hours: Sun – Thurs.
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2020 Weekly Offering Envelopes are now available in the narthex. Please contact the office if you would like a set or if you would like to donate by PAR, a monthly automatic withdrawal. Thank You.

Today is **White Gift Sunday** when we have the opportunity to give to the Christmas Cheer Board. Monetary donations may be put in envelopes marked Cheer Board (cheques made to the Cheer Board will be receipted by them, cheques made to John Black will be receipted by JB.) Together by Reaching Out, we can help make Christmas a brighter time for the families of our broader community.

Please join us for our **Blue Christmas** service **Wed Dec 11th** 7:00pm The "Blue Christmas" tradition honours the feeling many people have that the Christmas season is not an easy one to get through. It will be a time of quiet reflection and fellowship.

Christmas lights and trees needed: Do you have indoor white (white only) Christmas lights or artificial Christmas trees you won't be using this Christmas? If so, please consider lending them to the worship committee for use during the Christmas Eve service. Please clearly mark them so we can return them to you, and leave them at the church no later than December 22.

Our John Black church directories have been distributed to people who participated having their pictures included. We have a few available by donation; please contact the office if you would like one.

Being environmentally conscious, in 2019, we reduced the number of printed bulletins/announcements and saved on costs of paper and copying. Dedications of a bulletin & powerpoint for 2020 may be made by signing up in the booklet on the office door or contacting the office for a contribution of \$10.00 each date.

See which John Black choir members you can spot in the Covenant CRC production of The Messiah, Dec. 20 & 21 at 7 pm at Covenant CRC, 653 Knowles Ave. All proceeds go to Forward House Ministries in Elmwood. Tickets available online at CovenantCRC.ca."

FINANCIAL REPORT

	Oct	Nov	Year to Date
Donations Actual	\$8,772	\$8,629	\$101,343
Donations Budget	\$8,850	\$9,628	\$107,721
Difference	- \$578	- \$999	- \$6,378

2019 Budget is based on 2018 Actual Givings

All are welcome to stay after church this morning for refreshments and conversation

December 8, 2019 Announcements

- Sun Dec 8 - Sunday School Pageant & White Gift Sunday
- Wed. Dec. 11 - Blue Christmas Service 7:00 pm
- Sun Dec 15 - 3rd Sunday of Advent
- Wed Dec 18 - Leadership Team Meeting
- Sun Dec 22 - 4th Sunday of Advent
- Mon Dec 23 - Annual Christmas Wave 7:30 AM
- Tues Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Service 5:30 pm
- Sun Dec 29 - Carols & Cookies 10:30 am

Save the Date – Sun. Jan. 26 Annual General Meeting

Wednesday Morning **Bible Study** - continues Dec 11. 9:30 – 10:30 looking at the upcoming scriptures. Isaiah 35: 1-10; Luke 1:47-55 Matthew 11: 2-11 All are Welcome!

House Groups - December is Super Month (all Groups). Please sign up on the duty board by the office. Thank you!

Our focus for December for our 12 months of giving is family. There are a lot of wandering homeless people on the streets of Winnipeg so think: "If Joseph and Mary were travelling through the streets of Winnipeg today, what would they need in their saddlebags?" Small toiletries like toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, travel size shampoo & conditioner, hand sanitizer, hand wipes, disposable razors, travel size shave cream, deodorant, soap, facecloth, brush & comb, socks, mitts, hats, granola bars, tuna & crackers...pop top variety, fruit cups, cheese or peanut butter with crackers, gift certificates for food. Let's all give a little & create gift bags that hold great joy for many in desperate need of some Christmas cheer.

Our **Annual Christmas Tea & Sale** was held on Sat. A big thank you to Donna Fabbri for organizing and all the volunteers, bakers, helpers & cleaners who made this such a successful event!

Please remember to use the **John Black Co-op# 114062** whenever you purchase fuel at Red River Co-op stations.

We are gathered on Treaty 1 territory, as well as the home of the Dakotas and traditional home of the Metis