

SILOAM SPIRIT



Advent 2025

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Dear Siloam Family,

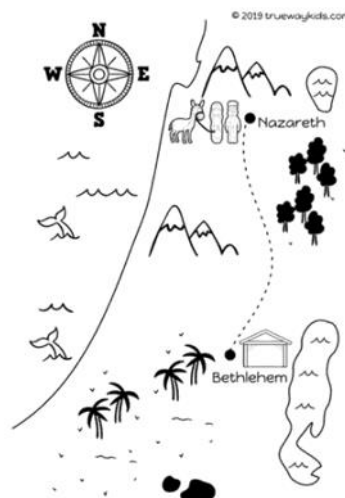


As we step once again into the quiet wonder of the Advent season, I find myself thinking of Isaiah's words: "Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord." (Isaiah 2:5)

There's something deeply comforting about that image — walking together, step by step, through the growing light of the season. Advent is a journey. Not a sprint to Christmas morning, but a road we travel slowly, intentionally, hearts open to what God might be doing among us.

Along the way, we'll hear again Isaiah's vision of peace: "The wolf shall live with the lamb... and a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6). It's a vision that feels impossibly far off sometimes, especially in a world that knows too much of division and fear. And yet, Advent invites us to trust that God's dream of peace is not wishful thinking — it is already taking root. Right here, in our homes, our church, our community. Every act of kindness, every shared prayer, every candle lit in the darkness is part of that holy work.

By the time we reach the manger, we'll stand beside Mary — who said yes to God's impossible promise and carried Love itself into the world (Luke 1:26–38). Her courage and faith remind us that God still looks to ordinary people to bring extraordinary love to life.



This Advent, I invite you to travel the road to Bethlehem with your Siloam community. Come and be part of the waiting, the wondering, the preparing, and the promise. Light a candle with us on Sunday mornings - bring your prayers, your hopes, your longing for peace. Whether you are feeling weary, joyful, or somewhere in between, there is a place for you here in this story — and in this community.

Let's walk in the light together, trusting that the One who comes will meet us on the way.

With Advent blessings and deep gratitude,

Pastor Christina

UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

Wed, Nov 26	Advent Bible Study begins 4:00—5:30 pm
Sun, Nov 30	First Sunday in Advent
Thu, Dec 4	Rose Birrell Christmas Luncheon 12:00 pm
Sun, Dec 7	Intergenerational Christmas Pageant 10:30 am Forest City Singers Christmas Concert 2:30 pm
Sat, Dec 13	Dreams Come True presents “Frozen Jr”
Sun, Dec 14	White Gift Sunday COFMT presents “Camel Lot” at 2:00 pm followed by Christmas Caroling in the neighbourhood
Thu, Dec 18	Blue Christmas Luncheon & Service 12:00 pm
Sun, Dec 21	Siloam Choir Christmas Cantata 10:30 am
Wed, Dec 24	Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm

This year's service will be in-person and live-streamed on Youtube.





Music Notes

Greetings to all from your Director of Music!

The season of Advent is upon us and we are busily preparing music to *invite the light*. The choir and our host of narrators are excited to be sharing Pepper Choplin's Christmas Cantata "Night of the Father's Love" during worship on **December 21**. Here is a description of the piece from the Lorenz website:

"All of the mystery, the awe, and the palpable excitement of that night are imaginatively captured in a Christmas mosaic that combines fragments of the familiar with Pepper Choplin's always-unique perspective in word and music. *Night of the Father's Love* skillfully guides the listener through the Christmas story, as though hearing it again for the first time. Three narrators interject with familiar scripture passages and personal reflections, while an intriguing array of musical styles beautifully express the essence of Christmas: the gift of the Father's love."

The same Sunday will also feature the Siloam Handbell Choir, who have been practicing on Sunday after the service. They look forward to participating in the Christmas Eve service as well.

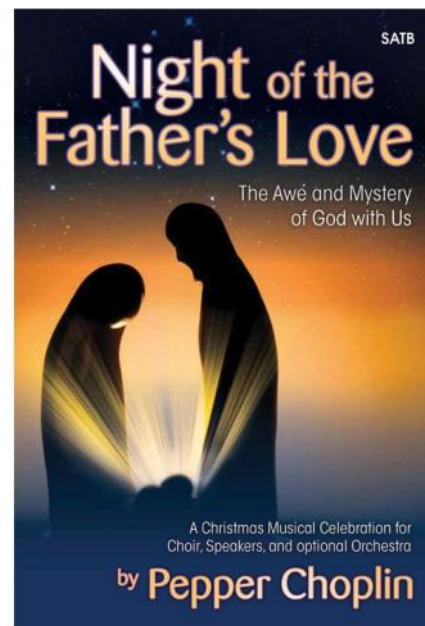
Music programming at Siloam continues to be a vessel for gathering, building connections, and expressing faith in a creative, meaningful way. This season, we continue to grow. We welcome new singers and ringers Marnie and Montaha! If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, do not hesitate to reach out to Blythe, a Siloam musician, or the church office.

Wishing you a joyfully anticipatory Advent and a Merry Christmas!

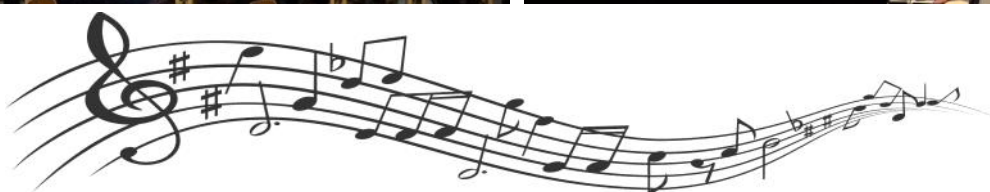
Blythe George

519-476-3309

blythepjgeorge@gmail.com



On December 21, the choir will present a choral cantata by Pepper Choplin entitled "Night of the Father's Love".





Living Church

The **Young At Heart** group continues to enjoy our time together. Celebrating our gifts through Music, Art, Drama and Fun is such a joy! It is beautiful seeing the friendships develop. We love participating in the Sunday morning services by performing with the Siloam Choir, leading the Remembrance Sunday Candlelight Reflection and of course interacting with the congregation near the end of each service. A special time was had at The

Flying Squirrel Trampoline Park. We know how to live church! Come join us in the library Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.



Young at Heart enjoying activities at Siloam and at the Flying Squirrel Trampoline Park.



COMMUNITY OF FAITH MUSICAL THEATRE
PROUDLY PRESENTS

PERFORMANCE DECEMBER 14TH, 2:00 PM
SILOAM UNITED CHURCH
1240 Fanshawe Park Rd E, London, ON

ADMISSION - \$10/PERSON AT THE DOOR

FOLLOWING THE PERFORMANCE, JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS CAROLING IN THE SILOAM NEIGHBOURHOOD!
(WALK OR DRIVE ALONG WITH US)
HOT REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW!

Community Of Faith Musical Theatre

People from various faith communities throughout London and area continue to gather together to share a love of music and faith. We are excited to perform the faith based Christmas musical, 'Camel Lot' on Sunday, December 14 at 2:00 p.m. at Siloam. \$10 per person at the door. Following the performance we will all go caroling in the neighbourhood and then head back to Siloam for hot refreshments. Come join us!



Join us for

Christmas Caroling

following the Community Of Faith Musical Theatre Performance of Camel Lot!

2:00 PM | **14** | **DECEMBER**

Hot refreshments to follow caroling.
All welcome!
Come share in the Christmas Spirit!

Dreams Come True Music Studio gives thanks to Siloam for its outreach. Our musicians have found a safe, inclusive place where we can participate wholly in musical theatre. Frozen Jr. has been the focus this Fall. We have a few tickets left for the 7:00 pm performance.

DCT has also shared our message of meaningful inclusion throughout the community with many performances. A highlight was being invited to perform at the screening of David Shore's The Good Doctor at the Forest City Film Festival. We also performed for The Retired Teachers of Ontario to showcase our passion.

Finally, thank you for believing in our groups and for your kind words of support. We take any labels aside and focus on the individual. All are welcome!

May this season of Advent bring you Faith, Hope, Love and Peace.

And until we meet again may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

It's Possible. Anything's Possible.

Allison O'Connor



**“It’s Possible.
Anything’s Possible.”**





Honouring our Veterans and Praying for Peace

On Sunday, November 9th, Siloam paid tribute to Canadian soldiers and veterans in our Remembrance Day service. We were honoured to have John Thornton, veteran of the British Royal Navy and retired London Police Officer, lead our Act of Remembrance. Trumpeter Amy Lee shared her musical talent, Young at Heart led the candle liturgy, and the Siloam Choir provided beautiful music.



John Thornton leads the Act of Remembrance at the service on November 9th



Would you like to watch a past service? Video recordings are available on our website at siloamunitedchurch.org/service-recordings

Santa Shoppe Bazaar

Many thanks to all the people who supported our annual Bazaar. This project speaks about connectedness and demonstrates when we work together, the end result is overwhelming.

Please accept our sincere appreciation.

- Margaret Smith, on behalf of The Rose Birrell Women's Group



The Santa Shoppe Bazaar was held Saturday, November 1st, at Siloam. Dozens of volunteers worked hard to help make this event a great success.

Outreach at Siloam

“Christ to Each Other and God’s World”



Thank you everyone at Siloam United Church – you are so very, very generous with your time, enthusiasm and financial resources. You have supported our Outreach endeavours all year long and, of course, there are still opportunities in this last month of the year and this Season of Giving. There is still time to take part in our **Ham and Turkey Drive** (deadline December 1), **White Gift Sunday on December 14** with *gift cards for Childrens Aid Society, ELUCO and Indwell* or gifts of *white socks or underwear for Ark Aid*. You can place **FundScrip orders for December 7** for gift cards.

You can participate in the United Church’s [Gifts with Vision campaign](#) or should you wish to help out with the recent victims of weather related disasters and ongoing victims of war the United Church has a proven track record of getting resources to those in need providing [Help for Today and Hope for Tomorrow](#).

Merry Christmas to all – we can indeed count our blessings for our faith community here at Siloam United Church – a special gift.

- Wendy Barbour, Siloam Outreach Committee

1 Timothy 6:18

“Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share.”



WHITE GIFT SUNDAY December 14

We are collecting **socks and underwear** for Ark Aid, as well as FundScrip gift cards and cheques made out to this year’s charities:



Farewell to the Christian Resource Centre

The Christian Resource Centre has had an active presence in London for over 60 years, first as a ministry of Middlesex Presbytery, now part of Antler River Watershed Region, and more recently as a satellite operation of the storefront in Mitchell which is located in Western Ontario Waterways Region. I have enjoyed working in this lovely space at Siloam and give thanks for the support of Council and this Community of Faith.

After prayerful discernment and discussion, the Resource Centre's Board of Directors made the difficult decision to close this valuable ministry. In the words of singer/songwriter Bob Dylan, "The Times, They Are a-Changin'." Many people now read from digital copies rather than actual books, and a large number of individuals and Communities of Faith prefer to order their items from Amazon and other online sites where they can get next-day delivery, and don't seem to mind paying extra shipping fees for that service.

I give thanks for the many years of faithful ministry provided by the Christian Resource Centre, as well as for those who have volunteered in the store and at our various book displays, most notably my friends Jo-Ann Gramlich (who has been involved in this ministry even longer I have!), Sherry Gibson (a longtime member at Richards Memorial), and Rev. Sandra Bendall (a friend and colleague in ministry for many years). Thank you also to Jane Davidson and Pauline Newton for helping to pack up the remaining items in preparation for returning them to Mitchell. During December, all items in the store, located at 29 Ontario Street in Mitchell (just a 45-minute drive from Siloam) will be marked down by 70%. The only exceptions are United Church calendars and special orders. The Mitchell store will close its doors at 4:00 pm on Friday, December 19th.

"When one door closes, another one opens." This quote is attributed to Alexander Graham Bell, who suggests that every ending or loss can lead to new opportunities and beginnings. With the Resource Centre vacating our space at Siloam next week, I look forward to what new thing God will create.

- Mary Dillon, Volunteer Manager



Decking the Halls of Siloam

On Wednesday, November 26, a team of dedicated elves gathered at Siloam to decorate for the Advent and Christmas season. A big THANK YOU from Janet Meyerink and Heather Vosper...

To Jane and John Davidson and the property committee who so faithfully set up the beautiful banner and display it in the sanctuary each advent. The banner was created for Siloam by Margaret Smith and her sister. To Linda and Dave Peeling for their generous donation of the 9 ft Christmas tree in the Arva Atrium. To Allyn Todd for renting and setting up the star light. To George and Ella Wilbur for masterfully creating the new stable for our Christmas Creche—complete with lights! We are so appreciative!



More on the 3R's, with more R's on the Side

By Maria Prohaszka

Did you know that every 10 minutes of every weekday a truck with nearly 40 tonnes of garbage arrives at Green Lane Landfill (near London) from Toronto?

Did you know that approximately one-third of Ontario's municipal garbage is exported and landfilled in the United States?

In the last Fanfare article, I mentioned that Canadians produce more garbage per person than any other country in the world. So it should come as no surprise to you that here in Ontario we are running out of land-fill space for our garbage to go into. The auditor general of Ontario and the association that represents the province's waste and recycling sector have been warning us for years that Ontario's landfill capacity will be exhausted within the next decade.

This is a real problem that every single one of us needs to do something about.

Take a critical look at the garbage you are creating each week. Then set yourself a goal to try to cut that in half. The best way to reach your goal is to practice the 3R's of waste management: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. The most important of these is "reduce".

There are many ways to REDUCE the amount of garbage that comes out of your house:

REFUSE – Refuse to buy what you don't need

- Refuse to buy disposable products
- Refuse to buy single-serving products
- Refuse to buy poor quality products that don't last. If you purchase durable products, you will send a lot less to landfill because you are not continually replacing things.



REPAIR – Many things can be repaired: clothing, shoes, appliances. If you are not sure how to go about it, ask someone else for help, or google it and learn something new. Or, if you don't have the knowledge or the tools to do it yourself, you can go to a "repair cafe" where volunteer "fixers" help to repair household items for free. In London, these take place about once a month, at various locations across the city. Visit londonrepaircafe.ca for more information.

REFILL your water bottle. Here in Canada we are blessed with an abundance of good clean water, so there is no reason to buy bottled water. Instead, get yourself a re-usable water bottle and refill it. You can make your own filtered water by using a Brita or other water dispenser with a replaceable filter.

REFILL for zero-waste - Take your own jars, containers and bags to Bulk Barn to refill them. Bulk Barn has thousands of products that you can purchase without packaging. They will even give you a 15% discount on "Sustainable Sundays" when you bring your own containers.

RENT – You can rent an item that you will only use occasionally instead of buying it.

ROT – Compost your food scraps so they go back to the earth, instead of going to landfill.

RE-GIFT – Rather than throwing out something that you don't want anymore, find someone else that can use it. Offer it to family and friends. Donate it to a charity or second-hand store. Be creative!

RE-PURPOSE – At my house, a cracked cannister now holds a plant, old toothbrushes become scrub brushes, old tea towels get used for cleaning windows and old baby bath tubs have seedlings growing in them. I made a bag for my husband's golf cart out of an old futon cover. Old golf clubs have become stakes in my garden. I recently created a "new" bathroom set out of drinking jars that were sitting unused in the cupboard.

And finally: **RE-THINK** - Not that long ago, in the days of our parents or grandparents, very little was thrown away. Clothes were passed down until they became rags, then the rags became rag-rugs and the good pieces of cloth became quilts. These wasteful habits of ours of buying too much and throwing away too much are fairly recent ones. People who lived through the depression or the war have much to teach us. So talk to, and learn from, others who remember how to be more resourceful and how to live more lightly on the Earth.

- Maria Prohaszka



The Forest City Singers
present
THE SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 7th
at 2:30 PM

Siloam United Church
1240 Fanshawe Park Rd E
London, ON

Tickets: \$20 each
Children 12 and under free
forestcitysingers@outlook.com
<https://forestcitysingers.ca>

For Tickets Call: 519-455-9201
Available at the Door

fcs
forest city
singers



JOIN US FOR
CHRISTMAS
Melodies

NIGHT OF THE FATHER'S LOVE
PEPPER CHOPLIN

FEATURING
SILOAM UNITED CHURCH CHOIR & SILOAM SOUNDS BELL CHOIR

21
DECEMBER 2025
10:30 AM

SILOAM UNITED CHURCH
1240 FANSHAW PARK ROAD EAST
LONDON, ON N5X 3Z8

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW
COURTESY OF ROSE BIRRELL GROUP

Merry Christmas
from all of us at Siloam