Jan's Journal



Welcome to Advent 2026! Welcome to a new church year… Year B.

Although you may have journeyed through the weeks of Advent many times before, I invite you to see this Advent through new eyes. As you hear familiar scripture passages and sing familiar Advent hymns, I invite you to listen closely. Perhaps you will hear something that you haven't noticed before.

On the first Sunday in Advent, the theme is Hope. What is your greatest hope today?

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to light an Advent Candle. We now have readers for every Sunday and for Christmas Eve, although there are a couple of people who are still in need of a reading /lighting partner.

As has been the custom at East Plains for the past few years, we will gather in the sanctuary each Sunday during Advent at **10:20 a.m.** to sing Christmas Carols prior to worship. Sam and the Choir will lead us in singing. Please bring your requests!!

Speaking of Christmas traditions at East Plains… **Casseroles and Carols** will take place in Peart Hall on Tuesday, December 8th. Please bring a favourite dish for the table (salad, casserole or dessert). We will gather at 5:30 p.m. for hot cider and fellowship. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. Carol singing will follow. If you are in need of a ride, please contact Pat Vollick or myself.

The **51st Annual Arts and Crafts Show and Sale** raised $15,830 for church programs and projects!! Thank you to everyone who helped to make that happen!

In this season of giving. Perhaps you would like to make a donation to help those in need. There are several options available:

Wesley Urban Ministries Gift Cards. Wesley no longer delivers food to needy families, but now gives out gift cards to enable recipients to do their own shopping and make their own choices for their family. Donations must be made by this Sunday, **November 29th**. Please speak to Gayle Burnison for details.

Gifts With Vision. The United Church of Canada Gifts With Vision program offers many gift options for local and global recipients. Perhaps the perfect gift for a friend or family member is a **Gift with Vision** gift. You can review the gift options online at: giftswithvision.ca Gifts can be purchased online, by phone or by mail. Please see the insert in the Bulletin for details.

United Church of Canada Foundation Gifts in Mission and Service. You can make a donation through the United Church of Canada website: united-church.ca When you open the homepage, scroll down to the bottom, where you will find United Church Foundation listed on the right side. Click on United Church Foundation and you will see ways in which to donate to Mission and Service.

Mark your Calendar

Sunday, November 29, 2026: First Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 6, 2026 Second Sunday in Asvent

Tuesday, December 8, 2026 Casseroles and Carols at 5:30 p.m. in Peart Hall

Sunday, December 13, 2026 Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 20, 2026 Fourth Sunday in Advent

Thursday, December 24, 2026 Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 27, 2026 First Sunday After Christmas and Final Sunday in 2026

If you have any questions or concerns about anything you have read here, you can reach me at: revjanmcc@gmail.com or on my cell phone: 905-630-8202.

Advent Blessings,

Reverend Jan