



The Anchor

Edith Rankin Memorial United Church

Advent December 2020 Volume 27 Issue 3



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Select Church Office

For contact information see the
[Ministry Personnel and Staff Directory](#)



[Edith Rankin Church](#)



[@EdithRankinMUC](#)



www.ermuc.ca



Sunday Services Online

Currently NO in-person worship services or group gatherings are permitted in the church in order to help mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

[Check the website for updates and links to virtual events](#)

Edith Rankin Memorial United Church sits on the traditional lands of the Haudenosaunee & Anishinaabe peoples

Edith Rankin Memorial United Church Gchi-gkinoomaagegamig atemagad Haudenosaunee miinwaa Anishinaabe aking

Ne Edith Rankin Memorial United Church e'tho noíwe nikanónhsote tsi noíwe ne Haudenasaunee tánon Anishinaabek tehatihsnónhsahere ne óhontsa



Holy Greetings friends.

For some of you this is our first introduction, and so let me say Bless You. Bless you for being part of the Edith Rankin Church Family; and Bless you for your commitment to follow the faith of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love through the teachings of Jesus Christ.

I arrived at Edith Rankin as your new Team Leader on September 1st, and although COVID 19 has

made it very difficult to have a "normal" start to a new ministry, God has blessed us and together we are building new relationships, trust, and respect. I want you to know that I am a collaborator, and always strive to have a safe place at the table for everyone's opinions and ideas to be valued. COVID has taken a lot away from us, but it does not have the power to take away our ability to be kind, compassionate and empathetic. When I think of the Christmas story, these are the teachings that I find wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. Jesus was born in a tumultuous time. During a regional endemic of hierarchy, power, and fear; without a vaccine for the control, hatred and discrimination that was spreading through the region. So the Christian birth narrative setting could in fact be a parallel for our current Global Pandemic, with the stars in the bright sky of 2020, looking down at where WE lay.

I invite you this year, to put yourself into the birth story. Where do you find your Spirit closely connecting? Is it in the

travelogue of Mary and Joseph? Is it in the pandemic emotions of both fear and excitement that Mary felt as her womb leapt? Is it in the feeling that maybe there is no room for you in the inn/or at the table/or in your family? Is it in the humble offering of the stable and its inhabitants? Or is it in the searching of the Wise Ones, or the leading of the Star?

I believe, that regardless of our fame or fortune, our power or privilege, we can all see our own stories reflected in the mirror of innocence and hope; fear and opportunity; power and glory found in the Christmas Story. For in the dark streets shineth, the Everlasting Light; where our hopes and fears, for all the years, but in particular 2020, are met tonight. So what is our Birth Narrative ... Our signs of new life? Our desire to be stewards of opportunity; and missionaries of Grace. As we embrace the season of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, what are we giving birth to? What are we discerning for the new life that surely lives amongst us?

As we gather, in the safety of our own homes, but with hearts and dreams united in the Spirit, may we hear Hark the Herald Angel Sing ... Peace on Earth, and Good Will to All ... As we with one voice pray: Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay. Close by me forever, and love me, I pray!

May this Advent and Christmas Season bring you new Hope in faith; new Peace from fear; new Joy in your heart; new Love in your Soul; and new life in prayer.

May God continue to Bless you in Body, Mind and Spirit. May you hear the words of Luke 2:14 in all that you do this Holy Season. "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth Peace to all."

In Faithful Service
Rev Michelle Down



Advent & Christmas Services

Sunday, November 29, 2020 Advent 1- Hope

10:00 am

Holy Communion

Sermon: "You are not lacking in any Spiritual Gift as you await the revealing of Jesus Christ"

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Sunday, December 6, 2020 Advent 2- Peace

10:00 am

Sermon: A Baptism of Peace

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:1-8

Service of Remembrance & Hope/Blue Christmas 4:00 pm

Our worship team is planning a Service of Remembrance and Hope. This service provides an opportunity to remember and grieve those who have passed away in this year.



Sunday, December 13, 2020 Advent 3- Joy

10:00 am

Sermon: Mary's Song of Promise: The Magnificat

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:46 b-55

Sunday, December 20, 2020 Advent 4-Love

10:00 am

Sermon: A Love Story

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:46 b-55

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve Services

6:30 pm Family and Community Service

9:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

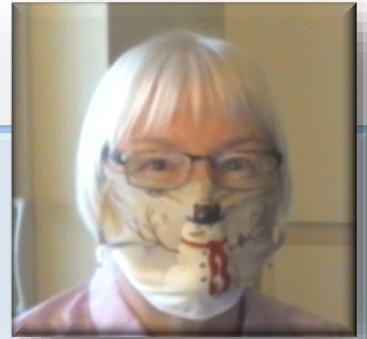
Holy Communion

Sermon: O Holy Night

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-14

As with all other celebrations at this time, these services will be broadcast via Ring Central so that you can participate with us online. Please see the Weekly Tidings or ermuc.ca for more information.

Pastoral Care



What a year it has been! We must admit that this pandemic year has highlighted the creativity and ingenuity of our community and our country. Here at Edith Rankin Memorial United Church we have seen so many people pick up the phone and connect with each other, send cards and flowers to people who need a cheering up and bring groceries to those at home. We have ventured beyond our comfort zone to use our computers and phones to connect with church and community. We have sewn masks, made crafts, quilted, baked, and spent more time in our gardens which, along with excellent weather, produced an abundance of good food to consume and share.

Even with so much to celebrate, it is natural that we feel a sense of loss, because, quite frankly, we have experienced so much change to our lives. We recognize that this Advent and Christmas will be quite different than years past. Our traditions and rituals will need to be adjusted to stay safe and healthy and that for some is creating a feeling of exhaustion and sadness. In that you are not alone.

As Advent begins, we will hear a voice from the wilderness calling, a prophet who tells us of the coming Christ child. When there was fear and a great deal of the unknown, our Biblical ancestors would look to find hope from someone who could prognosticate a direction ahead. I had always thought of prophets as fortune tellers, who summoned spirits or the like to give them a view of what would happen in the future. As I studied theology, I began to see that prophets are those people who, from their own faithfulness, bring their message to awaken the people and encourage them to move forward in the toughest of times. No magic, just faith and strength to awaken God's people to a new way of seeing the world that included hope, peace, love and joy.

My hope to you is that you hear the calling from the wilderness that awakens you to follow the path of the prophet to the child in the manger. May the season of peace help you to find a sense of joy in this new way of worshipping the coming of Jesus to our lives. Keep doing all of those things that highlight your love and caring for, and from, the Edith Rankin Memorial United Church community.

Blessings to you all.

Elizabeth Amirault,
Minister of Pastoral Care.



UCW December General Meeting Tuesday, December 1st at 1:30 p.m. via Ring Central



Program:

Our guest, Pierre Klein from Home Base Housing, will be our speaker. He will talk to us about the new Kingston Youth Services Hub that will operate out of the former Princess Street United Church.

[\(Click here to see the proposal\)](#)

- **All members of the congregation** are invited to join in to listen and learn about this new Kingston initiative
- Program will be followed by a short business meeting.
- Meeting invitation will be sent out via the Weekly Tidings and email.

Our Smiling Eyes



Who can YOU find in these masked faces?





Living the Word

A Meditation by **Rev. George Lavery**

John 1:14 “And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.”

Who is this man, Jesus? What is his place in the human story, or more personally, what is his place in my story? What role does he play in the living of my particular life? This beautiful marble sculpture by Michelangelo gives visual expression to that statement in the Gospel of John “And the Word became flesh and lived among us...” Jesus, the living Word of God, also became a human being, just like us. He experienced the joys and happiness, the struggles and challenges, the disappointments and sorrows, the pain and suffering that are common to all human experience.

Madonna and Child
Church of Our Lady,
Bruges, Belgium

He was born to working-class parents, and very soon they became refugees in a foreign country. When it seemed safe to return to their homeland, his parents brought him up in a land still occupied by the Roman Legions, in which they did not tolerate behaviour that conflicted with their rules and laws. In the end, while still a relatively young man, he was executed by the cruel method of crucifixion for the sake of political expediency. In spite of all the difficulties and suffering with which he had to cope, he demonstrated a life lived abundantly, and even in his death he revealed a strength and depth of love that was far beyond all expectations. Jesus, the living Word, revealed to us how to live the Word day by day.

This Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of the One who came to show us the way, we continue to encourage each other on the path of learning how to live the Word in our particular life and circumstances, even during this global pandemic. Jesus comes to bring Good News and life abundant for each and every one of us. What can we do to bring hope, encouragement, friendship, compassion, love and forgiveness to others? My sense is that our greatest Christmas gifts may not just be the things we buy, but each of us living our lives according to the teachings of the one who “became flesh and lived among us”. That sounds like a very tall order; is it really possible? We can take heart that we have not been asked to do it alone. The Creator God has given each of us life and great potential; the living Word of God has shown us the way; and the Spirit of God enables us to be and do much more than we had ever imagined.

“Amen” – so let it be

Getting To Know You

Ever wondered about some of the volunteers that work so hard for us here at Edith Rankin?

Here’s your chance to get to know

LORNA THORNE

Lorna Thorne is the exuberant, multi-talented, get-the-job-done chairperson of our church council. Lorna was born and raised in Kingston. The United Church has been an important part of Lorna’s life since she sang in the choir as a child at St. Andrew’s By-the-Lake United Church. Lorna and her husband Tom have three sons and they lived in several places in Ontario while they were raising their family. When they moved back to Kingston in 2012, Lorna became a member of Edith Rankin Memorial United Church. We have been reaping the benefits of her dedication, creativity, and enthusiasm ever since! Before chairing our church council, Lorna was chair of both the Worship Committee and the Faith and Formation Committee. She sings in the choir and has coordinated PA Day activities and TGIFs. She is willing to take on any challenge and her energy seems to be limitless! Lorna really enjoys working with children. She was an ECE for many years and she is presently producing children’s music and activity videos for Loyalist Township. Lorna loves to entertain friends and family, decorate cookies, paint rocks, golf, participate in aquasize classes, spend time with her mom Shirley who is also a member of ERMUC, walk, listen to country music, and do needlepoint. And Lorna has a new delight in her life—her first grandchild, 8 month old Cosette! We are blessed to have Lorna in our Community of Faith. Thank you Lorna for all that you do for us .



Classics' Christmas Memories

Enjoy these fond remembrances from some of our Classics



John Gummo

When John retired from the Royal Bank, he and his wife decided that after all their moves, they would settle in Kingston. Over the years, he has appreciated the friendships and fellowship that he associates with Edith Rankin. He has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Limestone Ringers.

John exclaims that every Christmas has been wonderful! His family is one that enjoys each other's company, so John and his daughter, who lives in Gananoque, look forward to travelling annually to his son's Ottawa home for the festivities. This year, the Gummo family has received an early Christmas present. They have been blessed with the safe arrival of John's first great-grandchild – Ada Gummo – who is bringing early Christmas joy to her parents, grandparents and great-grandfather. A baby is born! Ring the bells!



Millie Hill

Millie grew up in the village of Gunningsville, NB. Christmas was really important in her house, with Mother being the 'guiding light' when it came to the preparations. It was Mother's tradition that the star was the last thing to be placed on

the Christmas tree. At a young age, Millie, an only child, was taught the words to "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and "Away in a Manger". The imagery of "...the silent stars go by", inspired Mother to crochet small stars to place on the tree. Over the years the collection grew! When Millie was older, Mother decided that they should put a 'gift for Jesus' on the tree. She began to make small bears.

Fast forward to 1989, the year of the Tiananmen Square massacre. Millie and Bob were supporting Chinese students at Queen's and helping to sponsor their wives to immigrate to Canada. That Christmas, when Bob picked up a young wife and her 4 year old son, Ding Ding, at the airport, it was obvious that Ding Ding was sick. Bob and Millie insisted that the young family stay with them for the Christmas period. When Ding Ding entered their home and saw the tree resplendent with stars and bears, he stood transfixed. Then he went to his suitcase and pulled out the one toy that he had brought from China – a panda bear. He wanted it placed on the tree with the other bears. Days later, when the tree was de-decorated, he insisted that the bear remain with the other bears as a gift for Jesus.

Undoubtedly, today there is a young man who will never forget his first Christmas in Canada at the home of kind strangers who had a tree full of bears.

Dorothy Mills

In 1990, tragedy struck the Mills family. Their beloved daughter, Janey, was killed by a speeding driver. In the aftermath, Dorothy sought comfort by talking



about Janey. Other family members found it difficult to do so. At Christmas, Dorothy asked her parents what they remembered about their dear granddaughter. Without hesitation, they recalled the Christmas when they had picked Janey up at the Portland bus stop as she returned home for the holidays from Queen's. It was a Mills' family tradition to spend Christmas at the family cottage on the Rideau. Janey wanted to head there first, in order to surprise the family by having the cottage already decorated when they arrived from Scarborough. One can imagine the fun that she had 'putting life into the cottage', and the delight she experienced upon seeing her family's reaction! Dorothy says that this was one of the cherished memories that the family held onto that Christmas, and it will remain with her forever.

More...Classics' Christmas Memories

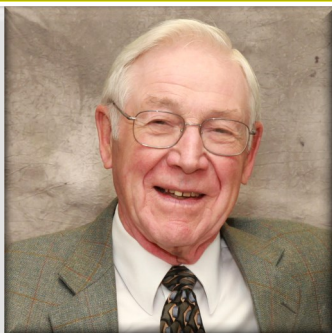
Bill Hartling

When he was serving as a Supply Technician in the Canadian Armed Forces, Bill spent many Christmases away from home. In 1968, he was stationed at Canadian Forces Station Alert NWT, about 500 miles from the North Pole. During the afternoon of Christmas Eve, Bill passed the Mess Hall and saw the cook preparing tourtière. "When do we get to eat those?" asked Bill. "Oh", said the cook, "they're only for those who attend midnight Mass." So, Bill hustled off to attend Mass! He even took communion! (and has a photo to prove it!). Thus, in the early hours of Christmas Day, having acquired the necessary qualifications, Bill joined the line-up to "have his tourtière and eat it, too!".



Karl Butler

Karl's mother was the eldest of eight children. When they left home, they all remained in Sydney, NS. Karl reminisces that on Christmas afternoon, the entire clan went to Grandmother's house for the big meal and an evening of socializing. With all the aunts, uncles and cousins eating and talking in all the rooms, the one word to describe those occasions is "CHAOS"! Karl has wonderful memories of those great Christmas reunions. "Blessed be the tie that binds"!



Since March when COVID-19 hit us, we have not been placing orders for **FündScrip shopping/gift cards**. Now that Christmas is approaching, and we don't see an end to COVID-19 soon, we are going to start up the fundraising program again, but in a different way.

You can now order the cards yourself and they will be delivered by mail to your door.

For delivery before Christmas, orders must be paid for and processed before **Wednesday, December 9, 2020**

Visit www.fundscrip.com/support-a-group and enter this invitation code: **FNZ32G**

Place your order and be sure to confirm it before closing the site. Your order will be shipped directly to an address of your choice for \$1.04. You can order up to 4 cards at a time, or \$500 worth.

For more information on how to order your **FündScrip Cards** go to ermuc.ca/fundscrip or call Sharon **613 544 6802**

Ruth Allum

Ruth's family always looked forward to attending the ERMUC Christmas Eve services together. One sister arrived from Toronto annually to spend Christmas at Ruth and Bill's home, so she went to church too. Sister Edna sang in the choir with Ruth. Their youngest sister came along with her three children. The children loved the early family service, and then, being too excited to sleep, waited with their parents for the late communion service (11PM in those days). Ruth says that the children were disciplined to be quiet. Undoubtedly there were colouring books on hand.



After the service, Ruth always held the expectation that snow would be gently falling as they left the church; and in her memories, invariably it always was. Bill stayed behind to help wash the communion glasses and trays, so he drove home alone. The adults always waited for him to return before turning in to get a few hours sleep before being awakened to the news that Santa had paid a visit.

Faith and Family – Ruth treasures her wonderful Christmas Eve memories

Lois Butler

When Lois was very young (6 or 7 yr.), she heard reindeer on the roof! Honest! No one would believe her, but to this day it is a vivid memory! Every Christmas Eve she would read "Twas the Night Before Christmas" from a treasured book. When her two children came along, she read the poem to them every Christmas Eve from the same childhood book. Now 60+ years later, "the reading" is a cherished Christmas Eve tradition for the Butler family.



Until recent years, the family would "come home" to Lois and Karl for Christmas, so the stockings would be hung, yes, with care, on the hooks permanently affixed to the Butler mantle. Milk and cookies for Santa, and carrots for the reindeer would be placed at the bottom of the fireplace. And, on Christmas morning, there would always be a note of thanks from Santa. When the Christmas gathering was moved to Toronto a few years ago, their little grandson became greatly distressed. How could Santa ever pay them a visit? Their house had no fireplace!

What's On Your Tree?

by *Brenda Moyer*

In 1983, John was posted to the Army Staff College at Fort Frontenac. We lived in married quarters up at Fort Henry Heights and attended Chalmers UC. One Sunday during Advent, Rev. Wayne Hilliker strung a line on which small items were attached, across the front of the chancel. He explained that every Christmas his family placed something on the tree to represent an event that had created a special memory for the family that year. When invited to ask about any of the items on the line, one child asked him about a tiny kite. Wayne said that it commemorated the year that his father had died. Earlier that year the family had enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of kite-flying with his Dad on Fort Henry hill, so a kite was placed on the tree that Christmas to remember him.

And so, after church on that 1983 Sunday in Advent, John, 8 year old Sara, and I decided to start a Moyer family tradition. It continues to this day and inspires us to "keep Christmas" all year long, because the thought of the next Christmas ornament is always in the back of our minds. Some years we've added two commemorative items. This year, John is insisting that a tiny mask be placed on the tree. I bet you'll be able to guess what my ornament will be!

So, what's on your tree?



Pewter Christmas Ornament

This unique ornament (3"x1.5"), conceived by Brenda Moyer and Craig Pettis, was originally intended to commemorate ERMUC's 60th anniversary year (1960 – 2020). With the arrival of COVID-19 however, its focus became twofold; a show of support project as well as an anniversary memento. In March 2020, ERMUC's doors may have closed, but support for our church families remained constant. Virtual services and meetings, emails, phone calls and cards have ensured that support from the church is readily available. By purchasing this ornament, folks are supporting ERMUC's Operating Account. Specialty Trophies, our nametag supplier, has collaborated with us to create this ornament. They are a small west end business that is struggling, and they are appreciative of our support during this pandemic.



Selling price: \$20.00

Cost to ERMUC : \$0.00 The invoice for 100 ornaments has been paid by benefactors, ensuring that all proceeds will go to the Operating Account.

Method of Payment: Cash, Cheque (made out to ERMUC) or E-Transfer (designating "ornament")

**To order your ornament call
Brenda Moyer 613-634-0975**

Method of Delivery Brenda will arrange for church pick-up or home delivery on an individual basis.

Thank you in advance for supporting this project to mark ERMUC's 60th anniversary and 2020 – the year of COVID-19!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER:

I am writing this before ... and you are reading it after, our Congregational meeting on November 22. However, several key commitments are true whatever happened at the meeting.

First and foremost, your commitment to Edith Rankin is strong and is appreciated by the leaders of the Congregation. From a financial point of view, your continued generosity makes my job as your Treasurer so much easier than it could be. THANK YOU!

Secondly, your Council and myself, as Treasurer, are committed to open communication with you. I will provide regular updates on our financial position and I will provide any amendments to our Financial Plan as the situation warrants.

If you have any questions or comments at any time, please contact me using the [Contact Us Form](#) and select **Church Treasurer**.

Peter Merkley, Treasurer



Join us for Virtual Worship Services Online

Sunday at 10 am

Link will be sent out via the Weekly Tidings email.



RingCentral®
Meetings

What do I need to access the Online Virtual Services or Group meetings?

If you wish to participate in our online worship gatherings or group meetings, you will require a computer, tablet with a microphone and camera, and the **RingCentral®** Meetings application.

You can also call in to the meeting using the phone number in the weekly **Tidings**.

Where can I get the **RingCentral®** Meetings App?

Go to this link <https://www.ringcentral.com/apps/rc-meetings> and download the Meetings App.

How do I access the Virtual Worship Services or Group meetings?

Click on the specific link in Tidings sent via email.

Please ensure you are using the correct link for the meeting as they change.

Why can I not find the meeting link on the website?

For security reasons, the links for the Sunday Service and Group gatherings are only emailed via Tidings each week. If you are not receiving the weekly **Tidings** email then use the email signup form at the bottom the [Welcome webpage](#) to register to have the email sent to you.

How do I change my screen name on my **RingCentral®** ?

Hover over your name, click More, and choose Rename to change your screen name displayed to other participants.

How do I mute and unmute my microphone on **RingCentral®** ?

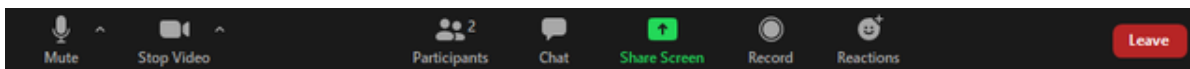
Click on **Mute / Unmute microphone icon** on the bottom right of the screen to your mute or unmute your microphone.

Click the ^ arrow next to **Mute / Unmute microphone icon** to change the microphone and speaker that **RingCentral®** is currently using on your computer.

How do I turn my camera on and off on **RingCentral®** ?

Click on the **Start / Stop Video icon** on the bottom of the screen to turn your camera on or off.

Video Controls (click the ^ arrow next to **Start Video / Stop Video icon** to change cameras if you have multiple cameras, select a virtual background (if enabled), or access your full video settings).



Virtual Services Etiquette

- Mute microphone when not speaking or speaking to someone not online
- Leave microphone muted when muted by Media Team as the service is being recorded
- Rename yourself so people know who you are
- Beware of background
- Don't do other private things with camera on & microphone unmuted
- Dress appropriately
- Keep in mind that people aren't just seeing you, they're also seeing whatever the camera is pointed at behind you.
- Try to look into the camera
- Test your camera & microphone before the meeting.



COVID-19 Information and Updates

The Council of Elders has decided to continue in **STAGE 1** of the COVID-19 Re-Opening Plan with NO in-person worship services or group gatherings in the church building in order to help mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The goal is to ensure we have practices and protocols in place that keep our congregation a safe place for everyone.

Council will re-assess this policy regularly and post any updates as required. You will be kept informed of developments through this website, Tidings and announcements on the church phone.

For more information please go to: <https://ermuc.ca/covid-19-info/>