



Newsletter

November/December Edition | HC Update

HOPE CHAPEL Centre of Community Care



HOPE CHAPEL
19 Cameron Street, Collingwood
Christmas Craft Sale
Saturday, December 2, 2023 (9:30-3pm)

Christmas fundraiser for Hope Chapel's Community Cupboard
Interested vendors are welcome to contact the church at 705-445-4972
or by emailing Pastor Jane at hopechapelpastr@gmail.com for details.
Vendor applications available at hopechapelcollingwood.ca

Cafeteria & Baked Goods tables provided by Hope Chapel

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Pastor's Blurb

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In this issue of Hope Chapel's newsletter, I'd like to share some thoughts on the topic of celebration.

We have just come through thanksgiving and, now that Halloween is done, the store shelves are filling with all things Christmas. I personally love Christmas as it represents for me one of the most important historical moments of my Christian faith...Jesus, who was God, chose to become one of us in order to demonstrate His great love for us. In the past, I confess to losing sight as to how best to celebrate the Christmas season...buying gifts, decorating, big dinners. Then one day I heard someone's reminder that the first Christmas had none of these, despite its significance.

Jesus was born to a poor couple, his mother a teenage girl, in a barn, under the rule of an enemy nation. There were no Christmas pageants, decorated trees, shiny ornaments or turkey feasts...all of that would come much later. Instead, God sent angels to form an incredible heavenly choir whose audience were society's rejects—shepherds—the first to visit God's newborn Son. A new star began to shine in the skies, put there to lead foreign kings to the place where Jesus was growing up in Bethlehem under the eye of His watchful human parents. God, angels, shepherds, kings, Mary and Joseph...all celebrating together with none of the extras that money can buy!

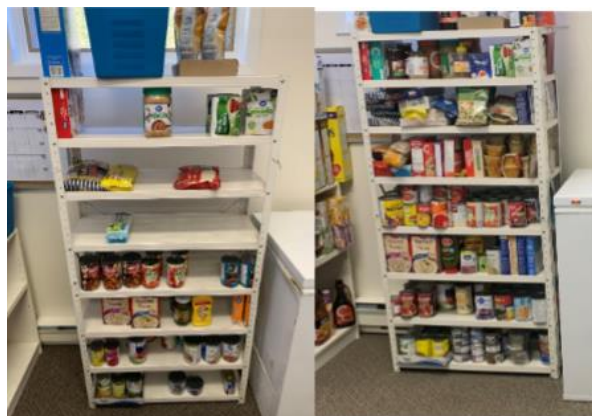
It's easy to get caught up in all the commercial hype of what is supposed to be needed to truly celebrate well and to really enjoy life. But have you ever noticed that when we buy into the hype and stereotypes, we are often left disappointed. The ability to celebrate doesn't come from the things we can purchase. It comes from our relationships, our care of others, our generosity and, dare I say, from having a relationship with God who loves us all and made it possible for us to know Him.

May you find opportunities to celebrate the truly important things over these next couple of months.

Pastor Jane Peck



Community Cupboard & Giving Tree/Closet



In the month of October our Community Cupboard went from this... to this!

In response to a CollingwoodToday.com article published on Friday, October 13, our community has helped us in our ability to help others! In October, Hope Chapel saw an increased usage of our Community Cupboard beyond past months...only to have our freezers, fridge and most of our shelves emptied. Thanks to the generosity of so many, we were once again in a place to provide people with needed items. One month later, we are again experiencing bare spots on our shelves. It is our hope that the increased awareness of this resource will allow people another opportunity to care for our community...our friends, families and neighbours.



In addition to our Community Cupboard, our outdoor Giving Tree & Closet make available outerwear for those unable to visit during our open hours, now stocked with jackets, coats, hats, scarves, mitts and more.



Winter Clothing Giveaway



Clothing was available to students at their lunch hour each day this week and then on Friday (tomorrow), we are inviting the community to come and get what they need from 2:30-5pm (which will also include children's clothing)

Friendship Meal & Bible Discussion



Every Sunday, Hope Chapel hosts a Friendship Meal at 11:30am, followed by group Bible discussion at 12:30pm.

Since September, we have been watching the television show, "The Chosen," and discussing related Bible passages and topics. This has given many participants a whole new appreciation for Jesus and what life was like for His disciples. We have currently just begun Season 2 and others are always welcome to join in.

High School Lunch



Program

The high school lunch program held at Hope Chapel is once again serving over 200 students each school day. Students are loving the cookies, hotdogs and refreshments. However, it's not just the food that is drawing CCI students across the road and OLB students to make the ten minute walk. I have heard many comment that lunch at Hope Chapel is their favourite part of the day. It's a space that they can call their own and know that it's a good place to be. Our many volunteers, representing members of the Georgian Triangle Youth Ministry (GTYM), include seniors, local church ministers, youth workers, Living Water Resort volunteers and OPP staff...all adults who care for students and want the best for them.

The 2023-24 school year saw an immediate jump in the number of students coming to Hope Chapel over last year with the Catholic and Public schools now on the same lunch schedule. Most students take their goodies to go, but we regularly see a full house. It's common to give out 24-26 dozen cookies in a single day, over 80L of hot chocolate on average per day, and we ran out of hotdogs at 528 this past Wednesday.

All this activity transforms Hope Chapel each day into a busy, fun-filled hub for students. Our volunteer numbers are growing, but more are needed to help keep this program strong...people for set-up and clean-up, cookie bakers, servers, people to pray for students and volunteers. We are also in need of additional finances. Monthly supporters would be ideal, but we are thankful for any gift that would help us to offset the costs of this incredible opportunity to serve the high school students of the Georgian Triangle region from Wasaga Beach to Stayner to Collingwood and Blue Mountain areas.



Fun Family Events

Once a month, Hope Chapel hosts a fun event for everyone. In October, a group enjoyed a Mystery Dinner and live-scale version of the board game, CLUE, solving the mystery of the missing cookies.

Mark your calendar to join us for these upcoming events:

Friday, November 24 (6:30-8:30pm) – Sundae Bar and B-I-N-G-O

Friday, December 22 (6:30-8:30pm) – Christmas Dinner and Grinch Giveaway (bring a ‘gift’ that is homemade or costs less than \$5 to exchange...have fun with it)

These events are free, but donations are welcome. RSVP to the church by the Wednesday before.



Hope Chapel – A Center of Community Care

It has been our desire at Hope Chapel to transform our building into a center of community care and since 2020 we have seen how God has been transforming us into a place that is doing just that. We have opened our doors to a number of other organizations. We are currently providing

- storage and kitchen facilities for the Collingwood Mobile Soup Kitchen
- office space and youth programming space for Journey Community Church
- office space for Youth Unlimited
- practice and performance space for Rondo Ensemble youth music group and other local choir groups
- meeting space for a local chapter of AA

Hope Chapel – A Center of Community Care Con’t

These other organizations are not a direct part of Hope Chapel, but we value the opportunity to partner with each and every one in supporting our community.

The activities undertaken by Hope Chapel also demonstrate our desire to be a center of community care. From our high school lunch program, Community Cupboard, outdoor Giving Tree & Closet, Sunday Friendship meals & study and online Guided Discussions. Unlike many churches, much of our work is being financed through the savings gained when the adjoining parsonage was sold in 2021. But in order to continue functioning as a center for community care we need others who will also come alongside and help support the direction God has given us to follow. God has given His Church a unique opportunity in Hope Chapel, giving His whole Church community a space to come together to minister to our area youth, people in need and the community as a whole. Would you consider how you can be a part?

Guided Discussions

Tuesdays from 6:30 – 8:00pm

Our first round of Guided Discussions have been appreciated by all who have joined and new participants are always welcome.

Here is our upcoming schedule:

November 7-28 – “The Sermon on the Mount for Today’s World, Part 2” – biblical study lead by Donald

December 5+12 – “MAID – Medical Assistance in Dying” – conversation lead by Jane Peck

December 19 – “The Real Problem with Consumerism” – workshop lead by Jane Peck

Guided Discussions are held online and those wishing to join should contact Pastor Jane Peck via email (hopechapelpastr@gmail.com) or by calling Hope Chapel at 705-445-4972 for information on how to join.



Ways to Give



Collingwoodhopechapel2@gmail.com



Cash or cheque made out to Hope Chapel



hopechapelcollingwood.ca/donate

Hope Chapel (705) 445-4972

Office - hopechapeloffice@gmail.com

Pastor Jane - hopechapelpastr@gmail.com

How to receive our newsletter?

Go to... <https://www.hopechapelcollingwood.ca/contact>
and request to be put on the mailing list for community news.

