

## First Presbyterian Church

Reaching out in Christ's love...

- worship and spiritual growth
- caring in the community
- music ministry

200 Maple Street Collingwood, Ontario L9Y 2R2 (705) 445-4651 Email – firstchurch@rogers.com

November, 2024

## Dear friends,

As we approach this joyous season, I extend my heartfelt greetings to each of you in the name of the Lord. It is with great joy that I write to you, reflecting on the profound meaning of Christmas, and anticipating the celebration of the birth of Jesus together as a church family.

The Advent season invites us to prepare our hearts and minds to receive the greatest gift ever given: the gift of Christ. In the hustle and bustle of our busy lives, I encourage you to take a moment to pause, reflect, and embrace the significance of this remarkable event. The birth of Jesus not only fulfills the prophecies of old but also brings us the promise of love, joy, hope, and peace.

And so, with great excitement, I invite you and your family to our upcoming Christmas services and celebrations.

**First Christmas Story pr**esentation dates are December 8, 9 & 10. Tickets are available through the church office.

The Christmas Pageant will take place on Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 am.

**Christmas Eve services** will take place at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. with the first being a family friendly service of carols and the latter being a more traditional candlelight service.

Together, let us lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving, celebrating the miracle of His birth. We will gather to sing carols, share in prayers, and rejoice in fellowship, creating cherished memories that embody the spirit of Christmas.

During this time, may we also remember the humble circumstances of His birth. Born in a manger, Jesus came into the world not with grandeur but with humility, reminding us of the importance of love, compassion, and service to one another. It is a season to reflect on how we can carry His light into our communities and share the message of hope with those around us.

May this season be filled with the warmth of family and friends, the joy of giving, and the peace that surpasses all understanding. As you gather around tables and in homes, may you remember the true reason for our celebration and strive to share His love far and wide.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas filled with grace and joy.

With Christmas cheer,

Rev. Alton J. Ruff