

## Our Church

- ◆ **Christmas pictures:** Do you have photos of Christmas events around the church? Please share them by sending them to the Church email address above. They will be used in our YouTube Christmas services. Thank you!
- ◆ **Isaac's Honey sales:** Isaacs's honey has raised \$345 so far for Riverbend United Church. Isaac is still short of his goal however he still has a little over a dozen jars of local, organic, raw honey left! To quote Ivy Meier, "It isn't good, it's heavenly". Taste the difference! Email Matthew at [mschoenh@telus.net](mailto:mschoenh@telus.net) to place your order.
- ◆ **Grocery Cards:** Grocery cards will be available for purchase once again on December 15th. If you are interested please call Doug Michalko at 587.982.3703 to make arrangements for pick up.



- ◆ **Invitation to Sing with the RUC Choir** A few people have been wondering if the RUC Choir is open to adding some extra voices to our Sunday recordings. And that answer is, YES! If you love to sing and are interested in joining our "virtual" group, please send Paula Roberts, our Music Director, a quick note at [paularoberts@shaw.ca](mailto:paularoberts@shaw.ca). Paula will be happy to describe our process. It is not necessary to attend our Thursday choir Zoom sessions in order to participate.

## Christmas Eve Worship



The Spiritual Formation Committee has given much thought as to how to manage Christmas eve services in a pandemic. Ideally we would like to accommodate all who might choose to worship, but COVID makes this impossible. As a result, we have decided to pre-record a service of lessons and carols filmed in our beautifully decorated sanctuary, featuring

all of our talented musical groups. We encourage you to gather your family in some virtual fashion to enjoy the service together on Christmas eve. You will receive an email from the church on the morning of December 24th which will include the link to the service to view at your leisure. Wishing you all a blessed Christmas!

- ◆ Our intrepid Facilities Manager, Don Trenn, will be away for much of January and February and we are looking for one or more volunteers to fill his (large) shoes. The duties require about 3 hours per week and include:
  - ◆ weekly check of all lights, toilets and sinks
  - ◆ bi-weekly check of all exit doors to make sure they are locked and locks/key pads are working properly
  - ◆ after a light snowfall, if contract snow removal company is not already at church, shovel sidewalks before E2 classes begin
  - ◆ maintain COVID sanitation supplies
  - ◆ provide assistance in changing church decorations
  - ◆ call contractors as required for serious maintenance issues such as electrical, furnace, key lock, etc.

Interested? contact Marv at 780.435.0302

- ◆ **Christmas Outreach** – As in previous years, the Outreach Committee is planning to assist approximately 20 people who are in difficult housing situations. The Committee will be delivering Christmas gifts to 10 women who live permanently in “Our Place” and to about 10 adults residing temporarily in another group home. Because of the pandemic, we plan to keep it simple this year by having the committee purchase the actual gifts.

Please consider making a financial donation by **December 1** in one of three ways:

- \* Mail a cheque to the church or put it in the offering and indicate that it is for the Outreach Christmas project.
- \* Call the office at 780.430.7275 if you would like us to pick up your donation, or
- \* Send your donation by e-transfer to [contactus@riverbendunited.org](mailto:contactus@riverbendunited.org). Please designate your donation to Outreach Christmas Project. You will receive a tax-deductible receipt for your donation (minimum \$20 for a receipt) at the end of the year.

## Our Broader Community

- ◆ **Clothing request** The 24-7 Centre at the Edmonton Convention Centre is in great need of new or gently used indoor and outdoor clothing (warm outer-wear, every-day clothes, sleep-wear, underwear, socks, footwear) for all ages. Until one month ago, only new donations were being accepted so the usual stockpile does not exist. Please leave your donations in one of the two “egg carton” boxes to your right when you enter the Church . The Food Bank is no longer able to collect egg cartons and requests that you put them in the food donation box at any grocery store. For further information or if you would like your donations picked up, please call Judi Cook at 780.435.0838 or reach her by email at [judi@royalpage.ca](mailto:judi@royalpage.ca) or Erin James at 780.987.4702.

- ◆ **The GANG** [edmgrandmothers.org](http://edmgrandmothers.org) is a group of Edmonton grandmothers and their supporters who raise awareness and funds for grandmothers in Sub-Saharan Africa who are raising their orphaned grandchildren due to the AIDS pandemic.

Normally this non-profit, volunteer group of grannies hosts a one day *Shakers and Makers Market* - full of incredible hand crafted items - in partnership with the Eastside Grannies from Sherwood Park. Because of COVID-19 the market has moved online ... quite a feat for the group!!! Check out the online store at [edmgrandmothers.org](http://edmgrandmothers.org) for a wonderful selection of Christmas, birthday and "gift to yourself" items! Advent calendars, baby clothes, kitchen decor, quilted wall hangings, wraps and shawls, scarves, hats and mittens, tote bags, the list goes on! Over 200 unique items with new, original, one-of-a-kind items being added almost daily.

Visit often - you never know when you'll find the PERFECT item for yourself or someone you love. And - you'll know you're helping to support a worthy cause...all of the profits from the online store sales go to The Stephen Lewis Foundation. Check out their website at: [www.stephenlewisfoundation.org/](http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org/)



**STAY SAFE,  
WEAR A MASK!**



All Church staff continue to work from home until further notice. Phone messages and email are checked regularly, at this time email is the quickest way to reach the Office.

Thank you ~ Riverbend United Church