

November 25, 2018

Dear Members and Friends of Chippawa Presbyterian Church,

On behalf of the Session, staff and leadership of the congregation, I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas season. This year, our Advent theme in worship is 'Moved By The Manger'. Come gather at the manger and be reminded of God's eternal, enduring and incarnated love for you.

October and November have been busy!! Our church family has continued to witness to its love for and devotion to Jesus in its worship, care, generosity and service.

In October we sent two teams of six to be part of the Habitat for Humanity build in Welland. The team raised over \$3,000, well more than asked. We provided lunch for other build teams in August, September and October. Thank you to Jackie White for getting us organized and doing the delivery.

Paula Mann and Dave Barnes made another trip to Nicaragua. The unrest in that country meant that workers who shared in our mission project work over the years were unemployed for many months and their families were suffering. We made an appeal, and Paula and Dave were able to deliver \$7,897 to seven families. This represented almost half a years' salary to each family. Thank you!

We enjoyed a 'Conversation Night' where friendships were deepened over dinner. Matt Vizzari's preaching was deeply appreciated and well received. We hosted the Niagara Women's Missionary Society Presbyterial. Our Women of the Church held a very successful AutumnFest.

Our Sunday School has been enjoying an immersive series, sitting in Peter's boat as they learn Jesus' miracles. There have been three Bible Study groups, the Men's Breakfast has met monthly and we have been leading worship at Bella and Willoughby Manor Seniors residences. Our care ministries volunteers and prayer team have been looking out for us all.

Thank you to all who filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! Our congregation collected over 70 boxes and filled many more at the writing of this letter. Thank you as well to those who volunteered time to help receive boxes from other organizations in Niagara as we were a drop off point again this year.

On Sunday, December 2nd you are invited to be God's family at the Lord's Table as we have communion together at worship. You are invited to bring a food donation for Project Share, or make a contribution to the benevolent fund as we are mindful to feed those who have less at their table.

Our Church Family Christmas Dinner is also December 2nd. Starting with punch at 4:45 p.m., dinner will be turkey, potatoes, carrots and salads. Dessert is potluck and is amazing every year. A free will offering will be

taken to cover expenses. Any remaining funds will be directed to support the Nicaragua school. Contact the church or sign up at the Information Desk to reserve your seats. After dinner we will move to the sanctuary to sing traditional Christmas carols together and decorate the sanctuary Christmas tree.

Make a difference and get your Christmas shopping done at the same time on Thursday, December 6th between 7 - 10 p.m. at the "Girls Night Out FUNd-raiser". Each year these fabulous vendors provide you unique gift ideas. A portion of the funds raised will be directed to our school in Nicaragua.

Our Christmas Eve services will be held on Monday, December 24th. Our Family Service will be held at 7p.m. At 10 p.m. we will hold our Christmas Eve Communion Service.

As always, thank you for all your volunteer support of ongoing ministries. You served by caring for those in the nursery and Sunday School to shut-in in their own homes with the care team. You made Sunday morning worship services run smoothly by greeting and ushering to praise, AVL and counting teams. You connected and learned together in women's groups and Bible study groups. You served on the Board of Managers and Session. All of the many ways you volunteer help make us a warm and welcoming community of faith.

Our giving has been so strong this year!! Our new roof was put on and our new door installed. We are waiting on some minor finishing touches. When complete, we will have paid \$42,256 for the roof and \$10,536 for the door work. Thank you to all who supported the Building Legacy campaign! By December we will have paid \$77,000 towards the principal of the mortgage since January 2018 (this includes endowment money). At the end of the year the mortgage will be down to \$261,000. This is so encouraging and empowering. Thank you!

This is such a compassionate, faithful and uplifting church family. As we come to the end of the year, consider what God is doing and has done through us, but also in you and through you. As you are considering your Christmas charitable giving, I humbly ask you to prayerfully consider a gift of gratitude to God for our congregation. A strong final push of generosity in support of our General Fund and ongoing expenses will help us finish well and start the new year strong. A special envelope has been provided. You can also donate online from our church's website at www.chippawapc.ca.

May the grace of Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit bring you joy and peace this Christmas and through 2019. Merry Christmas!!!

In Christ's love,



Doug Schonberg
MINISTER