

CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS

Youth and Family Ministries St. John's United Church December 2009

SONDAY FUN

We are thrilled to have some space to run, dance, worship, and learn! What a joy it is to be able to have a place to call 'home' in the lower level of our newly renovated church! We would like to say a special thank you to all who have given many acts of love in order to get our space back up into what we have today! Over the next few weeks we will be focusing on Advent and preparing our hearts for the birth of Christ. Together we will have hopeful hearts, be filled with peace, give joy to others, and love like we have never loved before. Through worship, drama, videos, crafts, and snacks we will once again be reminded of why we celebrate **Christmas**.



YOUTH

We would like to say a BIG thank you to all of those who came to support our Youth Service on November 7, 2009. What a message it is to our youth to see so many 'adult' congregation members supporting them in their ministry at St. John's. It was a great night and well attended. We hope to see you at the next one! We are very proud of our youth who work so hard to share the light of Christ with others. The weekend of November 27-29, 2009 our youth will be away at Camp Edgewood on their annual retreat. We look forward to seeing our friends from Cayuga United Church and being joined by Don on Saturday night. Be sure to catch up with them after the weekend to hear about their time away. The theme for the weekend is "Stepping out to Love".

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS...



Calling all angels, shepherds, and sheep!! On Sunday December 6, 2009 we will be celebrating **White Gift Sunday** and as part of our time together in church we will be putting on a '**Traditional Christmas Play**' and telling the story of the first Christmas. Mary, Joseph, the Kings, and the Angel of the Lord will be

there already...but we are in need of EVERYONE else's help in order to make this the BEST service yet. So please come to church dressed as a shepherd, sheep, or angel and meet with Kim in the foyer at 10:25am before making your debut in the sanctuary! If you need help finding a costume, please speak to one of the Sunday Fun teachers as soon as possible!

WHITE GIFT

This year we have the privilege of adopting 3 families again this Christmas season. Our wish lists are up in Lusk Hall sorted by families. Please consider helping out with monetary donations, gifts, gift cards, or non-perishable food items. Sunday December 6, 2009 is White Gift Sunday...not many weeks away! **Please bring your gifts UNWRAPPED** with the person's name attached somewhere on December 6 and present them during the service. We will be doing all of the wrapping so that we can ensure all family members gets equal value of gifts. We are hoping to fill each person's wish list and know we will be able to with your help. After all of the gifts have been collected, a small group of teens will hit the stores and shop for the remaining gifts that are needed. After the gifts are wrapped and divided into families, they are delivered to Linda Roberts, who will then take them out to our families. It's a big job so we thank everyone in advance for all of their help. We couldn't do it without you!! If you are not going to be at church on December 6, please feel free to bring your gifts to church in advance and leave them for Kim in the main office. If you would like to help sort and wrap gifts after our morning worship service, please let Kim know! We will be ordering in lunch from Mucho Burrito and we will need to know numbers in advance. If you are planning to stay for lunch, please contribute towards the cost of it! Thank you to Mark and Justin Beirsto for their initiative in this program!



This year may you know the true meaning of CHRISTmas, and may your hearts be filled with hope, peace, joy, and love. Many blessings to you and your family,

Kim