

Dear Friends at Ladner United Church:

This has been quite a week around the church building as we prepare to welcome the community to our Ladner United Church Christmas Village Bazaar. Pat Rogers and her team are full ramped up and running. We hope to see you there both helping out and participating. Chances are that we will not have snow and we are expecting either sun or rain.

As it is one of our major fundraisers it is an important event. **As important is the opportunity for us to "connect, deepen, engage" with the community we live in.**

Every opportunity to say hello, to ask how someone is doing, to strike up a conversation, to listen is a "spirit" encounter.

Hospitality is at the heart of our Christian faith. We celebrate God's hospitality towards us in the gift of Jesus. The Sunday after the bazaar we will begin the celebration of Advent and turn our hearts again to the birth of Jesus. Incarnation - God with us - God taking on human flesh and coming into our world and we will remember - that as God came into that world God comes into our world and our hearts as well.

A Christmas Bazaar can be a "sign" of hope in a world where many people are wondering about the future and sensing the fear of the times we live in. As you serve at your appointed place or wander around - wear your name tag - welcome people - introduce yourself and ask how their day is going.

In that way you will be an "incarnation" of the love of Jesus to someone through the simple gifts of welcome and friendship...blessings and peace...JIM

Advent - the four Sundays before Christmas is about waiting This is what Henri Nouwen has to share:

If we do not wait patiently in expectation for God's coming in glory, we start wandering around, going from one little sensation to another. Our lives get stuffed with newspaper items, television stories, and gossip. Then our minds lose the discipline of discerning between what leads us closer to God and what doesn't, and our hearts gradually lose their spiritual sensitivity. Without waiting for the second coming of Christ, we will stagnate quickly and become tempted to indulge in whatever gives us a moment of pleasure.

When Paul asks us to wake from sleep, he says: "Let us live decently, as in the light of day; with no orgies or drunkenness, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling

or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ, and stop worrying about how your disordered natural inclinations may be fulfilled" (Romans 13:13-14). When we have the Lord to look forward to, we can already experience him in the waiting.

This Sunday we worship at 900 and 1100am. Lots of singing and good hospitality.

And colouring!!!!!!

Table size advent posters that will decorate our church walls when they are done are there for all ages to color. .

They will be set up in the Narthex - you can bring your own pencil crayons or markers (please no permanent ones) and there will be supplies set out - hope you have fun!

I arrive at the church about 630am for those eager to begin.

Ladner United
Christmas Village Bazaar

at
Ladner United Church
4960 - 48th Avenue, Ladner

Saturday
November 26th, 2016
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Everyone Welcome!

Come and see our amazing **BASKETS**

Do some Christmas Shopping in our Village Shoppes
(Baking, Candy, Crafts, Collectables);
Silent Auction, Lunch, Puppet Show

www.ladnerunited.org