

December 2022 Beach United Church E Blast

Merry Christmas everyone! We hope this note finds you well into your holiday preparations and looking forward to a time to celebrate with friends and family. Another year is fast approaching its end and Beach United Church has much to be thankful for and excited about.

First, we would like to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts and success of this year's return to an in person Christmas Marketplace! Under the leadership of Brenda Rundle, an incredible team of volunteers saw 17 vendors and a host of Beach community tables that contributed over \$6,000 for the church. This event is important not only in terms of its fundraising impact but also for the opportunity to welcome members of the surrounding community to join with us to appreciate the amazing space that is our building. A big thank you, also, to the staff who contributed many hours in support of the day; we could not do it without the efforts of this dedicated team.

You will notice some great new people that have joined the Beach UC staff; we are happy to welcome Karen Cornece as General Manager and Allison Woo as Communications Coordinator. They are great additions to an already amazing team!

Those of you who are attending Sunday service will notice a marked increase in the number of people (including children) attending in person, which is an exciting and affirming change. This is perfect timing as we are launching a new program offered by the United Church specific to children and youth called "GO", which is being led by Bruce Burley and Greg (more volunteers welcome, by the way!). So, in spite of the challenges that circulating viruses continue to pose, this return to the building feels like we are coming out of darkness into light and gives energy to all that we are planning for 2023.

On another great note, the electric vehicle chargers are now in place in our parking lot and beginning to be used by churchgoers, shoppers and neighbours. This is the end result of much hard work by many people, with the committed leadership of Ron Fitton, and is an excellent example of how Beach United lives out its environmental ministry.

Lastly, we want to give you advance notice of the Annual Congregational Meeting for 2023. The date is set for April 2nd and will be held after church, both in person and virtual. This will be an opportunity to reflect on what we have accomplished in 2022 and to highlight plans and approve the budget for 2023. Please put it in your calendar!

As the Board of Beach United Church, we extend heartfelt wishes for Christmas and a New Year that is filled with Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. Thank you for the privilege of representing this amazing community and we look forward to 2023.

Nanci Harris, Gwen Hughes, Cynthia Stretton, Paul Dowling, Lynne Fulcher, Karen Watson and Reverend Greg Daly.