

23rd after Pentecost

November 16, 2025

Mission & Service Sunday



St. John's United Church of The United Church of Canada

75 Alma Street, Moncton, NB E1C 4Y3

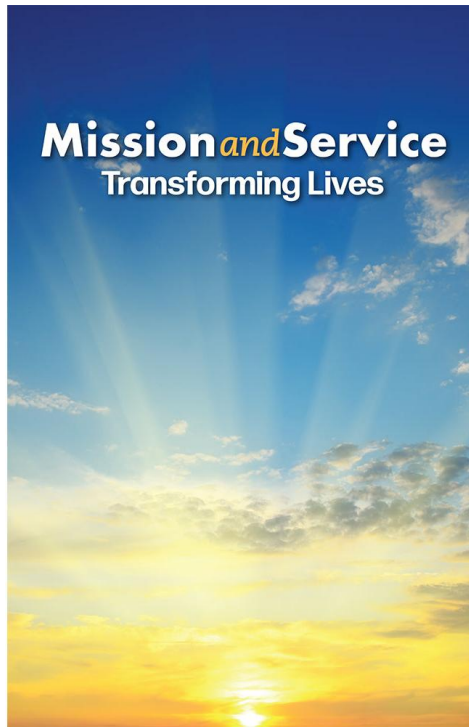
506-858-8289 stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com

www.stjohnsmoncton.ca

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/16465565858>

<https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsmoncton>

Office Hours: M-F, 9am–1pm



A warm welcome is extended to all.

Nursery service for infants and toddlers is available in the nursery on the second floor.

If you are a parent or caregiver, there is a kitchen and washrooms on the main and upstairs levels, as well as a diaper changing area upstairs.

Please feel free to return to the service at any time.

*The congregation is invited to join in responses printed in **bold**. Stand as you are able.)*

PRELUDE

PANIS ANGELICUS

(Music: César Franck; arr. Ethel Tench Rogers)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION & SERVICE STORY

Read by Dr. Nancy Black

- Hope in Action

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 98) Read by Charlotte Baycroft

O Sing to our Creator a New Song,

Make a joyful noise to God, everyone!

With trumpets and sounds of the horn

We create joyful sounds for you, God of love.

The hills will sing together in bliss.

Just as the sea roars and the artists rhyme,

we serenade our Creator.

HYMN 217 VU **ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING**

(LASST UNS ERFREUEN) (Words: St. Francis of Assisi / Music: Geistliche Kirchengesänge)

All creatures of our God and King,

lift up your voice and with us sing: hallelujah, hallelujah!

Bright burning sun with golden beam,

soft shining moon with silver gleam,

sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

O rushing winds and breezes soft,

O clouds that ride the winds aloft, sing praises, hallelujah!

O rising morn, in praise rejoice; O lights of evening, find a voice:

sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Earth, ever fertile, day by day

brings forth rich blessings on our way: sing praises, hallelujah!

The flowers and fruits that verdant grow,

let them God's glory also show:

sing praises, hallelujah! hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

And everyone of tender heart,

forgiving others, take your part: sing praises, hallelujah!

All who long pain and sorrow bear,

praise God and yield up all your care:

sing praises, hallelujah! hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness: sing praises, hallelujah!
Praise God eternal, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one:
sing praises, hallelujah! hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Beloved Divine Sustainer,

**Like the sunlight, your presence illuminates the world
around us. Like the air, your being invigorates us.
Even when the world seems to be on fire,
your quenching rain soothes our souls.**

**Through your wisdom, we find our hope and strength.
Fill our minds with your peace and our hearts with
fortitude, knowing you will never depart from us.**

**We pray with the words Jesus taught us, saying,
“Our Father...Amen.”** (960 VU) (A laminated handheld version of
The Lord’s Prayer can be found in the hymnbook holder in the pew.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy Strength,

**At the signs of conflict in our communities and world,
we cower instead of running towards the needs of our
neighbours. We believe the end is near, but in
actuality, this is another wave of dread coming from
our fellow humans. Unfortunately, we can’t simply
wish this conflict away. Instead, you call us to walk
through the fire and to use our voices.**

**Forgive us when we want to stop instead of
continuing to follow the way of Jesus.**

**Give us grace to keep moving forward, even when
betrayal and hate are raining upon us. Amen.**

(moment of silence to offer personal thoughts and concerns)

WORDS OF GRACE

Shame and despair will not overtake us. The grace of God sustains us from dawn until dusk and in the depths of the night. Amen.

OFFERING

Offering boxes are located inside the Sanctuary at the two main entrances.

OFFERTORY ^(537 VU) **YOUR WORK, O GOD, NEEDS MANY HANDS** (KILMARNOCK) (Words: Calvin Weiss Laufer / Music: Neil Dougall)

Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.

Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make:
be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Creator God, Source of All Energy,

**We see how your gifts transform the hearts, minds,
and souls of this world. May your wisdom continue to
strengthen our spirits. Through our gifts of treasures,
talents, and time, we can serve your children.**

**Through our endurance and compassion,
may we build God's Realm here on earth. Amen.**

HYMN 365 VU **JESUS LOVES ME** REMAIN SEATED (JESUS LOVES ME) (Words: Anna Bartlett Warner / Music: William Batchelder Bradbury)

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong, in his love we shall be strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, this I know, as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me." R
Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live. R

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children up to age 12 yrs. are now invited to go to our Sunday School program time. If you are a child here for the first time, please feel welcome to join the children's group upstairs, or remain here for the rest of the service.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Read by Valerie Roy

Isaiah 65:17–25

God shall create joy and delight; the wolf and the lamb together.

Psalms 84, p. 800 VU How lovely is your dwelling place, O God.

R How lovely is your dwelling place, O God of hosts, to me!

How lovely is your dwelling place, God of hosts!

My soul longs, even faints for the courts of God;

my heart and my flesh cry for joy to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a house,

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young,

at your altars, God of hosts, my sovereign, my God. R

Happy are those who dwell in your house,

ever singing your praise.

Happy are those whose strength is in you,

who have set their heart on pilgrimage.

Going through the valley of Baca

they find a spring from which also to drink;

the early rain also covers it with pools of water.

They go from strength to strength,

to appear before God in Zion. R

O God of hosts, hear my prayer, give ear, O God of Jacob.

Behold, O God, our shield,

look on the face of your anointed.

Truly a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God

than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

For you, God, are a sun and shield,

you will give grace and honour.

No good doing will you withhold

from those who live the upright life.

O God of hosts,

happy are those who put their trust in you. R

Luke 21:5–19

Persecution in the days to come; trust God!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 278 VU *IN THE QUIET CURVE OF EVENING*

(YOU ARE THERE) (Words / Music: Julie Howard)

In the quiet curve of evening, in the sinking of the days,
in the silky void of darkness, you are there.
In the lapses of my breathing, in the space between my ways,
in the crater carved by sadness, you are there.
You are there, you are there, you are there.

In the rests between the phrases,
in the cracks between the stars,
in the gaps between the meaning, you are there.
In the melting down of endings, in the cooling of the sun,
in the solstice of the winter, you are there.
You are there, you are there, you are there.

In the mystery of my hungers, in the silence of my rooms,
in the cloud of my unknowing, you are there.
In the empty cave of grieving, in the desert of my dreams,
in the tunnel of my sorrow, you are there.
You are there, you are there, you are there.

SERMON

ANTHEM *A NEW AND GLORIOUS SONG!*

(Words: Nancy Price & Don Besig / Music: Don Besig)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(We pray for Kingsley-Birdton Pastoral Charge)

HYMN 427 VU *TO SHOW BY TOUCH AND WORD*

(LODWICK) (Words: Fred Kaan / Music: Ron Klusmeier)

To show by touch and word devotion to the earth,
to hold in full regard all life that comes to birth,
we need, O God, the will to find
the good you have of old in mind.

Renew our minds to choose the things that matter most,
our hearts to long for truth till pride of self is lost.
For every challenge that we face
we need your guidance and your grace.

Let love from day to day by yardstick, rule, and norm,
and let our lives portray your word in human form.
Now come with us that we may have
your wits about us where we live.

BENEDICTION

As we work to faithfully follow God's call,
May the Christ illuminate the road ahead,
May the Spirit invigorate us throughout each day,
May our Creator instill hope.
Beloved siblings, even as waves of fear crash over us,
God never leaves nor forsakes us and
brings us courage as we journey together. Amen!

CONGREGATIONAL SUNG POSTLUDE

GO NOW IN PEACE

(Words: Don Besig, Nancy Price / Music: Don Besig)

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*(This is great opportunity to welcome new members
to our church and get to know one another.)*

POSTLUDE

GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH

(Music: John Hughes; arr. Ethel Tench Rogers)

During the postlude the congregation is welcome to depart.

Gain Your Souls: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost was written by
Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, an ordained UCC minister in Belleville, Illinois.

***You are invited to join us in the Owen Fraser Hall
for a time of fellowship and refreshments.***



*The bulletin and pastoral letter are dedicated
in Loving Memory of
John Wadman
by Evie, Susan, Joan & Gary and family*

NOTICES, UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Check our website at www.stjohnsmoncton.ca
for **Sunday online Worship links**, calendar, and more.

Nov. 16	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP and Sunday School - Mission & Service Sunday 
Nov. 16	Sun.	12:45 p.m.	Worship & Music Committee (Norman Sinclair Room)
Nov. 17	Mon.	7:00 p.m.	Al-Anon (weekly-Owen Fraser Hall)
Nov. 19	Wed.	6:15 p.m.	Sparks, Girl Guides of Canada (weekly-Owen Fraser Hall)
Nov. 19	Wed.	6:30 p.m.	WINGS Revisited (see note) (Norman Sinclair Room)
Nov. 19	Wed.	7:00 p.m.	Finance & Property Management Committee (monthly-Karing Kitchen)
Nov. 20	Thur.	7:00 p.m.	Choir (weekly-Choir Loft/Fellowship Room)
Nov. 20	Thur.	7:15 p.m.	Pathfinders, Girl Guides of Canada (weekly-Social Hall)
Nov. 23	Sun. 	11:00 a.m. 	WORSHIP and Sunday School - Anniversary Sunday - Reign of Christ Sunday - Communion - 100 th Anniversary Memorials - Guest Speaker: Debby Warren - Baptism & Welcome new members - Loaves & Fishes Potluck (see note) 

Nov. 24	Mon.	2:00 p.m.	UCW Annual Meeting Bring all reports for the annual meeting. (monthly-Fellowship Room) 
Nov. 29	Sat.	11:30 a.m.	12-2pm Greater Moncton Scottish Association Rehearsal
Nov. 30	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP and Sunday School - 1 st Sunday in Advent - Grocery Sunday (see note)  
Nov. 30	Sun.	12:30 p.m.	Advent Gathering (see note) (Sunday School room)
Nov. 30	Sun.	1:00 p.m.	2-4pm Greater Moncton Scottish Association Variety Concert

Announcements from other United Churches, Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region 14 and the community are shown on the TV in the Owen Fraser Hall and also located on the bulletin boards located at the Alma St. entrance and outside the Church Office.

SOBEYS & SUPERSTORE GIFT CARDS are sold each Sunday in the Sanctuary before and after Worship and at the Church Office M-F, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.



We make 4% on every card sold. Your support is needed and appreciated.

October 2025 GIVINGS			
Local Offering - Env	\$ 11,186.25	Local Offering - PAR	\$ 5,858.57
Mission & Service – Env	\$ 1,099.00	Mission & Service - PAR	\$ 795.46
Plate Loose	\$ 232.00	Memorial Donations	\$ 1,975.00
Bulletin Sponsorship	\$ 200.00	Grocery Card Revenue	\$ 5.00
Revenues Year-to-Date:	\$276,426.08*	Expenses Year-to-Date:	\$237,313.36
Mission & Service Year-to-Date:	\$ 17,022.10	Mission & Service 2025 Goal	\$ 18,000.00
*includes \$ 73,927.47 in grant monies Thank you for your generous and continued support!			

WELCOME!

We would like to warmly welcome any new faces to our church family today! Please feel free to introduce yourself to a fellow member or reach out to our minister if you have any questions. We invite you to stay after the service for fellowship. Fill in the “welcome” envelope located on the table at our two main entrances and place in the offering box (no money required) or email the church office at stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com to let us know you are worshipping with us.



WINGS REVISITED gathering will be **Wednesday, November 19.** 6:30-7:30 p.m. upstairs in the Norman Sinclair Room.

Fellowship and snacks on the program. All women of the church are welcome to this informal gathering. Come and discover our community. Please advise if you intend to attend to help us plan. If you require childcare to attend - let us know... we will arrange it!

Theme: What did you do this summer / fall?

If you are able to help bringing a snack or drink, let us know by contacting the church office.

ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY is coming up on **Nov. 23** as we celebrate 187 years of worshipping together!

We will be welcoming Debby Warren, as our guest speaker for our church's 187th anniversary.

Debby was Executive Director of Ensemble for 28 years with unwavering dedication to improving the lives of marginalized individuals and vulnerable populations in our community.



She was a fearless advocate, tackling society's most challenging issues with compassion, inclusivity, and resilience. From creating vital programs for those living with HIV/AIDS, to supporting 2SLGBTQI+ youth through the Safe Space Program, to leading harm reduction initiatives that have saved countless lives, her impact on Moncton has been profound and enduring.

She received the Order of Moncton in 2024.

LOVES AND FISHES POTLUCK

Please join us for the **Loaves and Fishes Potluck**, hosted by the children of St John's United, immediately following the Anniversary Sunday Service, **November 23**.



Please feel free to bring your favourite dishes and family-friendly drinks to share. Plates, bowls, cutlery and napkins will be provided.

We are taking this opportunity to assist the Karing Kitchen, at the children's request. Any donations of either non-perishable food items or things like socks, gloves, etc. would be greatly appreciated.

100th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL FUNDRAISER

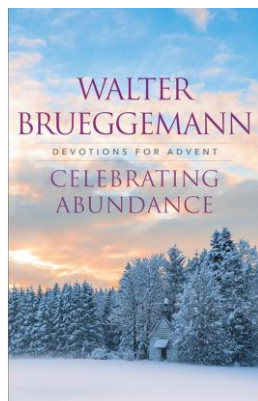


As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of The United Church of Canada, we invite you to take part in a special fundraiser — a meaningful opportunity to honour or remember someone who has shaped your faith journey. Special recognition will be held on **Anniversary Sunday, Nov. 23**, to celebrate these lives. Forms are located at the Church main entrances and in our Facebook files. Deadline for forms to office is **Nov. 17**.

ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL OFFERING ENVELOPES are located at the Church main entrances. If you use SJUC box offering envelopes, an Anniversary envelope is in your box. If you use PAR, your Anniversary envelope is in your packet of envelopes. The Church thanks you for your support.

ADVENT GATHERING: CELEBRATING ABUNDANCE

On **November 30, December 7, and December 14**, you are invited to meet upstairs after church for Advent with Aaron as we explore the thoughts and writings of the late Walter Brueggemann, who was a well-loved speaker, Biblical researcher, and scholar. Each session will be based on scripture, with a story time and opportunity to reflect together as the people of Jesus in this time and place. We will be reading from Walter Brueggemann's devotions for Advent. All are welcome, even if you can't make it to all of the sessions. Bring a lunch!



2026 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES

We are in the process of preparing box offering envelopes for those who presently use them. Please advise the church office at stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com or 506-858-8289, for any of the below scenarios:

- you presently use box offering envelopes but would like to give in another way (i.e. PAR, e-transfer)
- you use your box offering envelopes very infrequently and can give in another way
- you would like to start using box offering envelopes

You may donate to the church in a variety of ways:

- PAR (pre-authorized remittance) – form available on our website – pamphlet located at church entrances and outside church office; PAR cards are available to put in the offering box on Sundays
- e-transfer (use stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com - no password needed)
- box offering envelopes – contact church office
- Canada Helps - online
- cash or cheque - identified with giver's name/address (for income tax purposes).

GROCERY SUNDAY FOR KARING KITCHEN

(Nov. 30 – last Sunday of the month)

The Outreach Committee would like to bring your attention to the Karing Kitchen's need for these groceries: cream of celery soup, honey garlic sauce flakes of ham and hot dogs. *White baskets will be at the main entrance for your donations.* Thank you.



Are you thinking of **donating** money to the **KARING KITCHEN**? Why not purchase a \$25, \$50 or \$100 Grocery Card either from the Church Office or after Worship during coffee hour. Your purchase will provide a 4% profit to our Grocery Card sales will provide the

Karing Kitchen with much needed options for either Sobeys or Superstore groceries and will provide you with a year-end tax receipt for your donation. A win-win-win all around!!!



2026 CHURCH CALENDAR: A New Heaven and a New Earth

Celebrate United Churches across Canada! Focusing on the theme of A New Heaven and a New Earth this bilingual calendar features colourful photos from communities of faith across the country plus all the special days, church seasons, and lectionary dates.

The Church Office is taking orders for this calendar. Cost is \$9.50 (tax included). If you are interested in ordering one or more, sign the order sheet located at the main entrances or contact the Church Office. Payment may be made by mail (mail slot on door), e-transfer or included in your offering envelope (on bottom line titled, “Other” - note “2026 Calendar”).



POINSETTIAS – Again this Christmas season, poinsettia plants will be placed in the Sanctuary during Advent. If you wish to help us with our plant order, you may make a memorial in memory of a loved one. All memorials will be listed in the pastoral letter on Dec. 6 and the bulletin on Dec. 8.

Cost is \$15.00 each. The deadline to have your memorial form/payment to the Church Office is Monday, December 1.

Order forms are located at the Church main entrances.



We will be supporting **CROSSROADS FOR WOMEN** here in Moncton again this year. Each Sunday **until Dec. 14** you are invited to bring a personal care item to place in a white basket as you come into the church. We will be dropping off these items in support of the work of Crossroads, which is also supported by the St. John's UCW. Items suggested: toilet paper, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, lotions (for dry months), canned goods like soups and pasta. Thank you in advance for your support of this important program.

COME... VISIT THE STABLE

This is a St. John's Church Council event to display the variety of Nativity scenes from our congregation and community.



We need... Nativity Scenes to display for viewing on Sunday, **December 14** after our morning worship service.

Would you be willing to share your scene and its special story with your church community, or help out with this event? If so, please fill out the form (available at our main entrances) and put it in the offering plate or in the Church office mail slot or email the church office.

We would like to know by Sunday, **Dec. 7** if you plan to share your Nativity Scene in our display.

Nativity Scenes can be dropped off at the church on or before Friday, **Dec. 12** during office hours, or on Saturday morning, **Dec. 13** from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. If you wish to personally unpack and set-up your scene, please come on Saturday morning. Please plan to come and pack-up your nativity scene after the display on Sunday afternoon or on Monday morning, **Dec. 15**.

STEWARDSHIP SECOND – Do not trust your eyes, they can deceive you. Sometimes the greatest generosity comes from the people you would least expect—like you.

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH CARES... To notify the Minister of personal concerns, anxieties, illnesses, hospitalizations or deaths, or to pass along a prayer request, contact Rev. Aaron Billard at 506-858-8289 or sjucrev@gmail.com

Greeters & Offering	
South Door – Alma St Sandy Ross	North Door – Victoria St. Alice Gracie

CHURCH MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND STAFF



Rev. Aaron Billard, *Minister*
sjucrev@gmail.com



Shelley Arsenault, B.Mus.B.Ed.
Music Director



Karen Geldart
Office Administrator
stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com



Pat Arsenault, *Custodian*



Rev. Dr. Douglas MacEachern
Minister Emeritus
douglasimaceachern@gmail.com

Church Council

Chair: Roland Gallant

Secretary: Karen Teed

Treasurer: Kimberley Buck de Jesus

Board of Trustees: Graham McCrea

Christian Development: Jennifer MacNairn; Sunday School: Sonja Webster

Finance & Property Management: Marlene Godfrey

Fundy-St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region reps.: Rev. Aaron Billard,
Kimberley Buck de Jesus and Karen Geldart

Ministry & Personnel: Kimberley Buck de Jesus

Pastoral Care & Membership: Valerie Roy

UCW: Brenda McFarlane

Worship & Music: Sheri Brooks





Christmas Memorial Flowers

MEMORIAL DEDICATION FORM

Poinsettia plants will be placed in the Sanctuary during Advent. If you wish to help us with our plant order, you may make a memorial in memory of a loved one; below are ways to reach us:

- complete this form with payment and place in the offering box
- complete this form with payment and drop off in the mail slot on the Victoria St. church entrance
- complete this form with payment and mail to the church at 75 Alma St., Moncton, NB E1C 4Y3
- complete this form or provide the same details in an email to the office at stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com and pay by either an e-transfer, mail a cheque or drop off a cheque/cash in the church mail slot on the Victoria St. door

The cost is \$15.00 each. The deadline to have your memorial form/payment to the Church Office is Monday, **December 1.**

All memorials will be listed in the pastoral letter on December 5 and bulletin on December 7.

The plants will decorate the Sanctuary during Advent and will then be delivered to our shut-ins (those on our church pastoral care shut-in list) after the service on December 21.

(Any extra proceeds go to the Chancel Fund
to help cover costs associated with the Sanctuary.)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Quantity: _____

In Memory of: _____

Dedicated by: _____

(use back of form for additional dedications)



“Come... Visit the Stable”

This is a St. John’s Worship & Membership Committee event to display the variety of Nativity scenes from our congregation and community.

These will be on display for you to view on Sunday, December 14th after our morning worship service.

We need... Nativity Scenes to display!

Do you, or someone you know, have a Nativity Scene that graces your home during the Christmas Season? Do you have one that is unique? Does your scene have a history? Did someone make it? Has it been handed down for generations? Is it non-traditional? Is it a picture, a wall-hanging, or a tree ornament? Is it small, or is it large? Is it an outside display?

Would you be willing to share your scene and its special story with your church community, or help out with this event?

If so, please read the reverse side of this sheet for more details.

“Come... Visit the Stable”

We would like to know by Sunday, **Dec. 7** if you plan to share your Nativity Scene in our display.

Nativity Scenes can be dropped off at the church on or before Friday **Dec. 12** during office hours, or on Saturday morning, **Dec. 13** from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. If you wish to personally unpack and set-up your scene, please come on Saturday morning. Please plan to come and pack-up your nativity scene after the display on Sunday afternoon or on Monday morning, **Dec. 15**.

If you are interested or have questions, please tear off the bottom part of this page, check off the boxes that relate to you, and put this in the offering plate or in the church office mail slot (on wall outside the office) or email the church office at stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com .

-
- ☐ I would like to have more information
 - ☐ I will share my Nativity Scene for this event
 - ☐ Yes, I would like to help with this event.

My area of Interest is:

- ☐ Requesting and collecting Nativity Scenes
- ☐ Host or hostess of the display
- ☐ Help set-up and take-down the display (Sat. am & Sun. pm)

Other: _____

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____