



Are you searching for ways to help those in need?

*Hunger doesn't stop for Covid!*

### Winnipeg Harvest

(now "Harvest Manitoba") is in **HIGH NEED of volunteers.**

Safety protocols in place. Socially distanced workspaces for each. One time or regular help. Youth volunteers welcome, with parents.

Contact [barbdoug@mymts.net](mailto:barbdoug@mymts.net) to **join our volunteer group** or register yourself online at [www.harvestmanitoba.ca](http://www.harvestmanitoba.ca)

# Christmas is NOT cancelled!

Although it is very difficult to not be able to gather in-person for Christmas this year, we remind ourselves that we're doing this to save lives, to help our health care workers and to ensure we can have a safe Christmas next year!

**We will still remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus.**

*A very Merry Christmas to All!*

## You are invited to tune into our **Christmas Eve Service**

scheduled to **go live at 5pm** Dec. 24th on **YouTube** – Meridian Pastoral Charge

(It will be available for you to watch online anytime after that, as are **all** of our weekly online services!)

## "Glow of Love" Drive-by in Sanford! Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>



"Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright."

– Lyrics by Brian Wren

**DEC. 21<sup>ST</sup>**

## **LONGEST NIGHT**

**Ice Candles will be glowing in front of Sanford United Church:**

- ♥ In memory of your loved ones
- ♥ To encourage the discouraged
- ♥ In honour of those who cannot be with us in-person this Christmas 2020

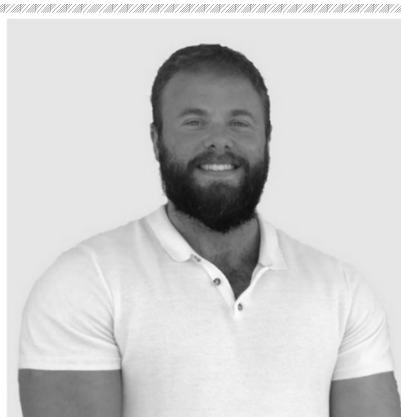
On Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, we invite the **Sanford community** to drive-by, slow down or stop... and **take a moment** to say a prayer **for those in your hearts.**

There will be a few candles left unlit. You are welcome to stop to light one, specifically for your loved one(s). Phone Rev. James deBeer to have them included in his prayers, if you so wish!

*In the life and work of the Sanford United Church in 2020...*

## **What's been going on?**

- ✓ Volunteering at Siloam Mission and Winnipeg Harvest
- ✓ Paint Night, Jewellery Making ...part of the "Art in the Church" series
- ✓ Lenten book study
- ✓ Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- ✓ Plant fundraisers – with Glenlea and The Petite Greenhouse
- ✓ Supporting our staff during their recovery from injuries
- ✓ Worship Service at heritage Union Point church in middle of Hwy 75
- ✓ Food drives for Winnipeg Harvest and local families in need
- ✓ Remembrance Day special online service to commemorate the fallen
- ✓ Participation in the inter-denominational Meridian Advent service
- ✓ Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoeboxes for children in need
- ✓ Weekly online services, thanks to our techy and devoted minister
- ✓ Great community support many times – thank you!



Rev. James deBeer

Meridian Pastoral Charge minister  
**Serves Sanford United Church,**  
as well as Starbuck UC and  
Avonlea UC in Domain, MB  
(204) 736-2978

Curious if the sanctuary is adorned with Christmas decorations this year?

**Check out the picture online!**

[www.meridian-pastoral-charge.ca](http://www.meridian-pastoral-charge.ca)

### **You'll also find...**

Thought-provoking Advent message from Rev. James, including: what **lessons we've learned** during this pandemic that **we must never forget!**

*"When there's a power outage, everyone in the household gathers around the candlelight, patiently hoping the hydro will be back on soon. In these dark times, we gather as households around the light of the Christ-Child, born on Christmas, in hope that the world will be filled with God's light of life, peace, joy and love.*

**Merry Christmas and May God Bless you!"**

– Rev. James deBeer