

What About White Gift Sunday?

What is White Gift Sunday?

In every season of the year, Jesus' followers are called to resist the temptation of material wants, and to respond instead to the needs of the world around us. In the weeks leading up to Christmas, that call becomes even more urgent, as we navigate the deep waters of overindulgence.

White Gift Sunday is a Christian tradition that began in 1904 in response to the overwhelming commercialism that creeps into this sacred season. It is a time of anonymous gift-giving, as we partner with front-line ministries, locally and globally, and help to provide for those they support.

Do we still have one at Wellington Square?

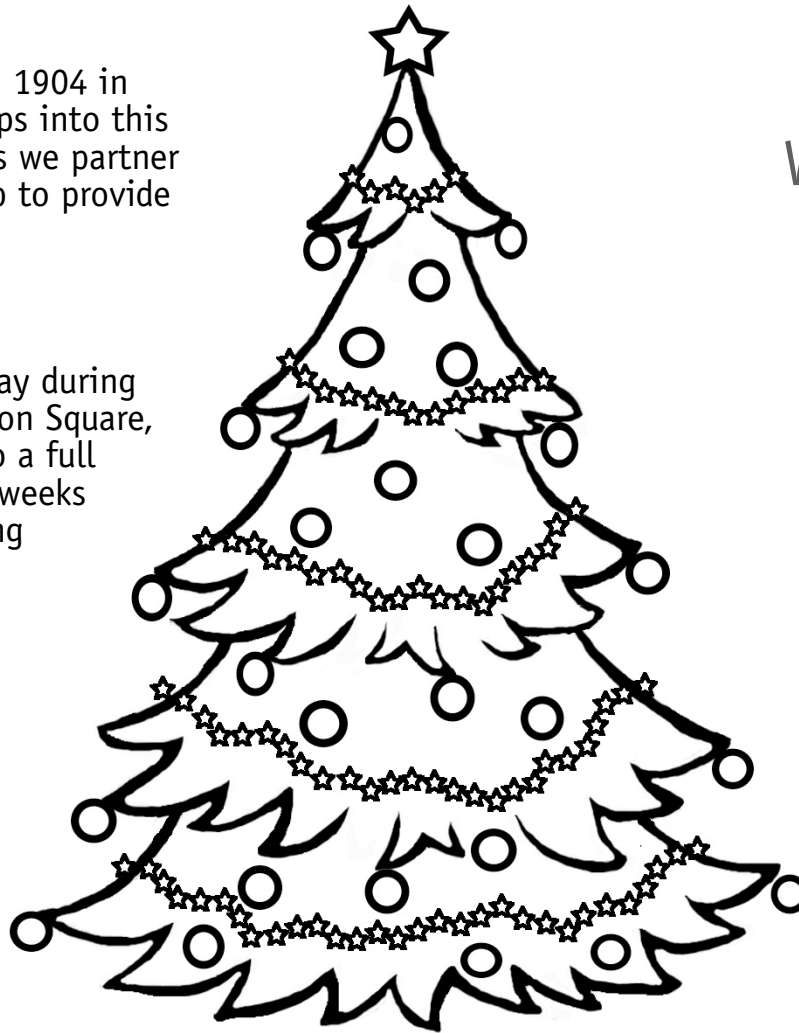
In some communities, it is marked as a particular Sunday during Advent (the four weeks prior to Christmas). At Wellington Square, the depth of your generosity has grown White Gift into a full season, with Christmas-giving opportunities available weeks before the formal start of Advent. It is an ever-unfolding chance to live out of God's abundant love, all at a time of preparing our hearts to receive again God's greatest gift to the world – Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, Your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight.

Isaiah 58:10

Wellington Square's

Christmas Response



Shoebboxes for Sierra Leone
Wesley No-Charge Christmas Store
Angel Wings
Chickens for Christmas

*What I'm interested in seeing you do is:
sharing your food with the hungry,
inviting the homeless poor into your homes,
putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad,
being available to your own families.*

Isaiah 58:7

As followers of Christ we are called to reach out and help the hurting in our midst and around the world. One of the ways we can celebrate the birth of Christ is by giving gifts, in remembrance of the gift that was given to us.

The following opportunities are some ways that we can act as the hands and feet of Jesus, together as a church body. We encourage you to consider where you might invest your resources and energy this Christmas.

Shoeboxes to Wellington Orphanage

OCTOBER 25, NOVEMBER 1 - PICKUP. NOVEMBER 8, 15 - COLLECTION

This year, we have an exciting opportunity to fill shoeboxes that will be delivered directly to the children at both the Wellington Orphanage and the Network for Children in Need Orphanage in Sierra Leone. These orphanages were established to reduce the vicious cycle of child poverty in Sierra Leone. Currently there are up to 200 children living in these orphanages, which provide for their food, clothing, education and medical care. Members can choose the gender and an age range for one of these children and then fill a box with much needed items including school supplies, hygiene items and toys. Please include \$2 when returning to help cover the cost of the box. These boxes will be shipped in a large container, which is leaving for Sierra Leone in the middle of November.

CONTACT: Lisa Lunski-Wood - llunskiwood@wsquare.ca

Chickens for Christmas

NOVEMBER 1, 8, 22 - ORDER FORMS AVAILABLE

Give your loved ones a meaningful gift this Christmas season - one that can provide impoverished farmers in Sierra Leone with a profitable income living as a poultry farmer. This income would help to put food on the table and enable them to provide medical care and educate their children. Last year through this project, 85 farmers and their families were set up with poultry farms!

*"Give a man a chicken and you'll feed him for a day;
Teach a man to raise chickens and his family will eat for a lifetime."*

CONTACT: Wendy Clifton - wclifton@wsquare.ca

Angel Wings

NOVEMBER 15 - KICKOFF. NOVEMBER 22, 29 REGISTER. DECEMBER 6 - COLLECTION

Angel Wings is a Christmas outreach project supporting individuals and families through three local agencies in the Burlington area: Halton's Women's Place, Halton Children Services and ROCK for teens. There are opportunities to shop for young children, teenagers, parents, or even whole families. Please help to make their Christmas a little brighter by either sponsoring an Angel and buying them gifts, or by making a cash donation towards gifts and food.

This year a portion of Angel Wings' cash donations will be raised through the Outreach part of the 10-10-80 budget.

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Wesley No-Charge Christmas Store

NOVEMBER 29 & DECEMBER 6 - DROP OFF ITEMS AT WS

The Annual No-Charge Christmas Assistance Program provides families and individuals living in poverty with support over the holiday season. In a store-like setting, people in the Hamilton area are able to choose new gifts and food items for themselves and their families at no cost. Although all gift and food items are welcome, Wesley Centre has requested that we focus on items for adult women (i.e. towels, socks and underwear, kitchen items, sheets, purses, watches, make-up, etc.) as well as cake mixes and soup for the store.

Wesley Centre also needs volunteers, for more info please call 905-528-8073

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