

# The Joy of Giving

*A little creativity, a lot of joy!*



First Mennonite Edmonton  
*for Our Stories, January 2021*

“How are we going to get our Christmas Cards to everyone in church?” “We usually just bring them before Christmas and put them into the church mail boxes.” “I don’t want to spend that much on postage.” These were a few wonderings and concerns that we heard in mid-November. One comment came with a suggestion from a friend that lived out of town. “Why don’t you have everyone drop their cards off at the church and then arrange for times when people can come

pick up their cards?” Sounded like a great idea. Then we received the news that there would be further restrictions on gathering/visiting indoors and we wondered how to move forward. “We’ve done other drive-by drop-offs. We should be able to find volunteer drivers to deliver the cards in person.”

An announcement was put into the bulletin for the first Sunday in December:

❖ **Christmas Card Drop Off:** *Every year, many of us put Christmas Cards into our foyer church mailboxes for friends and family. Community Building branch would like to offer that as an option this year as well. Drop off your cards (incl. mailbox # from directory) by Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, preferably during business hours. There will be a collection box outside the front door for after-hours drop off. We will sort and deliver the cards. If you are able to help with delivery, contact Ruth Friesen.*

Just prior to this, the new **Voices Together** Hymnal arrived! Wow. We have 200+ copies of the new hymnal just sitting here in boxes. “Why don’t we offer everyone the opportunity to borrow one of the church copies for use on Sunday morning?” Sounds great. We can incorporate this into our drive-by card delivery service.

“What about the **Christmas treat bags** that our Sunday school children always receive at the Christmas program?” Let’s add those to the list as well.

December 16<sup>th</sup> came and the mailboxes were stuffed with cards. What a response! Ruth and Vince Friesen and Ev Buhr bagged each household’s items (cards and treat bags) and sorted them into 14 neighbourhoods around Edmonton and surrounding area (a few congregants further afield had their cards mailed to them). Over the weekend of Dec. 19-20, **14 volunteers** delivered cards and hymnals to **112 households**. The appreciation for the cards and hymnals, as well as the brief visits with the drivers gave a lot of Christmas joy to our congregation.