

ANNOUNCEMENTS December 10, 2017

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, welcome! Please sign our Guest Book at the back of the church or in the entranceway and join us for coffee in the parlour after the service.

Observer subscriptions are now due. Renewals are now being accepted and new subscriptions are welcome for the The United Church Observer magazine. The cost remains the same as last year, \$25.00. Please see Ralph Rainford to renew or to become a new subscriber. This is an excellent magazine and a worthwhile read.

All women invited to a lunch on Tuesday, Dec.19 at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall. Joy Unit to supply main course. Bring pot luck if you can or just come and enjoy.

Season of Giving! This year Melville is participating in three outreach projects over the Advent Season...two are still open. Please find a way of supporting in a way that suits you.

2. Community Care Boxes. Take a box home and fill it with items such as gift cards, hats/sock/mitts, tea/chocolate, toiletry items, small games, etc. Boxes will be delivered to the Rural Women's Shelter and the Foodbank in December. **Deadline: December 17th.**

3. Food Hampers. This year the Foodbank will be distributing Gift Cards rather than hampers of food to the community, in order to allow people to select the foods most suited to their needs. You can support this effort by making a cash donation marked "Foodbank" and placing them in the giving's plates during the offering. For every \$10 we collect, we will add a Christmas Ball to our Foodbank Christmas Tree.

Advent Study: soup and conversation on Tuesdays from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. in the parlour beginning Dec. 5th.

UCW has meat pies for sale. \$4 each.

Christmas Bake Sale, Sat. Dec. 16, 9 - 4. Fellowship Hall, Melville. Cookies, mince and butter tarts, squares, cakes, small Christmas puddings, pies. Gift baskets. For youth (*Ashley Bell*) mission trip to Haiti and restoration of stained glass windows. Marg 519-843-3274.

Website Revamping - Need photos! Our website is being completely redone and we need fresh photos. Especially wanted: seasonal photos (winter, summer, Christmas, Easter) and special events (dinners, plays, campfires etc.). Please email photos to youthleader@melvilleunited.com, or give printed copies to Jen.

From the Church Library - We now have Christmas books out for you to select and enjoy.

Study Group: The new study group will continue to meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 10:30. All are welcome.

Coffee's On! Early morning worship circle Grounding in the Spirit, every Sunday morning 9:30-10 a.m. in the Chapel. All are welcome: babes to elders, seekers to doubters.

Gifts with Vision: Do you have people on your Christmas list who are difficult to buy for or who already have everything they need? The United Church of Canada has developed a giving catalogue in response to member requests to be able to give gifts to relatives, friends, and loved ones that are in direct support of the church's Mission & Service partners across Canada and around the world. Everyone will find something in Gifts with Vision worth sharing with the special people in their lives. Gifts are available in a range of dollar amounts, as well as for many areas of need (hunger, shelter, education, health, safety, mobility, and more). We have a few printed copies available but you can easily order online at www.giftswithvision.ca.

Annual Report: It is that time of year again! Please remember to get your annual committee reports to the office by the end of the year for inclusion in Melville's Annual Report.

Other Community and Church Events

The Chancel Choir of St. John's United Church, Belwood, will present "Love's Pure Light," a Christmas Cantata by Lloyd Larson, at 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 10th. A free-will offering will be taken. St. John's: 28 Queen St., Belwood. 519-843-1227.

An annual winter rite in Elora, Handel's Messiah is one of the most cherished choral works for the Christmas season. With his own distinct interpretation, conductor Noel Edison brings this score to life! December 10th @ 3:30pm, St. Josephs Church, Fergus. Tickets: www.elorasingers.ca or 519-846-0331. At door ticket purchases on December 10th also available.

Christmas Crokinole for Ecumenical Campus Ministry - non-competitive tournament and silent auction at Trinity United Church, 400 Stevenson St. N. Guelph on Sat. Dec. 16th from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. More information or register at www.eventbrite.ca.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Mon. Dec. 11, 2017 - Sun. Dec. 17, 2017

Tues. 12	10:30	Senior Exercising	Fellowship Hall
Thurs. 14	10:30 7:00	Senior Exercising Choir	Fellowship Hall Parlour
Fri. 15	10:00	Coffee Hour	Parlour
Sat. 16	9:00	Christmas Bake Sale	Fellowship Hall
Sun. 17	9:30 11:00	Grounding in the Spirit Advent 3 Christmas Pageant	Chapel Sanctuary

Worship Schedule

Dec. 17	Advent Three Christmas Pageant	Jen Auger	
Dec. 24	Advent Four	Marion Loree	
Dec. 24 5:00 pm	Family Christmas Eve	Jen Auger	
Dec. 24 9:00 pm	Contemplative Christmas	Marion Loree	
Dec. 31	1 st after Christmas	Ruth Cooke	
Jan. 7, 2018	Epiphany	Ruth Cooke	