

**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.

Thank you to Chris, Ron, Ralph, Linda Mae and Barry who helped to cut the grass at Melville this summer!

**News from UCW:** The cloak/storage room downstairs is being renovated by Melville's hard working Property Committee with funds raised by the UCW (United Church Women). In 2019 UCW donated to Melville Church, M&S, Highland Youth, Women's Rural Support, CW Food Bank and Canadian Cancer.

**Attention Broadview subscribers.** The Broadview magazine (formally The Observer) is launching their new gift subscription program. For the special discounted price of just \$20.00 (plus tax), any group subscriber can give friends or family a one-year gift subscription to Broadview. With the change to Broadview earlier this year, the magazine is more "giftable" than ever. Cards are available at the back of the sanctuary. For further information, please see Ralph Rainford. Thank you.

**Gift bags** for senior members of our congregation are ready. Please pick up one (or more) and take along to deliver while enjoying a friendly visit.

**From the Church Library** - Please come into our library. We have the Christmas books out for you to browse and select.

**Gifts with Vision** - Give a gift that can change someone's life this Christmas. Make the United Church's 'Gifts with Vision' catalogue your first stop for Christmas shopping. You can bring hope and healing to life through gifts that support the work of The United Church of Canada's Mission & Service partners. Look inside for Indigenous Canadian, Canadian, and global gifts to give in the name of someone on your gift-giving list at Christmas or anytime through the year.

**Advent Study** – Fridays 11:15 am to 12:30 pm - Chapel. Based on Birth of Jesus for Progressive Christians by Donald Schmidt. What if the Christmas story is not really what we think it is? What if things happened differently than tradition has maintained over the centuries? What if the biblical account differs from the story most of us know from the nativity plays we participated in as children? And what if the truth the authors of those stories are pointing to is not that Jesus was born in a miraculous way, but something that goes much deeper?

**Come! We will explore these questions together. All welcome!**

**Memory Angels** is returning this year. Place an Angel in the sanctuary in memory of a departed loved one or family far away. These 5" handmade Angels have the name inscribed on the skirt. A \$5 donation to have it displayed will be added to your tax receipt of givings. Please speak to Lorna Bevcar, or a member of Fun, Funds & Fellowship, if you wish to participate or for further information.

**141 envelope campaign:** We are nearly half way there! \$4,814 has been generously donated to help us reach our budget for 2019. There are 141 envelopes numbered from 1 to 141 – we are asking you to consider a special receipted gift to the church in the amount of the envelope you choose. When all the envelopes have been filled and returned we will reach \$10,011 for Melville! No envelope is too small or too big.

**Tree of Hope** - Our congregation hosts one of the Pregnancy Centre's Tree of Hope. These special trees made out of antique doors rotate yearly through churches in Centre Wellington during Advent season. You can bring hope and support to women by picking an ornament from the tree and making a donation.

**Be up to date on Melville news!** Give your email address to the Melville office and you will be included on the Melville "Grape Vine". Send a message to [secretary@melvilleunited.com](mailto:secretary@melvilleunited.com) and indicate your wish to get these updates or drop a note in the Office Administrator's slot in the office window.

Community Events

Dec. 20 & 21 - **Journey to Bethlehem** - 6-8pm at Alma Community Centre & Wallace Cumming Park. Free admission.

Dec. 22 - **Hope for the Holidays Service** at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 325 St. George St., Fergus at 2pm. The Christmas Season can be difficult for many, especially those who have experienced losses. Losses of what was or what might have been, put a damper on the joy of the season. This quieter Christmas service allows us to give our sorrows and losses to the Christ Child and there find hope.

Dec. 24 - **Donate Blood** - 9am-2pm Fergus Sportsplex. Over the December holidays, seasonal commitments often pose a challenge for donors to make it to our blood donation events. We are encouraging donors to consider asking a loved-one or friend to join them in donating blood.

Dec 25 - **Community Christmas Dinner** - 4-8pm at 35 Farley Rd, Fergus. Free Event please call 519-787-1978 to reserve your spot. Limited seating.



**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**Mon. Dec. 16, 2019 - Sun. Dec. 22, 2019**

Tues. 17	10:30	Senior Exercise	Fellowship Hall
	7:30	UCW Unit Joy	Parlour
Thurs. 19	10:30	Senior Exercise	Fellowship Hall
	5:30	Choir	Parlour
Fri. 20	10:00	Coffee Hour	Parlour
	11:15	Advent Study	Chapel
Sun. 22	11:00	4th Sunday of Advent	Sanctuary

**Worship Schedule**

<b>Dec. 22</b>	<b>Advent 4 - Celebrating Christmas through Carols</b>	<b>Marion Loree</b>
<b>Dec. 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve - Family Service (5:00pm)</b>	<b>Lillian Gohn</b>
<b>Dec. 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve - Communion (9:00pm)</b>	<b>Marion Loree</b>
<b>Dec. 29</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Christmas</b>	<b>TBD</b>