



FALL NEWSLETTER

October, 2021

Team Ministry

Minister of Worship, Pastoral Care & Outreach: Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

Faith Formation & Youth: Martha Duncan

Ministry of Music Team: Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber

Office Administrator: Lynda Rivet

Custodian: Robert Mitchell

Chair of Church Council: Allan Hons

Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain: Alison Rainford, Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

Office hours: 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. T., Th. & F.

E-Mail: secretary@melvilleunited.com

Web Site www.melvilleunited.com

Pastoral Care Numbers: 709-682-8756, 519-843-3841

Mailing address: PO Box 41, Fergus, ON N1M2W7

STAY IN TOUCH

Sign up to receive Melville's weekly bulletin on email or to get notices and news sent from the church office on "The Grapevine" at <https://melvilleunited.com/email-sign-up/>.

Follow Melville on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MelvilleUnitedChurch/>.

We will continue to offer both in-person and on-line services with printed copies being distributed to those without internet

Our Mission

Our Mission: We seek, we pray, we act knowing that Jesus is amongst us.

Our Vision

Knowing we are not alone on our spiritual journeys, Melville United Church seeks to be an open, compassionate and inclusive Christian community; honouring and serving the living Christ in all that we do.

Our Values

We are a multi-generational community of committed Christians on a journey to seek justice, love kindness and to walk humbly with our God.

We celebrate God's love through various expressions of worship.

We share God's love through pastoral care, and our community and global outreach.

We nurture spiritual growth and caring relationships for all ages.

We embrace and encourage the talents and contributions of all.

We strive to be faithful stewards of God's creation and gifts.

God is with us. Thanks be to God!

A MESSAGE FROM REV. LYNDA GOY-FLINT, MINISTER



Greetings in the name of Christ!

It is wonderful to be writing to you as the new minister at Melville United Church! I am delighted to have the opportunity to share in ministry with you.

As some of you may know, I had the pleasure of worshipping with you as a candidate for ordination, filling in as pulpit supply in 2009, 2010 and 2011. I felt a warmth and welcome from the congregation. When I was contacted by the search committee this summer to consider applying to Melville, I was eager to do so.

By way of brief introduction, I have been ordained for nine years, and I spent all of those nine years in Newfoundland and Labrador as the settled minister for the Norman's Cove Pastoral Charge, living about 55km away in Arnold's Cove in the manse of my husband's charge, Swift Current, with my husband and children, Andrew and Naomi. Southwestern Ontario is my home, so this was a whole new experience in ministry and culture. I very much enjoyed my time in Newfoundland, meeting many wonderful people, learning much about ministry, seeing much gorgeous, although very different, scenery, eating Jigg's dinner, pan-fried cod and more Newfoundland specialties, and hearing much wonderful folk music.

Despite the many positive aspects of life in Newfoundland, I grew homesick for Ontario, where my small extended family and my long-time friends lived. Unfortunately my marriage did not survive the time away, and so in the spring of this year I left my pastoral charge, left my home and my husband and returned to Kitchener with my children, Andrew, who prefers to be called Siobhan (22), and Naomi (20). I have a very good friend who, in the living out of her Christian faith, most generously invited the three of us to come live with her and her family in Kitchener for as long as we needed. I am so very grateful for their hospitality. I had hoped to live in Centre Wellington, but at present the cost of living is beyond my means.

I am now settling in to this ministry and this life and continuing to learn as I go. My approach to ministry is to work with the people of the community of faith, seeking a deeper experience of God, through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, and honouring that connection with a commitment to strive to live a life of faith. I place a high value on worship, not for its own sake, but as a means of drawing nearer to God, of being filled with God's hope, love and blessing for the week to come. I try to bring a relaxed approach to worship services, as I believe that God is to be found not just in that hour on Sunday in the sanctuary of the church, but in all aspects of our lives.

I am honoured to meet with people to learn of their experiences and find the sharing of their lives, the highs and lows, to be a sacred connection between them, God and me. I hope, as we begin to navigate life in the reality of Covid, to be able to meet with the

people of the congregation, preferably in person, but aware of people's comfort levels and health conditions, at least by phone or Zoom/Skype or some means on-line so I can get to know you and offer care and support to you.

You are welcome to phone or text me at 709-682-8756, call the church at 519-843-1781, or by email at minister@melvilleunited.com. There are many exciting developments in the works for Melville United Church, and I look forward to working with you to live our faith in this beautiful community of Fergus in Centre Wellington.

Blessings to all!
Lynda

NEW FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE - Alan Hons, chair of Melville Church Council

Melville is launching a new fundraising initiative in November. The goal is to take the cost of building maintenance and restoration off the backs of our congregation and free us to focus on becoming a force for good in our community. We will be asking the good people of Centre Wellington to contribute \$10/month on an ongoing basis to fund the needs of our building. As a contributing member of the congregation, we do not want your money for this initiative. What we would ask is that you talk with your friends, neighbours and family members and invite them to contribute to the preservation of this lovely building we call home.



FUN, FUNDS & FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE – Chair Lorna Bevcar

As you know, we have not been able to do much fundraising in person through the pandemic. However, we got the courage to do a Garage & Plant Sale at the beginning of July, following our local Public Health guidelines. Well that developed into a Garage, Plant & Bake Sale the next weekend. And then, our initial one weekend, stretched to **9 weekends!** And this all produced \$7,800 for Melville's coffers! We are ecstatic!!! We would like to thank all who donated items and baking, all who helped in some small way at the sale, and all who supported us by coming out. To those who worked tirelessly, **"THANK YOU!"**

GARDEN UPDATE – Your Garden Team

This week ended our 2021 season as we put the garden to bed, just before the first frost! We added compost and turned the gardens, planted our garlic and delivered our last harvest to the CW Food Bank. Thank you to everyone for your support, your gifts of time and donations. It was a great season.

We were pleased to offer a space for outdoor (socially distanced) gatherings as we focused much of our spring energy on cleaning up the flower gardens around the

perimeter of the space. It was wonderful to see the congregation using the garden, especially during Marion's Farwell Party in June.

Weather, of course, plays such a huge role in gardening, as many of you can relate, and 2021 was no different! We gardened through snowstorms, scorching heat, rain and hail but managed to deliver a weekly harvest to the Food Bank. We were always greeted with a smile as they were curious what we had picked for them each week (especially the 100+ heads of garlic!).

Thank you again!



Leave your donations for the Food Bank at the back of the church in the baskets. In addition to non-perishable food items, the food bank is also looking for personal and feminine hygiene products as well as fresh vegetables, apples and oranges.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE – Chair Lillian Gohn

Melville Church building is beginning to come alive once more beginning in September with in person worship services, choir rehearsals, some committees meeting at the church and some of the community organizations coming back to make use of our facilities.

- Anniversary Sunday, Oct 24th - Melville celebrated its 176th Anniversary. Our archivist, Graeme Chalmers has placed a display of history panels in the library for us to enjoy and get a glimpse of Melville's history.
- On November 13th Melville will be hosting the New Ministries Service where new ministers are ordained, commissioned or recognized and the Melville choir has been asked to provide special music. We will be live streaming this service for your viewing.
- The Season of Advent begins November 24th with the celebration of Communion.
- December 12th - White Gift Sunday
- Colleen Weber and Suzanne Flewelling are working on a Cantata to be part of the December 19th Church Service.
- Consideration is being given to scheduling an early and late Christmas Eve Service.

We are very pleased to welcome Rev. Lynda Goy Flint to Melville and are excited to offer all the support we can as she becomes familiar with some of the programs we have used in the past and welcome new ideas that will emerge in the days and months ahead.

Recording and live streaming of weekly worship services: This summer we began recording audio and video of weekly services and the recordings were then made available on Melville's website to be watched at home by anybody via the internet. For these services, only the participants were present in the building.

In September, **in-person services began** again after being postponed due to Covid-19 pandemic. We then began providing live video and audio of the weekly church services.

They can be viewed on Melville's website, live on Sunday mornings. The video recording is then also available for viewing anytime from the website.

A new video camera and the related monitor and switch equipment were purchased, installed and put into use over the past year for this purpose.

Thankfully, in the spring of 2021 Melville received a grant from UPFund to assist in financing this project. The UPFund (United Possibilities Fund) provides funding to congregations within the bounds of the former Waterloo Presbytery for both capital and ministry projects.

MELVILLE'S RE-OPENING COMMITTEE

Thank you to Melville's Re-opening Committee who have spent a lot of time to develop protocols and put them in place for everyone's health and safety, for the weekly worship services and also for rental groups.

MELVILLE GROUPS USE OF BUILDING

*Book all times with the office. *If your group is recurring, please let church office administrator, Lynda Rivet, know and she can slot you in. *Masks must be worn indoors and hand sanitizer used when entering the building. *The group leader/organizer will keep track of names of participants, and then the list will be left in the office for record of contacts. *People should keep the 2 metre physical distance. *Food and drink is allowed. *Protocols from the WDG health unit for restaurants should be followed. i.e. distance, mask off when seated to eat, tables if needed apart from others, etc. *Entry doors: downstairs use rear door, upper level use parking lot, main level may be asked to use the Tower St. Doors if conflicts with other renters. *Sanitize the room after use with the provided products.

*Sanctuary use: sanitize after use if another groups is using within 24 hours. A maximum of about 100 people should be adhered to.

FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES: As of November 1, 2021, these parameters will be in place as per the Wellington-Dufferin Guelph Health Public Health Guidelines for places of worship, remembering that changes will happen:

PROOF of double vaccination is required.

- Do **NOT** come to church if you are unwell or have any other Covid contacts.
- Masks are mandatory for as long as you are in the building.
- Please remember to keep your safe distance outside and in the parking lot.
- We will keep a list of those in attendance each week for contact tracing purposes.
- Keep all your belongings with you at your seat.
- The washrooms on the main floor will be available if needed.
- The front rows of the balcony will be closed.
- Inside, pews will be marked off where you may sit to keep your safe distance. There will be reminder stickers on the floor for social distancing.
- There will be no coffee hour after the services at this time.
- Those wishing to use the lift must operate it within their social group. Enter the sanctuary by going past the church office. Each group should use the supplied disinfectant before and after operation.

- Alcohol-based hand rub (60-90% alcohol concentration) will be available at all entrances and exits to help encourage hand hygiene when entering and leaving the building.
 - Children should remain with their parents.
 - Avoid physical contact with others from different households.
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PROPERTY COMMITTEE – Chair Barry Rawn

1. Stained Glass Windows: Most of the stained glass windows that face St. Andrew St. were refurbished in 2020 by Trillium Glass, who completed the painting, aluminum frame and exterior protective glazing, and other repairs. This fall, they completed the work on the remainder of the windows facing St. Andrew St., including windows in the bell tower. You may have noticed the windows all look much better now.
2. Sprucing up: Thanks to Ralph who logged many hours and some other painters, several areas have been painted over the past year or so, including Sanctuary floors, corridors, Parlour, Heritage Room, washrooms, kitchen cupboards, the minister's office, and the church office.
3. New flooring has been installed in the main kitchen and church office as well. Floors in the Parlour, Chapel and Upper Auditorium were also refinished.
4. Dishwasher: A new dishwasher has been installed in the main kitchen, since the other one broke down last year. The new one was purchased from CP Industries, of Fergus.
5. Upcoming Property Projects: There are several major projects that Melville should undertake soon, and within the next 5 to 10 years, in order to keep the building serviceable. The following are on the list: flat roof repairs or replacement, stonework joint repointing and repair.
6. Rentals: We are glad to see that many of the past weekly rental groups have now returned to use several of Melville's rooms.

TRUSTEES – Chair Norm Porritt

The Trustees had an in-person meeting in September which was our first in the last 2 years. However, during the 2 Years we conducted the following:

- a) Had a Survey completed on the Church property
- b) Prepared an 18 page report, provided by our insurance company on the building for insurance purposes
- c) Negotiated our insurance each year for a 1 year term
- d) Monitored the funds held by Manulife through Ecclestone Financial. We made changes when required.
- e) Assisted in supporting various needs for capital improvements, i.e. windows, organ repairs
- f) Reviewed the new guidelines for Trustees that were passed in April, 2021 and recorded in the CONGREGATIONAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES HANDBOOK.

We continue to monitor and receive funds for the Memorial account. It has grown steadily the past 2 years due to generous donations made in memoriam.

FINANCIAL UPDATE – Treasurer Kaillie Rawn

	Jan-Aug 2021	Jan-Aug 2020	Jan-Aug 2019
Revenue			
Givings	76,238.59	68,318.23	77,385.66
Fundraising/rental/other	21,216.30	17,341.08	32,490.54
Covid Gov't Subsidies	13972.02	12,298.80	
Total Revenue	<u>111,426.91</u>	<u>97,958.11</u>	<u>109,876.20</u>
Expenses			
Staffing costs	80,995.38	87,727.15	76,916.87
Office supplies	13,209.81	9,689.67	14,149.37
Facilities	20,300.24	22,290.57	20,564.13
Committees	8,296.04	2,980.23	3,948.96
Total Expenses	<u>122,801.47</u>	<u>122,687.62</u>	<u>115,579.33</u>
Net Loss	<u>-11,374.56</u>	<u>-24,729.51</u>	<u>-5,703.13</u>

First off, the Finance committee want to **THANK EVERYONE** for their continued financial support during this pandemic. We understand personal finances can be tight, but we appreciate what people have given. Our finances have been hit but we could be doing worse. We continue to take advantage of the Government Covid-19 wage subsidies. We also have received the Covid-19 Small Business loan to help with extra every day expenses occurred during the pandemic. As we allow community groups to rent the building again and the summer garage sale, we see some of our revenue starting to be recovered.

Below shows the cost and any donations/grants we have received to help with the costs of the many projects being done – restoration of the stain glass windows, cleaning the organ and audio/visual upgrades. We are looking for ways to help cover more of these costs. Please indicate on your donations if you would like to contribute to one of these projects.

	Current Portion Windows	Audio/visual upgrades	Organ Restoration
Donations/Grants		4,000	6,972.00
Expenses	<u>4,102.59</u>	<u>11,034.45</u>	<u>18,550.63</u>
Outstanding amount to cover	<u>4,102.59</u>	<u>7,034.45</u>	<u>11,578.63</u>

Thank you again for all your contributions!

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE – Ralph Rainford

It certainly has been an interesting two years. However, we now seem to be moving in a more positive direction. As of September 12th, we have returned to our Sunday morning Worship Service in person under the direction of our reopening committee. Please plan to join us for Sunday morning worship. Some of our regular, long term renters have now returned to Melville as well.

Throughout all these troubled times, one thing that has not changed is the on-going expenses to maintain programmes and our beautiful old building. We now have a full time minister for our pastoral care.

We are asking for your financial support. A convenient way to contribute is through the PAR (Pre- Authorized Remittance) programme. Many of our congregation are already on PAR. Contact our Office Administer to sign up. If you are already on PAR and would like to increase your givings, contact the office.

There are other ways to make a contribution. We offer several methods. You may mail a cheque to Melville United Church, 300 St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, Ontario, N1M2W7; drop your gift in the letter box at the parking lot door; make an e-transfer; or visit <https://melvilleunited.com/> to donate through Canada Helps. Receipts will be provided.

A small group of people are working on a new and exciting programme here at Melville. We are in the planning stage, and hope to begin in November. Stay tuned for details.

And finally, thank you everyone for your ongoing support of Melville United Church. We are truly blessed.

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL – Chair Karen Smillie



For adapting, pivoting and serving the Melville congregation so steadfastly during COVID, we thank you.

M &P would like to thank the search committee for their recommendation to hire Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint. We had a chance to meet with Lynda in person just after she started at Melville. We introduced ourselves and provided a little of our backgrounds and history with Melville and other churches. Lynda shared the same with us. We think she will be a great fit for our Melville family and are sure the congregation will think

so too. We look forward to a long relationship together.

Many have not had a chance to come out to a service since Covid first struck. I think some are still reluctant to. I think once you come out you will realize it is a very safe space, probably more so than a busy grocery store! On-line services have been a god send but will never quite take the place of an actual church service. We have one of the most beautiful sanctuaries in the area which you just can't appreciate over the internet. Personally, I have found it very familiar and comforting to be back at an in-person service

- despite the masks and having to space ourselves out. It is a whole different feeling to hear our minister speak or our musicians play the organ or piano or someone to sing a solo when it is in person. Having said that, our committee is very grateful to all the staff for having adapted to new ways of doing their job in this 'Covid World', quite often virtually!

Colleen, Suzanne and Martha have had to think outside the box to keep choir and musicians and youth interested and connected to the church. I'm sure it was challenging and frustrating at times, but they never complained. And they probably surprised themselves that they could adapt and find new ways of doing things.

Fall is always a busy time of year for the church office. This year even more so with a new minister and ongoing Covid related issues to contend with. Lynda did a great job getting the bulletins and services online. With live services back hopefully, that will be a little easier. Rooms are available to rent again so that has also kept Lynda quite busy. There are new renters wanting to see spaces and so many questions regarding Covid guidelines. We hope that things will settle down a little once there are some regular renters back in place. It is good to be busy though, it means the church is getting back to normal!

Our committee appreciates the energy and enthusiasm and skills all the staff bring to their jobs. M&P is here to support them, and it makes our job easier that we have such a terrific group of people to work with. Be sure to say thanks for doing a good job when you see them!

Melville Library – Open for You

Please visit the library, following health protocols, to browse, read and borrow books and also to view the interesting panels that display Melville's history. We are looking for someone to take over library duties in January from Helen Lacroix. Thank you, Helen, for keeping our library organized.

Melville Reads - Suggestions from Melville's Social Concerns Committee – Ruth Sproule

During COVID times there was a discovery of mass graves of Indigenous children on properties of former residential homes. At this time we need to educate ourselves on Canadian history and how we are being called to learn what our Indigenous neighbours have had to face.

The Social Justice Committee have discussed a book club, where different topics are read and then discussed in person or on Zoom. We read to be educated, to relax and to kill time. Let's take this time to learn.

Below is a list of titles that Ruth Sproule has found on the internet. Candy Palmater - lawyer, comedian, actor, Mi'maw person as suggested as the best Indigenous reads.

- The Inconvenient Indian, by Thomas King,
- Out of the Depths, by Isabelle Knockwood

- My Conversations with Canadians by Lee Maracle
- Indian Horse by Richard Wagamese, Five Little Indians by Michelle Good
- Seven Fallen Feathers by Tanya Talaga
- "Why Are We Here": A Meditation on Canada by Mary Jo Leddy.

Get to the library or support your local book store.

Melville Kids' Church and Youth – Martha Duncan

Kids' Church continues to meet on Zoom with Martha Duncan each Sunday at 9:30 am. Occasionally we record our session and share it with the congregation and post our artwork on Melville's Facebook page. We plan to present a short skit/dialogue for Advent in December. Stay tuned for details. We are hoping to meet in person in the near future.

Our Youth Group (Grades 4 – 8) meets every Sunday evening on Zoom or for an outdoor campfire while the weather is still mild. We have lots of fun!

If you have any questions or would like to join us, please contact Martha Duncan at jmise@wightman.ca

Social Justice and Outreach Team

Our team is committed to finding ways to help out those in need, both in our community as well as those in our global community.

We want to make information available so that individuals can access resources they need whether for food, housing, mental health or transportation. We are currently updating the Melville web site to make your search easier.

We also want to offer ideas to individuals who wish to donate their time, talent or treasures to help out others. This could include helping at a community dinner, volunteering to mentor someone or joining a book study to learn about others. And, of course, we continue to promote ways that you can give to others through the United Church of Canada initiatives.



See this United Church catalogue online.

UCW – United Church Women

With the new health guidelines in place, our Joy Unit of UCW plans to meet soon. If you wish to stay in touch and get on the Joy Unit email list let Marg know at margfrayne@hotmail.com. Watch for the sale of our delicious meat pies.