



FALL NEWSLETTER

November 2022

Team Ministry

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

Faith Formation & Youth: Naomi Flint

Ministry of Music Team: Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber

Office Administrator: Lynda Rivet

Custodian: Robert Mitchell, Suzanne Flewelling

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.

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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/>. Or get in touch with the office. 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. <http://melvilleunited.com/>

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!

Minister's Message



Greetings in the name of Christ!

I am delighted to be writing to you in our Advent newsletter. Many thanks to Susan Barth for assembling and editing it. As you will see from the articles that are included,

there are many things going on at Melville.

We have many talented people as part of our congregation, and I wanted to lift up one to you: Brad Halls. Brad is a very accomplished musician, whom we don't see very often because he is in much demand as a church organist and pianist. He is offering midweek noon hour concerts at Melville each week on Wednesdays. The concerts will run from 12:00 until about 1:30, and Brad will offer some commentary on the pieces that he plays. We are very excited for this new venture and hope you will give yourself the gift of coming to the sanctuary and listening in to his generous offering.

As well, our thanks to Ruth Sproule and the UCW, Kids Church and friends, as well as Barry Rawn, Larry Broome and Ralph Rainford, for creating and putting in place beautiful display of poppies that we had showing on the west side of the church for Remembrance Day. The poppies were knit or crocheted by members of the UCW and friends, and as well we had poppies cut out of foam material and assembled by Kids Church participants. They were then sewn or pinned on to the netting which was placed in the sanctuary to be blessed, along with a smaller display for the communion table. Barry and Ralph then worked to hang the netting and poppies on the church. Many thanks to all who participated in the many ways to see the project through.

We have a new Youth Faith Formation Leader who started in September—Naomi Flint. We welcomed Naomi after Martha Duncan retired from the position last spring. Naomi comes with varied experience for this position. She was a camp counsellor in Newfoundland at the United Church camp Burry Heights, and has worked for United Church congregations and region offices. In the interest of full disclosure, she is also my daughter, and has probably absorbed more than a bit of theology from having two United Church ministers as parents, whether she wanted to or not! We welcome Naomi and wish her well. We encourage all families, youth and children to come and check out Kids Church and the Youth program (the latter of which Naomi co-leads with Barb Smith-Young of the new Hope Springs United Church, an amalgamation of Bethany, Alma and Elora United churches).

I celebrate the very many people who respond to God's call to make a difference in our church and our community.

I wish you all God's blessings for this season of preparation and wonder,

Lynda



Social Justice & Outreach

Greetings from our small but committed team! Through the years, the congregation has generously given their time, talents and dollars to impact local and global issues. The challenges continue today and we're making a difference where we can.



Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice



Guided by Melville's updated Mission, Vision & Values statements, we set goals to June 2023. The United Church of Canada's Call for **Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice** encourages us to believe and to dare. **Both remind us that every effort makes a difference.**

There's so much to do!

1. Raise awareness, provide education and promote action on local and global issues.
 - Local concerns - CW Food Bank, Youth resources (The Grove Hub), Mental Health resources, Human Trafficking recovery (Elora House)
 - Indigenous Reconciliation and the Ninety-Four Calls to Action
 - Developing our allyship. An ally is a person who supports, advocates for, and uplifts a marginalized community to which they do not belong.
 - Water and food security.
2. Organize Minute for Mission weekly content and readers. Promote Melville's Mission & Service fund goal.
3. Update and maintain SJ&O information on Melville's website.



4. Identify gaps and actions so Melville's a welcoming environment for congregation and guests.
5. Promote Melville's relevance as a faith community, as caring community residents, and as a multi-purpose rental space. We've been busy this year!
 - March – led a Human Trafficking Awareness service
 - April – supported CW Youth Rally to raise awareness of youth concerns
 - Oct - hosted a Kairos Blanket Exercise to understand harm inflicted upon our Indigenous peoples
 - Nov – support of the CW Food Bank's Christmas Gift Program
 - Spring – Indigenous book study; Seven Fallen Feathers by Tanya Tallaga
 - Fall – Indigenous book study; 21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act by Bob Joseph
 - Ongoing – selection of Indigenous reading materials, for a variety of ages, for Melville's library
 - Ongoing - monitor/share the CW Food Bank's current Most Needed List



We plan to lead more services in the new year, raising awareness and sharing ideas to help these local groups. Personal experiences are a powerful way to raise awareness about the groups and the good works that they do. If you have a personal story that you would like to share, or if you're interested in helping out from time to time, or if you're interested in joining this team for awhile, please reach out to any member. With thanks,

Jane O'Leary, Martha Duncan, Shawna Dunsmore, Heather Halls, Patty Duncan, Rev Lynda Goy-Flint

	Jan – Sept 2022	Jan-Sept 2021	Jan-Sept 2020	Jan-Sept 2019
Revenue				
Givings	95,074.54	85,888.78	76,668.42	87,906.03
Fundraising/rental/other	35,843.50	23,992.30	18,906.08	39,240.70
Covid Gov't Subsidies		21,811.84	12,298.80	
Total Revenue	130,918.04	131,692.92	107,873.30	127,146.73
Expenses				
Staffing costs	116,735.35	92,568.32	98,272.72	89,651.18
Office supplies	12,115.66	14,935.84	10,472.25	16,343.82
Facilities	28,470.58	21,878.82	25,039.71	22,517.24
Committees	9,243.05	8,373.04	2,980.23	3,276.68
Total Expenses	166,564.64	137,756.02	136,764.91	131,788.92
Net Loss	- 35,646.60	- 6,063.10	- 28,891.61	- 4,642.19

Financial update:

The Finance committee want to THANK EVERYONE for their continued financial support. We understand personal finances can be tight, but we appreciate what people have given.



The building has been fully open for rentals since the spring and we were able to have a garage sale again this summer to help offset expenses. We are seeing more expenses this year, more inline with pre-pandemic, also with having a full-time minister vs only a ¾ time minister. The Covid-19 subsidies have ended. Starting in January we will have to pay back \$40,000 of the \$60,000 Small Business loan that we received throughout the last couple of years.

Last fall there was a campaign to get the community to help donate for the many capital projects that we have to keep the building going. With that campaign we have received about \$4,100. We receive about \$60 per month from this campaign. One of the projects that this money is to help with is the repairs to the roof that were done this fall. The repair costs were around \$42,000. We received an UpFund Grant of \$5,000 to help with this project. There is around \$32,900 still to cover from this project. Please indicate on your donations if you would like to contribute.

Thank you again for all your contributions!

Kaillie Rawn, Treasurer

Property:

Flat Roof Repair:

The flat roofs above the Upper Auditorium were coated with new roofing materials in October, 2022 by Brubacher Roofing Systems, of Elmira. They completed the application of silicone coatings and polyester reinforcement mesh over the existing roofing.

Thankfully, earlier this year Melville received a \$5,000 grant from the UpFund that covered a small portion of 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.

Sprucing up:

Thanks to Ralph, who has logged many hours, and a few other painters, several areas have been painted over the past year or so. This includes the damaged area of the Sanctuary ceiling, where the roof had leaked a couple of years ago, some areas of ceiling in the Early Years room and near the lift where there has been some water damage, the library and the St. Andrew St. doors. The library also had new flooring installed this year.

Upcoming Projects by the Property Committee:

- Several areas of the building stonework are in need of repointing and repair. This will be a large undertaking.
- Painting of exterior wood trim and window frames

Rentals:

We are glad to see that many of the past weekly rental groups have returned again this year to use several of Melville's rooms. The Sanctuary & some other rooms were rented in the spring and summer by the Elora Singers for rehearsals and concerts, both on their own and for the Elora Festival.

Early On Centre:

The Early On Centre re-opened for in person, single family programming at Melville early in 2022.

Internet:

New wifi access points were installed last fall to improve wifi service in the Sanctuary, Nursery and Fellowship Hall, by Jeremy Woods of ICS Computers,

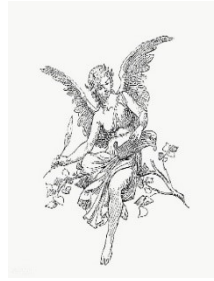
Custodian:

In July, Suzanne Flewelling began part time custodial work to assist Bob Mitchell, so that he can reduce his weekend hours. Her work is primarily focused in the Sanctuary, but she has also been working in some other areas of the building on various days.



Pastoral Care:

Pastoral Care Committee is presently working towards Christmas gift baskets for our seniors on our list. Millie has agreed to create beautiful Christmas cards again this year. We keep in touch with about 25 people at one time, adding and subtracting as needed. It has been more difficult through COVID but phone calls are made instead of in person visits. The prayer shawl ministry continues. If you know of someone in need of comfort, please take one.



You can let us know or keep it anonymous. We also have a prayer chain with members who are willing to offer prayers when a need arises. Requests can be made through the minister, the office or Alison Rainford.

Also, please remember to keep us informed of needs within the congregation so we can share with our minister and send cards for birthdays, anniversaries, sympathy or just thinking of you. Lorna is our card secretary who does a wonderful job and tries to connect with each recipient. Each member of the congregation is an unofficial member of this committee who can help someone in need in whatever way possible. Thank you.

Memory Angels: Our Memory Angels will be displayed in the Sanctuary on Sunday Nov 27 thru Advent and ending January 8/23. Those who have had Angels in the past, can renew your Angel with a minimum donation of \$5, by contacting Lorna Bevcar. Those who are new to this, can have a handmade paper Angel, with an inscription on the skirt, dedicating this Angel in memory of your loved one, from you, for a minimum donation of \$5. The Angels stay at Melville safely packed away, throughout the year. These Angels bring comfort and meaning to the Melville families throughout Advent, knowing we are remembering our loved ones.

Upcoming:

Christmas Bake Sale Plus, at Melville Saturday Dec. 17th 10 - 2pm Cookies, fudge, squares, tarts, Christmas Pudding & Sauce, Gift Boxes, Christmas Decorations, **and** Our Famous Melville Meat Pies!

If you are not a baker, please consider donating ingredients i.e.: flour, white/brown sugar, butter, raisins, pecans, walnuts, chocolate chipits, mincemeat, cherries, etc. Items should be left in the upstairs kitchen with a note on them. We "Thank you!"

Stamps:

Save your Used Stamps from Incoming Mail: The holiday season is coming and you'll be receiving cards, etc. Cut off your used stamps, leaving a 1/2" boarder around them and give them to Marlene Tosh **or** put them in the Stamp Box on the shelf in the Cloak Room, where the Lift is on the main floor of the church. Marlene tidies them up and takes them to the Bible Society, to buy bibles. You can do this year-round!

Food Bank items needed:

**Side Kicks, Apples, Oranges, Canned Fruit, Onions, Carrots, Fruit/Pudding Cups, Canned Tomatoes, Canned Meat: Salmon or Tuna, Chunky Soup (Habitat), Soda Crackers, Hamburger or Tuna Helper, Peanut Butter, Cookies, Toilet Paper.



Updated from CWFB personally Nov. 8/22

Poppies:



We felt that after the shut down for COVID, we needed to get the folks (the ladies) busy on a project. And have we been busy. Lots of poppies were knit and crocheted. The Kids Church kids made foam

ones so they could participate. We had a couple of poppy sew-ins which entailed each poppy being sewn to deer netting. November 5th, the Property Committee helped us get our display up for all to see.

We had many people stop and admire the display, cars stopping to take photos...even one lady wanted to buy one. I want to thank everyone who put their hand in to help in whatever way they could. No names as I would surely miss someone. Let this project be the start of a new beginning for Melville United Church. Working together for God's will.

Ruth Sproule

Welcomers and Counters:

We are very fortunate here at Melville to have a wonderful group of people who greet you at the door on Sunday morning as you arrive. A group of warm friendly people. We also have volunteers who collect the offering and send it off to the bank. Our lives on Sunday morning would be more difficult without them. If you would like to be part of this group, please see Ralph Rainford. On-site training will be provided. Thank you.

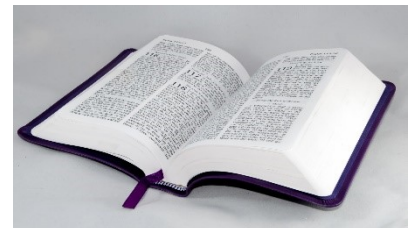
Button, button, who has their button? A few years ago we had a programme where Melville people were encouraged to buy and wear a name button. We seem to have forgotten this. You may know your name, but others may not. Can we get this idea going again? Thanks.

Faith Formation:

We welcome Naomi Flint as our new Youth Leader here at Melville. As she builds relationships with our youth and congregation we ask for your support of Naomi with words of support and suggestions of youth programs from the past that most impacted you.

Together we can build a youth program that is fun and engaging for the kids and compliments the goals of the congregation as a whole.

For our adults we continue to offer book studies and small prayer groups. If you have a suggestion of how to make Melville even better, we would love to hear from you.



We are busy planning for worship services for Advent and Christmas! Below are some of the highlights:

Nov 27th – First Sunday of Advent – communion

Dec 4th – Second Sunday of Advent – White Gift Sunday

Dec 11th – Third Sunday of Advent – Cantata, with music being offered by the Choir, Men’s Chorus, Spirit Sings and guests including Sarah Schmidt-McQuillan.

Dec 18th – Fourth Sunday of Advent – “Christmas Sunday” program

Dec 24th – Christmas Eve – **5pm** – Children-oriented service

– **8pm** – Contemplative communion service

Dec 25th – Happy Birthday Jesus! (*no service*)

