

Our Mission

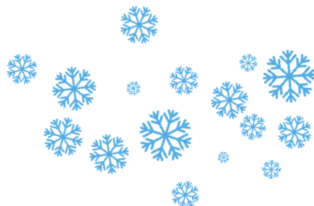
We live as a loving, inclusive faith community actively welcoming and responding to needs within and outside of our church.

Greetings Members of Melville

Sharing an update on Council work and happenings around Melville.

In March, our minister Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint went on leave for health reasons. Her time on sick leave with Melville lasted for 6 months. On September 25, we received notice that Lynda was not well enough to return to work. At this time she went on Long Term Disability which is paid by an insurance company with the United Church of Canada. This allows Melville to have funds for extra ministry. As you know, we have had very capable supply ministers on Sunday mornings. Reverends Ruth Brown, Jeff Hawkins, Marion Loree, Felicia Urbanski and Tom Watson have filled our vacancies. In October, we employed Rev. Marion to assist with Pastoral Care and Rev. Felicia to help with the Social Justice and Outreach Team and Worship and Music Committee. Council is in the process of forming a Search Committee to see if there is a minister available for long term supply.

At the end of June, the Early Years program abruptly left. This was a decision of the Ontario Early Years. It is an unexpected loss of key rental income.



Music at Melville is being offered by Brad Halls on Wednesdays from noon until 1:00 pm. This is being attended by many who thoroughly enjoy the music. Please feel free to attend whenever you can and spread the news!

Granny's Attic Treasures was a very successful venture by the Fun, Funds & Fellowship and the UCW. On Friday and Saturday of October 27 and 28 baking, meat pies and many donated items were sold. The funds raised totaled over \$3300.00. Many people came to purchase and some saw our church building for the first time.



The Memory Angels will be presented in the sanctuary again this year. New Angels may be purchased through Lorna Bevcar or Patty Duncan. Donations for existing Angels are also being accepted.

A "Cozy Closet" was offered for the first time by the Social Justice & Outreach Team. The request for donations of new or gently used coats, boots, hats, etc. was generously met. These items were offered free to anyone in the community. The Closet was opened for two Saturdays, October 28 and November 4. Due to positive response, and additional donations, more dates are being planned.



Our Social Justice & Outreach Team is raising funds for Melville’s Christmas Gift Program. Funds are used to sponsor as many children as possible under CW Food Bank’s Christmas Angel Program. Melville has generously supported 8 children so far, across three families, and the team hopes to do more. To help spread joy to more children in our community, please consider donating. Envelopes are available at the back of the sanctuary or the church office. E-transfer is also an option.

The Centre Wellington Mobile Market is a non-profit, volunteer run group that works to decrease food waste while fighting food insecurity in our region. On average, they support 60 households each week. They offer pop-up markets in high need neighborhoods throughout Centre Wellington, and meals are also delivered. Melville is supporting their good work by providing free weekly access to our kitchen until June 2024

In November, Elvis will have been in and out of the building for a show on the 18th. The Centre Wellington Singers will present their program of Christmas music on November 25th at 3:00 pm. Don Grant built new risers and refurbished the old ones for the performance.

The Trustees Committee under the leadership of Chairperson Neil Dunsmore has been very busy finalizing the deal with Eric Van Grootheest Holding Inc. and the property adjacent to our parking lot. Although the deal is not complete, it is well on its way. A part of the agreement is the paving of our parking lot at the expense of the realty company and approval of Melville. It is coming.

Remit entitled "Autonomous National Indigenous Organization". All Church Councils across Canada will vote on this proposal this February in time to reach the deadline of submission in March. To assist with our understanding of this Remit, a Learning Time will be facilitated by Rev. Felicia Urbanski on January 17, 2024 at 10:00 am and will be repeated the same day at 7:00 pm. This time will be open to any member to attend to learn, enter into discussion and perhaps make recommendations to Church Council. It will be important for Council members to attend this Learning Time.



Worship Schedule and Pulpit Supply

November 5 th		Rev. Felicia Urbanski
November 12 th		Rev. Felicia Urbanski
November 19 th		Rev. Tom Watson
November 26 th		Rev. Ruth Brown
December 3 rd	Advent 1 / Communion	Rev. Tom Watson
December 10 th	Advent 2	Kids’ Church Service
December 17 th	Advent 3 (Christmas Cantata)	Rev. Jeff Hawkins
December 24 th	11:00 am Advent 4	Rev. Felicia Urbanski
December 24 th	7:00 pm Advent 4	Rev. Ruth Brown
December 31 st		Rev. Jeff Hawkins



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Thank you to Bruce Parkin, John Duncan, Barry Rawn, Neil Dunsmore, Larry Broome and Ralph Rainford for their efforts in touching up the ceiling in the sanctuary. It looks much better.

At this time, Melville is keeping its head above water. However, there is no money available for capital projects. We have not refurbished all of the windows, the stone work needs re-pointing and the main roof will need work soon enough. If you feel the urge to make a donation, increase your weekly givings, go on PAR or increase your PAR amount, the Stewardship Committee will appreciate this.

Financial update:

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

Thank you again for all your contributions!

Kaillie Rawn

Treasurer

	Jan – Sept 2023	Jan – Sept 2022	Jan-Sept 2021	Jan-Sept 2020
Revenue				
Givings	84,175.07	95,074.54	85,888.78	76,668.42
Fundraising/rental/other	38,983.03	35,843.50	23,992.30	18,906.08
Covid Gov't Subsidies			21,811.84	12,298.80
Total Revenue	123,158.10	130,918.04	131,692.92	107,873.30
Expenses				
Staffing costs	92,547.47	116,735.35	92,568.32	98,272.72
Office supplies	11,947.25	12,115.66	14,935.84	10,472.25
Facilities	26,917.71	28,470.58	21,878.82	25,039.71
Committees	12,884.67	9,243.05	8,373.04	2,980.23
Total Expenses	144,297.10	166,564.64	137,756.02	136,764.91
Net Loss	- 21,139.00	- 35,646.60	- 6,063.10	- 28,891.61



We are attempting to reach all who have a connection with Melville. For those of you who are on the "Grape Vine", your copy of this letter will come electronically. For others it will be mailed to you. It is our intention to send out a brief letter after each Council meeting at the beginning of the month. We still have a large part of our congregation who for some reason are not on the Grape Vine. We ask that you do your part to help us with the distribution of these newsletters. Mailing a large number of these letters is expensive, one dollar for postage plus envelopes which adds up to over \$100.00 per month. We will however, continue to mail out to all who ask. If you are not on the Grape Vine, please contact the church office (519 843-1781) to add your name. If you want a hard copy (printed version) also contact the office and we will accommodate your request. If we do not hear from you with your request, we will assume you are not interested. Many thanks.

And finally, a word from the editor. I agreed to take on this task of putting together a brief newsletter after our monthly Council meeting. It is long over due and Council would like to keep the congregation up to date with happenings at Melville. I am the Secretary of Council and this task only becomes an extension of my job description. Enjoy what is contained here. Offer help if you are able. Come and worship with us on a Sunday morning. Above all enjoy life! Merry Christmas Everyone.
Ralph Rainford

