



### Our Mission

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

### Chair of Council

Council held a lunch and learn after the service on November 17th. It was remarked by all present that we should really do this more often as it was a great opportunity to talk to each other, let alone the importance of the subject matter.

The Halo report gives a dollar value to all the work we do as a congregation. Now that we have a baseline of our value to the community it is on us to grow that number and make ourselves an indispensable part of Centre Wellington.

Through new relationships we hope to cultivate opportunities to partner with other organizations to improve our building and make it work for all for now and well into the future. Council hopes to have more exciting news to share on this in the new year.

Merry Christmas!

– Alan Hons

### Kids Church

“May your mouth be filled with laughter and your lips shout of joy” Job 8:21.

Well, we certainly have had a lot of laughter and joy on Sunday at Kid’s church with our newest members, “Lucille” and “Frederick”, (who may be Frederica!). It’s been wonderful to have two pews full of children. We wrapped up our lessons around the Sea of Galilee, “Jesus is with me thru all of life’s storms and waves”. and learned to write the secret code “I am a follower of Jesus” with a humorous presentation of the disciples “Gone Fishing”. October 13, Thanksgiving, we “Gave thanks with all our hearts” Psalm 138:1 and moved onto praise.

Happy moments, Praise God,  
Difficult moments, Seek God  
Quiet moments, Worship God  
Painful moments, Trust God  
Every moment, Thank God.

November 10th, Remembrance Day was a day to celebrate and remember the Christian values of courage and Love. We built Cairns of twelve stones with lots of glue! Signed a decree to work towards, peace in our lives and remember God’s goodness. We have begun preparation for White Gift on December 8th and pulled out Mary and Joseph to prepare them for “A



Child is Born" All that matters now is how we love.  
Yours in Christ, Ann E. Ward

### Pastoral Care Committee

Pastoral Care Committee is planning our Christmas bag program again. Millie has agreed to design and print cards, Diane has agreed to bake her delicious cookies and Ruth, with friends will see to the bags. These will be in the sanctuary in early December for distribution.

A big thank you to Bunny who is doing an excellent job of keeping us informed of special occasions and sending greeting cards. Once again, a big thank you to Lorna for her years in this role.

### Pickle Ball Anyone?



Do you play pickle ball?

Would you like to do this at Melville? We are investigating the idea of starting an

afternoon recreational time in the fellowship hall and want to gauge the interest of our congregation. Please contact Mary Lloyd (mary@ralphbasset.com or 519-766-8818) or see her in church. Thanks!

### 2024 in the Garden - Thyme with God

Greetings from the Garden! We were blessed with a great season in the garden thanks to some early warm weather and spring rains. Our seasonal harvest included: herbs, kale, rhubarb, asparagus, cucumbers, lettuce, peas, radishes, beans,

carrots, tomatoes, peppers, onions, raspberries, potatoes, and of course our famous garlic!

Most of what we grow is from seed (many thanks to Kaillie and West Coast Seeds) and other plants such as herbs and salad greens are purchased to help get a jump-start on the season.

Our deliveries to the CW Food Bank in Fergus started in early June and continued weekly until Thanksgiving. The Food Bank volunteers who greet us are always curious about what veggies we bring them. We also treat the volunteers with some cut flowers like lavender for their desks.

The tomato harvest was fantastic thanks to the late summer sunshine and warm weather. However, we have noticed a few



of our garlic plants were affected by a pest that is new to the area. We were able to

harvest over 150 heads of garlic in July, and after drying them for two weeks, we trimmed and cleaned them all. We lost only a few to the pest but were so pleased to donate over 125 heads to the Food Bank. We have planted next year's crop in a slightly different way to hopefully get ahead of the pest.

Thank you again to everyone who donated their time and gifts. What a beautiful and special space and your donations help keep it going! We invite you to visit and enjoy

the garden. It is a lovely area to sit in and spend a few moments of quiet reflection.

With the increased demand for our food banks, we are always looking for ways to increase our harvest. We welcome you to join us weekly for conversation, watering and just a little bit of weeding during the growing season.

See you in the garden!

Kaillie, Shawna, Karen, Barry and Linda Mae

### **Faith Formation**

Faith Formation is very happy to be working with Ann Ward, our Youth and Kids Church Leader. Ann has many years of experience teaching Sunday School and working with Youth. She has a background in Theatre and is a wonderful artist.

Upcoming events

- Some Youth will walk in the Elora Santa Claus Parade, November 30, and collect for the Food Bank.
- There will be a Youth dinner and Games Night December 1st here at Melville.
- Kids Church will participate in a dramatic presentation, during our worship service, Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Also, during the service, children will collect small gifts for teens and toiletries for White Gift Sunday.
- Adults stay tuned for possible book studies!

Martha Duncan

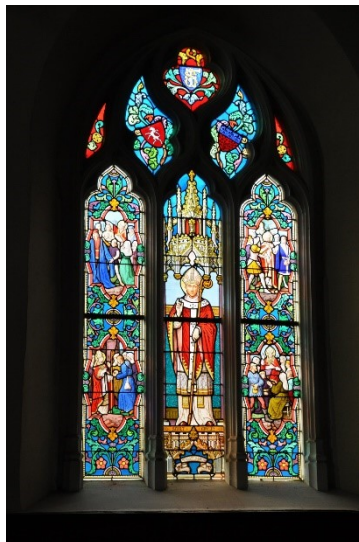
### **Property Committee**

#### Painting:

Thank you, Ralph Rainford, for re-varnishing the wainscoting and railings in the corridor at the parking lot entrance.

#### Stained Glass Windows:

During the week of November 11, Trillium Glass removed the interior sections of two of the medium sized (10'x14') stained glass windows in the Sanctuary. These windows, which face the parking lot and go up through the balcony floor, had bowed inwards considerably and have missing and failing reinforcing bars.



Trillium has taken these window sections to their shop in London to repair and re-lead the stained glass joints. The cost of this work is approximately \$13,900+ HST. Thankfully, Melville has received a \$5,000 grant from the UP Fund (from the former Waterloo Presbytery Extension Council) to assist in funding this project.

#### Boiler

In October, the boiler required some emergency repairs so it could operate for the season. It was found that one of the small heating tubes inside the boiler was leaking, which allowed water from the boiler to drain into the main flame tube. Thankfully our contractor was able to replace the leaky tube during the same week. The boiler is now working fine, after those few days of cooler temperatures in the building. Thank you for your patience.

### Snow Clearing:

We have again engaged Bellamy Contracting Services for clearing snow and looking after ice control in the parking lot for the season.

### Rentals

The Centre Wellington Singers are planning to hold a concert in Melville's Sanctuary on November 30.

We are in discussions with, and have held a few meetings with, a non-profit organization regarding a long term daily rental, which remains fully on board with coming to Melville. They plan to use the Heritage Room. It will still be several weeks before this is finalized.

The Centre Wellington Mobile Market group is currently renting the kitchen to prepare and distribute meals for needy families in the community.

### **UCW Report**

UCW continue our main fundraiser... selling meat and turkey pies.

We are providing supervision and basic supplies for all rentals of our kitchen.

A Christmas Bake Sale is planned for December 14, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. or when we are sold out. We will be in the chapel, parlour and hall upstairs. We will sell packages, tins and plates of Christmas treats ... fudge, cookies, squares, candy, Christmas pudding with sauce, tarts, pies and more. We will also be selling meat pies, Christmas decorations and vintage trains.

There will be a "pop up" women's clothing sale that day as well.

We had a fall meeting with a devotion from The Daily Minute, a lunch and a social time at Lorri Wright's with about 20+ women in attendance. We decided on our yearly donations.

UCW provided lunch for 63 on anniversary Sunday in October. We all enjoyed the delicious food and the social time together.

We want to thank Gwen Swift for her work as our Treasurer. Helen Lacroix has volunteered to take over the role.

### **Worship and Music**

December 1st – Advent One - Jeff Hawkins - Lighting of the Advent Wreath, Communion

December 8th – Advent Two – Tom Watson - White Gift Sunday - The children from Kid's Church will present a narrative entitled: "A Child Is Born". The Children will collect the White Gifts.

December 15th – Advent Three – Tom Watson – Suzanne Flewelling will lead the Men's Chorus

December 22nd – Advent Four – Felicia Urbanski – The choir will Present a Christmas Cantata organized by Colleen Weber

December 24th **Christmas Eve** – 7:00 PM  
Felicia Urbanski – Carols, Candles and Communion

December 29th – Jeff Hawkins – First Sunday After Christmas



## 2025 – The 100th year for the United Church of Canada!

January 5th – Jeff Hawkins – First Sunday for 2025

January 12th – Felicia Urbanski

Stay tuned for more information for celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



We have been very blessed with our Supply Minister

Support. Sunday, February 1 has been chosen as a Sunday to celebrate and thank these people. There will be a lunch after church and all are welcome to attend the service and celebration.

### Social Justice & Outreach

Melville's history is filled with stories of people contributing their time, talents and treasures to respond to needs in our congregation, our community, and beyond. The Social Justice & Outreach Team is grateful for the support we receive as we work to further Melville's Mission, Vision & Values. Pieces in these Statements inspire our actions;

- a loving, inclusive faith community actively welcoming and responding to needs within and outside of our church.
- actively serving as Christ's hands
- our worship is active and expressed in a variety of ways every day
- embrace and encourage the talents and contributions of all

Our role is to raise awareness and promote actions that further Social Justice. This Fall, we are busy doing both!

In support of the **National Day for Truth & Reconciliation**, the Team delivered the September 22<sup>nd</sup> service. It was a thought-provoking service with two key videos; 1) Moderator Carmen's 2024 Orange Shirt Day message and 2) Residential School survivor Dennis Saddleman's poem about his experience. Thoughtful words, moving prayers and beautiful music shared a critical message about our need to continue on the path to Reconciliation.

Mid-October, the **2024 Christmas Gift Program** was announced. Melville's families and friends are keenly aware of the children, families and independent youth struggling in our community. Their response has been inspiring! Initially, we committed to supporting 5 children. After each week's collection, we added more; first 3 more, then 6 more, and then 5 more! A total of **19** children, across 9 families, received our support. That's a 33% increase over last year. Such a wonderful response after such a difficult year. So many families are weighed down with worry, especially at Christmas. This is a wonderful way to show them there is love around them. Contributions continue to come in and we will get them to the Food Bank or Grove Hub Fergus, for any last-minute needs.

Also in October, we asked for new, and gently used, warm clothing and footwear for our **2024 Cozy Closet** event. The Cozy Closet will be open in the Chapel for three more dates; Nov. 30, Dec. 6 and 7. Again,

the response has been wonderful! Coats, footwear, knitted hats, scarves and mittens, along with sweaters and fleece wear, were generously donated. Donations continue to arrive. The Chapel is filled with organized tables and racks. We ask everyone to let folks know these items are here for whoever needs them. After Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, the items will be taken to **The Giving Spot**, a local community-led re-use program in Fergus. It now has a permanent location, year-round, in a portable behind Victoria Terrace school. It receives a variety of donations from the community including clothing, books, movies and children's toys, but not large items such as furniture. All items are free. They have a Facebook account with information about open times, drop-off times, and special events.

On Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, the Team lead a **Children's Sunday** service to celebrate the Church's commitment to children. It is celebrated annually on the Sunday closest to November 20. During an animated time with the children, their rights and responsibilities were discussed. It was heartwarming, and fun, to hear their thoughts and responses. A positive sign for the future. The baby chicks were fun too!

Our **CW Food Bank** collection basket remains at the back of the Sanctuary. In the basket, there are copies of the current most-needed list. Folks are also welcome to direct a financial donation to the food bank in the weekly offering. Please be sure to indicate Food Bank on the envelope. Like everything else, the need is growing.

Our congregation gives generously to so many in the community and world. We also want to support anyone in our congregation who needs some help. Please reach out to a team member or a Pastoral Care member.

Lots more to do before the year is done! Thank You to everyone for the abundant generosity and support to these needs. Living our mission of "actively welcoming and responding to needs within and outside of our church" creates joy for ourselves and shows our love to others. These days, we all need a little proof that love and joy are out there.

New members are always welcome on the team! If you would like to help with one specific event, or have questions about our activities, please reach out to any one of us.

With thanks from your Social Justice and Outreach Team.

- Jane O'Leary, Martha Duncan, Shawna Dunsmore, Heather Halls, Marguerite Ancliffe and Rev. Felicia Urbanski



