



Christmas 2025

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

Brad Hall's weekly concerts and the Turn up the Heat fundraising concert provided opportunity for our congregation and the wider community to enjoy some wonderful music while raising much needed funds. Melville continues to be a busy, engaging community. The Cozy Closet had another successful year in providing warm clothing to those in the wider community who are in need of support. Behind the scenes, we are close to gaining a heritage designation. This will ensure that key features of our historic building are preserved. At the same time it will provide access to grants that can help to maintain our historic building. We were saddened to receive confirmation that our relationship with Rev. Goy-Flint has formally concluded. We wish Rev. Goy-Flint all the best. We are now free to move forward in seeking a new minister. To that end a congregational meeting will be held on Sunday December 7th after the regular service.

As we move into the season of Advent, we look forward to our regular worship services preparing us for Christmas.

Blessings,

Lara Johnston, Council Chair

Ministry and Personnel

We have been officially notified that Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint was unable to return to her position at Melville

after two years on Long Term Disability. The Pastoral Relations Commission of the United Church approved the ending of the pastoral relationship with Melville effective the end of November.

A meeting was held this month with Rev. Lynda and three members from Regional Council; Minister of Pastoral Relations, Office of Vocation Minister, and Pastoral Support Minister who provides pastoral care to ministry personnel. They let her know of the end of the pastoral relationship and provided her with an official letter. The meeting would be done with care for Rev. Lynda and they would express our gratitude for the ministry she shared with Melville along with support and prayers of our congregation.

We wish for a complete recovery for Rev. Lynda and hope she will be able to return to ministry at some point if that is her wish.

Blessings everyone,

Karen Smillie Chair, Ministry and Personnel

Kid's Church

Let there be peace and let it begin with me. The kids continue to learn sign language and it's wonderful to see how much grace and joy it brings to our morning prayer. Lessons have been about strength and courage. May we feel God in our lives today. Matthew 28:20 "I am with you always". Psalm 27:6

, "Your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life". We have been working on our White gift presentation, "Mary, Joseph and the Angels". The children will collect your white gifts after the presentation on December 7th. The children will light the first, candle of Advent "Hope" on November 30th. "And you will seek me and find me" Jeremiah 29:13

Yours in Christ, Anne Ward

Melville United Church Women and Friends - Lorri Wright & Marg Frayne

Our spectacular banners of poppies were displayed on both sides of our front door to commemorate Remembrance Day. Thanks to all those who knit or crocheted poppies or who attached them to the netting.

The Melville UCW met at Lorri Wright's house for a brief meeting and social. We reviewed our busy fall catering efforts. Plans were made for catering an upcoming funeral at

Melville, and for a **Christmas Bake and Christmas Decorations Sale on Dec. 13**. We will sell plates of cookies, tins of cookies, fudge, mince and butter tarts, Christmas pudding, muffins, squares etc. and our beef and turkey pies. Donate baking or Christmas decorations or be our customers as you can!



The price for our beef and turkey meat pies will now be \$6. Call 519-993-3274 to order. Thank you for supporting this fund-raising effort.

UCW will make year-end donations to United Church Mission and Service fund, the Social Concerns Christmas gift card initiative and local charities. Our fundraising efforts will also go towards the new heating system.

God chooses us at Melville to meet the needs of other people in a variety of ways. You can find this hymn by Daniel Schutte to listen to on the internet or just enjoy thinking about these words:

The hymn is based on this poem:

"When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart." - Howard Thurman

Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee continues to meet monthly. Our Committee, Mary Lloyd, Eleanor Johnston and Ralph Rainford have been joined by Lara Johnston, Chair of Council and Allan Hons, Past Chair of Council. Our goal has not changed; we still need to raise sufficient funds to complete our capital projects. To update, the stained-glass windows are still in need of repair, the stone work needs re-pointing and as you are aware, the heating system needs to be replaced. And the roof seems to be an ongoing challenge. These projects come with a hefty price tag. At this time, the heating system is a priority. On October 24th under the direction of Rev, Felicia Urbanski and our own choir director Colleen Weber, and a host of support people we held a very successful music night. We raised about \$5000.00. We are asking present members of Melville, past members and the community at large

to support our fundraising. Very soon, we will be offering to people an investment opportunity to assist with our fundraising. If you would like to help, add a little to your weekly offering or drop a cheque off at the Church Office or send an e-transfer. We thank everyone for their support and we have faith that the work will be completed. Stay tuned for our upcoming events.

Respectfully, Ralph Rainford, Chairperson.

Social Justice and Outreach

Responding to needs. Actively serving. Love through community care. Words from our Mission, Vision & Values. Thank-you Melville, for bringing these words to life.

The Cozy Closet was open over 4 weekends this Fall. We worried there might not be enough clothing and footwear. Then donations came in, from the first week to the last. About 123 people visited the Cozy Closet through the month. Some shared their struggles. All shared their appreciation. One young mom was moved to tears. It made a real difference to so many people.

The Christmas Gift/Care Program is our other Fall campaign. We set a large target but weren't sure we would meet it. Then Melville responded, and we did. We supported 20 children/youth, with an extra treat for their 6 families. Plus, donations to stock the CW Food Bank, and support Christmas activities for youth at The Grove Hub - Fergus. Additional donations are still welcome.

The Cozy Closet and the Christmas Gift/Care Program directly support our community. Many lives will be touched this year. Our hope is that folks will feel the love behind that support. Thank-you.

Food items for the CW Food Bank can be placed in the basket at the back of the sanctuary. Lists of most needed items are in the basket and on the SJ&O table.

Matthew 7:7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

With thanks from the Social Justice & Outreach team.

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Committee is preparing Christmas gift packages for our 20 people in our care. Thanks to Ruth Sproule who sewed gift bags and Millie Cumming who is preparing greeting cards. Diane Maloney is once again offering her wonderful Christmas goodies. Please keep us informed of any needs. Many thanks goes to Rev Marion Loree for her time and care.

Alison Rainford, Chair

Fun, Funds and Fellowship

Memory Angels: We are accepting donations (minimum of \$5) for Memory Angels to be displayed in the Sanctuary, our loved ones remembered and represented throughout December. Please speak to Lorna Bevcar regarding your Memory Angels.

Food and Fellowship: We continue to provide food and fellowship at "Sunday Morning Coffee" and "Friday Morning Coffee and Conversation". If you can help, see Lorna Bevcar.

Mid-Day Music Concerts: Brad Halls' Piano Concerts continue each Wednesday at 12 noon. Brad will perform until December 17th, then will take 2 weeks off, and will return on Jan 7, 2026. He plans to perform until April 29th. Thank you Brad!!

Property Committee

Boiler, Heating System

Our engineering consultant has begun design and is continuing with the investigation of options for the replacement of the boiler as the main heating system of the building.

Rentals

We are in discussions with the Centre Wellington Child Care Co-operative regarding their proposal to rent the Heritage Room and share the rear yard garden area. This is expected to proceed in the next few months.

New Sidewalk

Thank you to the Trustees who funded and arranged for the replacement of the concrete sidewalk, from St. Andrew St. to near the fire escape steps. A large concrete pad was also included that allows for a car to park and unload passengers near the door to the lift.

Worship and Music Committee

News of the 100th Anniversary Banner

It is a delight to hear that the 100th Anniversary Banner is being passed around by the 11 churches that took part in the special Celebration hosted by Melville. Often the Banner is used when one of the Congregations is celebrating a special event. Some of the representatives from the 11 congregations met to discuss the possibility of gathering to come together in the hopes of continuing the bond that began with the planning of the 100th and the decision is that an afternoon in the park will be held at the Arthur United Church from 2-4 pm. The date and further details will be available in the spring.

“Then Let Us Sing” is a new United Church song book that was introduced to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the church. Arrangements have been made to order a book for our Organist, Colleen and Pianist Suzanne, and you can be assured that in the coming months the Choir and Spirit Sings will present a selection or two from the book. Looking ahead: Melville will be hosting the World Day of Prayer service in March and the congregations in Centre Wellington will be participating in that service

Faith Formation

Our **Kids’ Church**, led by Ann Ward, is thriving. Children and Youth are engaged in faith-based activities, including games, art and drama. They are currently working on a drama presentation which they will perform during our worship service, **December 7th**. During that service, children will also gather “**White Gifts**” from the congregation. You are invited to donate toiletries or small gifts for teens or single parents.

On October 29 a workshop, led by the **Reverend Donna Mann**, was held at Melville. Reverend Donna spoke about her latest book, **Faithful Choices in Faith and Mission**, which discusses celebrations, uncertainties, and unique challenges in rural and small churches. Other presenters, Martin Anderson and Roxanne Bale led discussions about how vital it is to respect our seniors (elders) and to give them opportunities to share their stories with us. How we can learn from these stories and from the wisdom these individuals impart. Several books were purchased for our library and possible book studies.

Our Library is full of inspiring, spiritual and cultural, fiction and non-fiction books waiting to be signed-out. If you need something new to read, please have a look!

Please check announcements for a possible Avent study.



		Actual		Budget
		Jan - Sept 2024	Jan - Sept 2025	Jan - Sept 2025
Revenue				
Givings	106,810.50	86,701.25	98,999.97	
Fundraising/rental/other	43,897.00	49,149.35	32,625.03	
Total Revenue	150,707.50	135,850.60	131,625.00	
Expenses				
Staffing costs	78,503.47	79,856.02	102,153.00	
Office/Facilities/Committees	43,624.02	56,619.04	72,800.95	
Total Expenses	122,127.49	136,475.06	174,953.95	
Net Surplus (Loss)	28,580.01	-624.46	-43,328.95	

Building Fund as at Sept 30, 2025 = \$9,898.45

Heating System funds as at Sept 30, 2025 =
\$7,224.25

