

Melfort United Church Newsletter

Christmas 2017

Season's Greetings to all
Melfort United Church
community,
From the minister's desk

During Advent we practice the discipline of opening our hearts to the presence of Christ in our midst; we wait for a glimpse of the truth that he is with us; we long to experience the joy of his presence and the wonder of the love of our God, who became flesh and dwelt amongst us and whose Spirit is with us, encouraging us to join in the living of God's reign here and now.

In our waiting and anticipation, we hear the Angelique message of Luke 2:10 calling us "not to be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people." Individually or collectively, this season may find us with very little to be cheerful or joyful about. Gloom and doom or darkness may be the cup we drink on a daily basis, but amidst all these, God's angel appears to tell us, "I bring you good news of great joy, a savior has been born for you and all the people – and through him, all that frighten have been done with. The hopes and promises of the years have been fulfilled. It is a Christmas message we all long to hear and receive, that, hope, peace, joy and love will be for all – small and great altogether!

*May these be the gifts you enjoy this holy season and beyond!
May the Christmas season fill your home with joy, your heart with love, and your life with laughter.*

Merry Christmas!

Rev. Emmanuel Menyereye

Contact Us

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Minister:

Rev. Emmanuel Menyereye

Office Administrator:

Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker:

Faye Greier

Music Director:

Mavis Peters

Sunday Services 10:30 am

Office Hours:

Tuesday –Thursday 9am-3pm



Worship Committee

December 3, 10, 17 & 24

- ❖ candle lighting on the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

December 17th

White Gifts Sunday

December 24th

Christmas Eve Service 7pm

Presbytery Visit:

Thursday, Jan 11th:

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm, meeting with Emmanuel in his office

4:00 - 4:30 pm, M&P

4:30 - 5:00 pm, Board

Break

5:15 pm - 6:00 pm, pot luck supper

6:00 - 7:00 pm, meeting with congregation, including Board

Choir

Choir practice is every Wednesday at 7pm. New members are welcome.

Bell Choir

Thursdays at 4:15pm.

Pastoral Care

Meets the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month at 10 am. If you know of anyone who would like a visit, please contact the church.

Women Alive - UCW

Meets first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7pm.

UCW Naomi Unit

Meets fourth Monday of the month at 2pm.

People News

Funerals

Our sympathy is extended to friends and family.

Clarence Parsons

Arcie Roger Wilton

Betty Freistadt

Velma May Campbell

Shirley Ann Sproule

Baptisms

Kurt Roland Jameson

Carson, son of Arnie &

Kayla Carson

When the Holy Child is born into our hearts there is a rain of stars, a rushing of angels, a blaze of candles. This is God burst into our lives. Love is running through the streets. -Ann Weems



Finance Committee

The members of the 2017 finance committee are Peggy George and Cheryl Sproule with Kim Eskowich volunteering whenever he can....THANK YOU Kim. We meet on the Tuesday prior to the Melfort United Church Board Meeting. We review the monthly financial statements prepared by our office administrator Denise Todosichuk.

Other duties of our committee are:

- opening the church in the month of December
- providing noon lunch the first Sunday in December
- preparation of the Annual Budget & annual committee report
- deposit offering, noon lunch money and other fundraising monies
- inform congregation of financial commitments & what is required to keep the church in operation.

We invite anyone interested in helping with this committee to please speak to Cheryl, Peggy or Denise as this is the last year of Peggy's four year term.

Respectfully submitted by:
Peggy George

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isa 9:6



As we rejoice and celebrate this wonderful season of Christmas, let us not forget to thank baby Jesus for coming into our lives. Let us together prepare ourselves to welcome him into the homes of our hearts.

Christian Education

We are so proud of the children and youth in our church. They did an excellent job leading the worship service on Children's Sunday, Nov. 12th. Many of them have joined the choir and are a wonderful addition to the music in our Sunday morning services. Keely and Alia Hadwen are again collecting pajamas for the Salvation Army. Our White Gift Sunday is on Dec. 17th and the children will be leading that service as well. Come out and join us in celebrating the Christmas season.

Respectfully submitted by:
Bea White

**Every day you make a difference in someone's life with
Mission & Service.**

Thank you for your part in this hope-fulfilling story.



Message from the Board Chair

How did the season of Advent arrive so quickly? Everyone is busy preparing and anticipating - be it at home or at church. At church, the sanctuary has been dressed for the season, our choirs are busy practicing special music, The Christmas Tea and Bazaar was a great success because of the hard work of the planners and volunteers, the Sunday School is busy preparing for the White Gifts Service, Emmanuel and the worship committee are planning for the December services and more. Thanks to all of you, the members, if it wasn't for the contribution of your time (be it big or small), our church would not be.

A couple of our members attended a workshop earlier this fall and have willingly shared the info with the congregation and the board. The current input sheet entitled "Grow Our Church Continued" (that you currently are being asked to fill out and return) came from the info gleaned at the workshop. Our Moderator spoke at the workshop and encouraged congregations to try to meet the needs of as many people as possible within the congregation and to reach out to others we may need to step out of comfort zone and try something new. She said it is better to have tried and failed than never to have tried at all. So by completing the "Grow Our Church Continued" input sheet - you will allow us to know what things are of interest to you and if you might be able to help with them.

We have been advised that in mid-January we will be receiving a visit from Presbytery. The team visiting us will consist of Carole Beale McKenzie as team leader and Effie Warkentine. Presbytery visits each Pastoral Charge every three years to provide care and encouragement. They will be meeting with our Minister, Ministry and Personnel Committee, Church Board, and congregation members. We will provide you with details of the visit as soon as they are finalized and will be announced in our worship bulletin.

At our November board meeting it was passed that our Annual Meeting has been set for March 4. With that info also comes a request for you to consider filling a position on the new board. We will have a signup sheet in the CE foyer. Please indicate what committee you might best use your talents on.

We have had a busy fall with many successful events - Garage Sale, Fall Supper, the Scott Wood's Christmas Show to name a few. As we enter into this Advent season let's remember to take some time to prepare our hearts for the celebration of Jesus birth. On behalf of myself and my Co-Chair Lorne, we wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Respectfully submitted by Don Neher

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

September began with the celebration of communion on Sunday, Sept 10. On Sept 17 the Worship Committee served the noon luncheon. On this day we also celebrated the end of summer holidays and the beginning of Sunday School.

In October, Worldwide Communion Sunday was commemorated on Sunday, Oct 1. October 8 was Thanksgiving Sunday. The Sunday service on Oct 29, fifth Sunday of the month, was led by Don Neher and Jean Senecal of the Worship Committee.

The Worship Committee and their volunteers helped with the Fall Supper on November 5. Thank you to those who so willingly gave of their time! Sunday, November 12 was Remembrance Sunday. Communion was served on Sunday, November 19. The Sunday School children and teachers led the service on this Sunday.

Some important dates to keep in mind for December are:

-Saturday, Dec 2 - Christmas Tea and Bazaar

-Sunday, Dec 3 - First Sunday in Advent and Communion Sunday

-Sunday Dec 17 - White Gift Sunday- Children will take part in the service

-Sunday, Dec 24 - Evening Christmas Service at 7 pm (No Morning Service)

-Sunday, Dec 31- Morning Worship -5th Sunday of the month.

The 4 Sundays in Advent are December 3, 10, 17, 24. Jean Senecal will be asking people to assist with the readings and candle lighting for those days.

The Worship Committee would like to thank all who assisted our committee with the Fall Supper and with the serving of Communion. Thank you for your willingness to serve. I would also like to thank Don Neher and Jean Senecal who are so giving of their time to help out whenever needed.

I have a special request to anyone in the congregation who would like to serve on this committee. We are in need of 2 replacements - one for Don Neher and one for myself. I ask you to prayerfully consider taking on this task.

Respectfully submitted by,
Gloria Stushnoff, Chair

For the Young and Young at Heart

The Christmas Story

Once upon a time,
A long, long time ago.
Begins the story of a baby,
That most of you should know.

His daddy's name was Joseph,
And Mary was His mom,
This babe was very special
He was God's only Son.

Some angels came from heaven,
And they began to sing.
To the shepherds in the fields below,
"Glad tidings do we bring!"

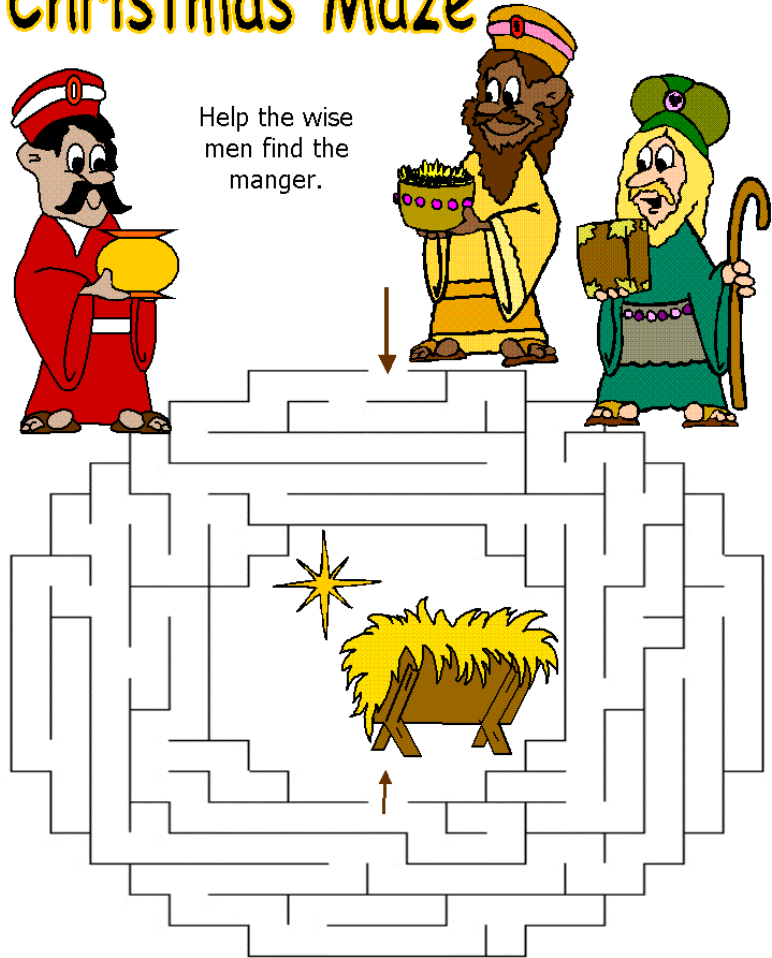
A bright star lit the heavens,
To light the magi's way,
To the baby in the manger
Who was born on Christmas day.

And all who gathered round Him,
Rejoiced and praised His birth.
For the babe, the King, named Jesus,
Is our Saviour here on earth!

by Leanne Guenther

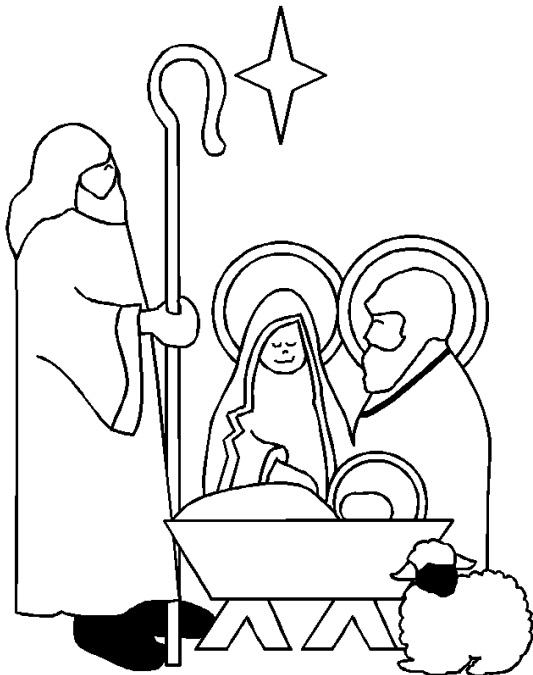
Retrieved from: <http://www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/miscellaneous/mguenther-christmas.htm>
November 23, 2012

Christmas Maze



Nativity Word Search

C A N O I T A V L A S D N S H S
Q S H E P H E R D S R F A L L U
R A T S A M T S I R H C T E J S
N E M E S I W S H E E P I G O E
J G N I K M A R Y G I U V N S J
M O S Y I H X Q U R Q W I A E T
D O N K E Y R E G N A M T D P M
Z I L I N N K E E P E R Y O H F



And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Luke 2:16



angels
Christmas
donkey
innkeeper
Jesus
Joseph
king
manger
Mary
nativity
salvation
sheep
shepherds
star
wisemen



**God
Sent us a
Savior**

*If our greatest need had
been information,
God would have sent us
an educator.*

*If our greatest need had
been technology,
God would have sent us a
scientist.*

*If our greatest need had
been money,
God would have sent us
an economist.*

*If our greatest need had
been pleasure, God would
have sent us an
entertainer.*

*But our greatest need
was forgiveness,
So God sent us a Saviour.*

Roy Lessin

United Church Women

UCW continues to be involved in many activities.

The UCW was responsible for delivering Meals on Wheels September 25th to October 6th. Since there had been a change in the criteria for receiving these meals, there were very few recipients so one person/day to deliver was all that was required.

The Women Alive unit enjoyed a session of chair yoga in September, a Halloween party in October, and made plans and preparations for the Christmas tea in November. The sanctuary and C.E. center were decorated for Christmas late in November.

The Women Alive unit coordinated the cooking of turkeys and gravy, for the fall supper and the Naomi unit prepared potatoes, coleslaw, cranberries, buns and pickles. The annual Christmas tea and bazaar was held on Saturday, December 2nd. Emmanuel gave a warm welcome to the guests as he opened the tea at 2:00pm. The afternoon was very successful with more than 100 people enjoying tea and dessert. The items at the bake table were plentiful, and there were also a variety of interesting items at the "New to You" and Bazaar tables. Thank you to all of those that supported the tea in any way, by donating baking, "New to You", Bazaar items, and desserts for the tea; to those that worked prior to or at the tea, and to all of those that attended the tea. Reg Wingham won the Daisies and Dreams floral arrangement and John Kolodinsky won the United Church 100th Anniversary Cookbook.

This year we tried a new structure to our UCW general. We had a core executive of Co-chairs: Carol Mellon and Anne McIntosh, Treasurer: Sharon Heavin, and Secretary: Robin Miazga. We held only 2 general meetings, one in January and one in September. Executive meetings were held as needed. At the January meeting volunteers signed up for convening various events throughout the year. This new system seemed to work well. We will be deciding at the January meeting, what type of meeting structure that we will have for next year. In order to continue, we definitely need to have volunteers for the leadership positions. The next UCW general meeting will be on January 18, 2018. We will have a pot-luck at 12:00 noon, followed by the business meeting at 1:00 pm.

Thank you to all the UCW members that contribute to our many projects and to all women of the congregation who help out when they can. We encourage women of all ages to join us for fellowship, or helping out at any event.

Respectfully submitted by:

Anne McIntosh and Carol Mellon

The Four Candles

Author Unknown

The Four Candles burned slowly. Their Ambiance was so soft you could hear them speak...

The first candle said, "I Am Peace, but these days, nobody wants to keep me lit." Then Peace's flame slowly diminishes and goes out completely.

The second candle says, "I Am Faith, but these days, I am no longer indispensable." Then Faith's flame slowly diminishes and goes out completely.

Sadly the third candle spoke, "I Am Love and I haven't the strength to stay lit any longer." "People put me aside and don't understand my importance. They even forget to love those who are nearest to them." And waiting no longer, Love goes out completely.

Suddenly...A child enters the room and sees the three candles no longer burning. The child begins to cry, "Why are you not burning? You are supposed to stay lit until the end."

Then the Fourth Candle spoke gently to the little boy, "Don't be afraid, for I Am Hope, and while I still burn, we can re-light the other candles."

With Shining eyes the child took the Candle of Hope and lit the other three candles.

Never let the Flame of Hope go out of your life. With Hope, no matter how bad things look and are...Peace, Faith and Love can Shine Brightly in our lives.



FALL SUPPER 2017

The annual fall supper was held on Sunday, November 5. We served approximately 440 people, including about 64 takeout meals. A huge thank you to our amazing congregation who signed up to work, to cook, to bake, to clean up, to drive, to donate food and money and then came to have supper. The response was the best that we have ever had, resulting in fewer phone calls having to be made.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Sproule on behalf of Gale Strachan and Bea White.

Christmas Office Hours

The church office will be closed from December 26th to December 28th. Emmanuel will be taking study leave from December 28th to January 5th. 2017 donations will still be accepted during this time. You can drop the donations in my mailbox or mail them to Box 1064. I will also be periodically checking the voicemail and email over the holidays if you have any pressing concerns. For pastoral care emergencies, Emmanuel will be able to be reached on his cell at 306-930-4093.

I am blessed every day by your kindness and help. Your dedication as volunteers at the church makes my job easy. Thank you!

Merry Christmas!

Denise Todosichuk, Office Administrator

An Advent of Gratitude

Most Advent Calendars present us with a gift each day leading up to Christmas. The purpose of this Advent of Gratitude is to remind us of the gifts we already have, what we often take for granted, what we can and should be grateful for. Each daily reminder includes a suggestion for payment, a small monetary gift that in 24 days will grow into a donation, payable to a charity of your choice. At the end of this challenge, please donate to a charity, preferably somewhere local, that serves those less fortunate than you.

Day 1. Pay .25 for each woman in your family who graduated from high school.

Day 2. If you rode in a car today, pay \$1. Pay \$2 if you drove the car.

Day 3. Count the light switches in your house. Pay .25 for each one.

Day 4. How many pairs of shoes and/or boots do you own? Pay .10 per pair.

Day 5. If you have never experienced having your electricity or heat shut off due to inability to pay the bill, pay \$5.

Day 6. If you have travelled outside of Canada, pay \$2. Pay an extra \$2 if you have travelled within the past 6 months.

Day 7. Pay \$2 if you've bought a gourmet coffee in the past month.

Day 8. If you went to work today and earned an income, pay \$2.

Day 9. Pay \$1 for every refrigerator/freezer in your home.

Day 10. Count every cell phone in your home. Pay \$1 per phone.

Day 11. If you graduated from university, pay \$1 per degree.

Day 12. How many televisions do you have? Pay \$1 per TV. Pay \$1 extra if you subscribe to Netflix.

Day 13. Open your pantry. If there is more food than you can consume in 2 days, pay \$2.

Day 14. Pay \$2 if you have more than one bank account. Pay an extra \$2 if you have investments that earn income.

Day 15. If you slept in a warm bed last night, pay \$2.

Day 16. If you have visited your doctor this past year, for something relatively minor, pay \$2.

Day 17. Count the faucets in your home. Pay .50 per faucet.

Day 18. If you've bought gifts for others this season, pay \$1. If you added 'a little something' for yourself, pay an extra \$1.

Day 19. If your home has more than 25 books, pay \$1. If more than 50, \$2.

Day 20. If your parents had a high school education, pay \$1. If one attended college or university, pay \$2. \$3 if both attended.

Day 21. If you are travelling more than 100 km for Christmas festivities, pay \$1. Pay \$2 if you are confident your vehicle will get you there.

Day 22. Count the coats in your closet. Pay .25 per coat or jacket.

Day 23. Pay \$2 if you can name more than 5 people who love you.

Day 24. If you have a pet, pay \$2. Pay an additional \$2 if you have more than one.

Donation time!