



December 2019

Melfort United Church

Upcoming Events

12.1

Holy Communion Service

12.7

Christmas Tea & Bazaar

12.8

Baptism Service

Noon Lunch/Food Bank

Rotary Carol Festival

12.15

White Gift Sunday

12.20

Baptism Service

12.22

Baptism Service

12.24

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service @ 7 pm

12.29

(5th Sunday) Service led by

Jeanette Stevenson

MINISTER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

James 5:7-10 : (New Revised Standard Version)

“7Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. 8You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! 10As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.”

In this Third Sunday Epistle lesson from James, there is a clear recognition that awaiting the God's final Advent requires an extra measure of patience. This time of the year when our calendars seem to be filled with to-do and shopping lists right before Christmas - the time when the business world invites us to rush and hurry to buy this or that now before it is sold out, many a people do fall into moments of anxiety and depression as the future seems to be

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FINANCE COMMITTEE



There have been very successful fundraisers this fall—garage sale, fall supper and Scott Woods show. These events really help our bottom line. We would like to acknowledge the anonymous donor of money to go toward paying the power bill. What a gracious gesture and thank you so much.

As our year end approaches, please consider giving a little more to the church. Our financial situation remains precarious.

We wish everyone a happy holiday season. Don't forget the reason for our celebrations.

Respectfully submitted by, Kim Eskowich and Cheryl Sproule

Minister's Christmas Message Continued ...

closing in or is somehow uncertain.

It is in this context that James calls for a dose of urgent patience - the kind that should be shared in this season of waiting and expectation. With patience we can have time to look up from our self-absorbed existence and marvel at the world around us. We can notice the need around us and address it. This season gives us these days and weeks to wonder at God's coming, to right our relationships and our behaviour toward one another. These days give us the moment to put into perspective our selfish dash through life, to slow down, look up, and live right.

May the Almighty God through his empowering Spirit help you to journey through this season patiently and may his peace and love abound among you and yours. May the Christmas message of Good Will to all be real for your life and all those you love.

Have a Merry Christmas season and a Prosperous New Year!

Reverend Emmanuel Menyereye

Thanks

- Thank you to the Pastoral Care team that does so much during the year and who will be delivering Christmas cards and this newsletter to the hospital and care homes.
- Thank you to those who helped to decorate the church so beautifully for the Christmas season.
- Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Fall Supper, Scott Woods Show and Thanksgiving Pie sale such a success!
- Thank you to everyone who contributes to the life of our church in so many different ways!

UCW MESSAGE

We are well into the Fall routine, and nothing says “Fall” like our church hosting the annual Fall Garage Sale. The UCW members were very active at this event. Thank you to all who assisted with this huge undertaking! And special thanks to the coordinators, Garry Forsyth and Fay Greier.

Our Fall general meeting kicked off with a potluck supper on September 19th.

Many of our members and the congregation baked pies for the Melfort United Church’s Pie Sale hosted by Women Alive on October 10th. The Pie Sale realized \$858 00. Thank you to all our bakers and buyers!

Late October saw the entire church work together to plan, donate, volunteer, and prepare a sumptuous meal for 416 appreciative diners at our November 3rd Fall Supper. Thanks to the congregation, board committees, the UCW units, and the coordinators, Cheryl Sproule, Gale Strachan and Bea White.

Upcoming events include a trip to the Galapagos Islands through the pictures of Anne McIntosh. Her presentation is to be held on November 19th at 7 p.m. in the CE Centre. We look forward to this evening.

Iris Kaminskas from Naomi unit is being celebrated on November 23rd on her 80th

birthday. Everyone is invited to share in the celebration at 2-4 p.m. in the CE Centre.

Our sanctuary and CE Centre will take on a new look as we begin Advent season. Women Alive unit will be decorating on November 26th. We don’t often publicly thank these ladies and the decorating committee who faithfully decorate each liturgical season. You all do a wonderful job! Please know it is greatly appreciated!

Once again this year, Naomi unit is sponsoring a Mitten Tree. Let’s see if we can fill the tree as well as we did last year!

Women Alive will be having their Christmas meeting at Nickle’s Corner this year. Naomi has yet to decide on their Christmas get together.

Please note that the set up for the Christmas Tea and Bazaar will be at 1:30 on December 6th. All available hands are appreciated. We invite anyone who is able, to donate where you can – baking, bazaar items, gently used “New to you” Christmas articles, and 9x13 desserts (no nuts or cakes please). See signup sheets in the foyer for volunteering and providing desserts. Please bring a friend and join us from 2-4 p.m. on December 7th.

The UCW will be hosting the Noon Luncheon on January 12th.



Looking into the New Year, the UCW Annual meeting and January meeting will be held on January 16th beginning with a potluck lunch at noon. Our UCW membership wishes our church family a Hopeful, Joyful, Love-filled, Peaceful Advent Season.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Robin Miazga – UCW Secretary*

Church Office

The church office will be closed from December 24th to January 2nd. Emmanuel will be taking study leave from December 24th to January 3rd. 2019 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 thankful every day for your kindness and help. Your dedication as volunteers makes my job easy. Thank you!

*“May baby Jesus bring
you and your family lots of love.
May a host of angels fill your life
with joy and bliss. Merry
Christmas to you and all your
loved ones.”*

Denise



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.

Noon Lunch

The first Sunday of the month following service.
Everyone is welcome!

Food Bank Sunday

The second Sunday of the month.
Please bring your non-perishable items to support the Food Bank.

Women Alive - UCW

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

UCW Naomi Unit

Meets fourth Monday of the month at 2pm.

Worship Committee

Advent is just around the corner and we are looking forward to the special readings as we light our advent wreath each week.

December 1st - Holy Communion will be held to celebrate the first Sunday in Advent.

December 15th - White Gift Service.

December 24th - Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm. A beautiful candlelight service where the church is filled with music, joy and celebration.

December 29th - Service will be led by Jeanette Stevenson.

Don't forget about the special music provided by the choir. Every week they sound sweeter than the last.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Jean Senecal*

PEOPLE NEWS

FUNERALS:

Our sympathies are extended to friends and family of,
Elizabeth Mary Schmiedl

MARRIAGES:

Best wishes are extended to *James Kurtenbach and Trisha Neher.*

The Nicest Present

*Under the tree the gifts enthrall, but the nicest present of them all
is filling our thoughts with those who care, wanting our Christmas joy to share.*

*To you, whom we're often thinking of,
we send our holiday joy and love.*

- Joanna and Karl Fuchs

FALL SUPPER

You came, you donated food, you worked and you ate. The success of the fall supper was truly a congregational effort. Thank you so much for everything.

We served 416 people, which coincidentally was the same as last year. Our profit was \$5,187.56.

Fall supper conveners—Cheryl Sproule, Gale Strachan and Bea White.



“As the Christmas Day comes and you pray at Church, do not forget those who have nowhere to pray, those who have nowhere to live. Share the happiness and love with them. That is the best celebration you can give to Jesus.”

-Leslie Wise

“I wish this year, baby Jesus blesses you and your loved ones abundantly. Have a blessed Christmas”

-Author Unknown

“I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth,
good-will to men!”

– Henry Wadsworth Longfellow