Roots & Wings Christmas Newsletter 2026



Advent and Christmas Worship Services at Gaetz Memorial United Church 2026

Sunday Nov. 29	10:30AM	Advent 1 HOPE- Music with Sanctuary Choir, Gordon Wright - Cello
Sunday December 6	10:30 AM	Advent 2 PEACE - Music with Sanctuary Choir, Gaetz Ringers Handbells, Giving Sunday - Please bring donations for Food Bank, C.A.W.E.S, Christmas Bureau, or Gifts for Grandparents.
Sunday December 13	10:30 AM	Advent 3 JOY - "Twinkle And The Bethlehem Star" presented by Gaetz Ringers Handbells, Music with Sanctuary Choir
Sunday December 20	10:30 AM	Advent 4 LOVE - Music with Synergy Worship Band, Sanctuary Choir
Longest Night Service Monday December 21	7:00 PM	Gaetz United Church -This Service of Comfort is for all who struggle with the season during times of grief, loss, loneliness or just needing some quiet and reflective prayer. Refreshments to follow
Thursday December 24 Christmas Eve	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service music with… Sanctuary Choir, Gaetz Ringers Handbells, Denise Bedford (soloist)

The Carillon will be played throughout Advent & Christmas.

Sunday December 27	10:30 AM	Carols and Reflection
Thursday December 31 New Years Eve	6:30 PM	Ringing in the New Year Come Ring in the New Year at Gaetz United Church. Enjoy an evening of board games, music bingo and ending the evening with ringing the church bell. Munchies will be provided



Sunday Services and Christmas Eve Services are available online on our Facebook Page and on YouTube under Gaetz Memorial United Church.

A Christmas Message from the Board Chair:



Board Chair, Shari Hanson and Retiring Minister, Rev. Leila Currie at her retirement celebration, October 2026. (Photo Credit: Joanne Fairlie)

As we enter the Advent and Christmas season, I am writing to you on behalf of the Board to share my gratitude, encouragement, and hope for our community of faith.

This year, our Community of Faith (CoF) finds itself in a unique season. Following the well-earned retirement of our Rev. Leila Currie, we are walking through a time of transition —a spiritual journey "in the wilderness" as we discern what God has in store for us next. While the road ahead may feel unfamiliar without a settled Minister in the pulpit, we are reminded that the wilderness is never an empty place when we walk it together in faith.
In fact, the very heart of the Christmas story takes place in the midst of uncertainty, travel, and waiting. Mary and Joseph left the comfort of what they knew to journey to Bethlehem, trusting in a promise they could not yet fully see. The shepherds were out in the quiet fields at night when the sky suddenly broke open with glory. The Wise Ones followed a distant star across unfamiliar terrain, guided by wonder and anticipation rather than a detailed map. In every part of the Nativity, God met people right in the middle of their journey. And it was there, in humble and unexpected places, that new life was born.
As we navigate our own season of transition, I invite us to lean into three gifts of the Christmas story:

- Approaching this season with wonder: Just as the shepherds and Wise Ones looked up with awe, let us keep our eyes open to the quiet, surprising ways the Spirit is already moving among us. Being between ministers gives us a sacred pause to listen closely to God and rediscover our calling as a Community of Faith.
- Supporting one another along the way: Mary and Joseph did not walk alone, and neither do we. In this interim time, the ministry of Gaetz Memorial United Church belongs to all of us. Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to lead worship, care for our neighbors, teach our children, and keep our community vibrant. Your generosity and care for one another are the truest reflections of Christ's light.
- Holding excitement for the future: Christmas is a celebration of Emmanuel—God with us—and the promise of a new beginning. Even in the quiet of the wilderness, we rejoice knowing that God is creating something new right here in our midst! Our story as a Community of Faith is still being written. While we honor and give thanks for the faithful Ministries that brought us to this moment, we can look forward with genuine excitement to the new chapter, new partnerships, and new leadership God is preparing for us.

May the peace of the Christ child fill your homes this season. May we continue to hold one another in prayer, celebrate the blessings of the present, and step into the New Year with hearts full of hope.
Wishing you and your loved ones a deeply blessed Christmas,

Shari Hanson

Board Members: Dom Mancuso (co-Chair), Sheila Cunningham (Treasurer), Susan Nelson (Secretary), Shona Sponholze (M&P), Marsha Anders (Christian Development), Deb Heenan (Worship Events Team), Brenda Neufeld (member at large), Stee Marcinek (member at large)



"God loves a cheerful giver"
(2 Corinthians 9:7)

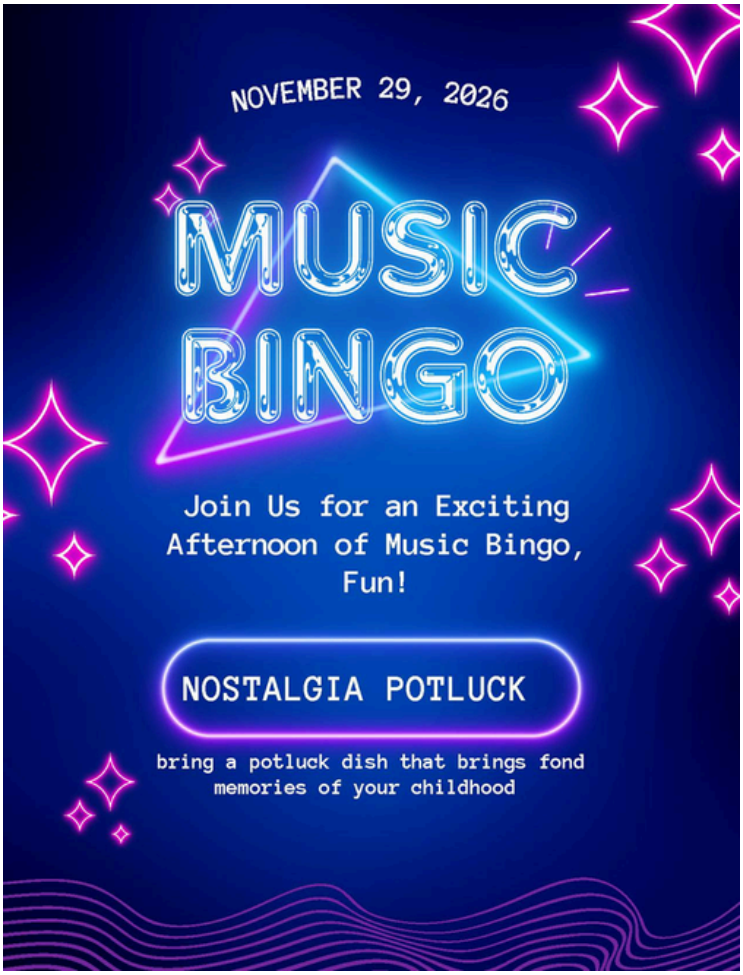
We are extremely blessed at Gaetz United Church to have a community of willing volunteers, talents brought to our various groups and committees, and steady financial offerings. We reflect on the year with gratitude for our community of faith, which allows the work of the church to flourish.
As you plan your gifts for 2026, we ask for your generous support so that Gaetz can continue providing vital ministries.
We look forward to continuing our journey of love and service with you in the coming year.

Blessings from the Gaetz Stewardship Committee
(Lorna Watkinson-Zimmer, Rosemary Congdon, Sue Schollie)

Upcoming Events









Upcoming Concerts at Gaetz Memorial United Church and Sunnybrook United Church









Do You Know What I Know?

1. Joseph was originally from...
   A. Bethlehem
   B. Nazareth
   C. Hebron
   D. Jerusalem
   E. None of the above

2. What does the Bible say that the innkeeper said to Mary and Joseph?
   A. “There is no room in the inn.”
   B. “I have a stable you can use.”
   C. “Come back later and I should have some vacancies.”
   D. Both A and B
   E. None of the above

3. A manger is a...
   A. Stable for domestic animals
   B. Wooden hay storage bin
   C. Feeding trough
   D. Barn

4. Which animals does the Bible say were present at Jesus' birth?
   A. Cows, sheep, goats
   B. Cows, donkeys, goats
   C. Sheep and goats only
   D. Miscellaneous barnyard animals
   E. None of the above

5. Who saw the star in the east?
   A. Shepherds
   B. Mary and Joseph
   C. Three kings
   D. Both A and C
   E. None of the above

6. According to the Bible, how did Mary and Joseph get to Bethlehem?
   A. Camel
   B. Donkey
   C. Walked
   D. Joseph walked, Mary rode a donkey
   E. Horse-drawn chariot
   F. Who knows?

7. How many angels spoke to the shepherds?
   A. One
   B. Three
   C. Multitude
   D. None of the above

8. What did the angels say/sing?
   A. “Glory to God in the highest, etc.”
   B. “Alleluia”
   C. “Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given”
   D. “Joy to the world, the Lord is come”
   E. “Glory to the newborn King”

9. Which combination of gifts did the Magi bring to Jesus?
   A. Gold, silver, and myrrh
   B. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh
   C. Frankincense, myrrh, and fine linen
   D. Gold, spices, and olive oil

10. According to the Gospel of Luke, why did Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem?
    A. To visit Elizabeth and Zechariah
    B. To attend a wedding feast
    C. To be registered for a census decreed by Caesar Augustus
    D. To escape King Herod

11. What are the four traditional themes represented by the candles on an Advent wreath?
    A. Faith, Hope, Peace, and Grace
    B. Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love
    C. Peace, Patience, Kindness, and Goodness
    D. Hope, Worship, Wisdom, and Love

12. Which two Gospels in the New Testament include accounts of the birth of Jesus?
    A. Mark and John
    B. Matthew and Luke
    C. Matthew and Mark
    D. Luke and John

13. Which beloved Canadian Christmas carol was written by Jesuit missionary Jean de Brébeuf in the 17th century?
    A. See Amid the Winter's Snow
    B. In the Bleak Midwinter
    C. The Huron Carol ('Twas in the Moon of Wintertime)
    D. What Child Is This?



Answers

1. A	8. A
2. D	9. B
3. C	10. B
4. D	11. B
5. A	12. B
6. D	13. C
7. A	

MERRY CHRISTMAS !

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