

**AUGUST  
2025**

# NEWSLETTER

## CLIFFORD PASTORAL CHARGE

[www.cliffordpastoralchargeuc.ca/](http://www.cliffordpastoralchargeuc.ca/)

[clifforduc@wightman.ca](mailto:clifforduc@wightman.ca)

P.O. Box 205, Clifford, ON N0G 1M0

519-327-8378

[revsuetell@gmail.com](mailto:revsuetell@gmail.com)

Rev. Sue Hertell

403-578-6027

*Alsfeldt, Ayton  
101429 Concession 6  
Normanby Township  
R. 2, Ayton  
N0G 1C0*



*Knox, Clifford  
11 Allan Street East  
Clifford, ON  
N0G 1M0  
519-327-8292*

**Combined Worship at 10:00 am,  
alternating between Alsfeldt and Knox**

Weekly emails are sent informing of each Sunday's Worship Service details and announcements. If you are not receiving these emails, and would like to, please email the church office [clifforduc@wightman.ca](mailto:clifforduc@wightman.ca) to be part of this communication.

**Sunday, August 3**



**10:00 am Outdoor Service** at the home of Anne Matthews – 5946 Normanby-Minto Townline, Clifford led by Rev. Sue. Remember your **lawn chair**. **BBQ Picnic Lunch** to follow – please bring a salad or dessert to go with hamburgers/hotdogs.

**Sunday, August 10**

**10:00 am at Knox** – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost  
Rev. Sue Hertell leading worship.

Thursday, August 14

7:00pm Pastoral Charge Board Meeting at Knox.

**Sunday, August 17**

**10:00 am at Alsfeldt** – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Rev. Sue Hertell leading worship.

**Sunday, August 24**

**There will be no worship services at Alsfeldt or Knox.**

Saturday, August 30

8:30-9:30 am **Men's Breakfast** at Dell's Diner in Clifford.

**Sunday, August 31**

**There will be no worship services at Alsfeldt or Knox.**

**Sunday, September 7**

**10:00 am at Knox** – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Rev. Sue Hertell leading worship followed by **Potluck Lunch**.

**Benevolent Fund** is available for those in our church and community who are in need. If you, or someone you know, is in need you can contact the church secretary Ellen Underwood 519-327-8378 (office) or email [clifforduc@wightman.ca](mailto:clifforduc@wightman.ca) or call her home 519-392-8573, cell 519-418-9560.

**Thank you** to all who submit photos and information to each monthly Newsletter. Send your submissions to the church office [clifforduc@wightman.ca](mailto:clifforduc@wightman.ca), drop off at the church office, or call Ellen at home 519-392-8573, office 519-327-8378.



**If you are unable to give your offering at in-person worship services you may-**

**\*send to your church treasurer**

Alsfeldt- Chris Newman, P.O. Box 197, Ayton, ON N0G 1C0

Knox- Carman Weppeler, 5705 Minto-Normanby Townline, Clifford, ON N0G 1M0

**\*send your cheque to the church office**

Clifford Pastoral Charge, P.O. Box 205, Clifford, ON N0G 1M0

**\*contribute by PAR. Pre-Authorized Remittance. If you would like to set up a pre-authorized remittance account, please contact your church treasurer.**



To learn what the benefits of PAR are and how you can easily have your monthly offering happen easily, go to: <https://united-church.ca/.../giving-monthly-through-par>

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## **Reduce/Recycle/Reuse as you reach out to others:**

The Pastoral Charge continues to collect the items listed below. Please drop off your contributions in **the green baskets** at the entrances of each church.

**Stamps** - used; if you are able, please trim with ¼" of envelope around the postage stamp and put them in an envelope or bag.

**Pop tabs** - to help purchase wheelchairs through the sale of the aluminum.

**Milk bags** –the outside bag holding the 3 litres; please flatten and fold. The bags, when cut into strips are crocheted/woven into mats for the homeless.

**Glasses** – used eye glasses are given to the local Lion's Club to distribute as needed



### **Monthly Men's Breakfast**

**Saturday, August 30, 2025**

Men, you are invited to a **monthly breakfast from 8:30-9:30 am on the last Saturday of each month at Dell's Diner in Clifford.**

Contact Lorne Underwood for more information 519-392-8573.



## From the Minister's Desk...

There is nothing more energizing than to be with our young people! They teach us about the joys of life and remind us of God's willingness to bring joy into our adult lives! With so much division and fear in our world, and so many responsibilities and challenges in our communities and homes, we welcome opportunities to take some "time out" in this summer period and "listen" to our children!

The summer marches on, too quickly it seems, and yet we are thankful for the beauty of this time of year. The crops in the fields, the combining taking place, and the summer sunsets remind us that God is indeed with us! May we be inspired to "re-connect" with our God this day and always!

*Blessings, Sue*



**Clifford Pastoral Charge is Taking a Break for 2 weeks in August!** There will be no worship on Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. The Pastoral Charge Board encourages you to worship at a neighbouring church, enjoy family time, explore your faith in other ways.

## Centennial Give 100 Campaign ~ June Update

The Clifford Pastoral Charge has once again met and exceeded it's June goal for the Centennial 'Give 100' Campaign! Congratulations!

In June, we were collecting toothpaste and toothbrushes in the hopes of gathering a combined 100! Not only did we collect 100 together, but we very narrowly missed having 100 EACH of toothpaste and toothbrushes! Just incredible is the spirit of giving in our church! We are working together to make a small impact on others in our community! The toothbrushes and toothpaste will be shared to a variety of local charity organizations.

Just a reminder that we are not collecting items in August for this campaign, but will have a new goal for September!



*Beth-Ann Wepler*

**The following thank you card was received following the delivery of the 'Give 100 Campaign' of soups and stews.**

To the Congregations of Knox and Alsfeldt:

Thank you so much for all of the items donated and collected for the Clifford Food Bank. Your support and generosity has helped in filling our shelves and supplying those in need. We appreciate your caring and kindness toward our efforts and wish you God's richest blessings in the future.

The Clifford Food Bank Committee





If you or someone you know is in need of some pastoral care, please let us know so we may respond. We would

also appreciate if you would let us know if anyone is having a celebration such as a special birthday, anniversary, birth.

**Rev. Sue Hertell**

**Phone/text: 403-578-6027**

**Email: [revsuetell@gmail.com](mailto:revsuetell@gmail.com)**

**Anne Matthews (Alsfeldt)**

Home: 519-327-8306

Email: [matthews1978@wightman.ca](mailto:matthews1978@wightman.ca)

**Judith Anne Douglas (Knox)**

Cell: 519-292-1496, Home: 519-335-3802

Email: [jad335@hotmail.com](mailto:jad335@hotmail.com)

**Ellen Underwood, Secretary**

Phone: 519-327-8378 office

Home: 519-392-8573, Cell: 519-418-9560

Email: [clifforduc@wightman.ca](mailto:clifforduc@wightman.ca)

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### **We hold in prayer...**

*Please keep those of our congregations & community in your thoughts & prayers whether they are at home, or in hospital.*

Joyce Cook

Saige Dosman

Allie Eaton

Elaine Field

Larry Grummett

Erma (Dunn) MacDonald

Sam Matthews

Jim Measures

Sharon (Dunn) Stevens

All who mourn the loss of a loved one

We wish Larry Grummett all the best as he settles into his new home in Guelph this month.

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### **The following was submitted by Elaine Field with thanks:**

In recent years, it seems that we have had so many deaths in our churches and communities. My dad died in 1960 at age 56 and a friend of my sister's sent her this poem. I'll always treasure it. This is for us as we remember our loved ones who have gone with the Lord.

*\*For the name, 'Dad', insert their name.*

I walked with my Dad to the Gates of Heaven.  
He seemed in a hurry, his face alight.  
A smile, a handshake, then he turned to go,  
Through the beautiful gate to the Heavenly sight.

I grieved no more when I saw that land.  
'Twas the most wondrous place I'd seen.  
The air breathed rest and peace of mind  
The grass and trees, a beautiful green.

The gate did not open for me that day,  
But the joy and peace remained.  
When I close my eyes, I can see the gate.  
'Twill be there when my crown I gain.



## LIBRARY REPORT

Hello readers-

This month I would like to introduce you to a new book kindly donated to the Library by Elaine Field. Thank you, Elaine!

The book is entitled, **Shattered: Surviving The Loss of a Child.**

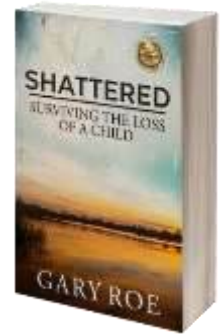
“Unthinkable. Unbelievable. Heartbreaking.

Whatever words we choose, they all fall far short of the reality.

The loss of a child is a terrible thing.

How do we survive this? Can we?

Shattered was written to help.”



Bestselling author, hospice chaplain, and grief specialist, Gary Roe, uses his three decades of experience interacting with grieving parents to give us this heartfelt, easy-to-read, and intensely practical book. It is said to be a truly healing book and it is our hope that its readers find some comfort in it. It is printed in large print.

Psalm 34:18-20 says even if you face many troubles, God will deliver you from them all. The pain of losing a child can be unbearable, and the grief that follows can make it difficult to find joy. God promises never to leave us alone in our suffering, and He stands ready to bear our burdens.

*Thank you God, that you care about us and that we don't need to carry this burden alone. Please lift up our friends who are mourning the loss of their child. Help them to cast all their worries, concerns, hurts, and suffering to You. Thank you that you care about them and their child more than we ever could. Amen.*

**Jennifer Devlin**

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## Knox Financials

The following is a financial update from Knox's treasurer. It is comparing the first six months of 2025 with 2024.

	2025 January-June	2024 January-June
Mission & Service	\$1,358.00	\$848.00
Income	\$24,230.00	\$32,521.00
Expenses	<u>\$45,098.00</u>	<u>\$32,949.00</u>
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>\$20,868.00</b>	<b>\$426.00</b>

\*Factors towards Increased expenses in 2025 –

Pastoral Charge expense	\$9,636.00
Insurance expense	\$1,316.00
General Property expense	\$2,390.00

**Carman Weppler**, Knox Treasurer





## We Were Seen and Appreciated

Once again, this year, Clifford Pastoral Charge participated in the Clifford Carnival Celebration on July 12, 2025.

At Knox church we welcomed folks to use our shaded lawn to sit awhile or play a game - Corn Hole or Jenga, or enjoy some refreshment with a cold drink of water and kettle pop corn. Many expressed their appreciation for the use of the washrooms at the front door. Quite often we would hear comments of surprise that we were not asking for any payment.

There were also quite a few shoppers at the church Yard Sale that happened on the back lawn. Approximately \$530 was raised for Mission and Service with the sales of many 'treasures' the folks from Alsfeldt and Knox had donated.

Pictured is two of the 'money-takers' at the yard sale – Ron McIntosh and Lorne Underwood.

Thanks to all who helped with this event. Your time spent in the warm weather of that day is appreciated as well as the work done to get ready..

## BY GOD'S HANDS, WE ARE FED Vacation Bible School 2025



**FOOD, FAITH, FUN** was the motto for our 2025 Food Themed VBS and we did just that!! We ate, we praised our Lord, and we made endless memories through song, kinship and laughter!

On Monday July 21<sup>st</sup> at 9am, we welcomed 21 young campers between the ages of 4 and 11 to our church basement. Monday's theme was **'Feeding ourselves so we may serve the Lord'** where we focused on feeding our own bodies both

nutritiously and spiritually. We started our day with our amazing VBS musical band of Judith Anne, Kathy and Sue who led us through a variety of fun and exciting camp songs. Then it was on to talk about breakfast!



The word *Breakfast* means to break-your-fast, wake up your body, kick start your digestive machine; it's time to get moving. While exploring the word *fasting*, we discovered that Jesus fasted for 40 days. He did this so that he could pray, talk to God and learn from God on how to best serve Him. But were we about to fast with our chefs over the two days of VBS? Absolutely not! We ate, and we ate well! There was food, food and more



food and it was all delicious thanks to our amazing kitchen team of Shelley, Anne, Dianne & Leigh!

Our first activity after our breakfast conversation was to have our chefs decorate their very own apron! This was a great way for them to get creative with paint, sponges, brushes, paint pens and lots of colour! Once the apron masterpieces were complete, the chefs created their own yogurt parfaits with vanilla yogurt, lots of berries and granola. From here it was time to go outside for a round of kick the shoe, water shooter bulls' eye off ladders and a game of guess what's missing from the mystery tray.



Once back inside we chatted about lunch and learned that Jesus had a picnic lunch where he fed 5000 people with only a few

loaves of bread and fish and had leftovers!

Our next craft of the day was to make your own cookie jar, using stickers, paint pens, colored ribbon, washi tape, feathers, bows and a random



container of old jewelry from the craft room. Wow, did our chefs ever get creative with their cookie jars!







Next up was lunch where we feasted on make your own picnic style sandwiches, veggies, fruit, chips and they still had room after that for ice cream and cookies!

With lunch over we were back outside to work off a bit of our calorie intake attempting to burst a watermelon using 3 bags of elastics and completing a chef's relay race.

Unfortunately, our watermelon did not explode as planned but a small toss by Mason from the top of a chair finished it off and created a great deal of excited squeals when it burst on the ground!



Inside it was time to talk dinner, the last meal of the day! We learned about Jesus' last meal with his disciples on Easter weekend and how Jesus shared bread and wine with His 12 greatest friends.

Sometimes dinner can be a meal we don't always like, but that it's important to try new foods, experiment with new tastes. With the word experiment in mind, we completed a series of food related experiments.

- The first was talking about yeast and how it works and we showed our chefs how the yeast can produce enough gas to start to fill a balloon with air. With this experiment the chefs got to roll out bread dough to make a soft pretzel. This became a delicious end of day snack.
- We also popped gummy bears into different solutions of water, vinegar, sugar water, soda water and salt water to see how it made the gummy bears grow, shrink and dissolve.
- Did you know that if you take a cup of water and add an equal amount of popcorn to the cup, the water cup will never overflow?
- Finally, the chefs made their own dish soap and corn starch slime putty. This definitely brought out the oohs and aaahs as they mixed and kneaded and finally had a satisfying slime ball in their hands!







With that, Day 1 was in the books and full bellied chefs happily headed home with all their creations from the day!

On Tuesday July 22<sup>nd</sup>, we switched the focus from feeding ourselves to '*Feeding others so we may serve the Lord*'. After starting our morning with



energizing songs, we asked the young chefs what are ways we can feed others? Ideas such as breakfast club at the school, taking a meal to a neighbour, the Food Bank and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank were ideas we went over. With that we sent the youth chefs off to the kitchen to create their own pizzas for lunch and to the craft table to make food themed paper



squishies. Of course, it wouldn't be another food themed camp day without more eating so once the pizza was made and the craft was complete, the chefs made their own trail mix cups to fuel their bodies for the remainder of the morning. Outdoor time was soccer drills and soccer relays. Next up was a discussion about the Clifford Food Bank. We were amazed that very few of our chefs knew what a Food Bank was and how it worked and none of them knew that the Clifford Food Bank was right in the church where they were sitting. To support our Local Food Bank, we played a lively and festive game of ***The Price is Right*** for them to win food items they would then donate to the Food Bank. So, with a great deal of cheering and excitement we split into teams and headed to the sanctuary to square off in the *Food, Faith, Fun* version of the *Price is Right*! We had 10 teams competing to guess the actual price of food items (of course without going over) to win their chance to play a game and win more food items. Our games included:

- A 30 second race from the front of the sanctuary to the back to collect food items
- Guessing if the price was higher or lower on food items
- Money tossed from the balcony and being caught by the team mate below to pay for food prizes
- Finding hidden keys and coupons to unlock prizes
- Tossing balls into oversized pants the teammates were wearing.



Oh, the fun, laughter, cheers and excitement we created!



With our time up, Ron McIntosh opened the doors of the Food Bank and with arms abundantly full with the food items they had won, the chefs dropped off and got to see firsthand the mini store that the Food Bank calls home here in our basement. It was eye opening for them and we truly feel that it was a powerful teaching moment for our VBS chefs!



With all our morning hard work the chefs dove into their homemade pizzas with lots of side options and what would VBS be without a dessert of worms and dirt!?



Our after lunch outdoor time was by far the favorite of our 2 days together with Anne's parachute of fun which even found Rev Sue tucked underneath, followed by 2 bins of water balloon tossing! The water balloons are always a hit and the campers get very competitive in having the longest lasting balloons.



Once back inside we learned about the 9 Fruits of the Spirit:

**Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control**

To help these character traits stick in our chef's mind, we sent them on a scavenger hunt to 9 different rooms of the church. At each location, they were challenged to complete a task to earn one of the fruits of the spirit.





These tasks included:

- Putting together puzzles
- Guessing the flavor of Oreo cookies
- Finding hidden words and hidden cookie cutters
- Tossing cheerios onto peanut butter targets
- Moving fish crackers with a straw
- Moving an Oreo cookie from their eye to their mouth without hands
- Finding grapes in a big pot of cooked spaghetti
- Correctly figuring out the correct order of fruit to match a specific sequence.



Once completed, they unraveled a hidden message using a secret ink revealer of turmeric mixed with alcohol. There was a lot of excitement and going up and down and around to find each of these stations, but every chef

successfully completed the task. After all that, we couldn't send our chefs home hungry - we had them make a big fruit salad to reflect the fruits of the spirit!

And that was it! With happy hearts and bellies full, we thanked our very generous Lord for an incredibly memorable two days!! By God's hands we were fed, Thank you Lord for our daily bread!!

I would like to add a very big thank you to all who were a part of our VBS story this year. We could not have done it without each and everyone who came to help.

- Thank you to our Musical Band: Judith Anne, Kathy & Sue, you gals ROCK!
- Thank you to our Registration & Kitchen **Heros:** Anne, Shelley, Dianne & Leigh!
- Thank you to our young adult helpers: Kennedy, Rea & Mason and of course Fancy!





- Thank you to Ellen, for doing all our background printing and advertising!
- Thank you to Ron for helping with our Food Bank adventure!
- Thank you to our amazing chefs, you are all beautiful inside and out!!
- Thank you to Beth Anne, whose imagination and dedication always blows me away!!

Thank you for an Amazing Food themed VBS, may God Bless each of you!!

With gratitude & many thanks,

**Kathryn Rehorst**

**\*\*As you can imagine, with an increase in food prices, we “blew our budget out of the water” as our Charge Treasurer Leigh informed us!! So, if you would like to make a donation to our VBS program this year, we will graciously accept. For your donation to be receipted, please give your gift to either Alsfeldt or Knox with a notation “VBS” and be sure to include your name. After all our costs have been collected, we have estimated an expenditure of \$35 per chef.**

### **Benediction from VBS church service July 27, 2025:**



Go out from this service today with a happy heart! Knowing that this building was used to its full potential this week, offering a safe place for 21 youth to gather. A place where minds were full of all the good in the world. Where ideas were born that were not there the week before. Where a young participant felt seen, heard, valued and that they were indeed amazing! And oh my, they were indeed amazing! Where bellies were filled with nourishment and never-ending platters of food. Where

going for seconds was ok and, in fact encouraged. Where good food was followed by good fun...By laughter, by joy, by shouts of anticipation, encouragement and excitement. This was the week where we shared all that Clifford Pastoral Charge is with the community around us and it was good. It was not only good, but it was delicious and God was pleased! Thank you for being a part of that VBS story of 2025 and may each of you be fed, and feel fed by God's hands, just as we have this week in Vacation Bible School. Amen.



### **General Council 45**

**The 45th General Council** of The United Church of Canada will take place **August 7-11 at the Calgary TELUS Convention Centre**. . To view livestreaming of GC45 go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQDu-SgFb3Rhok2eOrSyj3XOW73EIWBkd>

To learn more about the 5 nominees for Moderator go to:

<https://generalcouncil.ca/councils/general-council-45/moderator-nominees-gc45>

