

DECEMBER  
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, December 7**

**10:00 am at Alsfeldt** – Second Sunday of Advent (Peace)  
Rev. Sue Hertell leading worship followed by **Turkey Lunch**  
hosted with thanks by the folks of Alsfeldt.

**Sunday, December 14**

**10:00 am at Knox**– Third Sunday of Advent (Joy)  
Christmas Pageant led by the Youth and Children.

**Sunday, December 21**

**10:00 am at Alsfeldt** – Fourth Sunday of Advent (Love)  
Rev. Sue Hertell leading worship.

**Wed., December 24**

**7:00pm at Knox– Christmas Eve Service**  
Rev. Sue Hertell will be leading worship including Carols,  
Candles, and Communion.

*Saturday, December 27*

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

**Sunday, December 28**

**10:00 am at Knox** –First Sunday after Christmas  
A service of Carols led by the Worship Committee

**Sunday, January 4, 2026**

**10:00 am at Alsfeldt** – Epiphany Sunday  
Rev. Sue Hertell leading worship followed by **Potluck Lunch**.



## Centennial Give 100 Campaign

December brings us to a close of our Give 100 Campaign to celebrate the United Church of Canada's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! It has been fun to see all the successful collections we have had thus far (THANK-YOU!!) and we look forward to closing out the year strong! This month we will be collecting loonies (toonies will also be accepted) to fill the number '100' on a Bristol board at each of the churches! Your donated coins will be sent along to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank where they will be matched 4:1 by the Canadian Government and used in the Canadian Foodgrains mission to end Global Hunger! Every dollar counts and we look forward to filling our boards for the month of Dec! Each Sunday the youth will collect the coins to be mounted on our boards so we can watch them grow! If you wish to earmark your regular offering envelopes, please do so clearly and our treasurer team will be sure to submit the totals.

So perhaps skip the coffee line up at Tim's, search the couch cushions, empty that little dish on your dresser or that old film roll that has been rolling around in your drawer and put your change towards blessing families globally this December with full bellies and support this wonderful organization that holds ties close to the heart of several of our church members.



**Donations will be accepted at both Alsfeldt and Knox  
for the month of December**

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### Clifford Food Bank Up-date

**The Clifford Food Bank is always appreciative of your donations during the year.** They are needing the following products to do Christmas Hampers: **apple juice, pancake mix, syrup, tooth brushes and paste.**



Check out their Facebook page for regular up-dates. The Clifford Food Bank can be contacted **by calling 519-327-8588 and leaving a message.**

Collection boxes for the Food Bank are located at each entrance at Knox Church. All new non-perishable food is accepted. Any monetary donations to purchase perishable items are also appreciated. If you wish to receive a receipt for your financial donation, please make it to Knox or Alsfeldt churches and designate it to "Food Bank".



**Annual Givings** - A reminder that if you wish your givings to the church or Mission and Service to be receipted for 2025, they need to be in the hands of the church Treasurers by Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>!



## From the Minister's Desk...

Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright". We have begun our Advent journey, and, as we light the Advent candles symbolizing hope, peace, joy and love, we sing of God's vision of a better world!

A number of years of years ago, I visited Israel and walked in those ancient lands with the stories of Jesus' ministry ringing in my ears. It certainly brought me new perspectives and I came home with this olive wood crèche scene as a reminder of what those ancient stories have taught us. Into the darkness of his time, Jesus was born - a light that changed the world! In our present moment in history, we, too, seek that light which I believe still inspires us today.

As we journey to Bethlehem together these next few weeks, may we gather in worship and discover anew the light in the darkness. May we remember that Emmanuel (God with us) has been made known to us and will guide us on our life journeys.

*Blessings, Sue*

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## LIBRARY REPORT

Dear Readers

"A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones" (Proverbs 17:22). The Bible says a joyful heart is a good medicine because laughter lifts your spirits, improves your mental, emotional and physical health, and de-stresses your mind ... and here is the best part, it costs nothing.

This month I want to introduce you to a book called, "They Almost Always Come Home". This book is a light-hearted, amusing novel that is definitely good medicine for the heart. "She would leave her husband ... if she could find him.

When Libby's husband, Greg, fails to return home from a solo canoe trip to the Canadian wilderness, the authorities write off his disappearance as an unhappy husband's escape from an oatmeal marriage and an unrewarding career. But was it? She can't leave him if she can't find him. With the help of her father-in-law and her best friend, Libby plunges into the wilderness to search for her husband and the remnants of her flagging faith. He was supposed to be fishing. He was supposed to come home. And she was supposed to care."

Throughout this adventure, author, Cynthia Ruchti, throws in witty, cynical, droll and sarcastic one-liners that made me laugh as I turned the pages. If this type of humor appeals to you, this book will brighten up your soul this winter. With warmth and passion Cynthia has become a successful Christian speaker and author creating stories of hope that glows in the dark. This is a perfect book for our Advent season ... find it under "R" for Ruchti in our Library.



As Christmas approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for reading the monthly Library Reports throughout 2025, and for using our wonderful Library. Wishing you all a holiday season filled with hope, peace and love that sparkles with joy and laughter.

Happy reading, *Jennifer Devlin*

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**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



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**Monthly Men's Breakfast**

**Saturday, December 27, 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.



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

Elaine Field

Claude Field

Larry Grummett

Erma (Dunn) MacDonald

Sam Matthews

Jim Measures

Rita Measures

Sharon (Dunn) Stevens

All who mourn the loss of a loved one

**Our sincere sympathy to Shirley Murray and her family in the passing of her brother Gerald Buhrow on November 17.**

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**We continue to remember the John Diefenbaker District School, Hanover community and the family & friends of 3 teens who died in November 11 accident as well as the one teen who continues to recover.**

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### **Annual Report Time!**

Please submit your 2025 **Annual Activity Reports** to the church secretary **Ellen Underwood** by **Sunday, January 18, 2026**. You can drop it off at the office or e-mail [clifforduc@wightman.ca](mailto:clifforduc@wightman.ca)

**Treasurers, the reviewers will need your books by February 1<sup>st</sup> to give time to review them and report for the Annual Report.**

The **Pastoral Charge Annual Meeting** is planned for **Sunday, February 8, 2026 at Knox**. Worship at 10:00 am followed by the meeting and a Potluck Lunch.



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**Clifford Pastoral Charge Board will be meeting next on Wednesday, January 12, 2026.**



## November in Sunday School

Cold and wintery days are here, but we are keeping toasty warm in Sunday School...especially at Alsfeldt with the new heating system!! May God bless each of you with his warmth and light as we enter the Christmas season and journey together towards the Nativity.

November was quite a vibrant and memorable month in both our youth and children's Sunday school classes. With many smiles and laughter, much learning and growth was seen throughout this month.



On Sunday November 2<sup>nd</sup>, we all met in the Knox basement for an intergenerational service. Rev. Sue did a tremendous job integrating our children and youth into this service as we all sat for this round table service. What a neat experience it was to sit and collaborate on how, where and when we feel God the most. He was certainly present during this very unique church service! Thank you, Sue! Job well done on this impressive intergenerational service!!



It has been a tradition for Clifford Pastoral Charge to present our 10-year-olds with a Bible. It was Logan's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday on this Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup> and so, at children's time, I presented him with a youth Bible on behalf of our Charge, asking him to read the Word of the Lord, be bold for our Lord and share the light of Christ with all.

In Sunday School we then learned how to be bold and courageous for our Lord, even in the face of social pressure. We read from **Daniel 3:18**; a story of 3 friends that stood their ground, letting their King know that they would



only bow down to the one and only God. God then saved these 3 friends from a fiery ending. Our craft was a poster that read "BE BRAVE" made with fiery handprints. We then had birthday cupcakes and shared them with the youth who were diligently extending their learning about other

religions and cultures with Jennifer.



On November 16<sup>th</sup>, we were back at Knox and it was a full house of both children and youth! For our children's class, we



we were learning how we can see with God's eyes. We read the story of the *Blind Man* from **John 9: 1-12** and recited the following prayer:



### Seeing with God's Eyes

Lord, can you fix my eyesight, as you did for the blind man?

- I want to see with your eyes those who are mocked for being different at school.
- I want to see with your eyes the homeless person on the park bench.
- I want to see with your eyes people from other races and cultures.
- I want to see beyond people who think being thinner or stronger makes you more lovable.
- I want to see beyond people who view wealth as the key to life.

Help me to see with your eyes, Lord! Blind me to the way the world sees, so that I won't give in to judging people on their looks, skin color, social status, or personality.

Help me to see and to love as you love, Lord – with eyes so wide open that they see past the outside and right into the hearts of others.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Since God is our rock and we want to have eyes like Him, we painted rocks and glued on big googly eyes.

In our youth class, Rev. Sue explored the idea of the "Kingdom of God" and how Jesus brought new meaning to the idea of "*kingdom*" and "*kin-dom*" (community that cares for its people). They went on a treasure hunt and had fun with a skit about the "*body parts*" based on **1 Corinthians 12:14-31**, which talks about how inter-dependent we are as "*The Body of Christ*". Sue made delicious cookies to share with all 😊



Our final Sunday of the month together was Sunday November 23<sup>rd</sup> at Alsfeldt. As the days are getting chillier and we are transitioning from fall weather attire to winter wear, our younger class read from **Matthew 6: 28-34**. We read a story and watched a video on how God will always provide us with what we need, made a wintery craft and prepared hot chocolate for us and the youth.



Our youth class was led by Beth Ann who introduced the idea of 'service'; service to Christ and service to the church. They explored jobs and tasks within our own building to see where they think they fit in as youth or future members. Together, they brainstormed mission and service ideas that could be presented to For the month of December, our children and youth will be back together to celebrate the Christmas season as one class.



**On Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup> our Children and Youth will host their annual Christmas Pageant at Knox.**

We can't wait to see you there!!

Many warm blessings this Christmas Season,

**Kathryn Rehorst**



## Centennial Give 100 Campaign Up-dates

Pictured is Chris Newman making a delivery to Ramoth House in Mount Forest with items collected in the month of September. A lovely thank you letter was received and it reads in part:

"Congratulations on The United Church of Canada celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

On behalf of everyone at Ramoth House, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous support of our ministry through you "Give 100 Campaign". As your thoughtful donations – including baby clothes, books, onesies, washcloths, wipes and toys, personal care items for moms and babies, women's socks, white towels and facecloths, vinegar, toilet paper, Dawn dish soap, gift cards, and

financial contributions – are deeply appreciated.

Thanks to your kindness, the mothers and babies in our care will continue to receive the support they need. Every gift you provided is treasured, and your compassion and encouragement mean so much to us.

Thank you for believing in our moms and standing with them as they grow in their parenting potential and make life-changing decisions. Your generosity makes a lasting difference.

Blessings,

**Brenda Tubman**, Executive Director, Ramoth Life Centre"

**November Update:** We did it yet again! With 109 boxes/travel packs of Kleenex collected in the month of November we have saved a significant number of noses in our community! With the average box holding roughly 78 tissues that is a whopping 8,502 tissues that will be fighting back against the winter sniffles, drips and sneezes! Congratulations!





**Clifford Pastoral Charge was represented on Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at the Clifford Christmas Market and at the Santa Claus Parade.**

Thanks to Ellen and Lorne Underwood who set up and greeted folks at the Community Hall from 5:00-7:00pm. Thanks to Chris Newman and Beth-Ann Wepler who shopped for our Christmas Give-A-Ways – way too much fun was experienced!

Thanks again to the Wepler family who decorated their truck for the parade (Carman & Beth-Ann and family) and to Lachlan and Rea who were our first ever walkers with the new banner.



On Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, worship was pivoted to a Zoom only service due to the snowy forecast. Rev. Sue led the Advent 1 Communion worship from her home in Georgetown.



We know the Christmas Season can be a difficult time for those who have experienced a death in the family – whether it was this past year or longer ago.

**A Christmas Service of Remembrance  
Saturday, December 13, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.  
at Harriston United Church**

Rev. Jessica Cottrell and Rev. Don McCallum officiating

This is not another funeral, but rather an uplifting service offering support, strength and sharing as we approach the Holiday Season. Refreshments will be served in the church hall.

**Allan and Pat Lee**, Hardy-Lee Funeral Home, Harriston



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**'Go Sing It on the Mountain' Cantata** at Mount Forest United Church on **Sunday, December 21, 2025** starting at 2:30pm. Directed by Derek Moore, performed by Wellington North Community Choir. Free Will Offering to local food banks.

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**'The Ballad of Bethlehem' Candlelight Christmas Cantata** at Harriston United Church on **Sunday, December 21, 2025** starting at 7:30pm. FreeWill Offering received for outreach projects.

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**Anderson's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Free Community Christmas Dinner** on Thursday, **December 25<sup>th</sup> at Palmerston Community Centre**. Dinner served at 1:00 pm. Takeouts can be picked up from 11:30am-12:30pm. To volunteer or donate to the dinner, call or text 519-505-5914 or email at [Jeanurse1@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanurse1@gmail.com)

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### Moderator's Advent Message 2025

Here we are just weeks away from Christmas. The stores are full, the music plays, concerts, cookies, and twinkling lights try to lift our spirits. But the world feels heavy: heartbreaking headlines, personal losses, full highways, and empty bank accounts. Advent is a complicated season.

Mary and Elizabeth knew something about that. Two women, two miracles, two bold yeses to God's call. But let's be honest, their stories weren't all sunshine and rainbow unicorn farts. Elizabeth stayed in seclusion for five months. Mary left Galilee maybe to escape the whispers, the stares. Even good news can feel complicated. Joy and fear, hope and weariness, they often show up together.

You know, that's what I love about Advent. There's room for all our feelings here. And then—the simple miracle of connection. Mary shows up. Elizabeth's baby leaps and she cries out in a blessing. And suddenly they know they are not alone. God has given them each other. Their joy multiplies.

So how do we get in the spirit of the season in a world of pain and injustice? We start with connection. Deep spirituality reminds us God is with us. Bold discipleship calls us to say yes even when it's hard. Daring justice invites us to make space for others, to share joy, to bear burdens, to build hope.

Whatever you're feeling this Advent—joy, grief, exhaustion, hope—know this. You are not alone. God is growing a miracle in you and in me. Thanks be to God.

**To view the Moderator's Message, go to:**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/HFcwJUfu4Iw?app=desktop>

