

**APRIL
2026**

NEWSLETTER

CLIFFORD PASTORAL CHARGE

www.cliffordpastoralchargeuc.ca/

clifforduc@wightman.ca

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

519-327-8378

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 to be part of this communication.

Sunday, March 29

10:00 am at Alsfeldt– Palm Sunday, **Communion**
Rev. Sue Hertell leading worship. Intergenerational

Friday, April 3

10:00 am at Alsfeldt – **Good Friday Service**
Rev. Sue Hertell leading worship.

Sunday, April 5

10:00 am at Knox– **Easter Sunday Service**,
Rev. Sue Hertell leading Intergenerational worship **followed by a Light Breakfast** hosted by the Youth. Easter flower display.

Wednesday, April 8

10am-4pm Sharing Our Faith Quilting Group at Knox.

Sunday, April 12

10:00 am at Alsfeldt– 2nd Sunday of Easter
Rev. Bonnie Holliday leading worship.

Sunday, April 19

10:00 am at Knox – 3rd Sunday of Easter/Earth Sunday
Rev. Sue leading worship.

Saturday, April 25

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

Sunday, April 26

10:00 am at Alsfeldt– 4th Sunday of Easter/Camping Sunday
The Youth leading worship. Intergenerational

Wednesday, April 29

12:00 pm Seniors' Centre of Excellence Lunch at Knox.

Sunday, May 3

10:00 am at Knox– 5th Sunday of Easter/Mental Health Sunday



Save the Date – May 3rd

We invite you to worship with us on Sunday, May 3rd at the round tables in the basement of Knox. This will be a special service of music, prayer and discussion around the Discernment and Dreaming work that the Clifford Pastoral Charge Board have been working on. More details and information to read and consider prior to this important and special service will be shared closer to the date!



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 or call her home 519-392-8573, cell 519-418-9560.

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

If You Are Unable To Give Your Offering At A In-Person Worship Services You May-



***send to your church treasurer**

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

Knox- Carman Wepler, 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.**



Monthly Men's Breakfast

Saturday, April 25, 2026

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...

Some of you know that I have just returned from a short break to visit friends on Vancouver Island. To walk by the sea and drink in the sights of spring was a real gift! At my first BnB there was a fresh cut bouquet of daffodils from the owner's abundant garden, and it felt like the hope of spring was bursting open in my spirit!

Yes, we seem to have had a long enough winter, and the world has felt heavy and daunting at times; yet these daffodils were a quiet reminder that something is happening... things are stirring... new life is coming!

Easter is like that too. Before we sing the alleluias, before we celebrate resurrection, before the stone is rolled away in our story, something is already unfolding. God is already at work; hope is already pushing up through the cold ground. Resurrection has begun... even if we can't see it yet!

With God's hope stirring within us, let us walk together through the difficult story of Easter week; and let us find hope and meaning as we move towards the celebration of resurrection and new life!

Blessings, Sue



Good News!

The Clifford Pastoral Charge Board is delighted to announce that we have passed a motion to extend Rev. Sue's appointment with us pending approval from the WOW Region. Our time with Rev. Sue has gone quickly and her original appointment is set to be complete in October of 2026.

We would like to thank the Ministry & Personnel Committee for working with Rev. Sue towards the idea of extending her appointment to June 30, 2027. The Board and M&P will be working on submitting the necessary paperwork this spring to Church HUB and the WOW Region for official approval.

We have been blessed by the covenant we have developed with Rev. Sue and we are beyond thrilled that she has considered this option and is willing to stay a little longer with us!



EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE – April 5th, 10 am at Knox

Easter Sunday, you are invited to bring an Easter lily or Easter flower in memory of loved ones. The lilies and plants will be displayed in the sanctuary and you will have the opportunity to have the names of your loved ones read during the service in a time of remembrance.



You are encouraged to take them home after worship to enjoy.



You are also invited to stay for a **Light Breakfast** following the service hosted by the Youth.

Spring Clean Up!

Grab your vacuum, swiffers and windex! We need your help to give Knox and Alsfeldt a spring freshen up! Pick a job (or two) that you enjoy and are able to do and join fellow members of the church family in tackling what can feel like a really BIG job.



Please bring your own favourite supplies (vacuums, dusters, windex, mops, rags) and we will have paper towels and put the coffee pot on. Come and go as your schedule permits. Many hands make light work and we can share laughter and conversation along the way!

April 18th – Let's Clean Knox – beginning at 9am

April 25th – Alsfeldt's turn – beginning at 9am

We hold in prayer...

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

Joy Burnett
Joyce Cook
Saige Dosman

Elaine Field
Claude Field
Larry Grummett
Sam Matthews

Jim & Rita Measures
Sharon (Dunn) Stevens
All who mourn the loss of a
loved one



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

Anne Matthews (Alsfeldt)
Home: 519-327-8306
Email: matthews1978@wightman.ca

Judith Anne Douglas (Knox)
Cell: 519-292-1496, Home: 519-335-3802
Email: jad335@hotmail.com

Ellen Underwood, Secretary
Phone: 519-327-8378 office
Home: 519-392-8573, Cell: 519-418-9560
Email: clifforduc@wightman.ca



We are pleased that Jim and Rita Measures are enjoying events at Maple Court in Walkerton.

Maybe next month, we will see what's been happening at Caressant Care in Harriston or Guelph Lake Commons.

KNOX FINANCIAL UP-DATE
January 1 to March 31, 2026

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Opening bank balance | \$ 40,365.46 |
| Income | \$ 6,051.71 |
| Expenses | \$ 13,600.68 |
| Ending balance | \$ 32,816.49 |
| M&S contributed | \$ 319.50 |

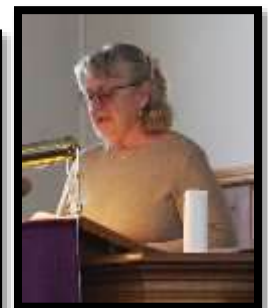
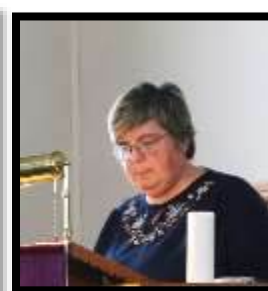
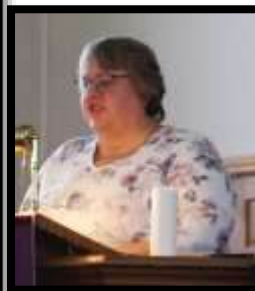
WANTED: Someone with a Green Thumb!

Needing a volunteer to look after the outside urns at the front and side entrances at Knox. There is a Beautification Budget to be reimbursed for expenses; watering in summer is a major duty. Contact Lorne Underwood 519-392-8573. Thanks to those who over the years have filled this role, most recently being Ross & Marion Derbecker.



A World Day of Prayer Service was hosted by Alsfeldt United Church on Friday, March 6th.

It was led by Rev. Sue Hertell and Rev. Kathy Morden with readers from Trinity Lutheran Church in Ayton and from Knox and Alsfeldt. A time of fellowship and refreshments were enjoyed after thanks to the Alsfeldt "kitchen crew" and thanks to those who donated food.



"Harmonies in the Midst of Madness and Miracle", a concert put on by the Grey-Bruce Chapter of Royal Canadian College of Organists for Good Friday. Friday, April 3, 2026 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Ayton starting at 4:00pm.

The Saugeen Bach Chorale presents St. John's Passion by J.S. Bach at Immaculate Conception Church, Formosa on Good Friday - April 3, 2026 at 8:00pm. Tickets \$45 - Students \$20. For more information call 519 369 8137.

Sharing Our Faith quilt club will meet at Knox United, Clifford on **Wednesday, April 8, 2026** from 10am-3:30pm to tie/knot quilts and you are welcome to join in. Bring your lunch (if staying for the day), needles, and scissors. For more information contact Agnes Norris 519-338-3927.

Spaghetti Supper hosted by the Clifford Firefighters on **Friday, April 10, 2026 at the Clifford Community Hall from 5:00-7:00pm.** Cost is by donation.

Clifford Dining Program hosted by the Seniors' Centre for Excellence is **Wednesday, April 29, 2026** at Knox United Church, Clifford catered by Knox Fundraising Committee. Doors open at 11:30am. Lunch at Noon. \$20 each. RSVP by April 24 at 519-638-1000.

Roast Beef Dinner hosted by St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Mildmay on **Sunday, May 3, 2026 from 4:30-7:00pm at the Mildmay-Carrick Recreation Complex.** Adults \$25; 12 & under \$10. Take-out available.

March in Sunday School

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.
Isaiah 35:1

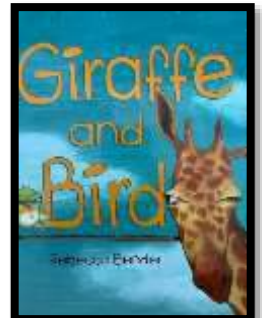


Spring is here; and if you pause and look very closely
there are signs of renewal all around us!
Thanks be to God!

March 1st came in like a lamb as our children and youth gathered at Alsfedlt. Our theme in our children's class was on 'Friendship'. As we are working through our learning series on King David, today was all about David and his best buddy Jonathan. Jonathan was the son of King Saul, the king of Israel. When Jonathan and David met, they became best friends right away. They promised to be loyal to one another and protect each other no matter what (1 Samuel 18: 1-4). The moral of the story is that:

- True friends stick together, even when life gets hard!
- Courage and kindness matter, always!
- Friendship is a gift from God!

We read the books: *Giraffe and Bird* and *Giraffe & Bird Together Again* written and illustrated by: *Rebecca Bender*. These beautiful books are about two unlikely friends who have each other's backs, no matter what life throws at them. For our craft we made friendship magnets – because great friends stick together!!



In our Youth Class, along with Beth Ann, our youth are diligently planning the service set for April 26th. I can't wait to see what they've come up with!

On March 8th, our youth once again met with Beth Ann while our children had a library day with Jennifer. At the library, the children selected a story about a kid goat that got lost and a nurse at the local hospital helped him find his way

back to his Nanny. His Nanny was so pleased to have him home.



They talked about how this is exactly like our relationship with God ... just as the Nanny loved her kid, God loves us too. God knows our voices and knows us inside out. We are special to God and loved by God. Jennifer and the children made goat masks, including a rainbow one by Maisy. Thank you, Jennifer!!





Sunday March 15th, we had a weather cancellation and so March 22nd was our final time together this month.

We will wrap up our studies on King David (we can't wait for him to finally get his crown) in April but for now, I wanted to dive into Easter and the celebration of Holy Week. We started off with a discussion of what Holy week is and why it's important to journey with Jesus to the cross and the empty tomb. We watched a video where kids recounted each day and the events that took place during Holy week. This is what we learned:



| DAY | WHAT HAPPENED | MESSAGE |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Palm Sunday | Jesus enters Jerusalem with cheering crowds, "Hosanna"! | Jesus is our peaceful King |
| Holy Monday | Jesus clears the temple | Respect God's house |
| Holy Tuesday | Jesus teaches parables in the temple | Learn and love others |
| Spy Wednesday | Judas agrees to betray Jesus for 30 silver coins | Be honest and loyal |
| Maundy Thursday | The last supper. Jesus washes the disciple's feet, showing humility and love. | Remember Jesus and serve others |
| Good Friday | Jesus is arrested, put on trial and crucified on a cross. | Jesus died for us. |
| Holy Saturday | Jesus rests in the tomb | Waiting in hope |
| Easter Sunday | Jesus is Alive! The resurrection of Jesus! | New life and joy |

We made a Holy Week Banner so that we may walk with Jesus each day leading up to Easter Sunday. It looks beautiful in our kitchen window!!

Our next time together won't be until Sunday April 12th as we look forward to **Intergenerational services both on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday!**



Our Children and Youth are looking forward to serving a *light breakfast* on **Easter Sunday** at **Knox** :)

Happy Easter!
Kathryn Rehorst



Thivan Hoang and Conor Russell of The United Church of Canada, together with partners from Canadian Foodgrains Bank, are visiting Mission and Service partners, the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), to tour their agricultural projects in Zimbabwe which are adopting climate-smart agriculture

to improve harvests of small grains under semi-arid conditions. The increasing involvement of women in leadership positions in the community with support from the local leaders were some of the key progress markers observed in these projects. Find out more about the work of these partners building climate justice and food security on the Zimbabwe Council of Churches Facebook page: [Zimbabwe Council of Churches](#)



From Heartbreak to Hope: An Easter Message from The United Church



"But we had hoped..."
In a world filled with dashed expectations, war, and "fake news," the Easter story can feel more like an idle tale than a reality. This year, we explore the walk to Emmaus

and how the earliest followers of Jesus navigated their own skepticism to find a hope that transforms the world.

The Good News isn't a headline or an official report—it's a lived experience. Join us as we celebrate the Risen Christ and the community that continues to share that light today.

Download this video here :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqQEiGHRllw>

A Prayer for the Future

God of renewal and new life,

Like the first snowdrops of spring,
Help us to be harbingers of a new beginning
Filled with light and warmth and love.

Like the yellow daffodils,
Help us bring joy to all that see us
As we do your work in the world.

Like the many-coloured tulips,
Help us meet different needs for different people
Doing what we can to bring hope and peace.

God of renewal and new life,
May your spring come soon,
And may we help usher it on.
Amen.

To read the latest Newsletter of the Western Ontario Waterways Region go to:
<https://mailchi.mp/united-church/wow-newsletter-march232026?e=2ff8927242>

Check out the Facebook pages for The United Church of Canada or Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council to stay current with United Church news.