

JANUARY
2026

NEWSLETTER

CLIFFORD PASTORAL CHARGE

www.cliffordpastoralchargeuc.ca/

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

clifforduc@wightman.ca

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.

<u>Sunday, January 4, 2026</u>	10:00 am at Alsfeldt – Epiphany Sunday Rev. Sue Hertell leading worship followed by Potluck Lunch .
<u>Sunday, January 11</u>	10:00 am at Knox – Baptism of Jesus Sunday Rev. Sue Hertell leading worship.
<u>Sunday, January 18</u>	10:00 am at Alsfeldt – Second Sunday after Epiphany Rev. Sue Hertell leading worship.
<i>Wednesday, January 21</i>	2:00 pm Charge Board Meeting at home of Leigh McIntosh.
<u>Sunday, January 25</u>	10:00 am at Knox – Third Sunday after Epiphany Rev. Sue Hertell leading worship.
<i>Wednesday, January 28</i>	12:00 pm Seniors' Centre of Excellence Lunch at Knox.
<i>Saturday, January 31</i>	8:30-9:30 am Men's Breakfast at Dell's Diner in Clifford.
<u>Sunday, February 1</u>	10:00 am at Alsfeldt –Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
<u>Sunday, February 8</u>	10:00 am at Knox – Rev. Sue Hertell leading worship followed by Charge Annual Meeting and a Potluck Lunch .

Library Report

Dear Readers

Where did 2025 go? They say that, “time flies when you are enjoying yourself”, and 2025 really did fly by. For me, I had lots of fun times over the year ... the highlight being when I travelled with my family to Northern Ireland in September to visit my mum, my sisters and their families. Now 2026 is upon us, it is a good time to offer a moment for reflection on the past twelve months, as well as for making plans for the future. It's also a perfect time to reminisce about old memories, whilst setting out to create new ones.

With New Year resolutions in mind, for 2026 I would like to encourage growth in the use of our Library. I would like to make our Library more accessible to those who are not able to physically come into the Library. To nurture this, I am happy to assist with book selections and arrange for delivery and pick-up of books. For those who are in local Long-Term Care or Retirement Homes, or live at home but cannot make it to the Church Library, I am just a phone call away and will be more than happy to bring you something that appeals to you. Please reach out to me any evening on telephone number 519 335 3544 or email thedevlins@wightman.ca. Our Library selection is wide and I know we will have something that will interest you.

Do you have a family member who would benefit from reading a different book from the ones that have been reread multiple times, now gathering dust on their book shelf? Check in with them ... and feel free to pick them up a novel from the Library the next time you are in Knox Church ... this is just a small task but it can really brighten up someone's day as their imagination grows with every page they turn ... reading really is a good way to exercise those grey cells too! If you would like a helping hand to find them a suitable book just let me know and I will be more than happy to help.

Over the years, I've celebrated New Year's Eve at lively parties with friends, and also with quiet nights in with my family. This year is going to be a quiet one with a few board games. No matter how we celebrate the New Year, 2026 is the beginning of a new chapter. Wishing each of you God's love, guidance and protection, along with peace and joy, every day of the year ahead.

Happy reading!

Jennifer Devlin



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

Treasurers, the reviewers will need your books before the end of January to give time to review them and report for the Annual Report.



From the Minister's Desk...

A new year has begun!! Despite the challenges in our world today, I am thankful for this time of new beginnings! December days have seemed short, yet we still found time to celebrate God's gift of Love in the coming of Jesus! Now we begin a new year, and I love that the days will grow longer and that the increased light will coax us forward!

This is the time of year when we enter the Epiphany season in our churches, as we think about the significance of the visit of the Magi after Jesus' birth. It is also a time when we celebrate the gift of light and enlightenment.

During my 14 months with you in ministry, I have come to recognize the deep faith and commitment that has grown out of a rich faith tradition in both Alsfeldt and Knox churches. As we walk forward in Clifford Pastoral Charge, and embrace the challenges that lie ahead, my hope and prayer is that we will truly experience God's light leading us into new ways of being a faithful community together.

May God's Love and Light lead us onward!

Blessings, Sue



Centennial Give 100 Campaign



The month of December brings us to a close of our Give 100 Campaign to celebrate the United Church of Canada's 100th Anniversary!



This past month we collected loonies and toonies (along with quarters and nickels) to fill the number '100' on a Bristol board and some folks made donations through their regular offering envelopes. Your donated coins have been sent 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!

**Thank you for your generosity.
The total collected is \$583.65!**

\$291.65 was collected during worship services,
\$125 from Knox envelopes and
\$167 from Alsfeldt envelopes.



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.

To learn what the benefits of PAR are and how you can easily have

Thank you to all who submit photos and information to each monthly Newsletter. Send your submissions to the church office 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 Weppler, 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.**

your monthly offering happen easily, go to:

<https://united-church.ca/.../giving-monthly-through-par>



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 $\frac{1}{4}$ " 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, January 31, 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.



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 hold in prayer...

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

Madilyn B.
Joy Burnett
Joyce Cook
Saige Dosman

Elaine Field
Claude Field
Larry Grummert
Erma (Dunn) MacDonald
Sam Matthews

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

We hope that Jim and Rita Measures have settled into their new home at Maple Court in Walkerton. Their address is c/o Maple Court Retirement Home, 5-4th Street, P.O. Box 879, Room 323, Walkerton, ON N0G 2V0. Telephone # is 519-507-8265.



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.

On Sunday, December 28, 2025, the worship service was led by the Worship Committee.

Leigh McIntosh and Kathy Morden presided with several congregants taking part as readers. The theme was Stories and Song. Several Christmas carols were sung and a story of the background of each song was shared.



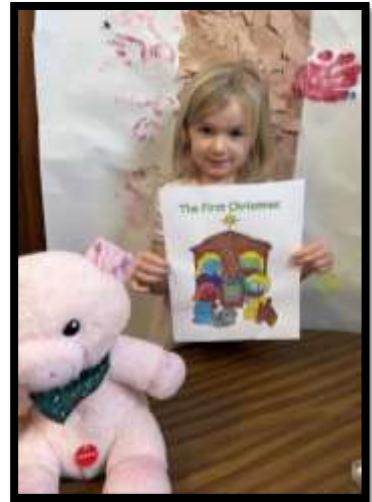
Sunday School in December

Here's to a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!



Our Sunday School would like to wish many blessings to all our Clifford Pastoral Charge Family in the coming new year. Thank-you for your continued support to our Sunday School and Youth Programs! It's been an amazing year and one memorable month!

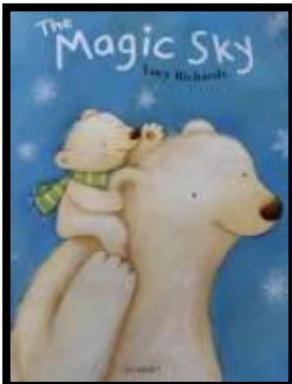
On Sunday, December 7th, both our Children and Youth met at Alsfeldt to practice and prepare for our annual Children's Christmas Pageant. While the older ones divided up and practiced their parts, our younger group read a Christmas story and colored pictures of the nativity scene.



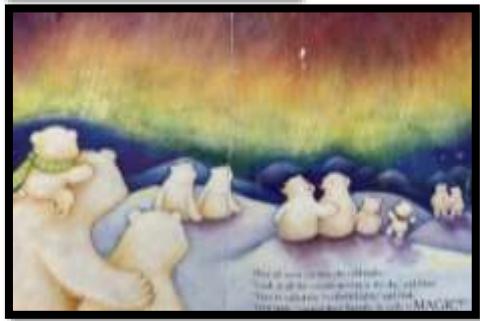
Then on December 14th, our children and youth led our Christmas Pageant Service at Knox. The theme of this year's pageant was taken from **John 3:16 – “For God so loved the World”**. Incorporating modern-day slang and a touch of wit and humor, the children and youth brought to life the traditional nativity story. We also enjoyed hearing Mason, Lyla, Logan and Theodore Rehorst play their Christmas piano pieces throughout the service. At the end of the service, I commended our group on a job well done. I made the comment that I wish I could freeze time to keep our children and youth from getting any older! They each did such a fantastic job with the service layout!

Thank you to all our children & youth for their enthusiastic support; thank you to Judith Anne and Sharon who played the piano/organ beautifully for us and thank you to Hugh and Lorne and all those involved in clearing the stage to make room for the Nativity back drop – this was not an easy task! We concluded the service by handing out a bag of *nuts and bolts* to all in those in attendance with the reminder that the road to the nativity can be long, dusty and hard, but take a snack along the way and know that there is peace and everlasting love for all at the nativity.

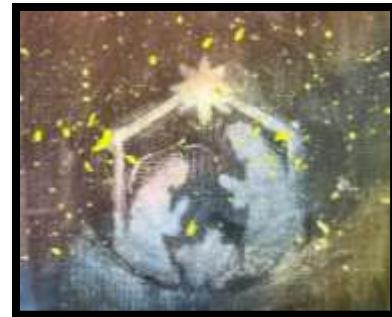




On Sunday December 21st, we had both the children and youth together. We read the story: *The Magic Sky*, written and illustrated by *Lucy Richards*. The story is about a little polar bear named *Rory* who has to wait 5 more sleeps to see the 'magic sky'. Each day *Rory* grows more exhausted waiting for this special day. But when *Rory* finally gets to see the Northern Lights, he is amazed with the beautiful colors dancing across the sky.



This close to Christmas, we weren't waiting for a magic sky, we were waiting for Jesus, so for our craft, we painted canvases with a magic sky as the background and a nativity scene in the front.



On Christmas Eve, our children and youth had the opportunity once again to bring the nativity scene to life. Thank you to Rev. Sue and Beth Ann for involving our younger generation, having them retell the birth of our savior, while building

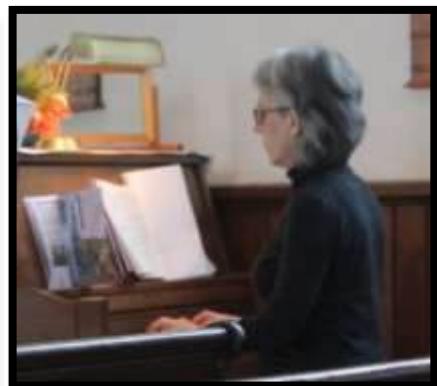
the manger scene with figurines. It was a heartwarming service!



The year 2025 has somehow quickly come to an end. I want to express how much gratitude I have for all those who have participated with and even prayed for our children and youth this past year. May we take the positive momentum of this year and carry it on into 2026!!

May God Bless our Church Family,

Kathryn Rehorst





Moderator's Christmas Message 2025

In her annual Christmas message, Moderator Kimberly Heath reflects on the surprising origin of the word "Bedlam" and how its meaning connects the original Nativity scene to the confusion of our modern world.

The story of the Prince of Peace being born into the chaos of Bethlehem teaches us that Christians do not run from the confusion. Instead, we are called to follow Jesus directly into it, "seeking out the lost, welcoming the lonely, and setting a place at the table for everyone."

This Christmas, amidst fear, division, and uncertainty, the small things we do—as individuals and communities of faith—bring essential hope, peace, joy, and love. May the deep peace of the running wave, the shining stars, and the Prince of Peace be with you and flow through you this day and always.

Merry Christmas from The United Church of Canada

Message may be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfUKmKOH5LQ&t=16s>



The United Church of Canada is looking for Photos!

2027 Calendar Photos –

go to https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/2024-07/2026_call-for-calendar-photos.pdf for the information. **Deadline is January 15, 2026.**

A \$100 honorarium is given for every photo selected.

A note from Michelle Butterfield-Kocis, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, new Ontario regional representative.

Friends, I send you warm greetings as most of Ontario is well into winter! Thank-you to everyone I have met so far while travelling to fall meetings with Henry. Your generous welcome has been appreciated and shows what a wonderful community of supporters we have in the Foodgrains Bank! It will be a privilege to work with all of you in the coming year.

I will see many of you at farm shows this season as we update the farming community on the acute food insecurity crisis around the world that they see on and off the news and how to engage in working towards ending world hunger. Also, I look forward to seeing you at spring meetings and events when executive director Andy Harrington will be joining me to speak.



Finally, I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas, and may many New Year blessings be upon your families and communities! Please continue to pray for the Foodgrains Bank network and invite those you meet to learn more about the Foodgrains Bank or give and join the many Canadians in working together to end world hunger.

For the latest up-dates on the work of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, go to:
[Canadian Foodgrains Bank - A Christian Response to Hunger](https://canadianfoodgrainsbank.ca/)