



TALBOTVILLE UNITED CHURCH WINTER NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

As we are about to embark on our journey through the season of Advent and prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, may you be reminded of the hope, peace, joy, and love that Christ brings with Him into the world. Take time to pause and reflect on God's incredible gift to humanity—His Son, Jesus—who came to dwell among us, bringing light into the darkness.

Advent is a time of waiting and anticipation, a season that helps us to pause and prepare our hearts for the fullness of Christ's coming. Whether you are lighting your Advent candles at home, participating in our church worship services, or finding quiet moments for prayer, I wholeheartedly encourage you to embrace this season with a spirit of expectation and gratitude.

Our Advent worship series is titled 'Words for the Beginning'. Advent is also a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year rushes in. Christ's birth can usher us into new ways of living and loving—and yet, we can also feel the weight of many things coming to an end. The world as we know it spins madly on. What are the reminders you will need to move faithfully through this threshold?

This Advent worship series is filled with blessings, with the words we need to hear again and again as we begin a new season. We imagine the words Mary would speak to her newborn son. What scriptures and stories would she impart to him? What lessons would she teach him as he grew? And so, our weekly themes may feel like the lessons we teach to children, but these are lessons we continue to learn and relearn as adults. They may sound like the messages we impart to loved ones during special ceremonies or sacred rituals. I invite you to enter this Advent season as if you are entering a new chapter, holding fast to the reminders that will bolster you for the journey ahead.

In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings—large and small. And yet, Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. As you also move through new personal chapters, may these words for the beginning renew you and remind you of the ways you are called to live out your faith. No matter what you are facing, no matter what this new day brings, let love be your beginning.

As we move toward Christmas, in the midst of the festivities, reflect upon the humility of the nativity, the angels' message of peace, and the hope that Christ brings not only to the world but to each of us individually. May His presence fill your heart with love and inspire you to share that love with others, especially those in need.

You are invited! Join us as we celebrate the Advent season, in person or online. Let us be a community that points to Christ, the light of the world, and shine that light in every place we go.

May this Advent and Christmas season be a time of renewal in your faith and a deepening of your relationship with Christ, Emmanuel, God with us!

Blessings, Rev. Laurie

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION:

Every Sunday after church, join us for the fellowship as we enjoy coffee/tea and treats.

1st Sun. donations support Elgin St Thomas Food Bank (Caring Cupboard)

3rd Sun. donations support Outreach programs— CMHA, Harvest Hands, Grace Café, The Inn, The Nameless and Fresh Start

2nd and 4th Sun. donations support the ministry of our Church

'FUN' FUNDRAISING TEAM:

WHAT HAVE THEY BEEN UP TO YOU ASK?

Soup Cook-off with our winner being Cathy Harris

Strawberry Social with the local community enjoying the meal, sale of baked goods and fresh freezer strawberry jam.

FYI - we have 5 jars of jam left to sell with a price of \$7 each and 6 jars of cherry jelly at \$7 each.

Corn Roast with yummy pulled pork dinner and all the fixings

Wallacetown Fair booth where we sold pie, tarts, cookies, chocolate milk, coffee and tea

Rocking-a-thon this Sunday November 17th in the church sanctuary. Stay tuned for photos and results

TALBOTVILLE UNITED CHURCH WHAT'S HAPPENING?

DECORATE THE TREE

November 24 - December 24, 2024

Help us reach our goal! We would love to see the 'Memory' tree fully decorated by Christmas Eve!

Giving is a way of reaching out a helping hand. Your generous gift of \$20 will add a *special* ornament to the tree. We invite you to add a personal message (that we will supply - you choose) --- 'In memory of...' or 'Praying for....' or 'Merry Christmas'.

Your gift will be directed to the ministry of Talbotville United Church - your friendly, country church. For all donations of \$20 or more, a tax receipt will be provided.

We need your special touch to reach our goal of fully decorating our 'Memory' tree for Christmas!

Thank you for your generosity!



November, 2024

- DECORATE THE TREE
- VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
- CHRISTMAS BAKING
- HAPPENINGS

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Volunteer Opportunities



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Do you like to knit or crochet?
Would you like to learn or improve your skills?
Drop in the **first Tuesday of each month at 9:30am** when the Prayer Shawl group meet at the church.
Prayer shawls are gifted to people in our church and community for comfort or celebration and **more crafters are needed!**
You are also welcome to knit or crochet at home to contribute to the prayer shawl ministry.
Contact Carol Gordon or office@talbotvilleunited.com for further information.

HARVEST HANDS

Harvest Hands is a local Food Distribution Centre with a difference. They 'rescue' food from throughout Southwestern Ontario, sort and distribute it to more than 250 agencies in the region. This is done in partnership with bakers, growers, processors and retailers who donate generously large volumes of food.
If you are interested in volunteering your time, we will have a schedule of the second Thursday of every month from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Please contact Werner Stoss or the office for further information.

A/V TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Is technology and audio visual equipment your specialty?
If so or you would like to learn, please contact Karen Olmstead or email office@talbotvilleunited.com

IS THERE INTEREST?

Women's Ministry....
Men's Ministry....

FUNDRAISING TEAM

If you would like to be involved in any way -- ideas or assisting this team, please contact Pete Brennan or Helen Campbell.



CHRISTMAS BAKING

Impress your guests without having to bake!

Tarts, squares, cookies, Christmas cakes – check it out on our website at:

www.talbotvilleunited.com

Submit your order - make payment – it's that easy! Deadline to order is December 4th, 2024

There are also order forms and information in the Church Social Hall.

Advent Giving

1st Sunday of Advent – December 1

FRESH START - Formula
ST. THOMAS ELGIN FOOD BANK –
Breakfast items

2nd Sunday of Advent – December 8

FRESH START – gift card to local grocery store
ST. THOMAS ELGIN FOOD BANK –
Dinner Items

3rd Sunday of Advent – December 15

FRESH START – Diapers – Preemie, 5 or 6
ST. THOMAS ELGIN FOOD BANK –
Any dry good/canned items

4th Sunday of Advent – December 22

FRESH START - Kid's craft supplies
ST. THOMAS ELGIN FOOD BANK –
Snack / Treat items

MONETARY DONATIONS ARE ALSO WELCOME!

**Talbotville United Church
Announcements**



Sunday, December 1
1st Sunday of Advent - You are a Blessing
Baptism / Communion
Coffee & Conversation after Worship
Donations support the Food Bank

Tuesday, December 3
Prayer Shawls @ 9:30 am
Stewards Meeting @ 1:00 pm

Wednesday, December 4 (weekly)
Ukelele Group @ 9:30 am
Mountain Dulcimer Group @ 11:00 am

Friday, December 6
Mountain Dulcimer Christmas Party @ 7:00 pm

Saturday, December 7
Christmas Baking pick ups

Sunday, December 8
2nd Sunday of Advent – We Can't Go Alone
Coffee & Conversation after Worship
Donations support Talbotville UC

Tuesday, December 10
Board meeting @ 1:00 pm

Saturday, December 14
Christmas Baking pick ups

Sunday, December 15
**3rd Sunday of Advent – Do the Good That is
Yours to Do**
Coffee & Conversation after Worship
Donations support Outreach ministries

Sunday, December 22
4th Sunday of Advent – Hope is Worth the Risk
Coffee & Conversation after Worship
Donations support Talbotville UC

Tuesday, December 24
Christmas Eve Worship @ 7:00 pm

Sunday, December 29
NO WORSHIP SERVICE

OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday and Thursday
9:30 to 12:30 or by appointment.
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Rev. Laurie – rev.oleary.ucc@gmail.com