

The header is a solid blue rectangle. It is decorated with numerous white snowflakes of various sizes and shapes. A large, stylized white heart is positioned on the right side of the header. The title text is centered and framed by two thin white horizontal lines.

## *TALBOTVILLE UNITED CHURCH WINTER NEWSLETTER*

Hello friends,

As winter settles in around us—snow on the fields (more snow in some places than others!), icy mornings, the sun taking its time to show up—I am reminded how much this season invites us to slow down. Life gets quieter out here once the cold sets in. The roads are a little slicker, the nights come earlier, and even the animals seem to huddle in close. And somewhere in the middle of all that, Christmas starts to draw near.

Advent is our chance to catch our breath. It's the church's way of saying, "Hold on a moment—look around. God is doing something right here."

When we think of the Christmas story, we often imagine the bright star, the angels singing, and the shepherds hurrying to the manger. But what strikes me is how ordinary it all looked from the outside: a tired couple looking for a place to rest, a baby born in a barn, strangers offering help. Nothing fancy. Nothing perfect. Nothing polished. Empire all around. Just real life—full of worry, full of hope, full of God's presence.

That's the kind of Christmas I think many of us know best. We find God in the simple things: a neighbour plowing a driveway before anyone asks, the smell of a favourite recipe in the kitchen, a quiet chat over coffee, or the warmth of our church family gathered on a cold Sunday morning. These small moments become holy without us even noticing.

This winter, my prayer is that each of us pays attention to the little signs of goodness around us and that we offer goodness in

whatever way we can. God often shows up in ways that don't make headlines—through kindness, patience, shared stories, and communities that look out for one another. Out here, we know something about that kind of care.

Thank you for all the ways you contribute to this congregation—whether it's baking, shovelling, calling someone who's had a tough week, or simply showing up when you can. It all matters. It all adds to the light we share.

May this season bring you warmth in the cold, hope and peace in the waiting, and joy and love that slips in quietly but stays for a long while.

Blessings of Advent and Christmas to you and those you love!

*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

# TALBOTVILLE UNITED CHURCH WHAT'S HAPPENING?

## DECORATE THE TREE

November 16 - December 24, 2025

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!



December 2025

- DECORATE THE TREE
- VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
- CHRISTMAS BAKING
- HAPPENINGS
- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- ADVENT GIVING 2025

# 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](mailto:office@talbotvilleunited.com) for further information.

### HARVEST HANDS TUC Outreach

*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 volunteer the fourth 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](mailto: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

**THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!!!!! THANK YOU!!!!!!**

Whether you helped to bake the 750 tarts, 1150 cookies, 49 Christmas cakes or others, sold or purchased baking ---

**THANK YOU!!!!!!**

**YOUR PREFERRED PICKUP FOR THE BAKING**  
As per your order form  
is either Sat Dec 6<sup>th</sup> or Sat Dec 13<sup>th</sup> – 11am to 12:30pm

## 'FUN' FUNDRAISING TEAM:

### WHAT HAVE THEY BEEN UP TO YOU ASK?

Corn Roast in August was another huge sell-out success with lots of fellowship and time spent together.

Baking, baking, baking and more baking - wow the team has really worked hard to fill all of your orders for Christmas.

STAY TUNED after the busy winter preparations and we will announce another Games Night – back by popular demand.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Talbotville United Church</b> <b>Announcements</b></p>
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#### **Saturday, December 6**

*Christmas Baking pick-ups 11am to 12:30pm*

#### **Sunday, December 7**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent – All Earth is Waiting – Signs and Stories**

*Coffee & Conversation after Worship*

*Donations support Food Bank*

#### **Tuesday, December 9**

*Stewards Meeting @ 12:30pm followed by Board meeting @ 1:00 pm*

#### **Saturday, December 13**

*Christmas Baking pick-ups 11am to 12:30pm*

#### **Sunday, December 14**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent – All Earth is Waiting – Signs and Truth**

*Coffee & Conversation after Worship*

*Donations support ministry of Talbotville UC*

**Sunday, December 21**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – All Earth is Waiting – Signs and Faithfulness**

*Coffee & Conversation after Worship*

*Donations support outreach ministries*

**Tuesday, December 24**

**Christmas Eve** *Worship @ 7:00 pm*

**Sunday, December 28**

**NO WORSHIP SERVICE**

*Talbotville United Church*  
*Advent 2025 Giving Projects*

**St. Thomas Elgin Foodbank  
(Caring Cupboard)**

Week 1	peanut butter
Week 2	canned goods – soup, fruit, beans, vegetables, etc.
Week 3	rice, pasta
Week 4	cereal

**Harvest Hands**

Week 1	socks
Week 2	gloves, mitts
Week 3	toques
Week 4	scarves

**Fresh Start House of Homes  
(Sunday School)**

Week 1	preschool storybooks
Week 2	ladies & kids slippers
Week 3	toiletries, shampoo, soaps, lotions
Week 4	adult & kids colouring books, crayons & pencil crayons, stickers