TALBOTVILLE UNITED CHURCH
WINTER NEWSLETTER

Making Room for Christmas

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we approach December and the Christmas season, life seems to pick up its pace. There are gifts to buy, baking to do, meals to plan, and gatherings to attend. In the middle of all the activity, it is easy to lose sight of what we are preparing for.

Christmas invites us to slow down, even for a moment, and remember the story at the heart of it all.

A child born in humble surroundings. A young family far from home. Shepherds going about their ordinary work, suddenly caught up in something extraordinary. And a message of hope proclaimed to the world: God is with us.

The Christmas story reminds us that God often arrives in unexpected ways, quietly in the midst of ordinary life. It reminds us that God's presence can be found in surprising places and that hope can take root even when the world feels uncertain. I believe that is a message we all need to hear again this year.

As we gather for worship, sing familiar hymns and carols, and celebrate the birth of Jesus, may we make room for the deeper gifts of Christmas: kindness, compassion, generosity, forgiveness, and love.

May we remember that Christmas is not just about December 25th, but about carrying the light of Christ into the days that follow. We do this through a phone call to someone who is lonely, a helping hand

offered to a neighbour, a welcome extended to someone who feels on the outside, and the simple reminders that none of us is alone.

I am grateful for this community of faith and for the many ways you share your gifts, offer your care, and make our church a place of welcome and belonging.
May we find peace amid the busyness, joy amid the challenges, and hope in the promise that God's love continues to meet us wherever we are.

May the wonder of that first Christmas fill your hearts and homes with peace, and may the light of Christ guide us into the new year.

Wishing you and those you love a very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with blessings!

With gratitude and Christmas blessings,
Rev. Laurie

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION:

Every Sunday after church, join us for the fellowship as we enjoy coffee/tea and treats. Please feel free to bring along your favourite baked goods to share at any week.

1st and 5th Sun. donations support Elgin St Thomas Food Bank (Caring Cupboard)

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

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

TALBOTVILLE UNITED CHURCH
WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ds

MEMORY TREE

November 29 - December 24, 2026

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 – remembering someone. Your generous gift of $20 will add a *special* ornament to the tree. We invite you to add the name of that special person – remembering or praying for them.

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 2026

- **MEMORY TREE**
- **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**
- **CHRISTMAS BAKING**
- **DO YOU LIKE TO SING?**
- **HAPPENINGS**
- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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
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 are looking for someone to 'champion' this volunteer outreach program.
Please contact Werner Stoss or the office for further information.

IS THERE INTEREST?

Women's Ministry....
Men's Ministry....
Kids Club

DO YOU LIKE TO SING?

We would love to have you join us 2nd and 4th Tuesday 6:30 – 7:30pm to sing in worship once per month.

If you would like to sing or learn to sing – young or older, please contact Helen Campbell or email office@talbotvilleunited.com

FUNDRAISING TEAM

If you would like to be involved in any way -- ideas or assisting this team, please contact Pete Brennan or Helen Campbell at 226-678-3190.



CHRISTMAS BAKING

THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!!!! THANK YOU!!!!!

Whether you helped to bake the 600 tarts, 1000 cookies, 15 pies or others, sold or purchased baking --- THANK YOU!!!!!!

YOUR PREFERRED PICK-UP FOR THE BAKING
As per your order form
is Sat Dec 12th – 11:30am to 1:00pm

‘FUN’ FUNDRAISING TEAM:

WHAT HAVE THEY BEEN UP TO YOU ASK?

Corn Roast/Pulled Pork Dinner in September 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.

Talbotville United Church
Announcements



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

Wednesday, December 2
Ukelele Group together with
Mountain Dulcimer Group @ 10:00 am

Sunday, December 6
2nd Sunday of Advent – John Said Yes
2026 Advent Giving Projects begin – *see next page for specifics*
Coffee & Conversation after Worship
Donations support Caring Cupboard - Food Bank

Tuesday, December 8
TUC Board meeting @ 1:00 pm
Choir practice 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Wednesday, December 9
Ukelele Group together with
Mountain Dulcimer Group @ 10:00 am

Saturday, December 12
Christmas Baking pick-ups 11:30am to 1:00pm

Sunday, December 13
3rd Sunday of Advent - Mary Said Yes
Coffee & Conversation after Worship
Donations support ministry of Talbotville UC

Tuesday, December 15
Choir practice 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Sunday, December 20
4th Sunday of Advent – Joseph Said Yes
Coffee & Conversation after Worship
Donations support outreach ministries

Thursday, December 24
Christmas Eve – Shepherds Said Yes
Worship @ 7:00 pm

Sunday, December 27
NO WORSHIP SERVICE – Enjoy the holiday season!

Talbotville United Church
Advent 2026 Giving Projects

St. Thomas Elgin Foodbank
(Caring Cupboard)

Week 1	Nov 29th	peanut butter
Week 2	*Dec 6th*	canned goods – soup, fruit, beans, vegetables, etc.
Week 3	*Dec 13th*	rice, pasta
Week 4	*Dec 20th*	cereal

Harvest Hands

Any Financial Donation is appreciated – payable to *Harvest Hands*

The Sunday School will again be supporting children and their families through the Fresh Start House of Homes campaign.

Sunday School Advent 2026 campaign for
Fresh Start Support Service's new House of Homes

Nov 29 – Bibles & books for baby/toddler/preschool

Dec 6 – size 5 & 6 diapers, toilet paper, paper towels

Dec 13 – small baby & toddler toys

Dec 28 – laundry soap, all purpose cleaner, window cleaner

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN NEED WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY!

SOME PHOTOS OF THE WORK IN OUR CHURCH








CORN ROAST AND PULLED PORK DINNER/STRAWBERRY JAM MAKING















TUC FASHION SHOW 2026



VOLUNTEERING AT HARVEST HANDS

AN OUTREACH PROJECT

THANK YOU ---

A sincere thank you to our wonderful volunteers and staff who faithfully care for our church property. Your time, hard work, and servant hearts help create a welcoming place for everyone who walks through our doors. We are so grateful for all you do!

"Let all that you do be done in love." — 1 Corinthians 16:14

Thank you for being such a blessing to our church family!

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STAY IN TOUCH WITH US....

Website www.talbotvilleunited.com
YouTube Channel https://www.youtube.com/@TalbotvilleUnited
Facebook pages:
Talbotville United Church
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