

The **2025 contribution envelopes** are available for pickup in the Narthex this morning. Please verify that the address shown on your label is correct as this is the address that will be used to mail your 2024 income tax receipt to you in February. If you are new to our church and would like to sign up for PAR or use contribution envelopes, please call Juliann at the Church Office (519) 323-1910, ext. 1.

Advent Longing: what are hoping & waiting for this Advent Season? Take some time for yourself & your Spirit ~ join our 3-week Advent Longing Study. Thursdays at 10:45-12, with coffee starting at 10 am (November 28, December 5, December 12) OR Tuesdays at 4:00 - 5:00. **This Tuesday, December 3 will be held at the Church House.** Dec. 10 & 17 in the Fellowship Hall. Come as you can! All welcome.

The Mitten Tree is up at the Woodland Church! Please hang your donated mittens, hats, neck warmers (not scarves) and socks on our tree until Dec. 15th. The items collected will be delivered to Victoria Cross Public School, Egremont Community School and St. Mary's School to children who are in need of cold weather clothing. Thank you for your continued support of this annual project.

As the cost of living continues to rise disproportionately to income, the Christmas Bureau anticipates an increase in demand for its Christmas Hampers. Each individual or family will receive the makings of a festive dinner, breakfast foods, toiletries and a grocery gift card. As well, each child receives a personalized toy/gift. **White Gift Sunday is December 8th.** If you wish to contribute, you can either pick up an angel from one of the Angel Trees (at Young's Home Hardware, Foodland or The Eco Den), purchase that item, and bring it, loose in a bag (with the Angel attached) to church, or bring an envelope with a monetary donation* or grocery gift card. School snack foods are another option. *Cheques may be written to the Mount Forest Christmas Bureau. E-transfers can be made to christmasbureau donations@gmail.com. Please note that **we are NOT able to issue tax receipts** through the food bank this year. Our church family has always been a huge part of the success of this endeavour, and I thank you so much for your generosity. Daphne Rappard, Chair

Wellington North Community Choir- Bethlehem's Child will be at Mount Forest United on Sunday, December 22 at 2:30 p.m. and Monday, December 23 at 7:30 p.m. at St. John's R.C. in Arthur. Proceeds from the free-will offering will go to the Mount Forest & Arthur Foodbanks.

A Christmas Celebration, featuring the MF United Church Choir, Praise Band and soloists is being held on Friday, December 13th at 7:30 pm. A free-will offering will be taken for ongoing music ministry.

Seniors Bus Tours - Wellington North is offering free transportation from Mount Forest and Arthur to community events in Wellington County for seniors age 55+. Two upcoming events are Anne of Green Gables – The Musical in Harrison and the Moore Band Holly Jolly Christmas Show, for dates, cost and other information, please see the poster on the Community bulletin board downstairs.

We're getting close to the end of the year which means it's time for budget review as well as some thought to our Annual Congregational Meeting and the Annual Report. Budget worksheets have been emailed out and are **due on December 4th**. We ask that you consider your budget carefully and if there are areas that can be reduced, it would be appreciated. Stay tuned for Annual Report deadlines.

Did you know you can find the bulletin and announcements on our website along with the church calendar and events? Also, if you are not receiving the Messenger by email, you can sign up through the website under the Messenger tab as well as browse previous newsletters. Check it out at www.mountforestunitedchurch.com

Name Badges - If you would like a name badge Rhoda Seibert will order one for you! The name tags have magnets so your clothes don't get ruined. Wouldn't it be great if everyone wore a name tag! Email rhoda@xplornet.ca or text Rhoda 519-323-6425.

Do you want to take something off the to-do list on Sunday mornings? With PAR, you don't have to worry about writing a cheque or forgetting to donate. Signing up for the Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) program is easy and each month your giving's are automatically withdrawn from your bank account and you can increase or decrease amounts at any time. Contact Juliann at the Church office at 519-323-1910 ext. 1 for more information or to register. **If you are on PAR and do not require a box of envelopes or would like to change your contributions to PAR**, please get in touch with Juliann at 519-323-1910 ext. 1.

Leadership Team

Bob McFarlane, Laurie Aitken, Al Leach, Betty Seminowicz,
Norm Eygenraam, Gerry Wilkinson, Lene MacLean, Rick Sinnamon,
Neil Aitken, Diane Johnson, Daphne Rappard Armstrong

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**If you'd like the Pastoral Care Team** to pray for you, someone you know or aware of any hospitalizations, sickness or special occasions, contact one Betty Seminowicz at 519-923-5416, or by Email: [betvansemi@hotmail.com](mailto:betvansemi@hotmail.com) or Daphne Rappard at 519-323-2505, Email: [drappard@wightman.ca](mailto:drappard@wightman.ca). All requests are shared only with the Pastoral Care Team and are kept confidential.

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Mount Forest / Woodland Pastoral Charge

Minister: Rev. Lori Campbell
Minister's email: mfunitedrev@outlook.com
Minister Office Phone: 519-323-1910 Ext. 2

Office/Finance Email & Announcements: united@wightman.ca
Office/Finance Phone: 519-323-1910 Ext. 1
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 am-4:00 pm,
Friday 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Website Mount Forest/Woodland: www.mountforestunitedchurch.com

Facebook: Mount Forest & Woodland United Churches

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**MFUC Treasurer's Report:**

Year-to-Date Operating Income & Expenses @ 31Oct24  
Income \$198,403.10 / Expenses \$172,773.52  
General Operating Funds Balance \$96,258.15  
UCC M&S Fund Receipts \$ 1,352.17 / UCC M&S Fund Budget \$11,714.00  
*(M&S balances include UCW contributions)*

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**Woodland UC Treasurer's Report:**

Year-to-Date Operating Income & Expenses @ 31Oct24  
Income \$ 17,782.50 / Expenses \$ 21,168.40  
General Fund Balance \$ 35,359.25  
UCC M&S Fund Receipts: \$ 1500.00 / UCC M&S Fund Budget \$ 2000.00

**December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

We welcome all of you who gather to worship with us this morning, including all who are visiting with us today. We pray God's blessing upon you. All are welcome to join us for refreshments and fellowship after the service.

Thank you to our family of volunteers who do these jobs every week.

**Today's Volunteers:**

**Lay Reader** – Laurie Aitken (MF) Maxine Holbrough (W)  
**Elevator** – Bill Kreps (MF)  
**Greeter(s)** – Randy & Carolyn Bye (MF) Maxine & Don Holbrough (W)  
**Fellowship** – Mary Ruth & Vern Job (MF)

**Volunteers up next – December 8**

**Lay Reader** – Cheryl Hincks (MF) Maxine Holbrough (W)  
**Elevator** – Marion Officer (MF)  
**Greeters** – Cynthia & James Croker (MF) Maxine & Don Holbrough (W)  
**Fellowship** – Patty & Rick Sinnamon, Michelle Matheson (MF)

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This week's Community of Faith to remember in prayer is:

St. Paul's United – Milverton

Website:www.stpaulsuc.wixsite.com

As a church, we are called to pray for each other and for our mission in the world.

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**December Worship**

**December 21 at 7 pm - Blue Christmas:** On the Longest Night of the Year, we gather in the quiet of the growing darkness and reflect back the light. A service for everyone, including those seeking a tranquil space in the busy season, and those who may be struggling with finding the light.

**Christmas Eve Services**

**7:00 pm - Family Service: Joy to the World!** Let's raise our voices with joy and celebration! Everyone is welcome to come in their Christmas Jammies! If there are children with food allergies, please let Rev. Lori know ASAP (planning Happy Birthday Cupcakes (dairy free), but want to have something for everyone!). 35-45 minutes.

**10:00 pm - Christmas Eve Communion & Contemplation**

Come into the quiet & await the Good News as we celebrate Communion in this 35-minute service.