

# KNOX NEWS

December 2023

Issue # 62

Knox Presbyterian Church, Listowel, Ontario

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## Next Holy Communion December 3, 2023

### **INSIDE KNOX NEWS**

- ◆ From the Minister's Desk
  - ◆ A note from Session
  - ◆ Poinsettia Order Form
  - ◆ Financial Statement
  - ◆ Music of Christmas Info
- And much more!**



**"Please Help Us to be Scent – Sensitive!"**

Some of those in attendance have allergic reactions or breathing difficulties triggered by perfumes or other strong scents. Please help us to make this a welcoming environment for them.



### **UPCOMING DATES**

**Eaton Funeral Home Service of Remembrance**

Sunday December 3rd ,  
TRINITY UNITED CHURCH, 2:00—5:00 pm

**SS Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal:**

Friday December 8, 4:00 pm

**Sunday School Christmas Program**

Sunday, December 10, 10:30 am Service

**Christmas Cookie Baking**

Wednesday December 13, 6:30—8:00 pm

**Music of Christmas Concert**

Sunday December 15, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm

**Christmas Eve Services**

**Sunday December 24**

Morning Worship 10:30 am

Evening Worship 7:00 pm

Office Closed Friday Dec. 22 thru to Tues Dec. 26

**Annual Lunch & Meeting**

Sunday, February 11, 2024, 11:30 am

### ***A Good Advent is About Anticipation***

Did you know that Advent is the start of the church year? We often think that December and Christmas are the end of the year as it is on the calendar but not so with the church year. I am guessing a few people did know that but how about this one, did you know Advent isn't about Jesus being born? It isn't... It is about waiting for Jesus to be born and that is a big difference.

There was a time when Jesus was not the most well-known name on the earth. There was a time in which the promised messiah had not risen, and people were waiting. In our world of easy access, easy answers, fast food, and quick service, it can be hard to understand anticipation as anything good, but it really is, Advent is about understanding the wait for Jesus. Faith rewarded and a promise fulfilled.

Did you know that I haven't led a Christmas Eve service with a congregation in almost 4 years? Goodness gracious, I hope saying it doesn't ruin it but that anticipation has been interesting, I find it quite wonderful that the first Christmas Eve service I will lead in quite a while is with Knox, but having had to wait will make it all the better I think. All I have ever heard about is the great Christmas Eve services at Knox, so I look forward to it.

A good Advent is all about anticipation because, to be honest, we all are waiting after all. At Knox Listowel, we are all waiting for Christ. I hope to see you at the services as we wait together.

In Christ and I pray for a meaningful Advent for you at Knox.

Rev. James Clark

On behalf of the Session at Knox Listowel, I extend our warmest Christmas greetings to all. As we celebrate this special season, we reflect upon the themes of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. It is our heartfelt wish that these four treasures grace your life not only during this Christmas but also endure in abundance throughout the year.

Christmas is a humble reminder of the essence of Christ—no more, no less. It symbolizes the divine gift bestowed upon us through the selfless act of God, offering His beloved son. We find the most precious gift one could ever receive in this simple truth.

May this Christmas be a time of togetherness with cherished family and friends. May your homes be filled with a sense of serenity, your lives filled with the glow of hope, and your hearts enveloped in the embrace of unwavering faith.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas filled with the true spirit of Christ and the joy of shared love.

Merry Christmas to all.

Paul Stewart, Clerk of Session

### **Notes from the Humanitarian Needs Committee**

**The Mitten Tree** will be standing during Advent in the Narthex by the west door again this year. The donated mitts, hats, socks and scarves will be divided between the Salvation Army and Evangel Hall to keep people warm this winter.



Our **Advent appeal** this year is in support of the Salvation Army Food Bank. The congregation can donate using the third column of their offering envelope marking it "Salvation Army" or bringing non-perishable food items to the church which we will forward to the food bank. There are boxes and baskets set up by the entrances.

There are people in our community who need to use a food bank to help them provide food for their families. Let's show our support and help keep the shelves full this Christmas.

Submitted by Jim Corry.

## Memorial Poinsettias - Order Form

As in previous years, Knox is inviting you to place a memorial poinsettia in the church sanctuary during Christmas. If you would like to share with others in remembering a loved one or someone of honour, please fill out this sheet and return to the office, or call Pam in the office at 519-291-4690.

**Forms and money can be placed in a separate envelope on collection plates.**

**Cost is \$11.00 for each memorial poinsettia.**

For payment:

Cheques (*payable to: Knox Presbyterian Church Memorial Fund*), or exact cash can be dropped off at the Church Office. Hours are 9 am-2 pm Monday through Friday. **Please DO NOT use E-transfers for Poinsettias.**

***Money and order forms are due November 28<sup>th</sup>.***

After being on display in the Sanctuary, Sunday December 3, Poinsettias will be delivered to Knox Shut-Ins

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PLEASE PRINT



I (We) wish to place \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia(s) in the church.  
As a  memorial or  honour, please state name(s) of person(s)  
in whose memory or honour it is to be placed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Person(s) placing Poinsettia(s):



\_\_\_\_\_  
This will be noted in the bulletin December 3.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Person(s) placing Poinsettia(s):



\_\_\_\_\_  
This will be noted in the bulletin December 3.



# THE *Music* OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

2:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M.

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PRESENTED BY  
**KNOX CHOIR & FRIENDS**

Knox Presbyterian Church, Listowel

Free will offering at the door  
A portion of proceeds will be donated to a local charity

In the event of bad weather, the snow-date will be  
Friday, December 22, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.



## Knox Sunday School Christmas Program 2023



**Dress Rehearsal is Friday December 8 @ 4:00 pm.**  
**The performance will take place**  
**Sunday December 10 @ 10:30 am**

Please plan to come out to the **Knox Christmas Cookie Baking Night** on Wednesday, December 13 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm! We will be making and decorating Christmas treats.



This is open to children/youth grades 1-8. Please sign up on the sheets on the bulletin board in the Main Hall by Sunday Dec. 10 if you are planning on attending. High School students can get volunteer hours by helping out.



### Youth for Christ

There has been a lot of activity with the Youth for Christ staff, both throughout the summer and into the Fall. Ten youth from our community enjoyed the privilege of attending Muskoka Woods camp this summer. Challenges were faced, and lots was learned. A week-long volleyball camp was held at Between the Lines. Nine youth attended, and our staff would like to run it for another summer, possibly increasing to 2 weeks.

A successful fundraising golf tournament was held in July.

Renovations are taking place at the Youth Centre. The bench seating is being reupholstered, and a new kitchen is being completed. This will now meet Public Health codes, so that the Youth Centre will be available for groups to rent.

We have a very faithful volunteer who continues to keep up with repairs on the building, including the attached apartment. Many children are attending the drop-in centre this Fall. We have some new volunteers who have begun working with them.

Thank you to those who continue to pray for the young people in our community, and assist in the cost of programming to meet their needs. We are very blessed to have such an enthusiastic staff at YfC – North Perth.

Submitted by Sue Knowlton

Thank you for continuing to visit and make the library a success. We have some new resources on order from some of our patrons' favourite authors including Carlson and Lucado and we are also looking forward to sharing some new picture books and a few novels for tweens and teens too. Whether you are looking for one of our library's classics or a new resource, please consider selecting a book or movie from the **MacDonald Memorial Library** to get you in the holiday spirit.

Merry Christmas from the Knox library volunteers!

Thank you to the many hands who helped to make the **Turkey Supper** a success!



We fed around 400 people! Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets and were able to enjoy the supper. The food that everyone donated and cooked tasted wonderful and the people that helped with set-up, serving and clean-up were fantastic! The decorations in the Sanctuary, hall and the tables looked beautiful once again! The saying that 'many hands make for a successful event' was proven with a resounding success! Thank you again from the Board of Managers.

### HOME COMMUNION



During the week following this upcoming Communion Sunday, December 3rd, Rev. James Clark will be available to conduct Communion Services **at home** for our shut-ins, either individually or in small groups. If you would like to have Communion at home, please speak to your Elder, or call the Church Office. Rev. James will then call you to arrange a suitable time.

**Thank you for your generosity!**

As of November 12, our giving's to **Presbyterians Sharing** totaled **\$33,211.00**, which is **over** the pledged amount for this year (\$ 27,917.00). We have also sent **\$29,385.00** to PWS&D for their various appeals



*Merry*  
*Christmas*

**Income & Expense Statement**  
January 1, 2023- October 31, 2023

<u>Income</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Budget</u>
General Fund	\$ 207,534.27	\$ 184,447.64	\$ 226,550.00
Presbyterians Sharing	\$ 32,286.00	\$ 20,958.00	\$ 23,264.20
Other Income	\$ 19,484.94	\$ 3,658.75	\$ 13,750.10
Other Missions/Restricted	\$ 63,350.00	\$ 47,773.00	\$ 21,120.80
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 322,655.21</b>	<b>\$ 256,837.39</b>	<b>\$ 284,685.10</b>
 <u>Expenses</u>			
Salaries/Personnel	\$ 146,382.04	\$ 90,674.09	\$ 146,209.98
Administrative Expenses	\$ 33,303.24	\$ 28,882.84	\$ 32,585.10
Building/Grounds	\$ 50,081.80	\$ 50,859.08	\$ 66,432.15
Missions/Outreach	\$ 85,729.14	\$ 54,691.00	\$ 32,937.60
Christian Education	\$ 3,113.71	\$ 2,833.06	\$ 6,725.00
Other Expenses	\$ 12,747.92	\$ 17,594.94	\$ 10,431.80
248 Livingstone Expenses	\$ 8,599.89	\$ 10,065.14	\$ 9,303.65
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 339,957.74</b>	<b>\$ 255,600.15</b>	<b>\$ 304,625.28</b>
 <b>Excess Income\Expenses</b>	 <b>\$ (17,302.53)</b>	 <b>\$ 1,237.24</b>	 <b>\$ (19,940.18)</b>
 <u>Net Cash Position</u>			
Net Cash Position on January 1, 2023	\$ 43,415.53	January 1, 2022	\$ 55,516.93
CIBC GIC	\$ 30,000.00		
Excess Expenses	\$ (17,302.53)	Excess Expenses	\$ 1,237.24
<b>Net Cash Position October 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 56,113.00</b>	<b>October 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$ 56,754.17</b>
Bank Balance Oct. 31, 2023	\$ 34,546.32	October 31, 2022	\$ 62,744.81
CIBC GIC	\$ 30,000.00		
HST Receivable	\$ 1,668.33	HST Receivable	\$ 2,217.39
Less: Liabilities (Nicaragua/ Camperships/ Misc.Charities)	\$ (10,101.65)	Less: Liabilities Held	\$ (8,208.03)
<b>Net Cash Position October 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 56,113.00</b>	<b>October 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$ 56,754.17</b>

Submitted By: *Pamela D. Coleman*

***Board of Managers Update:***

Our longest-running project in recent times is now complete! The refurbishment and painting of the stained glass windows was completed this summer. It started before COVID!!

Givings and attendance are up and we are thankful for the congregations' support.

We are always looking for ushers. This is a great way to meet other members of our Church.

The New Year is fast approaching and we are still looking for more people to join the Board of Managers team. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to meet new people and to become involved in a group that meets once a month, 10 times a year, and is always looking for new talents.

Thank you all for your consideration and support!

Knox Listowel Board of Managers

