

KNOX NEWS



December 2023
Knox Church Woodstock

From the Minister's Desk

Rev. Dr. Dong-Ha Kim

"A SURPRISE AWAITS!"



By the time the December edition of 'Knox News' hits the 'congregational news stand,' the Season of Advent will have commenced.

Christians across the world mark Advent as the 1st Season of the Christian year, a season which encompasses both the celebration of the incarnation of Christ long ago, and anticipation of his future second coming!

To this end, we have at our disposal a mind-boggling array of liturgies and other resources to help us appropriately address this important Season.

All too often, however, the Advent Season seemingly comes and goes, as if in sync with the secular festivities of our community at this time of the year.

If you have ever wondered if there is more to the Season of Advent, well, please join the crowd. You see, I truly believe that a surprise 'gift' awaits each of us, especially during this period. What I mean is that *God of our Lord Jesus Christ seeks to give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God Himself known to each of us, in all things and in all people.* The outcome is that 'the eyes of our heart' will have enough light to see the presence of God all around us, especially within the *hungry, the unclothed, those in prison, the less fortunate, the outcasts of our society!*

Alternatively, Advent invites us to see how different our world is when seen through the eyes of God's love shown in Christ; moreover, just how different our world could be in all of its potential!

I believe we'd all be **surprised** as to what we may be missing at this moment, and what could potentially be when we see our world through the spirit of wisdom and revelation from God. I've never believed that surprise is just for the children who, in anticipation, unwrap, say, *Kinder Surprise chocolates*, like the one in the photo. Pardon me for assuming; *Kinder Surprise* is a popular milk chocolate egg lined with a layer of sweet milk-flavored cream. Inside each egg is a plastic capsule that contains a small surprise, a toy of some sort.

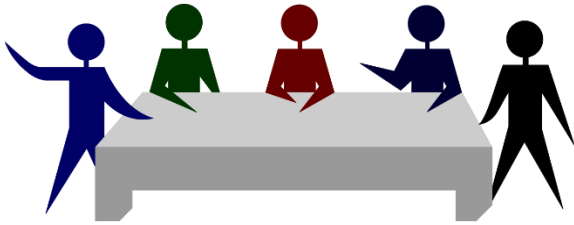
Infinitely more so, I believe surprise awaits all of us in this season of Advent.

As we prepare to welcome again the Christ child this season, I pray, may our eyes be open to Christ fully grown in all things and people around us, especially amongst those in need.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Kim

Session Notes

Submitted by Steve McInnis



The Session met on Tuesday, November 7. Eleven elders attended, including the moderator, Rev. Dr. Kim. The moderator led us in opening prayer and a reflection about choosing sides (**Proverbs 18:17**).

Updates: David Langille to be inducted as elder on November 12.

Visioning and Caring: We discussed crises situations and how Knox should respond.

Ministry Reports:

Children's Choir Ministry – The Children's Choir continues with energy.

Pastoral Care – Delivery of poinsettias and Christmas cards to shut-ins is arranged. The committee sent \$125 for the *Presbyterian Connection*.

Board of Stewards – The perimeter lighting should be installed in the spring. Stained glass will be installed and a dedication will be planned in 2024. WCI continues to use the church for their drama program. The speaker system in the sanctuary will be modified with additional speakers. The snow removal contract is being negotiated. Our CIBC branch is scheduled to close in March and we will need to use the branch at Montclair and Norwich.

Roll Clerk – Anna Fohkens and her mother have transferred their membership to Knox

Ministers' Report – The Yuletide Bazaar and other community events are successful this year and growing in size. The Zoom Bible study continues. An in-person Bible study might be scheduled as well. A precis of the studies may be distributed more widely.

Other Business – For people wishing to use Kendall Cab to come to worship on Sundays, we will make information cards to carry and show to the Kendall driver.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 @ 7:00pm

Music Moment

Submitted by Janet vanderSpek

Wishing you and yours a Blessed Advent and Christmas Season.

Here are some inspiring words taken from an Advent choral anthem:

"Righteousness and peace shall come to all the world around ;

violence shall fade away, and hope and joy abound.

The Lord shall come like gentle rain to water all the fields again;

as showers on the fresh mown grass, to water all the earth."



K. Lee Scott is the author of the lyrics of the anthem called " Like Gentle Rain".

Scott has emerged as one of America's foremost composers of music for the church during the past three decades. His hymns are found in eight hymnals including Voices United (The United Church of Canada). His 300 published compositions include anthems, hymns, works for solo voice, organ, brass, and major works including a Christmas cantata and a *Te Deum*.

One of my favourite Christmas carols is " Once in Royal David's City".

The words were written by Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895). A good mingling of the biblical story and Christian Theology, the text sets the nativity of Christ into a much larger framework- the history of salvation. Alexander's words enable us to look back and to look forward from this historic event.



Merry Christmas! May there always be a song in your heart.:)

WMS Campbell Afternoon Auxiliary

Submitted by Susan McLennan



Elaine and Susan welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Elaine led a meditation on Remembrance and Reflection, by Betty Radford Turcotte. The meditation was based on Psalm 85 and Isaiah 2, “turning swords into plowshares”.

Hymns #587 *Called as partners in Christ’s service* and #730 *O For a world where everyone respects each other’s ways* were sung, led by Jay Schlotzhauer on the piano. An interesting discussion followed and memories were shared. A lovely time of tea and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Business

Minutes: The minutes of the October meeting were approved. Motion Susan/Jay.

Roll Call – 5 members were present.

Treasurer – Elaine Stevens presented her report. Bank balance September 30th was \$428.45. Receipts \$136 Disbursements Presbyterial dues \$148 leaving a balance of \$416.45. Report accepted on motion of Elaine/Joan Willsie.

Friendship & Service – No report.

Correspondence – None received.

Business Arising – Elaine gave a report on the Presbyterial Rally which was hosted at Knox on October 26th. Eighteen women were present, from Embro, Paris, Simcoe and Woodstock. The theme was “Fall Back in Love with Jesus”.

New Business – The Kitchen crew have been asked to cater a Christmas lunch on Monday December 10th from 11:30 to 2:00. Marie Gregor will call some of our members to encourage them to join us for the Christmas meeting. We will also invite Knox staff members.

Our next meeting will be Monday December 11th at 11:30 am in the Dining Hall.

Leading With Care

Submitted by Lynda Whiteford



TIPS FROM THE CANADIAN RED CROSS

Tip #3

Get the Free APP!



The Canadian Red Cross has an APP that you can put on your phone for free. Search “First Aid - IFRC” (the one with the picture of a band-aid as shown) and have a look at it!

Poinsettias



If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary or make a monetary donation towards the purchase of one, perhaps in memory of a loved one, ***please call the office at 519-537-2962 by Monday, December 11th.***

An announcement acknowledging donors and loved ones will be in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Kitchen Crew

Submitted by Alice, Carol & Rose

We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who made the Bazaar a great success. Without our church family this event wouldn't be possible.

We are continuing to hold fellowship/craft days biweekly on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am, starting in January.

Everyone is welcome! Come out for some fellowship, fun, and laughs.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Blessed Christmas.

God Bless,
Alice, Carol, & Rose



YULETIDE
BAZAAR
2023





Yuletide Bazaar 2023



Thank you!



Merry Christmas!



Happy New Year!

Advent Afternoon

Advent Afternoon - November 26, 2023







The “W” in Christmas

Submitted by Marie Yungblut

Each December, I vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience. I had cut back on nonessential obligations - extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating, and even overspending. Yet still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moments, and of course, the true meaning of Christmas.

My son, Nicholas, was in kindergarten that year. It was an exciting season for a six-year-old. For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant." I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the production. Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher. She assured me there'd be a dress rehearsal the morning of the presentation. All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then. Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise.

So, the morning of the dress rehearsal, I filed in ten minutes early, found a spot on the cafeteria floor and sat down. Around the room, I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats.

As I waited, the students were led into the room. Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross-legged on the floor. Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song.

Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as "Christmas," I didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer.

So, when my son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love," I was slightly taken aback by its bold title. Nicholas was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright snowcaps upon their heads.

Those in the front row- center stage - held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song. As the class would sing "C is for Christmas," a child would hold up the letter C. Then, "H is for Happy," and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, "Christmas Love."

The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed her; a small, quiet, girl in the front row holding the letter "M" upside down - totally unaware her letter "M" appeared as a "W".

The audience of 1st through 6th graders snickered at this little one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her "W". Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and we all saw it together.

A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen. In that instant, we understood the reason we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place, why even in the chaos, there was a purpose for our festivities.

For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear:

"CHRIST WAS LOVE"

And, I believe, He still is.

Amazed in His presence... .humbled by His love.

Have a blessed Christmas season!



Recipe

Pretzel M&M Hugs

These Pretzel M&M Hugs are the perfect treats for Christmas gifts or parties. They only need 3 ingredients, they take no time at all to make, they look so pretty and festive and they're dangerously delicious!

Servings: 70 pretzels

Prep 15 minutes

Cook 5 minutes

Chill 5 minutes

Ready in: 25 minutes

Ingredients

- 70 square pretzels
- 70 Hershey's Hugs chocolates (from nearly 1 full 12 oz package), unwrapped
- 70 Milk Chocolate M&M's , I used the red and green Christmas package

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 200F. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Align pretzels on cookie sheet in a single layer then top each pretzel with one Hershey's Hug chocolate.
2. Bake in preheated oven for 4 - 5 minutes, until the chocolate is shiny and soft (but NOT melting, the chocolates should still hold their shape).
3. Remove from oven and carefully place one M&M in the center of each soft Hug and press down on M&M to spread the chocolate.
4. Place in freezer or refrigerator and allow to rest until chocolate has set, about 5 - 15 minutes. Store in an airtight container.



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Our Church Family



Jennifer Truman	15-Dec
Warren Brown	16-Dec
Gale Pollock	18-Dec
Kate Wilford	20-Dec
Rose Izzard	21-Dec
Michelle McCoy	24-Dec
Carrie Hardeman	24-Dec
Rev. Mark McLennan	25-Dec



Steve McInnis & Nora Martin 17-Dec



"Thanks to everyone for helping us celebrate our 40 years."

Dave & Carol

Dave and Carol Langille celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary with us by hosting coffee hour on November 5th.

May God bless you for many more years!

Thank you for sharing your special day with us.



We wish to express our deepest sympathies to Stephen Matta on the death of his birth mother, Beverly Beechie, on November 21st, and also his sister, Shawna Beechie, who passed on September 12, 2023.

Our heartfelt love and prayers go out to you and your family at this time.

Community Christmas Concert



Remembrance Day Service



Our Remembrance Day service was held on November 5th, with our guest musician Steve Shepherd, who played the bagpipes.

Thank you to everyone who kindly shared pictures and memorabilia from their loved ones.

Special thanks to Gwen Brown for setting up the beautiful display!

Ways to Give

Did you know we have a variety of ways to submit offerings?

One of those ways is through Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR). If you're interested in switching over to have your offering come directly out of your bank account, fill out one of the PAR forms located at the front and back entrances, or contact Kim in the church office.

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Ways to Give

E-TRANSFER to office.knox.woodstock@gmail.com

CASH – use one of the envelopes provided in the pews

OFFERING ENVELOPES – ask for a box of envelopes from the church office.

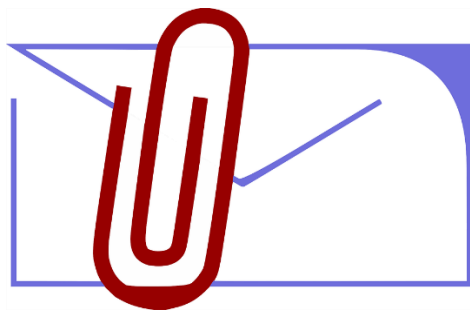
CHEQUE payable to Knox Church Woodstock

Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) – Contact the church office to sign up for automatic monthly offerings directly from your bank account.

CANADA HELPS – Secure, online donations at <https://www.canadahelps.org> and search for Knox Church Woodstock



Offering Envelopes



Offering envelopes for 2024 are available in the church office.

Please see Kim or Nick to pick up yours.

Service of Repentance, Healing and Hope



A Service of Repentance, Healing and Hope



The 2023 General Assembly adopted a Confession regarding the ways in which The Presbyterian Church in Canada has silenced, mistreated and slandered the “ethnic contingent” of the church.

Following the Assembly’s direction, on **Sunday, December 3, 2023, at 3:00 pm** a Service of Repentance, Healing and Hope will be held at St. Timothy Presbyterian Church, located at 106 Ravenscrest Dr., Etobicoke, Ontario.

This service will also be livestreamed so that Presbyterians across the country may be able to participate.

The link is <https://timothypc.com/repentance/> or visit the congregation’s website, <http://timothypc.com/>.

Call a Cab – We’ll Pick Up the Tab!



Call a Cab We’ll Pick Up the Tab!

If you need a *ride to church*, please call **Kendall Cab at 519-537-2345**, show them a cab card (available at the doors), and Knox Church will pick up the tab!

Bye Bye Birdie



Many of you have noticed the addition of some unusual props in the Friendship Centre and the sanctuary that don't really fit in with our regular church decor.

If you come in to the church during the day, you will hear the joyful screams and melodic voices of Woodstock Collegiate Institute's students rehearsing for their "Bye Bye Birdie" production that is coming up in December.

Now that the winter weather is here, you may also be greeted by a plethora of shoes and boots in the lobby!

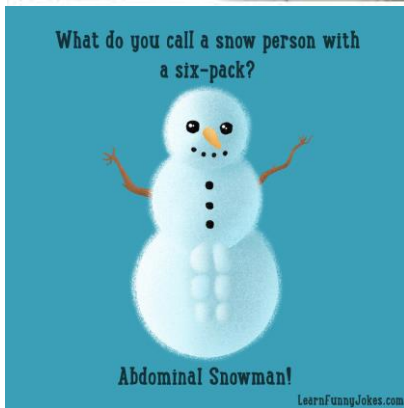
Bye Bye Birdie will be playing here at Knox from December 13-16 @ 7:00 pm. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://onstagedirect.com/byebyebirdie> for \$25 each.

Special Discounted Matinee - From December 11-14 @ 10:00 am, there will also be some matinee performances for the local area elementary students. The Thursday, December 14th show is not full, so WCI has offered our Knox family discounted tickets for the matinee show. Tickets will be \$10 each and these special tickets can be purchased from Kim in the church office.

Thank you all for your patience and kindness as WCI fills our church with their friendly and lively students!



Funnies



Q: What does a grumpy sheep say at Christmas?

A: Baaaa humbug!

Q: Where do snowmen keep their money?

A: In a snow bank!

Q: What's the definition of 'claustrophobia'?

A: Fear of Santa Claus!

Q: What is a Christmas tree's favourite candy?

A: Ornamints!



Word Search

Christmas Word Search

G Q C E L V E S Z L I G H T S
 D C Z L F J S R V N U L B Z B
 C E L E B R A T E W M J E Y F
 Q F D C W G N R E I N D E E R
 P F Z E H J T G C O O K I E S
 G R A N C R A I R I W B I H C
 O M E M N O I U K S F V A Z A
 R I I S I N R S N D O H J D N
 N M M S E L E A T E C Q B W D
 A G Z D T N Y C T M J C P R Y
 M I I I U L T T W I A B T E C
 E V H N Z W E S S Q O S B A A
 N I E N A Q Q T F T P N J T N
 T N G E P Q I C O P Y Z S H E
 D G A R J W D E Q E Y P E B S

Decorations
 Celebrate
 Lights
 Giving

Candy Canes
 Ornament
 Presents
 Dinner

Christmas
 Reindeer
 Family
 Wreath

Mistletoe
 Cookies
 Elves
 Santa



Colouring Page



A-MAZE-ing Fun!

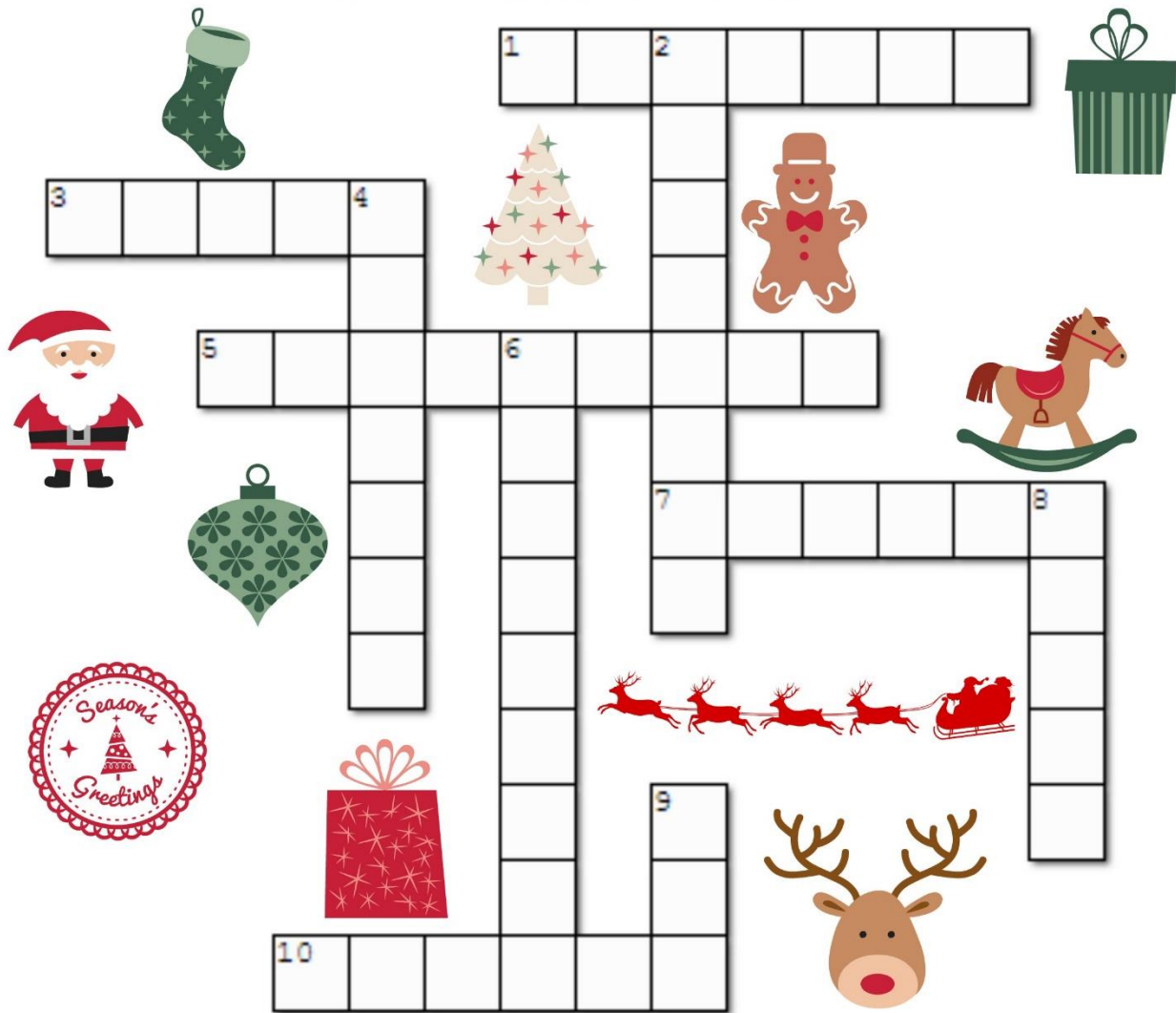


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Crossword

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

USE THE CLUES TO COMPLETE THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



Across

1. One of Santa's Reindeer
3. Santa's Helpers
5. December 25th is _____.
7. Christmas Drink
10. The name of a popular snowman.

Down

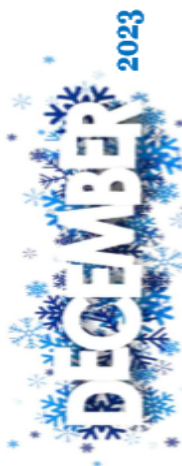
2. Christmas Month
4. He hates Christmas!
6. You hang them by the chimney.
8. On Christmas morning we unwrap our _____.
9. _____ to the world!



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December Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Breakfast 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee Hour after service Girl Guides 6:30 pm Carol Concert 7 pm	4 WCI 8 am to 8 pm Meditation 10:30 am Discing 7 pm Rangers/Pathfinders 7 pm Meditation 7:30 pm (Zoom)	5 WCI 8 am to 9 pm TOPS 9:30 am Session 7 pm Knox Kids Music 7 pm	6 WCI 9:30 to 11 am Cubs/Scouts 5 pm Choralaires rehearsal 6 pm	7 WCI 8 am to 4:30 pm Choir 7:15 pm	8 WCI REHEARSAL 8 am to 8 pm KAOS - 7 pm	9 Choralaires Concert 3 pm (see Kim for tickets)
10 Worship 10:30 am Coffee Hour after service Girl Guides 6:30 pm	11 WCI 8 am to 12:30 pm Meditation 10:30 am Campbell Afternoon WMS 11:30 am to 2:30 pm Discing 7 pm Rangers/Pathfinders 7 pm Meditation 7:30 pm (Zoom)	12 WCI 8 am to 12:30 pm TOPS 9:30 am Knox Kids Music 7 pm	13 WCI 8 am to 12:30 pm Worship Committee 2 pm Cubs/Scouts 5 pm WCI 5:30 to 10 pm Bye Bye Birdie 7 pm Zoom Bible Study 7 pm	14 WCI 8 am to 12:30 pm Bye Bye Birdie 10 am Mission Committee 10 am WCI 5:30 to 10 pm Bye Bye Birdie 7 pm Choir 7:15 pm	15 WCI 9:30 to 11 am WCI 5:30 to 10 pm Bye Bye Birdie 7 pm KAOS 7 pm	16 WCI 5:30 to 10 pm Bye Bye Birdie 7 pm
17 Worship 10:30 am Coffee Hour after service Girl Guides 6:30 pm	18 WCI 9:30 to 11 am Meditation 10:30 am WCI 2:30 to 4:45 pm Discing 7 pm Rangers/Pathfinders 7 pm Meditation 7:30 pm (Zoom)	19 WCI 9:30 to 11 am TOPS 9:30 am Knox Kids Music 7 pm	20 WCI Winter Music Concert 9 am to 9 pm Craft Crew 9:30 am	21 Choir 7:15 pm	22 KAOS 7 pm	23
24 Worship 10:30 am (Communion) Coffee Hour after service Christmas Eve service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Office Closed	26 BOXING DAY Office Closed	27	28 Choir 7:15 pm	29	30 
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE Worship 10:30 am Coffee Hour after service						

