

**Reflection December 10<sup>th</sup>** The prophet Isaiah announced good news: God comforts and strengthens a weary and exiled people in preparation for their homeward journey. Mark's Gospel announces the good news of God in Jesus Christ: God comes to turn the world right side up and baptize us with the Holy Spirit. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Messiah, what is God's good news in your life, and how will it change the way you approach this season of expectation and hope?

**December 17<sup>th</sup> Readings:** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

### **MISSION MOMENT**

**December 17<sup>th</sup>** With support from Presbyterians Sharing, The Well Church (Mississauga) provides a welcoming space for those who identify as a third culture community; that is, one that is neither the culture of mostly immigrant parents nor the dominant culture of Canadian society. In a post-pandemic world, the ministry has decided to reset their focus around spiritual formation, in everything from small groups to children's ministry, retreats and conferences. They are also training leaders to be elders with spiritual formation at the centre. By focusing on spiritual formation and becoming more Christ-like, the congregation has not only grown closer as a community, but they also feel better equipped to share their personal stories of hope and transformation with friends and neighbours.

**Reflection December 17<sup>th</sup>** John's gospel encourages us to join with John the baptizer to testify as witnesses to the light, who is Jesus Christ. The verb "to bear witness" occurs thirty-three times in the Fourth Gospel! How can you bear witness, in this season of lights, to the true Light who has come into the world?

**Dec 24<sup>th</sup> Readings:** Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 1:26-66; John 1:1-14

### **MISSION MOMENT**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** Through Presbyterians Sharing we shine Christ's light in Canada and around the world. We are there when a prisoner in Malawi discovers Christ's love through Bible study, and when an Indigenous woman in Taiwan reads the Bible in her own language for the first time. We are there when a congregation adapts to meet community needs in new ways and when a theological student in Canada, Malawi, Nigeria, Ghana or Beirut graduates, ready to serve God. We are there when a child receives a healthy snack and after-school support from an inner-city ministry, and when a refugee claimant needs a friend. We are also there for one another as we pray, serve and share the gifts God has given us. When we put our gifts in God's hands, God does remarkable things!

**Reflection December 24<sup>th</sup>** Mary's song proclaims that God is lifting up the lowly while scattering the proud, and feeding the hungry while sending the rich away with empty hands. How does this change the way you think about God's coming reign of justice and favor? How does this change the way you live? In Isaiah's prophecy in chapter 9 and the birth narrative in Luke 2, the glory of God is described as a light shining in the darkness. On this eve of Christmas, where is there a deep need for God's light to shine with love, with hope, or with peace in your life; in the life of someone you love; or in a troubled part of the world? What is your prayer for light in this darkness?

**Huron Perth Public Health launched COVID-19 vaccination** clinics for "high-risk" individuals including the general population. For assistance in booking an appointment, please call the **Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre:**

- Monday to Friday (excluding holidays)
- 8:30 AM - 5 PM (EST)
- Toll-free 1-833-943-3900
- Toll-free "Talk-to-you" (TTY) 1-866-797-0007



#### **Knox Book Discussion**

**NOTE:** The book study is 'paused' until Jan 8th 2024.



**Check out the Bayfield Activities Website Calendar** for community event information including our "little church" Knox Presbyterian:

- <https://www.bayfieldactivities.info/>

#### **Bayfield Breeze Highlight:**

- **Bayfield River Flats New Pedestrian Walkway!** Help complete the dream of Bayfield and area residents to "connect the community with nature" at the River Flats.
- **Between Nov. 15 and Dec. 15 the project team plans to** hold a fundraising campaign
- **Fundraising activities include:** "Walkway to the Finish Line" evening to be held at the Bayfield Town Hall on **Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 7-9 p.m.**



# **Knox Presbyterian Church Bayfield**

*The little church,  
with a great big heart!*



## **Announcements December 2023**

## DATES TO NOTE

03 December	1st Sunday in Advent
16 December	Christmas Concert with “That Other Choir” and Martha Lawrance ensemble harpists
21 December	Solace Singers Longest Night service
24 December	Christmas Eve candlelight service with soloist Linda Street
31 December	Peter Nijp will lead worship



### **Knox Special Events at Christmas:**

**November-December 16 @ 4PM Silent Auction**  
Judith Roy’s quilt will be on display in the sanctuary. The silent auction will run from now until 4 PM on Saturday Dec 16 [the Christmas concert will be that afternoon]. The auction includes two bird houses created by Peter Nijp. All signup sheets are in the sanctuary to record the bids, or email [knoxpcbayfield@gmail.com](mailto:knoxpcbayfield@gmail.com)

- **Saturday December 16 @ 3 PM “Our Christmas Gift”**  
Christmas Concert with Martha Lawrance’s Blue Water Harp Ensemble and “thatotherchoir”. Free will donation.
- **Thursday December 21 @ 7 PM Solace Singers**  
You’re invited to join us for some Moments of Solace. An opportunity to just ‘be,’ in the candlelight, blanketed with quiet song, because sometimes the season is anything but “merry”.
- **Sunday December 24 Christmas Eve @ 7 pm**  
Please join our candlelight service with soloist Linda Street. There will be no morning service.

**Church Directory for Knox Presbyterian Bayfield Church.**  
We are excited to begin the creation of a Church Directory for our Knox Presbyterian Bayfield Church family, 2024 edition. **Please complete the Intake form if you’d like to participate!**

**Your prayer requests can be shared in several ways.** Contact Rev Lisa, or drop a note in the prayer box at the sanctuary entrance or on the offering plate.



**Please remember to bring** your unwanted eye glasses, used postage stamps, empty egg cartons, and clean outer milk bags (wash / dry first!) into church.

The **Bayfield Area Food Bank** focus is on requesting ingredients needed for preparing baked goods. Examples of items to be donated include: flour, butter, baking soda, baking powder and chocolate chips.etc. as well as cat food to add to their inventory.

*“Many of our clients love to bake,” explained Claire Trepanier, president of the BAFB. “In fact, one of our clients had extra carrots this fall and very kindly made a carrot cake for our volunteers to enjoy.”*

The Bayfield Area Food Bank has a dedicated phone number and email:

- **519-525-8286**
- [bayfieldareafoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:bayfieldareafoodbank@gmail.com)

**Did you know...**The bible is available online:

- [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

### **Housing Equity For All**

Health, social and economic wellbeing diminish when housing is unstable. There are steps we can take to advocate for cooperative / social housing initiatives. **Please join the discussion held after Service most Sundays at 12:30 PM. What can you do?**

- Advocate that adequate housing is a human right.
- Get involved and support cooperative / social housing initiatives.
- **Speak with Rev Lisa** to join in the letter campaigns to elected officials: [presbyterian.ca/resources/advocacy](http://presbyterian.ca/resources/advocacy)



## MISSION MOMENT

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>** In Malawi, Jennifer joined a program for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) supported by PWS&D. When she was in Grade 5, Jennifer lost both of her parents to HIV and was cared for by her great-aunt. Jennifer is also HIV positive and is undergoing treatment. Through the OVC program, Jennifer received training in tailoring as well as beekeeping. Now 19 years old, Jennifer has just had her first honey harvest, yielding 5 kg of honey, which she sold to buy food. Jennifer now dreams of volunteering with a local tailor, hoping to secure a paid job in the field. With the skills she learned from this program, Jennifer is able to live positively with HIV and earn a livelihood to support herself.

**Reflection December 3<sup>rd</sup>** The weeks leading to Christmas are often filled with much activity. There may be special events to attend and get-togethers with family and friends. Staying “awake,” as Mark 13:24–37 stresses, may not be the problem—in fact, we may feel there are not enough hours in the day! Yet, this reading from Mark counsels us to be awake to, to pay attention to, to be mindful of our well-being and the well-being of the world: God’s presence, God’s appearing among us. Here at the beginning of Advent, how will you “keep alert” for God in the midst of responsibilities and distractions?

<b>December 10<sup>th</sup> Readings:</b> Isaiah 40:1–11; Psalm 85: 8–13; 2 Peter 3:8–15a; Mark 1:1–8
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## MISSION MOMENT

**December 10<sup>th</sup>** In northern Ghana, people living with disabilities face a range of issues, such as widespread poverty, limited access to livelihood opportunities and health care, and social barriers to full inclusion. Political, environmental, and economic challenges work together to create those difficult conditions. PWS&D works with the Presbyterian Church of Ghana in a Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program to address these challenges through vocational skills training programs such as soap and pomade making. Ateni Lois, a participant in the soap-making class, expresses her gratitude, stating, “We are so grateful to the CBR program and PWS&D for equipping us with the skills to be able to produce soap and pomade for money. Very soon, we will be in good business and will be out of poverty in our respective communities.”