

Knox United Church ~ Middle Stewiacke United

Friends,

What a year.

How are you doing these days? How are you faring? There is a Gaelic question that I love that goes, “Ciamar a tha ur misneachd?”, meaning “How’s your confidence?” Reflecting on the question is a good way to check in with ourselves. We’re eager and willing to help others, but when it comes to self-care we often just don’t bother. As you help others, be certain to look after yourself too, and if you need spiritual or emotional support, please reach out.

I am happy to be preaching in front of people, hopefully this will be able to continue, but we will continue to take guidance from public health and our denomination.

I know people are at risk of developing covid precaution fatigue, and I do feel that, but I also have Covid-19 denial fatigue. I was walking to the post office the other day with a mask on and someone drove by and shouted something rude about masks not being useful. However, I decided to continue following the medical guidance from Public Health and not from random people yelling from passing cars.

I know the physical distancing requirements and other changes in church are not fun. We are a people who like to gather together, over food, song, and laughter, and that has been profoundly impacted by the pandemic. I miss greeting you following worship and meeting you in your homes. But when I start feeling frustrated by pandemic restrictions, I try to gain some perspective by remembering John 15:13 where Jesus said, “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” Great love means sometimes putting the needs of others ahead of our own wants and fears. Wearing a mask, limiting outings and following guidelines are signs of our love for others.

We are the Body of Christ in the world, and as such we have a responsibility to robustly care for and ensure the safety of the whole body, because when one part suffers we all suffer. God doesn’t call us to look for loopholes in regulations, God calls us to care for each other, and to sometimes put needs of others ahead of our own wants. I want people to have confidence, when they enter Knox or Middle Stewiacke United Church, that they will be as safe as possible.

You know, I never thought that I would need video editing skills in ministry, but here we are. We all, musicians, ministers, and congregation members alike had to quickly adjust and to think of new ways of being together so that worship could continue. As we move forward we will continue to live stream our services on Facebook, and to offer a text copy of the service for people who have difficulty hearing.

As we prepare to welcome the Christ Child into our world and into our hearts once again, we are welcoming belonging, and the knowledge that we are not on our own. God is with us, and we are with each other. May we be strengthened by the peace and unyielding love of God in the coming Advent season, and always.

Ciamar a tha ur misneachd? How’s your confidence?

Le meas (With respect),

Rev. Michael W. A. Henderson



Christmas Eve Services –

Thursday, December 24

6:30 p.m. - Knox United Church

8:00 p.m. - Middle Stewiacke United Church

10:00 p.m. - Knox United Church



At Knox, please plan to attend only one of the Christmas Eve services, keeping in mind that younger families may want to attend the earlier service. It is highly recommended that you contact Joanne at the office to indicate which you will be celebrating at and the number of people in your party.

Sunday Service, December 27 – TBA

Livestream - Here is the link to Knox's livestream services <https://www.facebook.com/knoxunitedbrookfield>

You can watch live at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays or view it when you have time afterwards.

Contact Information:



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Pastoral Charge Office: 902-673-3363 brookfieldunitedchurch@gmail.com

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Knox Treasurer, Lori Nielsen knoxbrookfieldtreasurer@gmail.com

NOX NOOK UPDATE

We were so happy to be able to reopen Nox Nook Thrift Store at Knox United Church, Brookfield, on September 30, with safety precautions in place and the support of our faithful volunteers who sell, pack, and sort behind the scene. It was great to see our regular customers back and also to see new customers.

We are so grateful for the many donations that are coming in. We now have a wide variety of items for sale – clothes, shoes, purses (only \$1), dishes, books, CD's, LP's, toys, skis, lamps, bedding & linen, and a whole room with Christmas items!

Our open hours are Wednesday, Friday and Saturday (1:00-3:00 p.m.) and Wednesday & Thursday (10:00 a.m. - noon).



A GREAT PLACE TO DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING!

House Tours & Christmas Index



Unit 3 regrets that the Christmas House Tours will be cancelled due to Covid-19.

Hopefully 2021 will allow us to hold the Tours for the 25th year, maybe a really big event!

The collection of donations for the Christmas Index Program which has been a part of the Tour weekend, by the Train Station Directors, will be continued with the support of individuals, volunteer groups and businesses in the area.

Donations can be brought to the Church the first week of December or picked up by committee members.

If coming to the Church, call Evelyn for open hours at 902-650-2076.

For pick up call: Donna @902-673-2812, Judy @ 902-673-2427 or Betty @902-673-2800

Food for the Spirit . . .

STUFF A TRUCK EVENT

In support of Colchester Food Bank

Sunday, December 13, 11:00-4:00

At Knox Church parking lot

Donations of food or cash graciously accepted



At Middle Stewiacke . . .

The Middle Stewiacke United Church Christmas Tree lighting will be Sunday Evening, Nov. 29th at 7pm. Names will be read outside around the tree. There will be no singing or fellowship taking place. Memorial and honorarium information can be given to Shelley O'Connell [902-671-2148](tel:902-671-2148) or Paul Fisher [902-673-3008](tel:902-673-3008) by phone or email at sjfish64@gmail.com and donations may be left in the collection can at Sunday Service or given to Paul or Trudi O'Connell. Donations are a free will offering and will be given to the Truro Homeless Outreach Society.



The Christmas Soldier is in the entry of Middle Stewiacke United Church collecting mittens, hats, scarves and slippers until November 29th. The items will be donated to the Christmas Index Program.

Merry
Christmas
HAPPY NEW YEAR!