

November 2021

Message from the Minister . . .

Friends,

How are you doing? Well, I hope.



It feels like it's been ages since I've sat down to write one of these notes for our newsletter. I suppose it feels like that, because it has been ages. I don't know about you, but I find that it seems like we've been in pandemic mode for a long, long, long time. I have missed writing these newsletter messages, and am glad to be writing one today.

Truth be told, I miss lots of things about our pre-pandemic life together, but I'm also grateful. I'm grateful for the resiliency of the Brookfield Pastoral Charge during these times. I'm grateful we found ways to come together in worship, both in Word and in Sacrament. I'm grateful for the pause the pandemic has provided, during which many people have intentionally taken time to learn about the Residential School system (the last residential "school" closed in 1997 - 2 years after I graduated from high school), colonialism, and how to move forward in peace and friendship.

Also, I am very grateful that in-person Bible Study has resumed. If you have been hesitant to attend, or if you've attended previous Bible Studies and decided it wasn't for you, I encourage you to take a chance and attend. We meet on Wednesdays at 10 in the Knox Church Hall. No previous experience with Scripture is needed, and you can be as quiet or as talkative as you'd like. You don't even need to bring a Bible.

I am also grateful that church attendance is increasing as people feel more comfortable meeting in groups.

If you would like a pastoral visit, please let me know. If you have a pastoral emergency, please let me know. If you are, or you know of someone who is, unable to come to worship and would like to receive Communion at home, I would be happy to make that happen. Home Communion is very meaningful, and helps to remind us that no matter what, we belong to a community, and we belong to God, who never leaves us. It's helpful to know how many people will be at home during the Communion since all who are present are welcome to receive the elements.

The United Church of Canada has issued strong recommendations that ministry personnel be fully vaccinated against Covid-19. I have indeed received both doses. Pastoral visits can take place at home, at the church, or via Zoom, phone, or even through texting.

As we approach the Advent and Christmas seasons, may we be richly blessed as we anticipate and prepare for the arrival of the Christ Child once again.

And may you be uplifted by hope, reassured by peace, surprised by joy, and embraced in love.

In Christ,

Rev. Michael Henderson

Sunday and Christmas Services . . .



Sunday services: Knox United, Brookfield— 9:30 am
Middle Stewiacke United—11:15 am

December 5 - White Gift Services at Knox and Middle Stewiacke

Christmas Services – Friday, December 24

6:30 pm - Knox United Church
8:00 pm - Middle Stewiacke United Church
10:00 pm - Knox United Church

Sunday Service, December 26, 10 a.m. – Combined Service at Middle Stewiacke United Church

Links to Knox's livestream services are below.

<https://www.facebook.com/knoxunitedbrookfield>

<http://knoxunitedbrookfield.ca/worship-service/sunday-service/>

**The audio of the service will be uploaded in the afternoon to our worship phone number.
Call 902-920-0335 to listen.**

Contact Information: Rev. Michael Henderson 902-305-4620
mikewahenderson@gmail.com

Pastoral Charge Office: 902-673-3363
brookfieldunitedchurch@gmail.com
Address: P.O. Box 83
53 Highway 289, Brookfield, NS B0N 1C0



Christmas Index . . .

Message from Unit 3 and Train Station Directors

Christmas is coming (even with Covid-19) and we will celebrate the season and continue to support the important work of the Christmas Index Program. The Train Station Directors, in conjunction with UCW Unit 3, are asking you to help. Your gifts make a better Christmas for numerous families in Brookfield and throughout Colchester County.

Donations can be delivered to Knox United Church KITCHEN during open times, (call Evelyn @ 650-2076), the first week of December or can be picked up by calling one of the following: Donna @ 673-2812, Judy @ 673-2427 or Betty @ 673-2800.



Nox Nook is open . . .

NOX NOOK THRIFT STORE

Wednesday—10 –12 noon / 1—3

Thursday—10—12 noon

Friday—1—3

Saturday—1– 3

Donations may be dropped off during open hours, or call Evelyn, 902-650-2076 or the church office, 902-673-3363 to arrange a time.

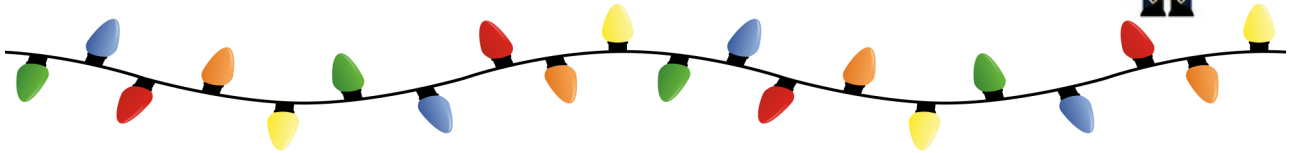
Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

Knox Council: We are looking for new members for some committees. If you would like to consider joining the Worship, Mission and Outreach or Property Committee, please contact Joanne at the office or any member of council. The Property Committee is also looking for helpers to complete various tasks at the church. If you can lend your skills, please contact Rod Nielsen.

Knox Sunday School and Child Care – We wish to welcome back families with children to church and will need to have activities and childcare available. Can you help in any way? Contact Rev. Mike if you might be interested or have some ideas to share.

Middle Stewiacke . . .

The Christmas Soldier is in the entry of Middle Stewiacke United Church collecting mittens, hats, scarves and slippers until November 28th. The items collected will be donated to the Christmas Index Program.



The Middle Stewiacke United Church Christmas Tree Lighting will be Sunday evening, Nov. 28th at 7pm. For a free will offering, a bulb on the tree can be lit in honour or in memory of someone. If you would like to honour a loved one, contact Shelley O'Connell by phone: [902-671-2148](tel:902-671-2148) or email: shelley@seasidehighspeed.com with the names of your loved ones. Donations may be left with Shelley or in the collection can at Sunday Service. All donations will be given to the Truro Homeless Outreach Society.

White Gift Sunday is the second Sunday of advent, Dec. 5th. During the service, we will be collecting gifts for children of all ages. If you wish to participate, your gift should be wrapped in plain white paper or white bags. The gifts collected will be taken to the Christmas Index to help fill Christmas boxes for families in need.



Merry Christmas to all . . .