

BROOKFIELD PASTORAL CHARGE

Knox United Church ~ Middle Stewiacke United

November 2023

Message from the Minister . . .

November 13, 2023

Greetings Friends,

I've always liked the banjo, so this year I decided to take lessons. I hadn't taken any kind of music lessons since piano when I was in grade six, so there is a lot to learn. I didn't realize that what I don't know about music and learning can feel a bit overwhelming at times. I'm not very good at playing yet, but I'm not disappointed, because I know that if I put in the work, I will get better over time. If I'm terrible at playing banjo today, I at least know that I will be less terrible tomorrow. This is also the approach I took to learning Gaelic, because being bad at something is the first step to being good at something.

I think that's a lesson that is also applicable to life in the church. Sometimes when we try something new we don't give it enough time to take root and grow, and instead quit when it doesn't immediately pan out. Then if we consider trying something similar later on, we remember how it went the first time, and are tempted to stop before we start. But the first step in trying something new is to try it, knowing that it won't be smooth sailing at first, that the first step to being good at something is to be bad at it. I believe we need to keep on putting in the work of being Christ's body in the world, of learning, growing and evolving as disciples, of trying new things, and when we do, we need to give those things adequate space to breathe and grow. We also need to remember that the Church is not called to be perfect, we are called to be faithful.

I am thankful to be growing and walking alongside you in the way of Jesus.

In Peace and Joy,

Rev. Michael W. A. Henderson

Contact Information: Rev. Michael Henderson 902-305-4620

mikewahenderson@gmail.com

Rev. Mike's usual office hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday mornings at Knox

Tuesdays - hospital visits/Knox

Friday - day off



If you know of someone connected to our church family that has been admitted to hospital, please let Rev. Mike know.

Calendar of Services . . .

Sunday services:

- Knox United, Brookfield, 9:30 a.m.
(Food Bank Sunday is the 2nd Sunday of each month. The bin is across from the main office.)
- Middle Stewiacke United, 11:15 a.m.
(Foodbank Sunday is the 1st Sunday of each month.)
- **1st Sunday of Advent, December 3 - White Gift Services**
(bring a gift in plain wrapping to be donated to Christmas Index Program.)

Christmas Eve Services – Sunday, December 24

9:30 a.m.—Fourth Sunday of Advent Service at Knox

11:15 a.m.—Fourth Sunday of Advent Service at Middle Stewiacke

6 p.m. - Knox United Church

8 p.m. - Middle Stewiacke United Church

Sunday, December 31, 10 am Combined service at Knox

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 is uploaded in the afternoon to our worship phone number. Call 902-920-0335 to listen.



To book a room at Knox for your meeting or event, please contact Joanne at the office or by texting her at 902-957-7495.

Pastoral Charge Office: 902-673-3363

brookfieldunitedchurch@gmail.com

Address: P.O. Box 83, 53 Highway 289, Brookfield, N.S. B0N 1C0

Nox Nook Thrift Shop

Open Hours

Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - 12 noon; 1 - 3 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 12 noon; Fridays & Saturdays, 1 - 3 p.m.
Donations of good used items gratefully accepted.

Please bring donations to the Nook area in the basement of the church. If you need help to do this, please ask a volunteer. Thank You!

From Knox Mission & Outreach

As the Christmas Season approaches we are once again pleased to support the Christmas Index program. We are just waiting for information on the families. Please watch the weekly announcements for details on what is needed and how to donate.



Message from Knox Council Chairperson

Another busy calendar year is wrapping up! Where did 2023 go? The Council Committee at Knox United will have met eight times this year (by publication time!) with approximately 12 Committee Chairs attended each meeting. All members have continued to work together to help ensure that the needs of the church are being maintained while introducing new ideas, too.

We have been blessed with many fundraisers this year. Thank you to Marian McDonald for taking the lead on the Fundraising Committee. Our church family has always gone above and beyond when requests have been made for any type of assistance. The effort, teamwork and support that everyone offers in making any fundraiser happen is amazing. The positive financial impact is certainly evident but also the community spirit and sense of pride that fundraisers offer is very important as well.

The church property's needs, general maintenance and upkeep is a big undertaking. Our building, roof and heating systems are aging. A huge thank you to Rod Nielsen for his dedication in keeping the equipment running smoothly. The vast knowledge, careful approach and the preventive measures he takes are much appreciated. I also want to acknowledge and thank all those who help with lawn care, who keep the kitchen in good working order, and to those who do all the 'behind the scenes' things that not many of us know about! We are blessed to have so many helping hands at Knox.

Knox United continues to offer mission and outreach activities, for the young and old, which our community has come to enjoy and rely on. We have a strong and dedicated group of volunteers that keep Nox Nook, Heather's Heart to Home meals, youth and adult pickle ball (just to name a few!) going. Also, the UCW units and members of the Pastoral Care Committee, who support and organize events and functions are all important in the work of the church.

I am certainly proud of Knox United and how we have bounced back from the 'pandemic pause'. I feel we are still an important part of the landscape of Brookfield. I look forward to the combined leadership, inevitable challenges and future successes we will face together in the upcoming year. Together we are United.

Sincerely,

Erin Jamieson

Fundraising at Knox . . .

Over the past year the fundraising committee has coordinated several successful fundraising events. However, it is important to state that the success of these events was dependent on the volunteer efforts of many. Each event requires a 'small army' to organize, prepare for and carry through to completion. As each event is announced, several are asked and many others come forward to offer their time and talents. A sincere 'Thank you' to each and every one of you.

I think it is also important to say that, while these events have raised more than \$11,500 to support the operational needs of our church, they are more than fundraisers; they are community building and provide opportunities for connections among and between members of our Knox community and the greater Brookfield and area community.

A breakdown of fundraisers thus far in 2023 and profit realized is as follows: Valentine's Extravaganza and Silent Auction (\$4,265.69); Homemade Goodies basket (\$752.00); Catering to Judy & Hugh Matheson anniversary luncheon (\$746.66); Strawberry, Ham and Potato Salad supper (\$2,125.56); Giant Yard Sale and Breakfast (\$3,680.92); Ovenless Turkey Dinner (\$1,095.00) for a total of \$11,570.83!

Plans for the balance of 2023 and into 2024 include the sale of tickets on a Christmas Homemade Goodies basket. Tickets will be available shortly at Nox Nook, the church office, MacQuarries, Roop's Esso, and from Fundraising committee members—1 for \$2 / 3 for \$5. The draw will take place at Nox Nook on Monday, December 18. Also, we will be selling coffee, hot chocolate and cookies during intermission at the Fiddles & Feet concert on December 16th.

Looking forward to 2024, watch for an announcement of the date for the Valentine's Extravaganza, including a silent auction with a whole array of items on which to place bids. It is an exciting evening with great music and delicious appetizers and desserts.

Again, many thanks to those who volunteer their time to work on fundraising events and to those who support these events with your attendance. If you would like to be a part of this committee, or have ideas for fundraiser, do be in touch with Marian at 902-673-3464 or marian.mcdonald@ns.sympatico.ca.

Your fundraising committee,

Marian McDonald, Chair

Erin Jamieson, Don Harvey



Thank you to all who give to Knox United Church. Every donation helps to keep our church operating and able to offer support, programs, activities, and events to our community and beyond. If you wish to donate, you may e-transfer Knox's treasurer at

knoxbrookfieldtreasurer@gmail.com

What can I do . . . At Knox

- ◇ Greeters are needed for Sundays at both doors! If you are willing to help, please sign the sheet on the white board & your preferred dates.
- ◇ Drivers are required for the Christmas Tours on Friday & Saturday, Nov. 24 & 25, from 5:50 to 8:30 p.m. Please sign list or call 902-673-2427 for more info.
- ◇ *Sunday, Nov. 19 after church at Knox – We'll be decorating the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. Stay and help if you can!*
- ◇ *Saturday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m. - Fiddles and Feet concert at Knox.*
- ◇ *Monday, Dec. 18 – Draw for the Christmas Goodies Basket*



Sunday, December 17 ~ 11 am—3 pm
“Food for the Spirit”
STUFF A TRUCK FOR THE FOOD BANK
In the front parking lot of Knox
Donations of food or cash welcome

The 26th Christmas Tours

Fri. Nov. 24 & Sat. Nov. 25, 2023 —6 - 9 pm

\$15.00

Tour includes decorated homes, Knox & Middle Stewiacke United Churches, the amazing Village Scene at the golf course, and a traditional theme at the Station.
Craft Sale, Refreshments

FREE Transportation provided from Knox

Sponsored by Unit 3

For tickets call Betty Dickie 902-673-2582,
Also available at MacQuarries, and at the door the night of the tours

Tables for the craft sale are free.

Call Jean Lawrence at 902-673-2022 to reserve your spot



In conjunction with the Tours, the Brookfield Railway Station and Historical Society will once again be holding the:

‘Festival of Trees & Stockings’

*Businesses, Groups and/or Individuals are invited to decorate a tree and/or fill a stocking for the Christmas Index Program.
These will be on display at Knox Church during the Tour.*

Pork loin supper with all the trimmings & dessert

at Knox Church

Both nights of the Tour

5 pm

Cost \$15.00

Limited tickets available.....call Muriel 902-673-2333

Sponsored by the Station Committee

At Middle Stewiacke

Our choir meets for practice every Thursday night at 7p.m. If you would like to join, please contact Tim Ross.

November 28th is Giving Tuesday

On Nov 28th, make a positive impact by supporting Middle Stewiacke United Church. Your donations help support our church. e-transfer to middlestewiackeunited@gmail.com

We are excited to take part again in the Brookfield Christmas Tours on November 24th and 25th. Stop in for a tour of our beautifully decorated church. We will be offering homemade baked beans and brown bread for sale as well as a bake table full of goodies.

December 3rd - Songs of the Season concert 7p.m. Free will offering plus canteen items will be available.

We will be supporting an index family this year for Christmas. Keep watch in the bulletin for more info on how to help with donations.

Thank you for your continued support of Middle Stewiacke United Church.



Our Christmas Soldier will return this year to collect mittens, scarves, slippers, socks, etc., until December 3. Items will be donated to local charities.