

*Clifton Pastoral Charge  
Old Barns & Hilden United Churches*

We are Affirming Churches in an Affirming Pastoral Charge

Clergy: The Reverend Phillip Kennedy  
Organists: Old Barns – Beckie Burrows; Hilden – Edith Selwyn-Smith  
Bulletin Secretary: Judy Loughhead

Mission Statement: To provide a friendly, welcoming, caring, and safe environment to promote spiritual growth.

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**Sunday, December 1, 2024  
First Sunday of Advent – The Gift of the Four Directions**

Led by Leslie Burrows

Thank you to Laurie Sandeson, Kent Loughhead, Garry Matthews,  
Reg Henderson, Barb Miller, Karen Archibald-Waugh,  
Laurie Gunn, and Sandra Matthews for their gifts of music and reading

**Introduction**

**Greetings and Announcements**

**Celebrations**

**Call to Worship**

Sing praises to God on high,  
for glorious are God's works.

**Sing praises to the ends of the earth.**

Shout and sing for joy, O people of God,  
**for great is the Holy One in our midst,  
blessed is the One who comes to dwell among us.**

**Introit** "Come, Radiant One" (Garry/Laurie)  
(Bruce Harding, [www.evensong.ca](http://www.evensong.ca))

**Opening Prayer**

**God of the unexpected and undreamt, in this holy  
season, kindle hope in our hearts.**

**Prepare us, so we can hear again the song of the  
angels and see again the beckoning star. Amen.**

**Hymn** VU 4 "God of All Places"

**Choir** "Hope Is a Candle" (Linnea Good, [www.linneagood.com](http://www.linneagood.com))

**The Gifts of the Four Directions**

**South** Micah 5: 2-5a "The Ruler from Bethlehem"

Sung Response VU 19 "Kindle a Flame to Lighten the Dark"

We light this candle in the direction of the south, signifying summer,  
the time of warm breezes and growth in our lives. (*lights candle*)  
We look to the south, toward Bethlehem, and the promise that from  
Bethlehem shall come a ruler who shall rule in gentleness and peace.

**All: Creator God, as we await your promised reign of  
peace, help us to be peacemakers. May your face  
shine upon us, that we may grow in gentleness and  
learn the ways of peace. Amen.**

**Hymn** VU 64 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

**West** Mark 1: 1-5 "The Proclamation of John the Baptist"

Sung Response VU 19 "Kindle a Flame to Lighten the Dark"

We light this candle in the direction of the west, the place where the sun  
sets, the place of introspection. (*lights candle*)  
We look to the west, toward the Jordan valley, remembering John the  
Baptist, who came to prepare the way of the Lord, calling people to  
repent.

**All: Creator, as we prepare your way in our world, give  
us the courage to look within ourselves to see what  
needs to be changed. Help us to turn from all that  
separates us from you and from each other; to turn  
toward you and walk in the light of your love.  
Amen.**

**Hymn** VU 28 "Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness"

**Trio** “Magnificat!” (Bruce Harding, [www.evensong.ca](http://www.evensong.ca)) (Kent/Laurie/Reg)

**North** Luke 2: 1-4 “The Birth of Jesus”

Sung Response VU 19 “Kindle a Flame to Lighten the Dark”

We light this candle in the direction of the north, reminding us of white snow and winter winds, and the wisdom that comes with age.  
(*lights candle*)

We look to the north, toward Nazareth, remembering Joseph and Mary, who made a difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in the final stages of Mary’s pregnancy.

**All: Creator, as you spoke to Joseph and Mary in their dreams and through your messengers, speak to us. Give us the wisdom to discern what you are calling us to do and how we can serve you in the world. Amen.**

**Hymn** VU 73 “The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”

**East** Matthew 2: 1-6 The Visit of the Magi

Sung Response VU 19 “Kindle a Flame to Lighten the Dark”

We light this candle in the direction of the east, the place where the sun rises and we awaken to a new day. (*lights candle*)  
We look to the east, remembering the Magi, who saw a bright new star rising and followed it to find a child, born to make a new beginning.

**All: Creator, in the birth of your son, you make all things new. May your saving power rise on us like the sun, bringing healing like the sun’s rays, that together we may heal the earth and heal each other. Amen.**

**Hymn** VU 89 “From a Distant Home”

## Offertory Prayer

**We give because we have received. God, our Creator, you have blessed us with an abundance of gifts. In Jesus Christ you have given yourself to us. Accept these gifts we give to honour you and to help our neighbours. May they be expressions of your compassion and generosity. Amen.**

**Choir** VU 17 “O Ancient Love”

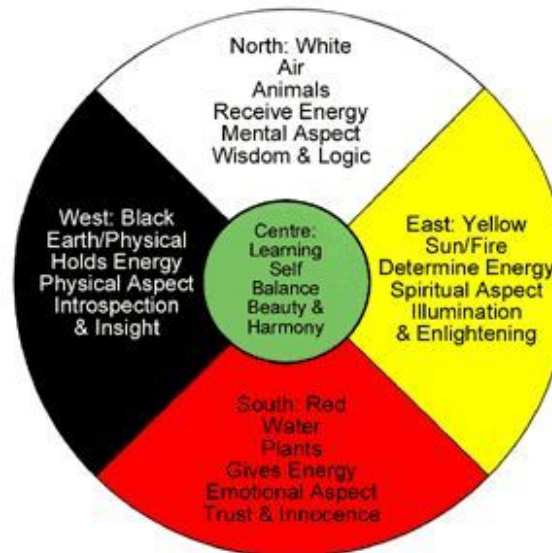
**Prayers of the People** (prayer by William S. Kervin and Paul Peters Derry, Celebrate God’s Presence, p.106, 1T012)

**Hymn** VU 76 “See amid the Winter’s Snow”

## Commissioning and Benediction

(prayer by Paul Peters Derry, Celebrate God’s Presence, p. 104, 1X001)

**Hymn** VU 59 “Joy to the World”



Service accredited to:

**Jeanne Manning Stright**, Merigomish/Green Hill–Alma Pastoral Charge, Merigomish, N.S.  
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### **Worship Services Schedule**

Dec 8 - 9:30 a.m. in Hilden, 11:00 a.m. in Old Barns - 2 Advent, White Gift Service  
Dec 15 - 9:30 a.m. in Hilden, 11:00 a.m. in Old Barns - 3 Advent  
Dec 22 - 9:30 a.m. in Hilden, 11:00 a.m. in Old Barns - 4 Advent  
Dec 24 - 7:00 p.m. in Hilden - Led by Rev. Phillip Kennedy - Christmas Eve  
Dec 24 - 7:00 p.m. in Old Barns - Led by Kent Loughead - Christmas Eve  
Dec 29 - 9:30 a.m. in Hilden, Old Barns is a pre-taped service on the website

### **Booking Contacts**

Old Barns - Reg Henderson at 902-895-0740 or [rhenderson8@hotmail.com](mailto:rhenderson8@hotmail.com)  
Hilden - George Creelman at 902-897-4493 or [georgecreelman@hotmail.com](mailto:georgecreelman@hotmail.com)

**Bulletin Announcements** - contact Judy at 902-895-7243 or [lougheadjd@gmail.com](mailto:lougheadjd@gmail.com) by Wednesday evening.

### **Charge Website** - [cliftonpastoralcharge.ca](http://cliftonpastoralcharge.ca)

Church bulletins & video of services are available on the website under the heading "Worship". All Policies - (Funerals, Marriages, Baptisms or Blessings) are located under the heading "About Us".

**Clerks of Sessions** - to contact the Session with any questions or concerns regarding the Spiritual Life of the church or to request a baptism or wedding, please contact your Clerk of Session:

Old Barns - Leslie Burrows 902-890-4682 or email [obsession@cliftonpastoralcharge.ca](mailto:obsession@cliftonpastoralcharge.ca)  
Hilden - Phillip Kennedy

**Minutes for Mission** playlists at [www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada](http://www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada)  
stories and photos on [www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca)

**Need a Drive to Church** (OB) - Contact Gordie at 902-895-6833

**Old Barns Treasurer** - regarding church business or etransfer donations contact Bob Francis at [oldbarnstreasurer@cliftonpastoralcharge.ca](mailto:oldbarnstreasurer@cliftonpastoralcharge.ca)

**Social Committee** (OB) - contact Julia Blois at 902-893-2641.

The Reverend Phillip Kennedy can be reached at 902-957-4727 (cell) or by email at [phillip.kennedy@cliftonpastoralcharge.ca](mailto:phillip.kennedy@cliftonpastoralcharge.ca)

**Visitation** - If you, or someone you know, want or need a pastoral care visit, please contact either the Clerk of Session or the minister, Rev. Phillip Kennedy.

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### **HILDEN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mitten Tree** has been placed for all the knitted items.

December 3rd - Tuesday, 1:30pm, **Hilden UCW** will be in church hall.

**Hilden Games and Cards** Dec. 4th (Wed) at 10:00am Dec. 20th (Fri) at 1:00 pm

### **OLD BARNS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Old Barns Session** is in need of filling two upcoming vacancies; one as of Jan. 1, 2025 and one as of May 31, 2025. Please contact a member of Session (Leslie Burrows, Karen Archibald-Waugh, Laurie Sandeson, Barb Miller) if you can offer to serve our church family in this way. Thank you.

December 14th - Saturday, UCW is asking for 2 doz. crisp cookies for the **Christmas Cookies trays**. Please leave the cookies in the Bayview Room by noon on Saturday, Dec. 14th. Thank you.

The UCW is once again collecting **donations for the Christmas Index Program and the Colchester Food Bank**. Donations should be placed in an envelope with your name on it and indicating it is for the UCW. Place in collection plate or get to Leslie Burrows on or before December 8th. Thank you to all those who support these Christmas donations.

December 15 - **Christmas in the Barn** 6:30 p.m. at the Waugh Farm, Lower Truro

### **JOINT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**M&S Report for November** is \$1,513 (\$245 World Development & Relief) for a Grant Total of \$21,390.23. Our regular givings are down about \$2,000 from 2023. We are up to 71.3% of our goal. THANK YOU to everyone who supports M&S. We are making a big difference to many people.

Reminder - Heads-up! It is that time of year again. You may email Judy Loughead **Annual Reports** before January 10th at [lougheadjd@gmail.com](mailto:lougheadjd@gmail.com)

December 4th - Wednesday, 5:30 for 6:00 p.m., **UCW Christmas Pot Luck** Supper will be held in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies of the community and Hilden UCW members are welcome.

December 6th - Friday, 7:00pm, (Doors open 6:30pm) Old Barns United Church presents "**A CLIFTON FAMILY CHRISTMAS**". Highway 236 & Friends. Reminder for the kids, Santa will arrive just before Intermission.

(Bidding on the Auction will be open between 6:30 and 7:00 and again during intermission.) Proceeds go to the Colchester Food Bank and Atlantic Community Shelters Society.

If you would like to donate food items for the Auction, please drop off between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. that day. Thank you to all who donate to the Auction and also to those who bid on the items.

December 7th - Saturday, 7:00 p.m., First United Church (Truro) **Annual Christmas Candlelight Concert** Featuring the Church Choir, Handbell Ensemble, and friends.