

Clifton Pastoral Charge

Old Barns and Hilden United Churches

We are Affirming Churches in an Affirming Pastoral Charge

Clergy: Reverend Phillip Kennedy

Organists: Old Barns--Beckie Burrows, Hilden--Edith Selwyn-Smith

Church Bulletin Secretary: Judy Loughhead

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

December 1, 2024

Hilden Worship Service

Led by Sylvia Patterson

Advent 1

Music provided by - Choir Members

Prelude

Introit “Advent Song” (tune *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*)

Advent is a time to wait, not quite time to celebrate.

Light the candles one by one, till the Advent time is done.

Christmas Day will soon be here, time for joy and time for cheer.

Welcome & Life & Work of the Charge

Celebrations and Birthdays

History and update of White Gift Service (coming up Dec. 08)

Lighting of the Advent Candle (Pam) - HOPE

Today is the first Sunday in Advent, and we light the first candle in our Advent wreath, the candle that represents hope. We live in a world where people desperately look for hope: we see it in those who are searching for a vaccine; we see it in those who are looking for inclusive love and an end to exclusion and we see it in those who live in despair over climate change.

Knowing the need for hope in all of our lives and in this despairing world, we light this candle as a symbol of the hope promised in the coming of Jesus and the kingdom of God.

(The first blue candle is lit.)

Carol (VU #6, Vs 1)

“A Candle Is Burning”

Opening Prayer

Gather with us, God of eternal glory, as we seek your presence in the signs and symbols of this Christmas season.

As we prepare for Christmas celebrations, keep us open to the miracle of your grace, which is for all people, in all times and places.

Fill us with wonder and awe once again at the wideness of your mercy and the fullness of your love.

As we are blessed by your grace, so send us forth to touch our world with love. Amen.

(The Scriptures and Messages this morning are going to be combined with what is called “Hanging of the Greens”):

The Garland

“God’s Welcome Extended to All People”

Scripture

Luke 1: 46-55 (April)

Hymn

(VU #7, Vrs 1-3) “Hope Is A Star”

(Garland will be placed during hymn)

The Poinsettia

“A Symbol of the Unexpected”

Scripture

Isaiah 35: 1-2 (Sylvia)

Hymn

(VU #222, Vrs 1,2,4) “Come, Let Us Sing”

(Poinsettia will be placed during hymn)

The Wreath

“A Symbol of Never-Ending Love”

Scripture

Luke 1: 5-25 (Arlene)

Hymn

(VU #5, Vrs 1-3) “All Earth Is Waiting”

(The Wreath will be placed during hymn)



Prayer of Confession

God of infinite love, we confess that we are quick to give up on ourselves and on others. We fail to trust that you are with us when our lives become filled up with busyness or darkness, sadness or conflict.

Forgive us when we fail to see your face in the people around us. Fill us with your graciousness that as we are forgiven, so we may become a forgiving, reconciling people. Amen.

(Hanging of the Greens continues with Mistletoe)

Mistletoe **“The Promise of Peace”**

Passing of the Peace *(Edith plays VU #958, Halle, Halle, Halle)*

Peace be with you. And also with you....

(Mistletoe will be hung during music)

Scripture Luke 1: 57-66 *(Donna)*

Chorus *(Choir 3Xs)* **“Prepare the Way of the Lord”** *(VU #10)*

Scripture Luke 1: 67-79 *(Gail)*

The Christmas Tree **“A Symbol of Celebration and Rebirth”**

Hymn **(VU #820)** **“Make a Joyful Noise”**

The Candles and Lights **“God Promises to Give Light”**

Scripture Isaiah 9: 2; 60: 1-3 *(Arlene)*

Hymn **(VU #79, Vrs 1,2,4)** **“Arise, Your Light Is Come”**

(Lights on garland, wreath, tree will be turned on)

Offering Prayer

Prayers of the People and a Turbulent World

Closing Hymn **(VU #2)** **“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

Commissioning / Benediction

Postlude

Lectionary Readings Next Week - Dec. 8th - Advent 2- WHITE GIFT SERVICE

Scriptures:

Theme:

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 Loughhead - Christmas Eve*

Dec 29 - 9:30 a.m. in Hilden, Old Barns is a pre-taped service on the website

Bookings -

Old Barns - contact Reg Henderson at 902-895-0740 or

rlhenderson8@hotmail.com

Hilden - contact George Creelman at 902-897-4493 or

georgecreelman@hotmail.com

Bulletin Announcements - contact Judy at 902-895-7243 or

loughheadjd@gmail.com by Wednesday evening.

Charge Website - 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

Hilden - *Pam Henley* 902-953-1107 or email phenley@bellaliant.net

Minutes for Mission playlists at www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada

stories and photos on www.united-church.ca

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

Old Barns Treasurer - regarding church business or e-transfer donations contact Bob Francis at 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

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.

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.

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 Loughhead **Annual Reports** before January 10th at loughheadjd@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.