

**Clifton Pastoral Charge**

Old Barns and Hilden United Churches

*We are Affirming Churches in an Affirming Pastoral Charge*

**Organist:** Old Barns – Beckie Burrows | Hilden – Edith Selwyn-Smith

**Bulletin Secretary:** Mallery Thomas

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

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Old Barns United Church

April 19<sup>th</sup> , 2026 | Led by Karen Archibald-Waugh & Barb Miller

**Prelude | Welcome & Announcements**

**Acknowledgement of the Land:**

With grateful hearts, we gather today as guests on the sacred land of Mi'kma'ki. In this place, Old Barns United Church, we give thanks for the gift of home.

**P: We honour the Mi'kmaq people, the original stewards of this ancestral and unceded land. In peace and friendship, we pledge to walk gently, with respect and care, upon the Earth we share.**

**The Lighting of The Christ Candle and Affirming Candle:**

We light these candles in the name of the One who leads us beside still waters.

**P: It is the Lord who encourages us to wade a little farther in beyond the shore, where God is at work and at play, inviting us to be good shepherds.**

L:As we light these candles, we seek the presence of Christ.

**P: May His light guide our steps and embolden our hearts.**

**Amen.** (The Candles are lit.)

**Introit: MV 97 LISTEN, GOD IS CALLING** (played once then sung twice)

**Call to Worship**

L: O God, our good shepherd, in You is fullness of life.

L: When we experience lack and loss:

**P: O God, our good shepherd, in You is fullness of life.**

L: When we walk through the valleys of uncertainty, fear, evil, death:

**P: O God, our good shepherd, in You is fullness of life.**

L: When we need correction and guidance:

**P: O God, our good shepherd, in You is fullness of life.**

L: When You provide wisdom and healing:

**P: O God, our good shepherd, in You is fullness of life.**

L: When Your goodness and steadfast loving-kindness pursue us:

**P: O God, our good shepherd, in You is fullness of life.**

L: When you receive us in Your abode and provide a feast for us:

**P: O God, our good shepherd, in You is fullness of life.**

L: When all of Your people and creation sing together:

**P: O God, our good shepherd, in You is fullness of life. Amen.**

(Words by Sharon Winegarden)

**Opening Prayer (in unison)**

**Our Friend, Who art in heaven, Hallowed is Your name. Your kingdom will come when Your will is done on earth as it is in heaven. You give us each day all that we need. You unfailingly forgive our trespasses, and so we, by Your example, are called to forgive those who trespass against us. You will not lead us into temptation, but will guide us in the way of truth and love, if we will but follow You. For this is Your kin-dom, the power of love, and the glory of peace, forever and ever. Amen** (paraphrase by Barb Miller)

**HYMN: VU 273 The King of Love my Shepherd Is**

**Story Time for All Ages**

**Scripture Readings: . John 10: 14-18**

**Responsive Reading: Psalm 23:**

L: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters; He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

**P: Shepherd Me O God**

L: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me

**P: Shepherd Me O God**

L: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

**P: Shepherd Me O God, Amen**

**Choir Anthem: MV 126 Are You a Shepherd**

**Message: The Good Shepherd's Sheep** (Pastor James Lawrence)

**Prayer after Message:**

Friends, the good news is that the God of the Psalms is also our Good Shepherd, whose resurrection we celebrate every Sunday. If we listen for the Voice of our Shepherd, calling us by name, that voice will lead us to leave our fears behind and celebrate the green pastures and still waters of the world that are enough for all in the Great Creator's plan. Thanks be to God. **Amen.** (Phyllis Flemming)

**HYMN: VU 747 The Lord's My Shepherd**

**Focus on Giving**

**Offering Prayer:**

L: Let us open our hearts to God.

**P: Our hearts are open and full of praise.**

L: Let us give thanks for God's goodness.

**P: Giving thanks is the joy of our lives.**

L: Let us pray. Radiant God, You meet us in moments of mystery and change. You call us to listen, to follow, and to love with open hearts.

**P: As we bring these gifts, we confess that we are often impatient and eager for clear answers, even when You speak to us in quiet or uncertain ways.**

L: May these offerings be more than routine. May they reflect the light of Christ we have seen on the mountaintop and the hope we carry with us into the valleys of daily life.

**P: Use these gifts-and use us-to share your love where there is darkness, until all your beloved people know they are seen, called by name, and deeply loved. We pray in the name of your Beloved One. Amen.**

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE: MV 142 A SONG MUST RISE** (refrain, verse 1, refrain)

**Prayers of the People:**

L: This is an acrostic prayer. The first letter of each line is part of the phrase: **PASTORAL CARE.**

Let us pray together:

Prepare a way within us, O God, a way that is open, a way with doors swinging wide, so that we may let Your love and call to caring, enter our hearts and guide our walking.

As we consider the call to community, let us remember that we are Your Servants

Taking the gifts and skills and abilities that You have given us in

Order to make justice, love, and peace a part of the way we are

Required to live

As your people.

Live within us, and let us create a space for Your

Compassion, care,

And love to enter our hearts and lives, such that we are ever

Ready to be the people You would have us be,

Ever guided to be caring connectors, loving messengers, and hopeful prophets of Your presence among us. We pray with the communities and countries of our prayer cycles on our minds and in our hearts. **Amen**

(Words: Peter Chynoweth)

**HYMN: VU 344 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds**

**SENDING FORTH:** Dear Jesus, our Good Shepherd, thank you for your unwavering love and guidance. As we leave this place, hold us close in your heart. Protect us from all harm and lead us to still waters and green pastures of peace and joy. Help us to trust in Your care and follow Your path with faith. With Your abundant love leading us, help us to reach out to others and build a caring community, O God, whose son Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd of Your people, grant that when we hear His voice, we may know Him who calls us each by name, and follow where He leads; who, with You and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

(The Gathering)

**MV 173 Put Peace into Each Other's Hands V5** (sung twice)

**Rev. Darlene Brewer – [dr.dbrewer2008@gmail.com](mailto:dr.dbrewer2008@gmail.com)**

**Booking**

**Old Barns-** contact Reg Henderson @ 902-895-0740  
or [rlhenderson8@hotmail.com](mailto:rlhenderson8@hotmail.com)

**Hilden-** contact Sheila Marshall at 902-893-2636 or  
Diane Creelman 902-897-4493

**Bulletin Announcements -** contact Mallery Thomas  
[secretary@cliftonpastoralcharge.ca](mailto:secretary@cliftonpastoralcharge.ca)

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

Church bulletins & video of service 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 Session**

**Old Barns –** Barb Miller

**Hilden -** Position to be filled

**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 e-transfer donations contact Bob Francis at [oldbarnstreasurer@cliftonpastoralcharge.ca](mailto:oldbarnstreasurer@cliftonpastoralcharge.ca)

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

Glenda MacDonald 902-897-6123 (Hilden)

**Visitation:** Please contact your pastoral elders

Hilden - April Canton-Austin and Sheila Marshall

Old Barns – Karen Archibald-Waugh and Barb Miller