

“The Spirit”

North Kildonan United Church

December 2025



*Joy is now in every place
Christmas lightens every face
Now be with us, in your grace,
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.*

-From the hymn Joy is Now in Every Place

*Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed;
For I am your God.
I will strengthen you; I will help you;
I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness.*

-Isaiah 41:10



Our community of faith has been active these past months enjoying fun events and annual activities.



North Kildonan United Church -A Community of Faith in Action. This was the theme for our Open House and lunch. Thanks to the Hospitality committee we enjoyed a delicious pasta and trimmings for lunch. Along with an inspiring message, Rev. Susan included a blessing of the backpacks and bags. How cute to see baby Annie hold up her little bag!

On a lovely Saturday afternoon, pets and their people met on the patio of NKUC for our annual pet blessing. Everyone enjoyed each other's company with treats always a favourite.





With generous hearts, the community of faith helped to collect food for 1JustCity Pimicikamak Wellness Centre. Josh Ward, site leader, sends his sincere thanks for our support and generosity. Thank you everyone!

Laughter, music and brain teasers kept us on our toes as we enjoyed another successful Quiz Nite 2025. It was wonderful to see friends, their families and some young folks enjoy the fun. Congrats to the winners who tallied up the most points. Thank you to everyone involved making this a great evening; hospitality committee, organizing committee and Frank and Marie who put together super nice baskets for the silent auction.



The fun continued the next day, Sunday, as we enjoyed a stone soup lunch organized by the Outreach committee and the Sunday school.

BREAKING NEWS: No stones were found in the delicious soup.

The UCW hosted their annual Christmas Bazaar on November 8th and it was wonderful to see the community support this event. The delicious baking by our congregation was gone by 11 a.m. and the craft and deli tables were also successful in sales. We earned a profit of approximately \$2700.00 which will be used for community donations and any upcoming projects. Our junior youth table sold beaded bracelets, Christmas decorations, knitted dolls, key chains and cookies. Their sales will go towards items for their Sunday school room. Thanks to Betty C. and her "lake friends" who made the knitted toys. Thank you everyone who baked and worked at the bazaar. We couldn't do it without you!





Lest we forget was the message at our Remembrance Day service. Paula Thomson, retired military personnel spoke about her missions with her helicopter crew. She emphasized how the Canadian army is recruited to assist in rescue or disaster situations. Helping others is another way that the Canadian forces prove their importance to the well-being of the citizens of Canada. The memorial tea following the service was not only delicious but beautifully presented. Thank you to the Hospitality Committee.



Above: Dorothy, chair of Hospitality; and beautiful presentation,

Hospitality Committee members serving the congregation.



As we approach the season of advent, let us keep Christ in Christmas and continue to pray for peace in these trying and difficult times.

"God of Christmas and of all our days, we thank you for the gift of your Son, for his life, which gives us an example to follow, and for his death and resurrection, which give us the strength we need to live our own faith journey. We thank you for the gift of the Spirit, for the knowledge that we are never alone, no matter where our journeys take us. In the quietness of a silent night, we carry on. Amen."

As we head into the holiday season and cold weather, the Outreach and Prayer Shawl Ministries has set up a box in the Narthex to collect knitted and crocheted hats and mitts. They can be purchased items as well, children to adult sizes. Many thanks to everyone for your donations. Along with your support, the prayer shawl group is looking for donations of wool to make these hats and mittens. The wool can be new or partially used to become beautiful items. For more information, see Peggy.



News from the Pews.....

Joining the family of God through baptism was baby Annie Gauthier, daughter of Justin and Kat Gauthier and precious granddaughter to Dan and Liz.



Congratulations to proud Gramma, Sharon Wiebe. Nora-Rae was born on August 20 (making an early appearance at 25 weeks and just barely over 1 pound) to parents, Aaron Wiebe & Chelsea Scheer-Kosowan. Nora-Rae is growing stronger in the amazing care of the staff at HSC NICU. Our prayers are for the entire family and especially Nora-Rae as she grows and thrives.



Donna Price - nursing a torn knee ligament

Ben Codd - grandson of Shirley Codd who is undergoing cancer treatments

Megan - Phyllis Dyck's daughter-in-law who is recovering from surgery and doing well

Lindsay Enns - Undergoing treatment

Kelly Lindbergh-Nord - wonderful to see you in church after heart issues

Dawn Ballentine-Dickson - recovering from a broken wrist

Shirley Davie - slowly getting better

Betty Hamilton - recovering and looking forward to coming to church

Phyllis Dyck, Kathy Bertouille, Barb Welton, Jen Babcock, Doreen Sims, Jacquie Huselak

Please keep the Goetz family in your prayers as Heinz's younger brother undergoes cancer treatment

Enjoying their new homes are Ron and Bea Hutchinson, Jen Babcock, Jean Cunningham, Audrey Shmigelsky and June Finnson.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to

Iris Taraschuk mourning the death of husband Henry.

Oleh and Antonina Vashchenko on the passing of Antonina's grandmother, Masuitkina Halina, in Ukraine.

Brad and Leslie Boehm - on the passing of Brad's mother.

Doreen Sims - on the passing of brother Jim.

The Gard family on the passing of their mother Myrle.



Many of you may remember the late Janet and Jack Livingstone long time members of this community of faith. Their son Ian was also a member and now worships at Crescent Fort Rouge. Ian is a great cook and every year he

makes shortbread for family, friends and every family in his apartment complex. No mean feat at this busy Christmas time. With a heart full of love, he made 277 dozen shortbread this year using 69 pounds of butter. All to spread joy to his neighbours, friends, family and even strangers.

From Betty C.: Thank you, Ian, for allowing me to share this lovely Christmas story with our family of faith. May you be blessed with all good things and keep up your incredible service to others.



Morden's Chocolate and Nut Sale was a wonderful success with over \$13,000 in sales, over 1,000 boxes to complete orders and a net profit of just over \$1800.00. Many thanks to the 26 volunteers who helped sort and package and to Barrie and Marvelle for doing an excellent job of organizing this event. Thank you to everyone who sold and purchased these yummy items.

Helping with Christmas gift dilemmas was our Fundscrip sales. Thanks to Peggy Latimer we could purchase a myriad of gift cards from hundreds of vendors and have them hand delivered to us. Really easy! And a great fundraiser with over \$900.00 in profit. Thanks Peggy!

Thank you to all who contributed to "Having Fun with Our Gift Giving" envelope project We collected \$5,239.00 for NKUC. Thank you to everyone for your support.



A look back.....

As another year draws to a close, the stewardship committee thought it important to look back at the life of NKUC through 2025. All things considered, it was a very successful and fulfilling time for our church.

We began the year with the publication of a new church directory, which was undertaken by the Men's Group. Participation was excellent and by early summer, the directories were available to all those who

had their photos taken. Right on the heels of that, we celebrated the United Church of Canada's 100th Anniversary with a formal dinner and entertainment.

As the year progressed, we held our annual fundraising events; our Plant Sale, Quiz Night, the Morden's Chocolate and Nut Sale, as well as the FundScrip event. We also held several meat sales and for the first time, an Envelope Event, which was very successful.

Renting our church twice a week, this congregation's rent contributed substantially to our revenue stream. However, this group purchased their own facility and left us at the end of June. Another congregation now rents the church every Sunday afternoon. However, they are much smaller in numbers, making our rental income substantially lower. We would like to remind the congregation that we have many spaces ideal for rent for meetings, showers, dinners etc.

2026 will see us facing some challenges financially especially with constantly rising costs. In the spring, we will hold a garage sale which usually brings a strong response and a good profit. We ask that you keep the community of faith of NKUC in your prayers and prayerfully consider your continued financial support.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to all who have supported our church, through weekly offerings, as well as assisting and contributing to our fundraising events throughout the year.

-The Committee of Stewards

The Annual General Meeting for North Kildonan United will be held on Sunday, March 1st as part of the worship service. Committee chairs will be available to give updates. We invite everyone to review the Annual Report after publication, and if you have questions and/or suggestions, they may be left in the question box in the Narthex.



National and Regional News

The United Church of Canada joyously installed the Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath as its 45th Moderator at Knox United Church in Calgary. Elected after three ballots at the 45th General Council (August 7-11), Rev. Heath is a long-time minister who has served Wall Street United Church in Brockville, Ontario since 2007. Congratulations Rev. Heath!

Looking for Christmas gifts? Gifts with vision from the United Church of Canada is available from the website <https://giftswithvision.ca/>. The catalogue is online and there are many gifts to choose from in support of various mission initiatives of the United Church of Canada.





REPORT ON PRAIRIE TO PINE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: NOVEMBER 13, 2025

This year's Prairie to Pine AGM was limited to one evening meeting via Zoom (down from two meetings in 2024), as many aspects of the AGM will wait until next May's in-person Annual General Meeting in Selkirk. Key aspects of this year's meeting are as follows:

Nominations: Lynn Sanderson, Chair of the Nominations Committee thanked both Ministers and Laity who have volunteered in various capacities. Vacancies remain on a number of committees, and faith communities are encouraged to identify those in their faith communities who might be appropriate for vacant positions. Prairie to Pine should also be notified about changes to the Board make-up for faith communities.

Towards 2035 Presentation: Cam Fraser and Jordan Cantwell provided a presentation on the Towards 2035 initiative. It is about envisioning the future, not bemoaning its decline. It is based on the conviction that the story of Jesus matters, and so the importance of perceiving what God is doing and determining how we will respond.

Statistics were presented showing that in 1991 the United Church was the denomination with the second highest affiliation in Canada, while in 2021 "no religion" was the most common church affiliation noted. It is projected that by 2035 United Church affiliation will decline to 111,000 from 321,000 in 2023, but the number of pastoral charges will decline very little. About 2,000 people joined the United Church in 2024 and there were 24 emerging migrant faith communities in that same year. In a survey conducted between 2022 and 2025, 49% believed in a higher power, 45% engaged in prayer and 60% felt a sense of stress or encountered difficulty in their mental well-being. This all seems to point to the continued relevance of faith in Canada.

Several "threads" were noted: a) Can we articulate why the Good News is good news? b) Lean into prayer and listening c) Importance of connection d) Emphasis on invitation d) Where are Interfaith and Intercultural communities? Resource materials on this initiative will be made available to faith communities in the next few weeks.

Stewardship: Vicki Nelson (Stewardship Support Lead for Prairie to Pine) provided information on some stewardship initiatives within the Region. One is a training program related to stewardship entitled Called to be the Church: The Journey. Vicki encouraged faith communities to be in touch with her for information about this or to obtain ideas about approaches to stewardship and increasing generosity within your faith community that might be helpful, including M&S. She can be reached at vnelson@united-church.ca. She also mentioned the availability of grant funding through the United Church of Canada Foundation.

General Council 45 Overview: Emma Seamone and Tricia Gerhard, Commissioners to the General Council spoke about the work of the General Council, including the process for the development of proposals and the process that was followed in framing the apology to the LGBTQ+ community. Shannon McCarthy outlined the progress towards establishing an autonomous Indigenous organization within the framework of the United Church of Canada.

-Peter Latimer

Advent and Christmas Services "All Earth is Waiting"

November 30	Advent 1 - "Hope"
December 7	Advent 2 - "Peace" Sacrament of Communion
December 10	Wednesday. Blue Christmas Service - 7 p.m.
December 14	Advent 3 - "Joy"
December 21	Advent 4 - Love Children and Youth Christmas Program
December 24	Christmas Eve Service - 7 p.m.
December 28	A Christmas service of readings and music
January 4, 2026	Epiphany Sunday



Editor's Goodbye - This is my last newsletter as I hand over my pen to Peter Latimer who has graciously accepted the job of publishing "The Spirit." My heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed and supported the newsletter since my first publication in 2015. A special thanks to Wilma for her editorial assistance. It has been a pleasure reporting on all the interesting changes, challenges and joys in our community of faith. May God bless you all. - Sheron Miller

Please continue to contribute to, platimer227@gmail.com or call the church office.

Merry Christmas

*Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the
song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds and the worship of the wise men.
Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.*

