

Pastoral Care Update January 8, 2025



CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Dear Fellow Congregants of First Presbyterian Church:

I would like to thank you for stepping forward again this year to meet the needs of 180 of the most vulnerable in Collingwood and our surrounding area. Without you, there would be many people who would not see the joy on their children's faces on Christmas morning, or a senior not having a small gift to open, or even a hot meal at the end of the day. So thank you.

A special thank you to Doug Brown. Without Doug organizing the drivers, this mission could not work. We would not be able to deliver the gifts on time over the extended Collingwood area.

Individuals that take on a family, I am so in awe of you. It is difficult to buy for family members, let alone the wishes of strangers. Amazing. I met some of you in the stores in December and you all appeared to be enjoying yourselves! Also, the groups within our church and community that make a decision to meet the needs of many families in place of small gifts to each other. We could not do it without your commitment and compassion either, so thank you. Some of you took your grandchildren to shop for the families and some of you did away with your own family's gifts to meet the wishes of a stranger. Every reason for giving is very personal.

It takes a village! At this time in our world, this need is very evident and like always, we all step up and meet this challenge. Merry Christmas and all the best in 2025. ~ Donna Mansfield



A lovely group of Santa's Christmas Elves



"You are the light of the world - like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden." ~ Matthew 5:14

Lights are used to guide people at night. Pilots search for the lights on the runway; ship captains look for the lights in a harbour. What about Christmas lights that people put up on the outside of their house, or the candles we light in our homes and churches. These lights are not the end in themselves but rather they guide us to a greater light - the airport, the harbour, the one whom we celebrate in this season.

Jesus says that you are the light of the world. Not just any old light, the **Light of the World**. So maybe your life, your light, can be a guide to something more, something hopeful for someone who finds themselves in the dark. May it be so.

JANUARY MEMOS

NEWSLETTER - the next edition of our Pastoral Care newsletter will be sent out Wed. morning, February 5 2025

CONGRATULATIONS to:

- Chris Hawbolt & Carly Foubert on the birth of a baby boy, Hudson. Proud grandparents are Andy & Wendy Foubert.
- Jaquelyn Patterson-Schaefer on the recent publication of her 2025 devotional, **A JOYOUS FAITH**.

WOMENS' GATHERING:

"Setting Your Compass" on Tuesday Jan 21 at 2 pm.
Guest Speaker is Nancy Loveless. All women are welcome.

COMMUNITY DINNER:

Tuesday Jan 28 - doors open at 4:30 & Dinner at 5pm

Prayers requests for:

- Brian Denney, Jack Gieg, Heather Heron-Jurke, Faith Hughes, Diane Keir, Ivan Kennedy, Diane Powell, Theo Prichard, Mary Lou Simonato
- Martha Lawrence, in the passing of her friend, Bill Klein
- Ernest Montgomery, in the passing of his wife, Shirley Montgomery
- the denBok family in the passing of a dear husband, father & son, Tom denBok
- the Parr family, in the passing of member, Marie Parr
- Greg Taylor and Nancy Case, in the passing of wife and sister, Helen Taylor
- those who are moving to a new residence
- nurturing an understanding and tolerance for those with opposing political views
- forgiveness to those who have hurt us or others

"Even to your old age and grey hairs,
I am He...
I am He who will sustain you."
~ Isaiah 46:4

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(photo of Jack Gieg)



Let us pray:

Dear God, I love the lights of Christmas, lights on houses, lights on trees, candle lights, the light of the moon and stars. But me a light? I don't really feel like much of a light for the world. But, I hear Jesus' words and I wonder what they mean for me. Perhaps my life can bring light to others, or maybe my life can point to something more, something brighter. I am the light of the world? May I learn to shine. ~ Amen

"As far as we can discern, the sole purpose of human existence is to kindle a light in the darkness of mere being." ~ Carl Jung

*The More We Get Together
The Happier We Will Be!*



A Christmas Skate for the Church Family at Central Arena



First Christmas Story Children's Choir
lead by director Angela Girdwood

Christmas Tree

by Michael Moran



Tree shines back at me with no reflections
of gifts bundled and wrapped,
Decorated with memories of family and friends,
some here, some gone,
But this night they are all gathered by the
Christmas tree.

When the lights are on, I'm no longer alone,
for all the fond memories I have shared
with each picture
on this special tree
will give me all the peace and
comfort I need to
get through another Christmas eve.

As we begin a New Year, we can look back
with gratitude on all the new friends we met,
and the challenges we all came through.
It is my prayer that the new year will bring much
Joy and Happiness for all of us.
Always remember, you are never alone!

~ Michael Moran

FUN TIMES



Carly & Chris Hawbolt
with baby boy Hudson



Alison McLeod finding joy
in the Antarctic



Martha Lawrence (right)
celebrating her 80th birthday



Frank Tilley (Santa) & Jane
at a party in California



Sisters-in-law Vera Bonwick
& Shirley Cole sharing a meal



Mary Lou Simonato (97th birthday)
with daughter Sandra Smith & Rob