

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM DUFF LARGIE

December has been a literal blast! Lots of high winds and a variety of weather. Maybe some of you had a white Christmas, but here in Largie, there wasn't a flake to be found on Christmas Day, but come Boxing Day, the skies opened up and we had a day of rain and freezing rain. It made for unpleasant driving for those who had to travel, but thankfully we did not lose power and our festivities went off without a hitch. Our Leitch family Christmas had 2 babies this year, both under a year old. What fun it is to see the next generation begin!

I hope everyone had a joyful Christmas filled with lots of family time and memories to fill the photo books (digital or otherwise). As we look ahead to 2026, we pray that you are blessed with good health and many adventures.

CONTACT US:

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robinson52@sympatico.ca

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Clerk of Session – Paul McWilliam (519)878-7224

Check the church website for additional updates at
<https://pccweb.ca/duffchurch/>

REMEMBER WORSHIP WILL BE AT 11 am FOR 2025



JANUARY HAPPENINGS

1-Happy New Year!

4-Happy Birthday John Leitch

4-Worship time 11 am

6-Epiphany

7-Happy Birthday Kiptyn Alderton

9-Playgroup @ 10 am

9-Take down decorations

11-Worship @ 11am

14-WMS Meeting @ 1:30

15-Happy Birthday Bill Van Dam

17-Happy Birthday Colton Englehart

18-Worship downstairs @ 11 followed by coffee hour

19-Happy Birthday Sue Van Dam

21-Crinan WI Card Party @ 1pm @ Crinan CC

23-Playgroup @ 10

25-Robbie Burns Birthday

25-Worship @ 11 am

30-Happy Birthday Sadie McWilliam

SUNDAY SCHOOL FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE

On Sunday, December 7, the Sunday School, along with Pastor Wilma, planned a joint service geared to families and children. We were blessed to have 16 children and their caregivers participate in the service. Our narrative was entitled, "The Meaning of Snowflakes", based on a poem by Holley Girth. By the end of the narrative, the entire poem (shown below) had been read in unison with the congregation.



The Meaning of the Snowflake

Every new snowflake comes to the earth
as a picture of our Saviour's birth,
because they are sent from up above
and remind us of God's care and love.
Each one is so intricate and small
because Christ sees the details of us all,
and just as two are never the same
He knows and calls us each by name.
Snowflakes gently cover the world in white
and hide what's unlovely from our sight,
showing us how He covers our sin
and gives us His grace when we come to Him.
So may every snowflake bring Christ to mind
and in every bit of white may you find
a reason to celebrate anew
and a reminder of His love for you.

While we were setting up, we played [Snowflake Dance](#) to get everyone thinking “snowflakes”. Six families read a narrative while the children pinned a heart, fingerprint, and their name on a wreath. Carols were sung throughout. By the end of the narrative, the children had created a snowflake reminding us of what we really celebrate at Christmas—the birth of a tiny baby who changed the world, just like the snow changes our world today.



A shot of most of the children with the completed snowflake



The completed snowflake made up of hearts, fingerprints, and names. Intricate and unique.



The children in action pinning the heart on the snowflake wreath.



In Sunday School this month, we focussed on the Christmas Story. It's such a beautiful story filled with so much love and is a story that can't be read often enough. We learn something new each time we read it and appreciate the miraculous birth of Jesus and the promise of hope, peace and love for all. Each Sunday School family received a Christmas puzzle.



The Bible Trivia section for the next few months will have questions that test your knowledge of both the Old and New Testament, people and animals in the bible, biblical places, and numbers and dates in the bible. Let's test the brain!

Answers are after the Word Search.

1. Who wrote the first five books of the Bible?
2. How many days did it take God to create the world?
3. What was Matthew's profession before following Jesus?
4. Who denied knowing Jesus three times?
5. Who was the oldest person mentioned in the Bible?
6. Who was known as the "father of faith"?
7. Where did the Ten Plagues take place?
8. How many books are in the Bible?
9. What animals did Jesus ride into Jerusalem?
10. What type of bird did Noah send out first to find land?



As we close out another year we look back at the many Blessings we have each received and thank God for his Blessings and Generosity. We also look forward to a new year with anticipation for what God has planned for each of us.

We would like to thank everyone involved in the decorating of the Church for the Christmas season. It was beautifully done. A reminder that regular Sunday morning worship for 2026 in Largie is 11:00 am.

The Congregational annual meeting will be February 22, 2026 following the morning (communion) service. Can all treasurers and secretaries have their reports to Monique or myself as soon as possible, so Monique can have the books audited and report printed. Wishing everyone a Blessed and Happy New Year, as Christ continues to guide us on this wonderful journey with him.

**Paul McWilliam
Session Clerk**

FINANCIAL INFORMATION UPDATE

Envelopes for 2026 are available in the downstairs hallway. E-transfer is also available:

dufflargiegiving@outlook.com



Monique Lunn, our Treasurer can be reached at:

Monique Lunn

249 Nancy Street

Dutton, Ontario N0L 1J0



The ladies delivered Shepherd's Pie and cookies to members of our church community.



LADIES AID AND BURNING BUSH GROUP NEWS

Submitted by Lynda Drummelsmith

Regular meeting for the Ladies groups was held December 3. Christmas care packages of Shepherd's Pie and Christmas sweets will be prepared and given to those in our community, before Christmas.

The 100th Anniversary service of the joint congregations of Crinan Argyle and Duff Largie was a success. Rev. Don McCallum, former minister, was guest minister. The luncheon was enjoyed by all. Many stories and reflections were shared by those there. A beautiful cake celebrating the occasion was made by Karen Carroll.

Barb and Jackie were on the W.M.S. program for December. Jackie and Barb followed the Christmas Program sent out by Sarah Kim from the W.M.S. They began their program with a responsive Call to Worship, during which a candle was lit. Hymn "Angels from the Realms of Glory" was sung. Jackie led in prayer followed by the Lord's Prayer. Barb read scripture from Luke - which told of the Angels sharing the news with the Shepherds of the birth of a baby in Bethlehem. Barb then shared a reflection of the shepherds' story. Only in Luke's gospel does it tell us of God sharing the news with the shepherds. Jackie and Barb shared these reflections responsively.

-the experience of the shepherds with the angels telling the news of the birth of a child that would bring Peace to all.

-The sharing of the news in a joyful chorus of Angels.

-They knew the child in the manger, which they went to see, was Good news of Great joy for all people.

-The shepherds continued to share their story with those they met, and the story continues to be shared today. "The Child - known as the Saviour, Messiah, Lord, Good Shepherd- would bring Great Joy to all People, this was Good News! Hymn - "Go Tell it on the Mountains" was sung. Barb closed the meeting with the Benediction.

Everyone enjoyed a social time and a delicious lunch served by Isabel and Lynda.

Dates to note:

Next Meeting January 14, 2026 @ 1:30 p.m.

Program - Lin McCann, Jackie Leitch

Lunch - Lynda Drummelsmith, Dianne Lilley



PRAISE SONGS

Here is the playlist for December

[Hope for Everyone - Matt Maher](#)

[Glory \(Let There Be Peace\) - Matt Maher](#)

[Footsteps Walking With Me](#)

[Hope Is A Star](#)

[Snowflake Dance](#) [Magical Winter Kids Song](#). [Dance with the Snowflakes](#)

[Away in a Manger](#)

[Infant Holy, Infant Lowly](#)

[Sing We Now of Christmas](#)

[He's Got The Whole World In His Hands](#)

[Come Thou Long Expected Jesus](#)

[Joy to the World](#)

[The Blessing](#)



We have a life-size stable approximately a meter tall with beautiful figures. The wisemen are off to the East. In Sunday School last week we talked about the Wisemen coming after Jesus was born and that they were not part of the nativity scene that special night. They played a very important part in the story after Jesus birth.



Thanks to everyone who helped make our church festive and warm.



Here's our Hat, Sock, and Mitten tree. All items were donated to Daffodil for the Christmas hampers. Our church family is so generous.

Thank you to Evelyn Poisson for donating a 9' tree. It's a beautiful addition to the front of the church and was nicely decorated. Thanks to all who donated decorations.





FROM THE PULIT – Pastor Wilma Boyce

Happy New Year!

One of the GIFS my phone gave me to send said, 365 new days, 365 new chances.

The past few weeks I've been hitting the exercise bike in the morning, and just so I don't stop too soon I watch videos that keep me distracted so I don't keep checking the time to see if I've done enough.

The series I've been watching is called God is Closer Than You Think, by John Ortberg. Each session is about 15 minutes in length, and very entertaining. John Ortberg suggests that everyone procrastinates in some way, and one of the most important things that people put off is living closely with God. He says God wants a relationship with us and describes in many ways how people can have a closer relationship with God. This is what energizes me so I'd like to share it with you.

Here is a quote:

This is what we need to remember at the outset: Spending the day with God does not usually involve doing different things from what we already do. Mostly it involves learning to do what we already do in a new way – with God.

Actually the first task of the day is to go to sleep. ...the ancient rhythm of days is different. In the creation account the order is always the same: "And there was evening and there was morning – the first day." Each day in creation begins with evening. In Jewish life, the Sabbath begins not at sunup but at sundown. Eugene Peterson notes that in this way the biblical writers help us to remember: Everything doesn't depend on me. I go to sleep, God goes to work. It's his day.

This is the day that the LORD has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

May we all have a 'with God' year,

Pastor Wilma

P.S. If anyone is interested in watching these videos with me let me know. Maybe we could even watch them on given Sundays after the service during coffee hour.



SHEPHERD'S PIE

Submitted by Barb Ross

POTATOE MIXTURE

2 lb. russet potatoes, peeled, sliced ½" thick

Kosher salt

2/3 c. half and half cream

4 tbsp. unsalted butter

2 tbsp. chopped fresh parsley, divided

MEAT MIXTURE

1 tbsp. canola oil

2 lb. lean ground beef

1 medium yellow onion chopped

2 medium carrots, peeled, chopped

3 cloves garlic, chopped

2 tsp. chopped fresh rosemary

2 tsp. chopped fresh thyme

3 tbsp. tomato paste

½ c. dry red wine (can substitute balsamic vinegar)

1 c. low sodium beef broth

3 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce

3 tbsp. all purpose flour

1 c. frozen corn

1 c. frozen peas

3 tbsp. grated parmesan



DIRECTIONS

Step 1.

Preheat oven to 400°. In medium saucepan, cover potatoes with water & salt. Bring to a boil over high heat. Cook until potatoes are fork-tender, 12-15 minutes. Drain & set aside in colander.

Step 2.

In same pot over medium -low heat, cook half & half & butter, stirring until butter is melted. Remove from heat & return potatoes to pot. Mash potatoes. Stir in 1 tbsp. parsley, season with salt & pepper.

Step 3

In medium skillet over medium high heat, heat oil. Add beef; season with 2 tsp. salt and ½ tsp. pepper. Break up beef with wooden spoon & cook until crumbled & no longer pink. Using a slotted spoon, transfer beef to a plate. Pour off all but 2 tbsp. beef drippings.

Step 4

In same skillet over medium heat, cook onion & carrots, stirring until onions begin to soften, 5-6 min. Add garlic, rosemary & thyme & cook, stirring until fragrant, about 2 minutes more. Return beef to skillet; stir in tomato paste. Cook until paste turns dark red, 3-4 minutes. Add wine (or balsamic) & cook stirring, until almost completely evaporated, 2-3 minutes. Stir in broth & Worcestershire sauce & bring to a simmer. Sprinkle with flour. Cook stirring occasionally, until sauce is thickened, about 5 minutes. Stir in corn & peas.

Step 5

Pour beef mixture into 13x9 pan & dollop mashed potatoes on top. Lightly spray rubber spatula with cooking spray & spread potatoes over beef mixture. Sprinkle with parmesan, season with a pinch of pepper.

Step 6

Bake shepherd's pie until beef mixture is bubbling, about 25 minutes. Remove from oven. Place rack in upper third of oven and broil until top begins to brown, 1-2 minutes. Sprinkle with remaining 1 tbsp. rosemary. Let cool 10 minutes before serving.



BOARD OF MANAGERS

Submitted by Ron Ross

The final project of 2025 was to insulate the ceiling in the sanctuary to R50. Insulation was blown in the first week of December and we also changed our propane provider. We are hoping that with the installation of the new doors, the upgraded insulation and a better market price for propane will generate a savings in our heating costs this winter. Maintenance and upgrades, although costly, are necessary in order to keep our building in a good state of repair and energy efficient.



In case you wondered what the attic of the church looks like!

NEW YEAR WORD SEARCH



- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|----------|
| FIREWORKS | CALENDAR | ICICLE | WINTER |
| RESOLUTION | CELEBRATION | SNOWMAN | SLEDDING |
| HOLIDAY | NEW YEAR | FRESH START | SCARF |
| HOT CHOCOLATE | FROST | MITTENS | SNOW |
| COLD | ICE | SNOWFLAKE | BLIZZARD |
| COZY | HIBERNATION | | |

Word Search (click to go to the site)

<https://letsdopuzzles.com/dl/january-word-search>

ANSWERS TO BIBLE TRIVIA

1. Moses
2. Six days (He rested on the seventh)
3. Tax collector
4. Peter
5. Methuselah (969 years old)
6. Abraham
7. Egypt
8. 66 (39 Old Testament, 27 New Testament)
9. A donkey (and her colt)
10. A raven

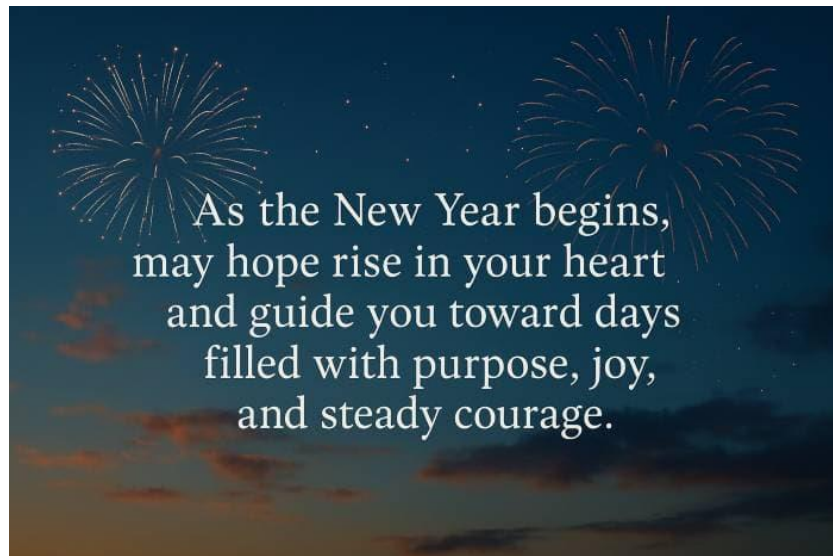


Playgroup met once in December and the Christmas story was our focus. The children were delighted to have a guest come and read them the story. After our usual round of songs and our story, the children made a snowman decoration for their Christmas tree. The families that were new to Playgroup this year, each received a Fisher Price nativity set and the returning families a Christmas story puzzle.





December Playgroup with our guest reader and the children making a snowman Christmas tree decoration.



WINTER COLOR BY NUMBER

- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| ① DARK BLUE | ⑤ RED |
| ② LIGHT BLUE | ⑥ BLACK |
| ③ BROWN | ⑦ YELLOW |
| ④ ORANGE | ⑧ GREEN |



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THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026