

From Your Pastor

It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of the Church Year. The Church Year ends on the last Sunday in November on what is referred to as Christ the King Sunday, or Reign of Christ Sunday. We also, celebrate Saint Andrew's day on this Sunday since St. Andrew's Day falls on November 30th. With the ending of one part of our year, we look forward to the coming season of Advent, the beginning of the Church Year.

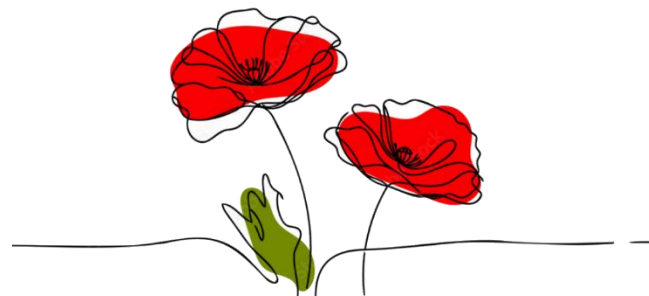
Advent is a time of preparation for the birth of Jesus. It is a time much like Lent where we are making room for Jesus. In the retelling of Jesus' birth, we hear about how there was no room for Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Too often we are like the towns people of Bethlehem with not enough room in our lives for Jesus. Between the busyness of schedules and the allure of distractions, the work that needs to be done and the worries that fill our lives, the gifts that need to be gotten and the meals that need to be prepared, the cards and letters that need to be sent, the grieving we didn't realize we still needed to do, we can get lost and miss the gift of God with us, Emmanuel.

During Advent, each week we are invited to pause and reflect on what it means for Jesus to be born into our broken world and into the struggles that we face as people of God. In the lead up to Christmas, we are invited to focus on the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love that Christ brings into the world through His birth, His Life, His death, and His resurrection. Too often we look at these focuses of Advent and think of happiness, but happiness is a fleeting emotion. Each of these gifts is to reach deep into our very being of who we are as people, but more importantly, who we are before God. Christmas becomes the time when we in our brokenness come to witness and hold the divine child. It is a beautiful picture. Many times, we focus on Christmas because it seems like we are getting what we want.

It is interesting that through most of the Church's history, Christmas was the smaller of the two feast days or celebrations in the Church Year, the major one being Easter. Where Christmas confronts us with beauty and innocence, Easter confronts us with our own brokenness and ugliness and with the divine gift of grace and wholeness. In Easter, we get what we truly need, redemption and the power of God's faithful promise being realized. It is humbling. At Christmas, we think about holding baby Jesus. At Easter we realize He is truly holding us, and lifting us up out of our brokenness, our mundane, our blahness, and gives us new life and a new purpose. Advent and Christmas are important, they help us to focus on Jesus as we journey through life, but we must not stop here because they lead us into the event that truly opens up the doors to eternity.

May you humbly journey with the gift of Jesus through this upcoming Advent and Christmas season pausing to appreciate the gifts that He has given and is giving us daily.

Pastor Ed Charlton



“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14 NIV

Dates for 2024

November 16	Winchester Christmas & Holiday Hallmark Market 10 to 2 pm Lunch served at St Paul’s from 11 to 1 pm. Cost \$10 for refreshment, soup, grilled cheese sandwich (sweets extra) Christmas Music playing in the sanctuary
November 24	St Andrews Day Service Wear Your Tartan 10 am Hugh Metcalfe Special Music on the bagpipes
December 1	Communion and First Sunday of Advent Hope 10 am Rev Mark Bourgon Guest Minister
December 2	St Paul’s Ladies Aid Christmas Potluck and Worship Service Dawn Erickson our guest speaker on “Grace” 6 pm potluck followed by worship service
December 8	Second Sunday of Advent Peace 10 am
December 15	Family Sunday with Worship Lead by Sunday School and Third Sunday of Advent Joy Service 10 am followed by Finger Food Luncheon
December 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent Love 10 am
December 24	St Paul’s Christmas Eve Service 7 pm and lighting the Christ Candle Refreshments following the service
December 25	Merry Christmas
December 29	Regular Worship Service St Paul’s 10 am
2025	
January 1	Happy New Year
February 9	Communion at St Paul’s 10 am
March 23	St Paul’s Annual Meeting following church service
April 6	Communion at St Paul’s 10 am

Presbytery Visitation to St Paul’s

The Presbytery of Seaway Glengarry will be doing a congregation visitation to our church in January. The visit is part of the Presbytery’s role to provide care and support to the congregations. It will celebrate the one-year anniversary of the Induction of Rev. Edward Charlton.

Enclosed is a Presbytery Visitation Questionnaire. Please take time to complete it so we can send a summary to Presbytery before the visit. You can put it on the plate or mail it to St Paul’s Presbyterian Church Box 879 Winchester, ON K0C 2K0.

Youth Events

We are planning on organizing youth nights to create fun, engaging and safe activities for youth to stay connected with the church as they grow older. If you have any ideas for these events or would like to volunteer, please reach out to Jen Feeny!

Who is my Elder?

We were pleased to welcome two new elders to St Paul's Session in September – Dawn Erickson and Roger Gervais. Part of the welcome was creating Elder Lists of members and adherents at St Paul's. Session thought it important that we have a communication link between our Church and our Minister Rev. Ed Charlton.

Enclosed you will find a "Calling Card" for your Elder. Please reach out to your Elder if you would like a visit, a person to talk to, have an idea for worship or a church event or would like to share some pastoral care concerns. Your Elder can also facilitate visits or meetings with our Minister Rev. Charlton.

All information shared at Session is confidential. Before it can be shared with others, you must give permission.

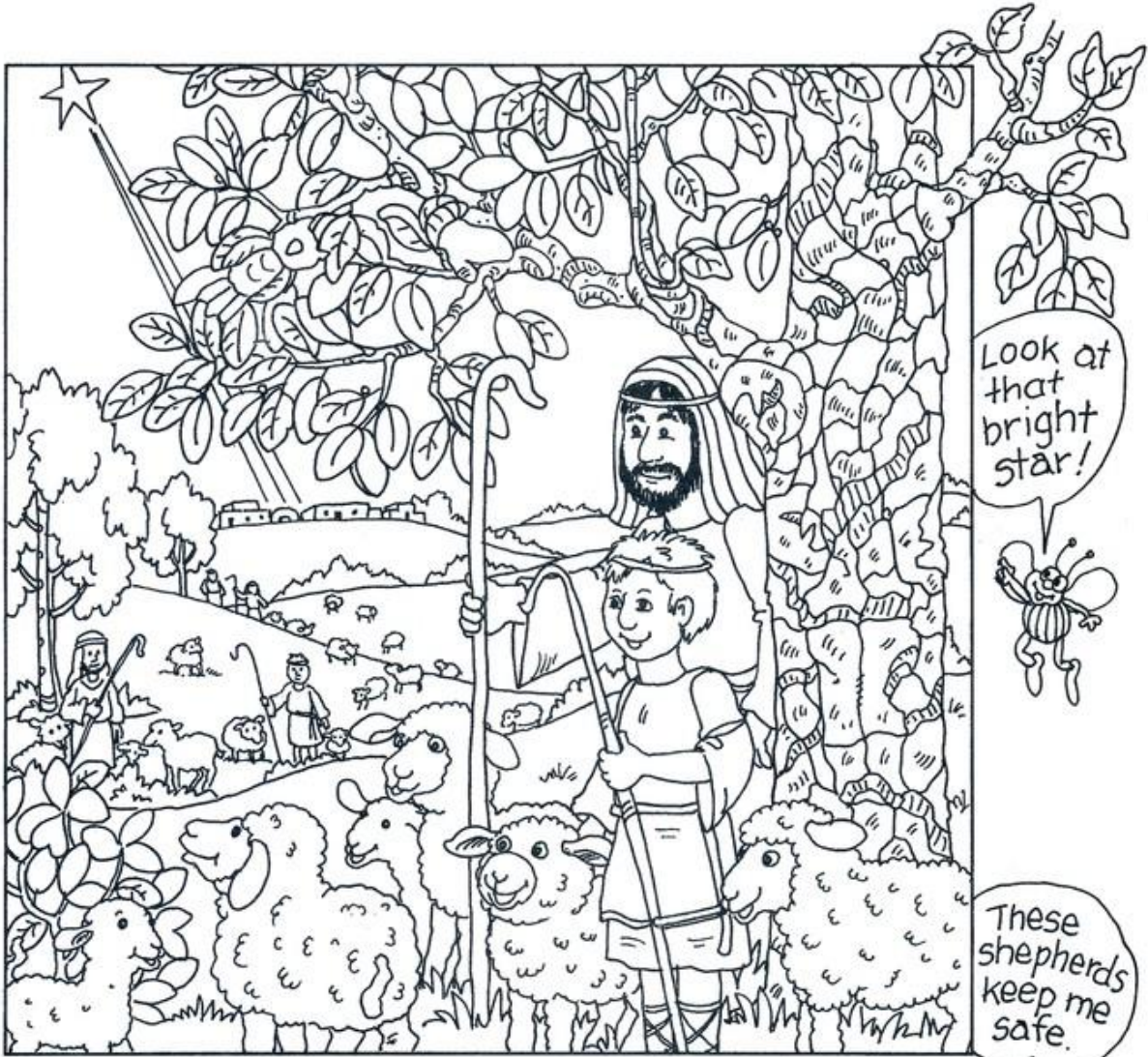
Our Church Brochure

To promote the many amazing things happening at our church, we have produced a promotional brochure. This brochure highlights some of the important parts of our church life especially the Sunday School, the work of our organist Arlene Nesbitt and the choir and the wonderful social events we host.

A copy is enclosed for you to see and share with your family and friends. Thanks to Jen Feeny for all the work she did on producing this brochure. We plan to use it at community events hosted at our church, for potential new members or young people who want to join in.



Can you find the hidden images??



In the fields near Bethlehem,
some shepherds were watching over their sheep.

Find and circle the objects hidden in the picture.