

Orchard Valley United Church

130 Cornwallis Ave., New Minas, NS B4N 3M7
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Announcements for Sunday, December 15, 2019

Thank you to the following people for their participation:

9:00 am Worship:

Leader of Worship Rev Don Sellsted
Organist..... Dale Griffiths
Guitarist Doug MacKinnon
Hospitality..... Margaret Hayes, Edith Scaife

11:00 am Worship:

Leader of Worship Rev Don Sellsted
Music Director / Organist Ken Hassell
KPPT Greeter Jean Millett
Greeter Fran Turner
Candle Lighters The Duyan Family
Announcements / Reader Faye Calder
Hospitality..... Sylvia Delisle, Judy Maxwell, Susanne Sweatman
Tellers Andrea Purvis, Peggy Smith
Projectionist Sylvia Jacquard

Welcome all who worship with us today! Visitors are asked to sign our Guest Book. Please note that some staff, members and guests have serious allergies to scents; please do not wear ANY scented products into the church. Thank you.

FundScrip – The Men’s Group runs the “FundScrip” fundraising program. To obtain details on how the program works, please see one of the men at the back of the Sanctuary. Following are upcoming FundScrip order and delivery dates:

Order Dates	Delivery Dates
December 8	December 15
December 22	December 29
January 5	January 12

Lectionary Readings for Sunday, December 15, 2019 – Isaiah 35:1–10, Luke 1:47–55, James 5:7–10, Matthew 11:2–11.

Last Call for Announcements – The office will be closed December 25 through January 5, inclusive. Therefore, we won’t be producing announcements for the December 29 or January 5 services. If you have an announcement that needs to be published before January 12, please submit it no later than Wednesday, December 18. Thank you for your assistance.

Longest Night of the Year / Blue Christmas – On Sunday, December 22, at 7:00 pm, Orchard Valley will hold its Longest Night of the year / Blue Christmas service. The Advent season is one of wonder. For so many it is a time of hopeful anticipation and promise. The longer nights and the gray clouds seem to provide the perfect background for the lights and the tinsel. But for many, Christmas is a harsh reminder of life that once was. So, we gather not so much in hopeful anticipation, but in the cloud of despondency. While so many are ready to sing, “Joy to the World,” at Blue Christmas we gather as those who mourn. We gather to carve out a time of quiet reflection. We gather to shed tears if they come, to hold hands if they are available, and to know that we are not alone. Whether this is the first Christmas without someone you love, or if you seem to be hurting from loss for as long as you remember, we gather to be reminded that it’s okay to mourn, even at Christmas.

Christmas Eve Service at the Covenant Church in Grand Pré – The Covenant Church will once again be the scene of a very special 11:00 pm Christmas Eve service on Tuesday, December 24. Following a well-established custom, folks from a number of different localities and churches will come together for this quiet, contemplative service, filled with familiar scripture passages, favourite poems, traditional carols, and special music. There is no sermon. The Rev Don Sellsted and Rev Tim McFarland will lead the service. Ms Caroline Burton will contribute special music, as will choir members and friends of OVUC under the direction of Ken Hassell. Everyone is welcome.

Christmas Giving Tree (Revised) – Our beautiful tree is transforming from joyful red to peaceful white! This coming Sunday, December 15, is the final Sunday to contribute, as those names will be acknowledged on December 22, the 4th Sunday of Advent. Thank you to all who have shared in this joyous celebration.

Coldest Night of the Year – The Seekers Youth Group is participating in the Coldest Night of the Year Walk again in February 2020. Please start saving your refundable bottles and cans for us, and stay tuned for more information.

Offering Envelopes – Offering envelopes for 2020 are now available in the mailboxes in the narthex. If you do not see your envelopes OR you would like to request offering envelopes or PAR (pre-authorized remittance), please contact the office. (Please note that some mailboxes are too full, and some offering envelopes have therefore been put into an “overflow” section at the bottom right of the receptacle.)

Stamp Collection – Just a reminder the Outreach Committee collects used stamps. The stamps are sent to the Canadian Bible Society and Oxfam Canada. If you would like to donate your used stamps, there is a wooden bin at the back of the sanctuary, where you can leave them.

Steeple Strummers Rehearsals – The Steeple Strummers will meet at 7:00 pm each Monday, from now until January (except Dec 23), in the OVUC sanctuary.

Tellers are needed! There are many folks that have contributed over the years in counting following Sunday services. A big thank you goes out to those who have helped along the way. This year the numbers who are able to help has dwindled. We are in need of new folks to sign up. It is the goal that we try to keep folks to 4 or 5 times a year, however, we need enough individuals to make this happen. A sign-up sheet is available in the foyer or speak to Heather Bishop or Theresa Perrin. Thanks.

Weather Cancellations – In the event that one or more of our Sunday Worship services is cancelled due to weather, a message will be left on the OVUC phone and website. We will also do our best to send out an email (but cannot guarantee this option will be available). We also endeavour to place cancellation messages with all the local radio stations. In the event of a power outage, your first source for cancellation news should always be our phone line – 902-681-0366.

We're on Facebook – Did you know we are on Facebook? Here we share updates on the UCC and Orchard Valley United including upcoming events and church notifications. Find us by searching and “liking” us at @orchardvalleyuc or at <https://www.facebook.com/orchardvalleyuc/>

This Week in the Orchard December 15–21, 2019

Sun, Dec 15	9:00 am	First White Gift / Children's Pageant Worship Service
	11:00 am	Second White Gift / Children's Pageant Worship Service
Mon, Dec 16	10:30 am	Spirit Yoga
	7:00 pm	Steeple Strummers Rehearsal
Tues, Dec 17	1:30 pm	Men's Group – Guys' Cans
Wed, Dec 18	10:00 am	Lectionary Group
	7:00 pm	Chimes Practice
Thurs, Dec 19	10:00 am	Hope New Minas Al-Anon Family Group
	1:30 pm	Games Group
	6:30 pm	Choir Practice
Fri, Dec 20	9:00 am	Christmas Congregational Breakfast (free will offering)

Worship for Seniors December 2019

Tues, Dec 24	10:15 am	Wolfville Elms and
	11:00 am	Wolfville Nursing Home
Mon, Dec 30	10:30 am	Blomidon Court, Greenwich Shannex

Community Announcements

(see bulletin board for more information)

Hope New Minas Al-Anon Family Group – The Hope New Minas Al-Anon Family Group meetings are held on Thursdays from 10:00–11:00 am at OVUC. Those attending are asked to use the back door of the church.

A Winter Night Solstice Concert – The Longest Night – St. James Anglican Church, December 21, 7:00 pm. Tickets \$10 at the door. Rev. Mel Malton, author and storyteller.

Kingsport Emmanuel United Church's Christmas Musical Evening – To be held Sunday, December 22, at 7:00 pm in the church. Musical guests include: Susan Ueffing, the Peng sisters, Andrew Bagley, Jennifer Collishaw, Wayne Ward and Linda Barkhouse, Laura George, David Mosher, and others. A reception will follow. A freewill offering will be received.

Next Week's Participants
Sunday, December 22, 2019

9:00 am Worship:

Leader of Worship Rev Don Sellsted
Organist..... Dale Griffiths
Guitarist Doug MacKinnon
Hospitality..... Margaret Hayes, Edith Scaife

11:00 am Worship:

Leader of Worship Rev Don Sellsted
Music Director / Organist Ken Hassell
Soloists Christina Macdonald, Dave Murphy, Mindy Vinqvist-Tymchuk
KPPT Greeter Joy Waterbury
Greeter..... Margaret Clarke
Candle Lighters The Coxhead Family
Announcements Irma Maxwell
Hospitality..... Norma Mailman, Brenda Parker, Peggy Smith
Tellers Gail Gordon, Andrea Purvis
Projectionist Sylvia Jacquard

This week's bulletin is sponsored
in loving memory of

Vernon MacDonald

with love from wife Mary & family