



“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”

Genesis: 8: 22

January 7, 2022

Happy New Year

I don't know about you but doesn't this new year look a lot like last new year. Didn't we spend last January hunkered down in our homes? Weren't we all masked up with nowhere to go? Remember when a fourth wave was something that happened when a four person car pulled away. The second person in that back seat was the fourth wave. A bit of a stretch on that one. I am afraid I am running low on “we can do this speeches” Lucky for us, while we may be running out of ways to say “we can do this”, our Lord's supply of hope never ends. He continues to love and support us regardless of what new curves this pandemic can throw at us. 2022 Our hope in the Lord is true.

Pandemic Update

As we enter 2022, we begin a new round of restrictions as the Ontario Government and others attempt to get ahead of the new Omicron Variant. The decision to continue in-person services at St. Andrew's and Knox is made on a week to week basis. January 9th, we will be open for in person worship. The weekly services of worship continue to be available through Knox's Facebook Page.

All groups and meetings have been postponed or canceled with the exception of the **Session meeting of St. Andrew's** scheduled for January 18th. The possibility of holding that meeting under discussion.. The **Joint meeting of Session and Board** of Knox scheduled for January 18th is canceled for in-person but we are exploring the possibility of meeting on line.

I know it is disappointing to be making what seems to be a step backwards but let's pray this latest round of restrictions will help us slow the alarming rate of new infections.

With sadness

Our sympathy is extended to the Scott family on the passing of Linda's Mom, Jean Farrelly on December 18th.

Our sympathy is also extended to the Clarke family on the passing of Malcolm's Mom, Marion Clarke on December 24th. We ask that you hold up these families in your prayers.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Wilton family on the passing of Cameron Wilton on Christmas Day. We ask God's presence with wife Marge, brother and sister in law Fred and Susan Shepherd.

With Thanks

On behalf of the Clarke family, I would like to thank the congregations of St. Andrew's and Knox for the lovely bouquet of flowers and potted arrangement sent to us in memory of

Malcolm's Mom. Your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time are much appreciated.

Special thanks to Rev. Angus Sutherland, who lead our first worship service for 2022. Angus agreed to fill the pulpit short notice while Rev. Clarke was on bereavement leave.

New Admin/Bookkeeper

When you call the Knox office, you will hear a new voice answering the phone. We are pleased to welcome Mary Maxwell to the staff of Knox Presbyterian. Mary lives in Alma and is looking forward to meeting everyone when the pandemic allows.

Christmas Cookie Sale

Wow! For an event that was organized in a matter of weeks! Wow. Close to 100 dozen boxes of cookies/tarts/squares raised over \$800.00 for the work of St. Andrew's. Great job everyone.

Annual Reports

We are not sure if our Annual meetings go ahead as planned this year. It all depends on how long the current restrictions are in place. Regardless, Knox people, if you could get your Annual Reports into office as soon as possible, it would be greatly appreciated. Your working deadline is Sunday, January 30, 2022

Election of Elders Knox

At their November 3rd, 2021 meeting, the Session of Knox Presbyterian Church moved to hold an election of elders in the Winter of 2022. It was agreed that the congregation should elect at least four Elders to add to the existing Ruling Elders already serving.

Timeline:

Distribution of ballots: January 2-9, 2022

Return of ballots: January 10, 2022 – January 30, 2022

Counting of ballots by session: week of January 31, 2022 – February 5th, 2022

Ballots will be distributed with the January 2022 Newsletter. If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact Rev. Clarke.

Covid Assistance Fund

We are coming to an end of our Covid Assistance Fund announcements and we are ending loud and strong.

First from St. Andrew's

We continue to get very positive comments on the new sign. We were able to use it to advertise not only the Cookie Sale but the Christmas services. There was money left over after the sign was paid for and we use it to purchase a new lapel mike (the loud part). We are looking forward to using it in the coming weeks.

Secondly from Knox

We are using part of the money remaining to purchase new letters for our sign. In the summer, we are planning a community get together/street party to celebrate our community. Finally, for the first three Fridays of January have a coffee on Knox (the strong part). Knox will be offering a complimentary coffee (beverage of your choice) beginning at the Elora Coffee January 7th, Wreckless Eric's January 14th and finally the Lost and Found January 21st.

Pictures with Santa

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Pictures with Santa Fundraiser for the Knox Restoration Fund. A Very BIG THANK YOU to Steve T and Ron (Santa). The event raised over \$800 with donations for the Restoration Fund at Knox..

Knox Box

A quick thanks to everyone who has supported the Knox Box this past year. Your generosity has been heart warming. A quick reminder, the items in the Knox Box are for everyone which includes people who donate to the Box. We have a wonderful selection of books in a myriad of genres. Your new winter read might be in there.

With the continuous use the Box has received over the past four/five years, it is starting to show its age. A new box will be constructed in the spring to replace the current one so lovingly made by Ed Curwood. The new box will be larger to accommodate more items.

St. Andrew's Resource Box

Coming Spring of 2022. The St. Andrew's Resource Box. As part of a grant that St. Andrew's received from the Program Ready Fund of the Presbytery of Waterloo Wellington, the Board will be constructing a Resource Box similar to the one at Knox. More information to follow.

Prayer Chain

A quick reminder that our prayer list is first names only. If you have a prayer request, please let me know. (At your request, the person's name will appear on this list.)

Brian	Bob	Richard	Don	Nancy
Stephen	Donna	KnECT	Laura's family	Jeff
Carolyn	Lynn	Cathy	Anne's family	Mark
Elora United	The Scott Family	Robert	Front line workers	Vi
Wesley	Carol	Clarke Family	Wilton Family	

Winter Weather

If you are unsure about the weather on any given Sunday, please stay home and join us on line. If the service is canceled your elder will contact you. When in doubt, don't go out

Winter Bible Study

Beginning the week of March 6 and continuing until April 10, on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. a Bible Study based on the Lenten Study: A Way Other than our own by Walter Brueggemann. We used his Advent Study: Celebrating Abundance in 2019. If we are open for in-person activities by then, I am going to attempt a combination of Zoom and in-person. If not, it will be by Zoom. The study guide is also available for individual use. Anyone interested in a copy of the guide, please let me know. I have a supply of them already in my office.

Next **Foodbank Sunday** is February 6, 2022

Givings

A reminder, that both St. Andrew's (8 Peel Street, Alma) and Knox (51 Church St. E, Elora), are able to accept donations by cheque or Knox also accepts e-transfers via email and online donations through our website at www.knoxelora.ca. There may be delay in distribution of receipts this year, as they will have to be mailed or hand delivered.

And finally, the funny (please pick unless you think they are all bad)

What is corn's favorite holiday? New Ear's Day.

What is a New Year's resolution?

Something that goes in one year and out the other

At the beginning of this year I made a New Year's resolution to lose 10 pounds Only 15 more to go!

NEW YEARS EVE WORD SEARCH

D W A C C L O C K E E H O H
E S S P A R K L E R S E E A
T S E R A U Q S S E M I T P
O A N R C E L E B R A T E P
T L E E S S I K N M O O D Y
S G W S Y M B A B Y U R N I
R R Y O Y G N I C N A D N I
E U E L B T P S S E M A G S
M O A U L A I Y R A U N A J
A H R T S U L N C S G O P E
E N N I P G L L D N W S A U
R B A O L C O U N T D O W N
T U E N T C O N F E T T I G
S S T H G I N D I M R E C P

BABY
BALL
CLOCK
CONFETTI
CELEBRATE
COUNTDOWN

DANCING
GAMES
HAPPY
HOURGLASS
JANUARY
KISS

MIDNIGHT
NEW YEAR
RESOLUTION
TIMES SQUARE
SPARLERS
STREAMERS



Polar Bear Puppets(from [Kids Craft Room](#))



Supplies To Make Polar Bear Puppets:

- Polar Bear Puppet Printable Pattern
- White Printer Card
- Jumbo Straw
- Black Marker Pen
- Glue
- Scissors
- Optional: Wiggle Eyes, Black Pom Pom



Cut out all the puppet pieces. Take the long body piece and fold it along the dotted lines. Glue it together to make a flat bottomed arch. This will be your polar bear puppet's body.

Accordion fold the four polar bear legs and use a marker pen to add detail to the paws.

Glue the four legs onto the bottom of the body at the corners. Make sure the paws are all facing the same way. Glue the tail onto the back of the polar bear.

Colour in the middle of the ears and glue them onto the back of the head.

Add some eyes and a nose. You can colour in and use the ones from the template or use wiggle eyes and a small black pom pom nose

Glue the polar bear's head onto the body at the front

To move your polar bear puppet you need a handle at the back. Sticky tape a jumbo straw or craft stick onto the bottom of the polar bear's body so that it sticks out at the back.