



Maybe this dates me a bit, but I remember the words of an hymn that says “Count your many blessings, name them one by one. Count your blessings, see what God has done!”

We are coming into the advent week of joy. Is there a reason today for you to have joy? When we think of joy, often our minds go to this overwhelming sense of euphoria and celebration. But is joy a fleeting emotion, or is it a conscious choice and state of mind? Is joy more about choosing to be content and at peace, and finding reasons to be thankful? Can you have inner joy even when you don't feel outwardly happy?

The story of Christmas says yes. The mere fact that Jesus came to Earth as a baby 2000 years ago, to live, to die, to live again so that we could live and be weaved into God's love story brings joy. It brings an inner sense of contentment and joy that whatever is going on outwardly, that we have something greater, something defining, something transformational that can not be taken away. We have hope, we have eternity, we have love, we have peace, we have a purpose, we have a future, we have forgiveness, we have freedom. And understanding that brings true joy.

“Count your many blessing, see what God has done!”

—Pastor Dave

Christmas News

Yes, Christmas may look different this year, but whether we can gather in person or in spirit from the safety of our homes, it's still a time of celebration as we reflect on Jesus, the greatest gift of all. In a season of darkness we want to turn our eyes and hearts towards the light.

We are planning in-house Christmas Eve Services as well as an online HMC Christmas Special. If you would like to attend in person, you must register by noon on December 23.

There are two service times available when you register — 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. Please select your preference. **Visit hanovermissionary.com/christmas-eve or call the church office to reserve your spot.**

The church office will be closed December 28-January 1.



We are open throughout the week by appointment. Please call the office if you'd like to meet with a pastor or drop off your tithe. Visitors must be masked and are required to sign in at the door so we can track who is in the building. **We now have a doorbell situated between the two main doors if you arrive during regular office hours.** Remember, if you are attending our Sunday morning service in person you must register first. Call the office or fill out the form at hanovermissionary.com/registration by 10:00 a.m. Thursday mornings.

Finance update for HMC

We are now 3 months into our fiscal year. For Sept/Oct/Nov:

- we budgeted to spend \$120,163.36
- actual expenses totaled \$112,639.72
- general offerings totaled \$108,559.65

HMC also received government assistance totalling: \$12,134.71



WEEK AT A GLANCE

TUESDAY December 22

7:00 p.m. **5 Minute Thoughts**

Join a pastor online for a quick reflection

WEDNESDAY December 23

Noon Registration deadline for the in-person

Christmas Eve Service and the December

27 Sunday Worship Service

THURSDAY December 24

5:30 p.m. **Christmas Eve Online Special**

5:30 & 7:00 p.m. **Christmas Eve Service**

SUNDAY, December 27

10:00 a.m. **Join us in person or online as**

we dive into God's Word

PLEASE NOTE: The Church Office will be closed December 28-January 1

A pastor can be reached during this time

through the Pastoral Care Line

519-379-1752

Thank you for continuing to be a generous community. In these tough times, we have been so blessed to see God provide. If you are not attending in person on Sunday mornings and would like to give, you may contact the church to arrange a drop off or to use the debit machine. Tithes and offerings can also be sent through e-transfer (to bookkeeper@hanovermissionary.com) or using the Tithely app (go to get.tithe.ly and sign up, or download the tithe.ly app from the app store).



The debit machine will now be available on Sunday mornings if you'd like to use it for your tithes and offerings.

There are only two weeks of giving left in 2020. Anything received after December 31 will be receipted for 2021.

If you have old offering envelopes, please discard them. We have condensed our envelopes based on need and new giving numbers have been assigned. New 2021 envelopes are available for pick up from the office. If anyone mistakenly picked up #44, could you please contact the office? Thank you.

This Christmas

HELP **RESTOCK** OUR HMC PANTRY

so we can continue to bless others in our community

Bring your donation with you on Sunday morning or drop it off during regular office hours.



As we work to restock our pantry, we are accepting donations of non-perishable food items, as well as knitted hats and mitts. Consider cans of stew or chilli - items that are full meals in themselves - as well as gifts of can openers. Donations can be dropped off on Sunday mornings, or you may drop it off during regular office hours.

WARMING CENTRE

Our Warming Centre is an important community ministry that began on November 5 and will run every Thursday from noon to 2:00, providing a place for those in need of warmth and company to enjoy a hot bowl of soup and friendly conversation.

If you would like to volunteer to make soup or to help at the Warming Centre on Thursday, please connect with Marcia Burt. 519-364-3422 or paulandmarciaburt@yahoo.ca

Please keep this ministry in your prayers, especially as they take a break over the Christmas season. Pray for the people who attend, that they would find warmth and nourishment during the break, and pray for the volunteers, that it would be a refreshing time of rest.

Spiritual Care during the time of COVID. —a report from the Spiritual Care Council (Previously the Chaplaincy)— our Missionary of the Month

People haven't stopped getting sick, or having heart attacks, or babies, or strokes during the time of COVID. Staff in our hospitals have had to do all that and worry about getting sick themselves, or taking it home to their families. The Spiritual Care Providers in Grey and Bruce counties have taken on the challenge to care for both the patients, their families, and the staff. We've been so truly fortunate that the Spiritual Care Providers were allowed back into the hospitals and at the bedside so that they can provide the care that they give best; in person, one on one, and family care during a stressful time. Although unable to visit COVID patients in person, the Spiritual Care Council are still available to support them and their families, all the while caring for the surgical, medical, emergency and mental health patients at the bedside. We are very lucky in Grey and Bruce counties to have these spiritual heroes to care for our neighbours, friends, and families... All during the time of COVID.

Regular and Large Print Daily Bread are available for pick up. If you would like one to be mailed to you, please reach out to Marie in the office.