

# MacNeill Baptist Church

## News and Notes

Church Moderator: Jonathan Purdy

Minister of Worship and Pastoral Care: Susan St John

Director of Music: Monica Admiral

Custodian: Sandy Palin

Associate Ministers in Chaplaincy: Robert Bond, Claire Gosselin,  
David Jones, Felida Toledo

---

Dec 24, 2023

The service is live-streamed at Sundays at 11 am, with access to the video available for later viewing. See the link on our website.

For our in-person worship service, for accessibility for those with differences in hearing, there are a limited number of printed copies of today's sermon and scripture readings available at the Cline Street entrance of the church.

**Next week:** Shared service at Westdale United at 10:30 am

MacNeill has a scent-free policy. Masks are optional.

**Wifi Network:** MacNeill, password is 3485 6101 5200

### **Bible Quest Leader today:**

**Pastoral Care:** When you would like someone to pray with, to request a pastoral visit, or to publish a prayer request please contact Susan St John at 905-512-9897 or [sstjohn.macneill@gmail.com](mailto:ssjohn.macneill@gmail.com)

**Pastoral Care Team:** Heather Hobbs, Olga Jenkins, David Jones, Bruce Papky, Feli Toledo and Beverly Woods.

Your continued financial support of our congregation is appreciated. Donations can be mailed to the church or done through our website.

[www.macneillbaptist.ca](http://www.macneillbaptist.ca)

Thank you for your continued generosity.

### **From Lynn and Bob**

Dear MacNeill family: we long to find a way to say “thank you” that is broad, deep and high enough....for the visits, the cards, the phone calls, the care package, the prayers from MacNeill; also support via our Production Crew which makes it possible for us to be with you in worship. Beneath all these various ‘means’ are your love, concern and hope which have moved, humbled and blessed us. Their healing impact will forever be remembered and cherished. Thank you!

Have a blessed Christmas, Bob and Lynn

### **Christmas Drive for Phoenix Place**

Your Outreach Board would like to thank you for your contributions to Phoenix place. The donated mitts, hats, and toiletries were delivered and were very much appreciated.

### **New Grandbaby for Garth!**

Reina Madeline was born Dec 16 to Roberto & Alyson D, daughter of Garth. A new sister for big brother Robbie.

### **Offering E-transfer**

We now have a **new way to donate** to support the life and work of MacNeill!! You can now send an e-transfer to the church. This avoids costly service charges. You can even set up a monthly recurring e-transfer from your bank account to make it even easier. The address is

[donations@macneillbaptist.ca](mailto:donations@macneillbaptist.ca)

Offerings are still accepted by other means... cheques, cash, or Canada Helps (the donation link) on our website.... So this is just another option for you. Thank you Jon P for setting this up!!!

### **Advent & Christmas at MacNeill**

**Sunday December 31:** Shared community service at  
Westdale United at 10.30AM.

## OUCH!!

One of our furnaces has failed and needs to be replaced at a cost of about \$5600. So ..... if you are feeling a wee bit like Santa and have a bit of cash to spare, please consider a contribution to the “**Building Repair Fund**”. Your generosity is much appreciated.



## Evening of Prayer for Christian Unity – Thursday January 18, 2024 (7PM)

There will be a special event planned by the Westdale ministries (St Paul's, Westdale, St C's and MacNeill) to gather for worship and prayer for Christian Unity, in response to the Canadian Council of Churches national initiative. It will take place in the Westdale Theatre. Guest preacher is Peter Noteboom, General Secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches.

## Prayer Requests

We offer prayers for **Baby Luca B** as she struggles toward good health with parents Wren and Jeremy B (son of Lynn and Bob). She is improving daily with the skilled support of her wonderful medical team.

**Jamie C's wife and daughter** (Liz's son) are struggling with health issues. **Tamara** is still suffering concussion headaches after a car accident and **Isla** (who is diabetic) is also dealing with hypersensitivity. The family just lost their beloved dog too. Please pray for them.

For Sandy P's daughter, **Yvonne** as she grieves the passing of her paternal Grandmother, June. And also to offer a prayer for Jim Crichton, husband of June.

For **Marie**, Doug and Shirley W's sister-in-law. Marie has experienced some recovery and the plan is for her to return home. Her family has expressed gratitude for our prayers.

**Lilly Grace** is grateful that her recovery from surgery is going well.

Please pray for **Bob** & Lynn B. and their family. Bob is in Welland Hospital, recovering from sepsis.

For **Cathy H**, friend and former member of MacNeill, who currently lives in Canmore, Alberta. Cathy is facing a serious problem with the sight in one of her eyes. She has undergone surgery and is facing more.

Please pray for **Michael and Jonie**, MacNeill neighbours, as Jonie's cancer recovery is ongoing.

For **Janis H**, friend of Sonia, who is fighting cancer.

**Indra H.** as she serves in support of her husband **Mel** and struggles with her own health issues.

**Paul G.**, friend of Lynn and Bob, who is going through some serious and life changing health issues.

**Ryan C**, a friend of Susan S.'s family, who is struggling with addictions and severe health problems.

**Ed S**, who is dealing with the early stages of Alzheimer's.

**Cheryl and Charles S** who appreciate our ongoing prayers and concern.

Garth's parents, **Denny and Mair**.

Monica's cousin **Shelley K** and niece **Lyanne K**.

**Martina S.** whose health is quite fragile, and for John and son Danny who support her so well.

**Bev M and Bruce W**, friends of Nancy and John D, who are experiencing serious health issues.

## **O Mary, O Mary, Don't Be Afraid**

O Mary, O Mary, don't be afraid,  
For Joseph will honour promises made.  
He's brought you a little grey donkey to ride;  
The road will be long but he'll walk by your side.

O Mary, O Mary, why do you cry?  
The village of Bethlehem is close by,  
And there will be food and a bed for your rest,  
And Joseph will comfort you in your distress.

O Mary, O Mary, rest here tonight,  
The lantern will fill this stable with light,  
The bright stars above, underfoot the soft earth,  
Surrounded by shaggy beasts you will give birth.

O Mary, O Mary, life has begun,  
Rejoice in the birth of Jesus your son.  
Now swaddle him, cradle him in your soft arm,  
And guard and protect him from every harm.

O Mary, O Mary, why do you weep?  
Your baby has fed and fallen asleep,  
And Joseph, so proud of his new baby boy,  
Repeats the name "Jesus" with wonder and joy.

O Mary, O Mary, sing to him now,  
Before your son even rulers will bow,  
The weak will be strong and the hungry be fed  
Throughout the whole world the good news will be spread.

Paula Papky, 2005-10-23

## A Huron (Wendat) Carol

1. We gather at midwinter dark to share this hallowed night.  
Within our longhouse, warm and dry, the fire glows with light.  
Our Elders sing a teaching song;  
it fills the night that seems so long:  
This is our sacred home, 'neath heaven's dome,  
shining stars proclaim the dawn.

2. Sky Woman came down from above, but found no place to stand,  
till Toad put mud on Turtle's back, and that became the land.  
Sky Woman died in giving birth;  
her holy body fed the earth.  
This is our sacred home, 'neath heaven's dome,  
shining stars proclaim the dawn.

3. A valiant Little Turtle rode a cloud up to the sky;  
she used the lightning to make fire, and made our Sun to shine.  
He journeys 'neath the world we see,  
returns to make the shadows flee.  
This is our sacred home, 'neath heaven's dome,  
shining stars proclaim the dawn.

4. The Black Robes came from lands afar, and told us of a day  
Judea had been colonized, and Rome must be obeyed.  
A mother bore a child of light;  
rejoicing filled the starlit night:  
This is our sacred home, 'neath heaven's dome,  
shining stars proclaim the dawn.

5. Rejoice! Have courage one and all! The stars shine overhead,  
the same stars that shone down upon a baby's humble bed.  
The infant grew to be a man;  
his words, like stars, light many lands.  
This is our sacred home, 'neath heaven's dome,  
shining stars proclaim the dawn.