December 2026	Northern York United Church Collaboration	Issue #1

Welcome to the first edition of the Northern York United Church Collaborative Newsletter. This is an effort to share news, updates and events that will be taking place in Georgina Island United, Knox (Sutton) United, Mount Albert United, Queensville Holland Landing United, Ravenshoe United and Virginia United Churches. As this is the first issue, the news and updates are sparse but we have tried to capture the activities of each church for the Christmas Season. Future issues will have news on Collaborative Activities and the current Minister search. For now, the next Collaborative or Joint Service is scheduled for January 3, 2027 at Queensville Holland Landing United Church. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend this service.

Take some time and check out the events at your neighbouring United Churches!

To provide some entertainment and get you ready for the Christmas Season, check out the word search on the next page!

If you have news or events that you would like to share in this newsletter please send it to;

John Anderson at andersons@rogers.com or
Tina Cormier at tina.cormier@hotmail.com or
Your church administrator.

If information could be sent by the 15th of the month prior to the event, it would be greatly appreciated.

Wishing you a merry Christmas Season and a happy New Year.

Christmas Word Search



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

BiblePuzzles.org.uk

ADVENT
ANGELS
BAUBLES
BELLS
BIRTH OF JESUS
BOXING DAY
CAROL SINGING
CHIMNEY
CHRISTMAS CAKE
CHRISTMAS PUD-DING
CHRISTMAS TREE
CRACKERS
ELVES
FAMILY
FOOD
HOLIDAYS
HOLLY
IVY
MINCE PIES
MISTLETOE
MULLED WINE
PARTY
PRESENTS
QUEEN'S SPEECH
REINDEER
ROBIN
RUDOLPH
SANTA CLAUS
SCROOGE
SHEPHERDS
SNOWMAN
STAR
TINSEL
TURKEY
WISEMEN
WRAPPING PAPER
YULELOG

Christmas Carols and The Bible…

The Twelve Days of Christmas

During the 16th Century, people of the Catholic Faith in Britain were forbidden to practice their faith. By law, if caught, they could face arrest, and even death. The Law did not differentiate between the young or old, the punishment was the same for either. This forced many of the Catholic Faith to practice their faith in secret or underground. One of their greatest challenges was the teaching of the children the basic doctrines of the faith. One of the most successful tools or "secret codes" used by the underground church was the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas".

The days, 12 in number, represented the time between Christ's birth and Epiphany, the time when the Wise Men came bearing gifts for the newborn King. "My True Love' as referred to in the song was not the love of a man for a woman, instead it was the 'True Love", the pure, boundless, heavenly love of God for His children; a love that could not be matched with human love. The importance of Christ's death, burial and resurrection was the foundation of the faith and was therefore repeated in every verse.

A Partridge in a Pear Tree: The mother partridge lures enemies away from her defenseless chicks to protect them. If necessary, she is willing to sacrifice her life for her little ones. The Pear Tree represents the cross and together symbolizes the ultimate gift that God gave at Christmas, His Son, Jesus Christ.

Two Turtle Doves: These represent the two elements that make up the Bible, the Old Testament and the New Testament. Doves also symbolize peace, reinforcing the scripture, "Peace on Earth, Goodwill to men".

Three French Hens: If you enjoyed a meal of French Hens, you were eating the best meal one could imagine; a feast fit for a king. The three French Hens represent the three gifts the Wise men brought as they brought the very best that they had; gifts fit for a "newborn" king.

Four Calling Birds: These represent the writers of the Four Gospels that heralded forth the "Good News" and story of Jesus. These are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Five Golden Rings: The first five books of the Old Testament, called the Law of Moses or the Torah, remind us of man's fall and the presence of sin, reinforcing the need that we have of a Savior and a path back to God.

Six Geese A-Laying: The Lord created the universe in six days (and rested on the seventh). Eggs represent new life or creation that God brought about when nothing existed. This taught of God's power to bring new life into the believer's life who was previously "dead in their sins".

Seven Swans A-Swimming: There are seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. These are the gifts of prophesy, service, teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership, and mercy. Swans were considered the most beautiful and graceful of all birds. As one walks closest to God, the gift of the Holy Spirit would flow beautifully and gracefully out of the life of the believer.

Eight Maids A-Milking: These represent the common man whom Christ had come to save. No job or position in England at this time was any lower than that of a milk maid. This reminds us that the King of Heaven came to save and to serve all people regardless of status, race, sex, or creed. The number eight represents the eight Beatitudes found in the gospel of Matthew chapter 5:3-10; Blessed are the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, the hungry, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemaker, and the righteous.

Nine Ladies Dancing: These represent the nine Fruits of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The idea of dancing reiterates the joy, gladness, and rewards of serving Christ.

Ten Lords A-Leaping: These remind us of the Ten Commandments given by God. To be a Lord was to be the final authority of a household and the Ten Commandments were the ten laws of God that guided God's people.

Eleven Pipers Piping: There were twelve disciples, but Judas Iscariot betrayed Christ leaving eleven men who would sound out the message of Jesus to the world. They heralded the message of Christ's life and resurrection.

Twelve Drummers Drumming: This represented the confessional taught by the Catholic Church called "The Apostles' Creed". The drum represents that this was the pace or rhythm by which one's daily walk with the Lord could be measured.

CHURCH EVENTS

Georgina Island United Church

Coming soon!

Knox (Sutton) United Church (Sunday Service - 10:30 am)

November 29 – Communion, Advent 1, Rev. Dr. Bill Fritz

November 30 - Annual Christmas Memorial Service (see poster)

December 13 – White Gift/Lessons & Carols Service – Advent lll

December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m.

December 27 – Ecumenical Service at the Salvation Army at 10:30 a.m.

Mount Albert United Church (Sunday Service - 10:30am)

December 13 – Rhythm Appeal Hand Bell Quartet (see poster)

December 24 – Christmas Eve Family Service 2 6:30 pm (see poster)

Queensville Holland Landing United Church (Sunday Service - 10:30 am)

Mondays – Krafters meet at 1 p.m.

Tuesdays – Tai Chi at 3:00 pm. Everyone welcome.

December 5 – Mistletoe Tea (see poster)

December 6 – Candle Lit Christmas Classics (see poster)

January 3, 2027 – Collaborative Church Service

CHURCH EVENTS con't…

Ravenshoe United Church (Sunday Service - 9:30 am)

December 6 – White Gift Sunday and Potluck Luncheon. Service starts at 10 am

December 24 – Christmas Eve & Communion Service at 7:30 pm

Virginia United Church (Sunday Service - 9:00 am)

Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m. - weekly Bible Study, discussing the Book of Acts, one chapter at a time.

December 6 - White Gift Sunday; collection of money and nonperishable food for the Georgina Community Food Pantry. Envelopes are available for your financial donations.

December 17 - CEDAR HEDGE CONCERT SERIES, hosted by Virginia United Church; Ashley MacIsaac (at the Beaverton Town Hall); 3-time Juno winner; singer-songwriter, fiddle-player; note change of location as a large crowd is expected. 7:00 pm. Advance tickets $40; at the door, $50; (see poster)

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service for the whole family with candle lighting, led by Rev Leslie Sedore at 5:00 p.m.

December 27 - Ecumenical Worship Service at the Salvation Army Community Church, Jackson's Point; fellowship time to follow at 10:30 a.m.

Pefferlaw Christmas Angels: we are collecting toys for this community-wide program. There's always a particular need for items for teens. Box available downstairs.



The holiday season is upon us.
For many, it can be a difficult time especially when someone they love is no longer with them.

FORREST & TAYLOR FUNERAL HOME
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL SERVICE

NOVEMBER

MONDAY | **30** | **AT 7:00 PM**

20846 DALTON ROAD
SUTTON ON, L0E 1R0

Please join us at the Forrest & Taylor Funeral Home for our Annual Candlelight Memorial Service to remember & honour those we have lost.
All are welcome.

Refreshments & Fellowship to follow



For more information please contact us
905 722 3274
WECARE@FORRESTANDTAYLOR.CA


Music Brings Us Together
Rhythm A'Peal
Handbell Quartet
PRESENTS
A Christmas Concert
The joy of the season in every ring!
Handbells Hearts Community
Enjoy Christmas music from our English Handbell Quartet along with other guest musicians.
Sunday, December 13, 2026
at 2:00 p.m.
Mount Albert United Church
41 Alice St., Mount Albert
Christmas Music Lifts the Spirit
A Free will offering is suggested at about $15.
Proceeds go to the General and Handbell Funds.
ALL ARE WELCOME!
MUSIC • COMMUNITY • HOPE

Mount Albert United Church

41 Alice Street, Mount Albert, ON

ALL ARE WELCOME

CHRISTMAS EVE

Family Service

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

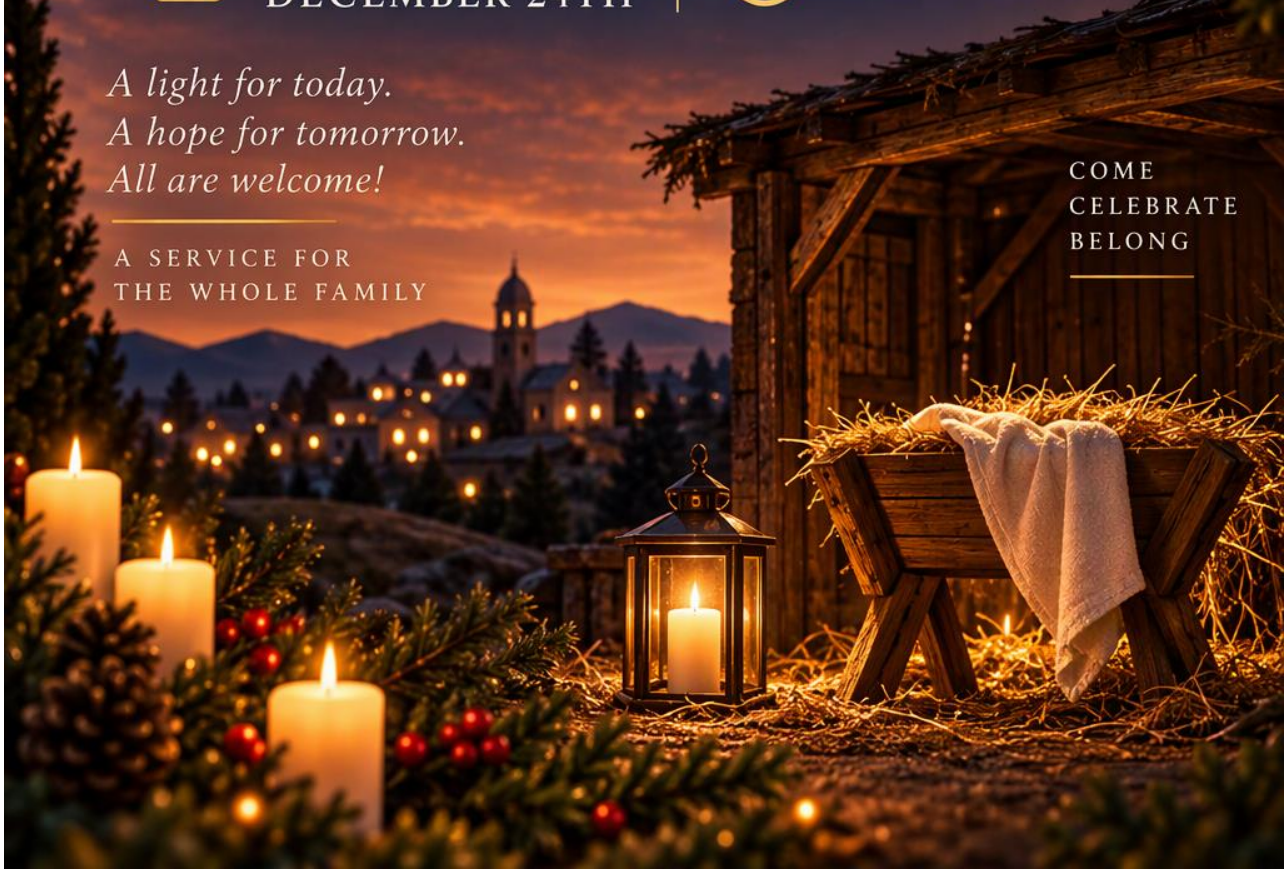
WORSHIP • STORY • TOGETHER

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24TH | 6:30 PM

A light for today.
A hope for tomorrow.
All are welcome!

A SERVICE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

COME
CELEBRATE
BELONG



Queensville
Holland United Church

Mistletoe Tea

from 11am-1pm
on Saturday, December 5th

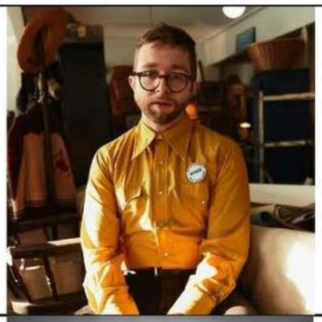
A variety of sandwiches, sides and desserts for only

$12




Solas Presents
Candle Lit
Christmas Classics
from 6–7 pm and
8–9 pm
on Sunday, December 6th
at Queensville Holland Landing
United Church
For tickets go to
solaspresents.com

THE 2026/27 CEDAR HEDGE CONCERT SERIES

Harry Manx Sunday, September 27			Lotus Wight Celebrates the Music of Robert Johnson Saturday, October 24
Peter Katz Saturday, November 21			Ashley MacIsaasc Thursday, December 17
Meredith Moon Saturday, January 23			Ben Vallee Saturday, February 20
Zachary Lucky Saturday, March 13			Duke Street Turnaround Saturday, April 24
Garrett Mason Saturday, May 29		Series memberships available for $225 by emailing mattlargepresents@gmail.com.	