



NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

February 15th, 2026,

10:30 am

Transfiguration Sunday

Welcome!

“Newcastle United Church’s ministry is to live out God’s love through strengthening our faith, by encouraging kindness and hospitality, and learning to live out the presence of Christ in our lives.”

Gathering With God And One Another

**Indicates for congregation to stand in body or in spirit.*

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement

As we gather for worship in this place, we acknowledge that Newcastle United Church is situated within the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas and Chippewas of the Anishinaabeg, known today as the Williams Treaties First nations.

We recognize that we need to hear the truth so that we can reconcile with our past, create new relationships and move forward together, making space for understanding and healing for all.

Announcements

Lighting The Christ Candle

Moment of Preparation: "Hymn to Freedom"

Oscar Peterson

Silence is kept.

Call To Worship:

One: The glory of God transfigures the everyday!

All: The light of God transfigures familiar faces!

One: At the heights of our worship,

All: may God's presence shine through the commonplace.

One: At the depths of our pain and struggle,

All: may God's presence give us peace.

One: May God's light illumine all our days.

All: Amen!

***Hymn:** VU 104 “We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding” vv. 1-3

*****All Hymn lyrics can be found in Voices United hymn books or on screens.**

Opening Prayer:

All: Mighty God, stay with us as we worship and as we share the risk and the challenge of living our faith. By your powerful Spirit, turn our fear to courage and our confusion to confidence. Your glory shines in the face of Christ. Shine in our hearts and in our lives. In the strong name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

A Time for Healing and Renewal

The Lord’s Prayer

Promise of God’s Healing Love:

One: In this ordinary moment, in this ordinary time and place, something extraordinary has happened.

All: We hear God’s word to us as good news for our lives.

One: Our past is forgiven and forgotten, we are free to begin again.

All: Praise God! We welcome Christ as our redeemer and guide.

Conversation Time

Reception of New Member Through Transfer

Minister: As a community of believers and seekers, do you commit yourselves to support and nurture Sharon, walking with her in times of sorrow and of joy, listening to her stories and ideas, welcoming her gifts and talents, and celebrating the presence of Jesus Christ in her life and in the lives of us all?

Congregation: Yes, we do. We pledge to you our love and our support. With God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's church.

***Hymn:** VU 289 "It Only Takes a Spark"

vv. 1-3

The Sacrament Of Baptism

Introduction

One: Siblings in Christ, we now gather to celebrate the gift of grace that is revealed to us in the sacrament of baptism.

All: We are one body and one spirit. We have one hope in God's call to us.

One: There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.

All: Out of the water of baptism, we turn away from death and rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one with Christ.

Presentation of Candidates for Baptism

Representative from Session: I present Benjamin Simon Ralph Snoxall, child of Megan and Steven Snoxall for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism.

Minister: Do you desire to have your child baptized?

Parents: We do, by the grace of God.

Representative from Session: I present Heather Snoxall, for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism.

Minister: Heather, do you desire to be baptized?

Heather: I do, by the grace of God.

Announcements

Sunday February 15th, 2026

Welcome! We enjoy open seating, so please, sit where you feel comfortable, and meet a new friend.

Today's Greeters are Russ and Wendy Westwood.

Today's Reader is Brian Reid.

Bible Study

Bible Study continues this week on Wednesday from 10 am to 10:45 am. From 10:45 to 11:15 we will be piloting a **new program** that explores the **wisdom that aging brings**. All welcome!



Coffee Time

Please join us in the hall after the service for fellowship. This week's treats brought to you by Session.

Annual General Meeting

Next week is our congregation's Annual General Meeting. This is an opportunity to learn about and support the "behind the scenes" workings of our congregation. Immediately following morning worship, we ask that you stay in the sanctuary so a congregational photograph might be taken for our church website. The Congregational Life Ministry Team will then provide a light lunch followed by the meeting. Please plan to attend!

Being baptized this morning are: **Ben Snoxall**, child of Megan and Steven Snoxall and **Heather Snoxall**. We celebrate with Ben and Heather and their families on this special day.

We are pleased to officially welcome into our church family this morning, **Sharon Edwards**, who is transferring her membership from the former Trinity United Church in Bowmanville.

Dates at a Glance....

February 17 th , from 4:45 to 7 pm	Shrove Tuesday/ Pancake Dinner
February 22 nd , at 12:30 pm	Annual General Meeting
March 6 th at 2 pm	World Day of Prayer Service
March 11 th , at 7 pm	Session Meeting
March 13 th at 10 am	Stewards Meeting

Pancake Supper

Join us this Shrove Tuesday, February 17th for a delicious evening of pancakes and sausages. (Gluten friendly option available.) from 4:45 pm to 7:00 pm, in the church hall. \$10 per person. Kids 5-12 \$5. Kids under 5 are free. Cash at the door!!

Craft Group

We are looking to start up a craft group that would meet at least monthly and perhaps more often leading up to the bazaar. To enjoy a social time of crafting together, to share ideas for crafts to create and sell at the church bazaar. No time or date has yet been set. If you are interested, please contact Marion Hillyard. 647-969-7414.

Collective 2026:

A national gathering for Youth, Young Adults, and their leaders, presented jointly by The United Church of Canada and the Presbyterian Church in Canada. **Collective** is an opportunity to grow in faith, build community, and reflect on shared experiences—together. Join us on August 12–15, 2026 at Brock University, St. Catharines, ON. Registration is now open! <https://www.collective-gathering.ca/> Info Sessions on February 24th at noon and 26th at 6:30 pm.

****Reminder-next week is Foodbank week!**

Lenten Study: Faith in Our Time

For six Thursday evenings in Lent, starting Thursday, February 19th, we will gather to explore our faith using the resource "Being With". "Being With" is a series of guided conversations that are more about relationship with God, our ourselves and one another, rather than about consuming information. The program is based on the conviction that God's ultimate desire is to be with us; and that the Holy Spirit has been at work with us since our lives began. Throughout the conversations, we will look from different perspectives on who God is, what our place on earth is, and how we can engage with the realities of life. Whether you are curious about or new to the Christian faith or have been a practising Christian for many years, all are welcome to take part. Each session runs for 1 1/2 hours, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. **Enrollment is limited, so please pre-register by speaking to Rev. Elaine, today.**

Lent...a time to Reflect and Pray

Starting Wednesday, February 18th and for each Wednesday in Lent, the sanctuary will be heated and open for silent reflection from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A prayer labyrinth will also be laid out in the hall for those wishing to walk the labyrinth as a way of meditation and prayer.

Communion

Being the First Sunday in Lent, the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated next Sunday, February 22nd during morning worship.

World Day of Prayer

Our UCW is hosting a **World Day of Prayer Service** on Friday, March 6th at 2:00 p.m. with refreshments to follow. This year's service has been written by Christian women from Nigeria. All welcome.

Stewardship Second,

February 15th, Transfiguration Sunday

Sometimes, the vision of what God is up to is so clear it is blinding.

Faith in Motion - The Kindness Project

We want to make acts of kindness an everyday way of being. Small things that cost nothing but are easy to give and mean so much to the recipient. Things like: holding a door, letting someone go in front of you, helping to carry something, paying a compliment, giving encouragement, calling a friend, listening, sharing a simple smile. We can do these for family members and friends - most of us probably already do! - but we can also do these for complete strangers. So many little things we can do everyday add up and they help us to carry out Jesus' work, showing our love for all.

In the hall, we have a bunch of colouring pages that we encourage everyone to take home and colour. You can also create your own design if you are feeling creative. Colour your page all at once or a bit each day and use that time to think about the acts of kindness you have done recently as well as those you could do. Bring your finished art back and we will put all of them together in a banner on the wall. There will also be a place to write suggestions on ways to show kindness to others.

Let the banner we create together be a reminder to keep colouring the world with love and kindness every day!

“Kitchen Conversations”

Join us this Lent for Kitchen Conversations with the Moderator, a six-part video series exploring faith, food, and the power of invitation, hosted by The Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath.

Drawing inspiration and recipes from the United Church's Lenten devotional, *Bless Break Share: Recipes for Faithful Living*, we're getting in the kitchen with guests from across the church, including book contributors, United Church youth, and the Moderator's own family. Starting Shrove Tuesday, we'll be breaking bread at a church each week throughout Lent, reflecting on how food can nourish both body and soul, and how in joining around the table, we connect to something deeper than ourselves. <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/organization-and-governance/moderator/right-rev-dr-kimberly-heath-45th-moderator/kitchen-conversations>

Profession of Faith and Commitments Made

Minister: Do you believe in God, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh?

Parents & Candidates: I do, God being my helper.

Minister: Heather, Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you turn to Jesus Christ, away from darkness to light?

Heather: I do, God being my helper.

Minister: Ben, do you want to be friends with Jesus? Do you want to learn about Jesus and all the ways that God loves you?

Ben: Yes, I do, because God will help me.

Minister: Ben and Heather, do you welcome God's Spirit into your life, asking God to strengthen and guide you?

Ben & Heather: I do, God being my helper.

Minister: Ben and Heather, will you be an active part of Christ's church, Newcastle United Church and the worldwide Christian church.

Heather & Ben: I do, God being my helper.

Minister: Heather, in your everyday living will you strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being?

Heather: I will, God being my helper.

Minister: Ben, will you do your best to love yourself, to love others, and to love God?

Ben: Yes, I will, because God will help me.

Minister: Megan and Steven, will you do your best to show Ben the Christian life and to grow with him in faith?

Parents: We will, God being our helper.

Minister: Will you seek out and receive, for Ben and yourselves, the support and nurture of the church as he grows in the knowledge of God's love for him?

Parents: We will, God being our helper.

(The congregation stands.)

Minister: As a baptized and baptizing church, as those representing Newcastle United Church, and as those representing the universal church, do you commit yourselves to support and nurture Heather and Ben?

Congregation: Yes, we do! Ben and Heather, we will continue to support you, walk with you and grow with you. We will listen to your stories and ideas, welcome your gifts and talents, and celebrate the presence of Jesus Christ in your lives and in the lives of us all. With God's help we will help you live out your baptism.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Pouring of Water

One: Let us lift up our hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: Blessed are you, our God, ruler of the universe, maker of heaven and earth, keeper of sky and sea. We thank you for the gift of water, by which you nourish and sustain all living things in your way.

All Blessed are you, our God.

One: We thank you that you sent your son Jesus Christ, in whom you promised that all who thirst would come to the living water. He who was

baptized in the water of repentance becomes for us the never-failing spring, welling up to eternal life.

All: Blessed are you, our God.

One: Therefore, eternal and present God, we bless you for the water with which you bless us. We pray that those who are given the waters of life will live in your grace, knowing the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

(The water is poured.) Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this water, that all who are gathered under this sign, being one in Christ, may be nurtured by your saving grace.

All: Amen.

Action of Baptism

Laying on of Hands

Blessing and Giving of the Light

Prayer

Listening For God's Word

Gospel Reading: Matthew 17:1-9

Response:

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: **We give praise for the presence of God through the Word.**

Ministry of Music: "Would You Bless Our Homes and Families"

Message: "Open to the Mystery"

***Hymn:** VU 341 "Fairest Lord Jesus"

vv. 1-4

Responding To God's Word

Minute for Mission

Invitation to The Offering

***Offertory Hymn: VU 540 "Grant Us, God, the Grace"**

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving, with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living we may offer faithfully.**

Offertory Prayer

Prayers of the People

Going Into The World

***Hymn: VU 651 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"**

vv. 1-3

***Commissioning & Benediction**

***Sung Blessing - "Go Now In Peace"**

Postlude