



NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

February 8th, 2026,

10:30 am

Choosing Life

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 prepare to worship in this place, we acknowledge that we are gathered 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 Indigenous peoples have been serving as stewards of this land for thousands of years – long before European settlers came and began claiming it. Indigenous communities continue their care for the land, and we are called to join them, living into the spirit of truth and reconciliation.

We honour the light of Creation at work in all of our hearts and commit to journeying together in truth, gentleness and love.

Announcements

Lighting The Christ Candle

Moment of Preparation: “Take My Life and Let It Be”

Composed by Henri Malan Arranged by Victor Labenske

Silence is kept.

Call To Worship:

One: Once again, our pilgrimage through life leads us to this place of sanctuary.

**All: We come seeking food for our spirits,
guidance for our steps, and peace for our souls.**

One: The gospel of Jesus Christ is surely Good News
for us in our need.

**All: Let us worship God who sees our struggles
and shows us the way.**

One: Let us praise God with our whole selves.

***Opening Hymn: VU 242 "Let All Things Now Living"**

**1 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and
stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before
us,
pillar of fire shining forth in the night;
till shadows have vanished and darkness is
banished,
as forward we travel from light into Light.**

**2 By law God enforces, the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and
fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise:
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.**

Opening Prayer:

All: Dear God, we come to you as those who search for ways to love more wisely, more genuinely, more steadily. Move us to ground our lives in the love of Christ. May we be more passionate and patient, more faithful and forgiving, in our loving of one another and this world. Through your Spirit, build your church into a living temple, a sign of your presence on earth. Through Jesus Christ, our foundation, we pray. Amen.

A Time for Healing and Renewal

The Lord's Prayer

Promise of God's Healing Love:

One: We are anxious to be told the rules for living.

All: Instead, God offers us constant grace.

One: We set aside any appearances of being proper and righteous.

All: Instead, we rest our lives in God's care and calling.

One: Let us rejoice! We are forgiven, healed and set free to love deeply.

All: Amen.

Conversation Time

*Hymn: VU 365 "Jesus Loves Me"

vv. 1-3

**1 Jesus loves me, this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
in his love we shall be strong.**

Announcements

Sunday February 8th, 2026

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

Today's Greeters are Myno and Judy VanDyke.

Today's Readers are Jacob and Ben Snoxall.

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 the UCW.

Crock Pot Dinners

Crock Pot Dinners will resume again, TOMORROW, at 4:30 pm. Sign up sheets on the board by the offices, in the church hall. Dinners will continue on..... February 23rd, and March 9th at 4:30 pm.

Newsletter

A newsletter is being prepared for March. Please email submissions to Lynne in the office at office@newcastleunitedchurch.org before February 15th.

Cheese!

Marlene says the next cheese order will be in March!

Dates at a Glance....

February 9 th , at 1:30 pm	UCW Meeting, All Ladies Welcome
February 9 th , at 4:30 pm	Crock Pot Dinner
February 10 th , at 10 am	Mission and Service Meeting
February 13 th , at 1 pm	Vision 200 Meeting
February 17 th , from 4:45 to 7 pm	Shrove Tuesday/ Pancake Dinner
February 22 nd , at 12:30 pm	Annual General Meeting

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.

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.

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!!

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 or calling the church office by Thursday, February 12th.

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.

“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>

Songs in Solidarity

Enniskillen Tyrone United Church invites one and all to join them for an evening of singing refrains and songs of resistance in solidarity with our siblings in Minneapolis and elsewhere in the U.S. This event is happening on Thursday, February 19th from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. both in person and on their Facebook page

*Stewardship Second,
February 8, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Incredible things—God-inspired things—will
happen when we learn to live the way of
generosity and grace.*

REFRAIN

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

**2 Jesus loves me, this I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, 'Let them come to me.'**

REFRAIN

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

**3 Jesus loves me still today,
walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give
light and love to all who live.**

REFRAIN

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

Listening For God's Word

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Gospel Reading: Matthew 7:7-14

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: "A Little Love"

Composed by Natalie Sleeth

Message: “Finding Faith in February”

***Hymn: VU 356 “Seek Ye First the Kingdom” vv. 1-3**

- 1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and God's righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah.**

- 2 Ask and it shall be given unto you;
seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah.**

- 3 We do not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, hallelujah.**

Responding To God's Word

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 352 "I Danced in the Morning" vv. 1, 2, 5**

**1 I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came from heaven and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.**

REFRAIN

**Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

**2 I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;**

**I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on.**

REFRAIN

**5 They cut me down and I leap up high;
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.**

REFRAIN

***Commissioning & Benediction**

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

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, amen, amen.**

Postlude "Love Lifted Me"

James Rowe/Howard E. Smith