



NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

November 2nd, 2025

10:30 am

Anniversary Sunday
and

Service of Covenanting among
East Central Ontario Regional Council,
Rev. Elaine Hall & Newcastle United Church

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 in worship this morning, we acknowledge that we do so on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee nations, which are today under the care of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nations people.

We offer our respect and gratitude to those who have cared for and continue to care the land, and we commit ourselves to building a future based upon true reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Announcements

Lighting The Christ Candle

Moment of Preparation: “Blessed Assurance”

Arranged by Phillip Keveren

Call To Worship:

One: On this anniversary Sunday, we remember those who have gone before us, who first gathered a congregation and who first built a church in this place.

All: For ongoing generations, this holy place has inspired us to love the God who first loved us.

One: We come out of respect for those who have gone before us.

All: We come in joy, celebrating all those who are a part of our community of faith today.

One: And we come mindful of the future.

All: May we be a model of service and a well-spring of hope for those who will come after us.

One: Let us worship our God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

***Hymn: VU 325**

vv. 1-4

"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"

**1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one,
holy Zion's help for ever,
and its confidence alone.**

**2 To this temple where we call you,
come, O Lord of hosts, today;
with your faithful loving-kindness
hear your servants as they pray,
and your fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.**

**3 Here bestow on all your servants
what they ask of you to gain,
what they gain from you for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.**

**4 Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one,
one in might, and one in glory,
while unending ages run.**

Opening Prayer: (led by Debbie Dunham)

All: Gracious and loving God, on this Anniversary Sunday we lift our voices to you in song and our hearts to you in praise. Some of us have been here as long as we can remember. Some of us are new and just settling in. Longstanding, brand-new or somewhere in between bless us, one and all, in our gathering today. Wise and healing God, on this Covenanting Sunday, we give thanks that your Spirit has brought us together. As we commit to one another today, may we renew our commitment to you. May your Spirit continue to shape us into your holy people. May your Spirit lead us on into the future, as your presence has blessed us in the past. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

A Time for Healing and Renewal

The Lord's Prayer

Assurance of God's Healing Love: (led by Diane Winchester)

One: God knows us and God knows this community.

All: God sees all the good in our lives. God sees the good in the life of this place!

One: God also sees our pain and our challenges as individuals and as a community.

All: In all things, God offers us a steady presence, healing strength, and, above all, forgiveness.

One: Today we are offered the grace to move forward to be God's people.

All: God gives us the courage to place our lives and the life of this place in God's hands! Thanks be to God!

Conversation Time: "Happy Anniversary!"

***Hymn VU 649**
“Walk With Me”

vv. 1-4

Refrain

**Walk with me, I will walk with you
and build the land that God has planned
where love shines through.**

**1 When Moses heard the call of God
he said, 'Lord, don't send me.'
But God told Moses, 'You're the one
to set my people free.' REFRAIN**

**2 Now Peter was a most unlikely
man to lead the flock;
but Jesus knew his holiness
and he became the Rock. REFRAIN**

**3 Young Mary Magdalene was sure
her life could be much more,
and by her faith she dared to let
God's love unlock the door. REFRAIN**

**4 And when you share your faith with me
and work for life made new,
the witness of your faithfulness
calls me to walk with you. REFRAIN**

Listening For God's Word

Hebrew Scripture: Psalm 150 (Ben Snoxall)

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16 (Joyce King)

Response:

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

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

Message: “Uniting Force” Rev. Kim Lawrance

Ministry of Music: “Wherever You May Go”

Words and Music: David Kai

Responding To God’s Word

Minute for Mission: 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism

Invitation to The Offering

Offertory Hymn: “Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart”

Give thanks with a grateful heart.

Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because God’s given Jesus Christ, God’s Son.

And now, let the weak say “I am strong!”

Let the poor say “I am rich”

Because of what the Lord has done for us!

Give thanks, give thanks, give thanks.

Offertory Prayer

Covenanting Action

Introduction

Regional council liaison: We joyfully gather today to mark a new ministry relationship and celebrate how we are the church together. We are here to join into a covenantal relationship with God and between Elaine Hall, Newcastle United Church, and the wider United Church as represented by East Central Ontario regional council.

Announcements

Sunday November 2nd, 2025

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

Today's Greeters are Gail Empey and Sue Bell.

Bible Study is Wednesday at 10 am.

Covenanting Service

Following the service, all are invited to the hall for a time of refreshments and fellowship. Thank you to the UCW for providing today's refreshments. Thank you, as well, to all the participants who made today's service possible.

Poppy Pin



If you would be interested in a poppy centre pin for your poppy this year, we have a few more left in the office. \$2 each, see Lynne.

Dates at a Glance....

Nov 10 th , 17 th .	Crock Pot Dinners. Dinner at 5 pm
November 22 nd	Annual Bazaar
November 5 th , 9 am	Session Meeting
November 25 th , 7 pm,	Official Board Meeting, in the Sanctuary

The Bazaar

Our annual bazaar is less than a month away, on Sat. Nov. 22! Your donated items such as Christmas and 'gift-able' items, preserves, home sewing, previous loved jewelry and crafts can be dropped off at the church during office hours or on Sunday mornings. Please mark 'bazaar' on the box or bag. Baking can be dropped off at church on Fri. Nov.21, between 10 and noon (Please save your books and yard sale items for our sale in June.)

This year, we will also have a few Xmas planters for sale. You can order in advance, for delivery after the bazaar. Contact Heather Griffin at 905-440-0038. Thank you for your support. We have fun, coming together for this event!

Students away at School

Please take a moment today to pen a short greeting in the letters being mailed to our students who are away from home studying at university or college or commuting to classes. The letters are located in the hall, and will be available before and after worship this week and next. If your family has such a student, please let the church office know. We need the student's mailing address, and it would be great to know a little about what your student is studying.

Flowers For Advent

If you are interested in having flowers placed in the sanctuary for Advent Season, please see Lynne in the office. She can take names of individuals the flowers are for and payment, and coordinate with Wendy to have the flowers ordered. Flowers can be 'in memory of' or in 'honour of'.

Faith in Motion Food Pyramid

Our senior group of kids have been discussing ways to give and we came up with a project to support the food bank and encourage more giving in the next month.

We will be gathering boxed food for the next four weeks, from Oct. 26 to Nov. 23. This will be collected by the kids and made into a pyramid up on the balcony in the hall where everyone can see its progress. The children are encouraged to ask for donations from others such as family, friends, neighbours, teachers, etc. We are hoping to the rest of the congregation will follow our lead and do the same.

Boxed food items could include: cereal, Kraft Dinner, pasta, granola bars, juice boxes, and others. (Of course, canned or bagged items are great too, but the boxes will make better building blocks!) Remember that food must not be expired or expiring soon.

Let's all join in and see how big we can build our pyramid of food!

Food Handling Certificate

If you find yourself in the church kitchen lending a hand, then we ask you to consider signing up for a **safe food handling certificate course**. The course is being offered Saturday, November 8th from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the church. An exam must be taken the following week by booking a time slot at the church in order to complete the exam. Certification is good for 5 years. The cost of the course and certification is \$30. Our UCW has generously offered to pay for the cost of the training and certification. **Please register for the course on the sign-up sheet posted in the hall.** Not available November 8th? A second training day has been set for Saturday, January 10th

Church Entry Codes

Richard has been working on the alarm system and setting up new codes. **See Richard, for more info, if you have a key to the church!!** Original code will be deleted soon.

Have any New Ideas??

Have an idea for your Visioning Team to consider for a project? Have a question or concern? Please make use of the Ideas Box located at the back of the church in the narthex.

Stewardship Second.....

November 2: Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Stewardship isn't just about keeping our congregation afloat. Stewardship is how we use ALL our resources to help change the world to be closer to God's vision.

Ministry in our church is shared between the congregation and staff.

Minister: Rev. Elaine Hall

Office hours: Tuesday to Thursday, 9:00 am to noon
(church)905-987-4515 (home)905-985-1633
minister@newcastleunitedchurch.org

Church Administrator: Lynne Jefferson

Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 10:30 am-4:30 pm.
905-987-4515
office@newcastleunitedchurch.org

Church Organist/ Choir Director: Donna Barber
Choir practice: Thursdays, 3:00 p.m.

Book the Hall

property@newcastleunitedchurch.org

Chairperson of the Official Board

Richard Jefferson: After prayerful discernment, and the approval of Newcastle United Church, we present Elaine Hall, who has been called to a ministry of word, sacrament, and pastoral care in this community of faith. We believe that her skills and talents complement our faithful witness, ministry needs, and community context.

Regional council liaison: Elaine, you are here in response to the call of Newcastle United Church and East Central Ontario regional council. We come together to mark this new relationship within our regional council for the sake of our shared ministry. Elaine, you are about to undertake the ministry of word, sacrament, and pastoral care in this place. You, the members of this community of faith, are called to join Elaine in worship, compassion, study, prayer, and action. We, East Central Ontario regional council, will be responsible for supporting this ministry. Let us pray for God's grace as we covenant together:

All: Uniting God, you call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship: to celebrate your presence, to live with respect in creation, to be your servants in the service of others, to seek justice and resist evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to proclaim Jesus crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. Send your Holy Spirit to bind us in full communion so that we may be a uniting church embodying your love for the world.

As one, we proclaim: In life, in death, in life beyond death, you are with us, we are not alone, all glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Promises of the New Minister

Regional council liaison: Elaine, do you, in the presence of this community of faith, take on the new trust and responsibility of ministering with Newcastle United Church?

New Minister: I do.

Regional council liaison: Will you accept the guidance of East Central Ontario regional council and, together with its other members, be responsible for the health of Newcastle United Church?

New Minister: I will.

Regional council liaison: Will you share in the ministry goals and faith story of this community of faith?

New Minister: I will.

Regional council liaison: Will you accept the support and encouragement of this community of faith and this regional council?

New Minister: I will.

Regional council liaison: Will you work cooperatively with the wider church and wider community to embody God's love in the world?

New Minister: I will.

Promises of the Community of Faith

Regional council liaison: Will you, the Community of Faith of Newcastle United Church Charge, join with Elaine in a ministry of worship, compassion, study, prayer, and action as a part of the East Central Ontario Regional Council and the United Church of Canada, ministering both within this community of faith and in the wider church?

Members of the community of faith: **We will.**

Regional council liaison: Will you support and encourage her as she serves among you in this ministry?

Members of the community of faith: **We will.**

Promises of the Regional Council

Regional council liaison: I invite representatives of the East Central regional council to come forward.

Will you, as members of East Central regional council, join with Elaine and this community of faith in the ministry that is both hers and ours?

Representatives of regional council: We will.

Regional council liaison: Will you support and encourage her in this ministry?

Representatives of regional council: We will.

***Hymn: MV 150**

vv. 1-4

“Spirit God, Be Our Breath”

Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.

Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.

Our world seems inward, defensive, withdrawn,

Spirit God, be our song.

Patient God: sooth our pride, calm our fear.

Comfort us. When we know you are near,

We grow more certain, our vision is clear.

Patient God, calm our fear.

Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer.

Reaching out, joining hands as we share,

we seek your guidance through friendship and care.

Loving God, be our prayer.

Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.

Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.

Through change, through challenge, we'll greet the new dawn,

Spirit God, be our song.

Words and music: Bruce Harding

Presentation of Symbols

Members of Newcastle United will now come forward and present various symbols to Elaine, symbolizing her ministry among us.

Bible (presented by Jewel Pascoe)

Presenter: Receive this Bible. Be among us as a faithful teller of the story of God's covenant with us.

People: Amen.

Symbols of the Sacraments (presented by Heather Snoxall & Jacob Snoxall)

Presenters: Receive this pitcher of water. Receive this bread and cup. Be among us as ones who baptize. Be among us as ones who break the bread and bless the cup, that all who come may be nourished and refreshed by God's living Spirit.

People: Amen.

Walking Stick (presented by Ken Crichton)

Presenter: Receive this walking stick, that you may be one who walks beside us in all circumstances. We are babies, children, teens, adults, and seniors. Journey with us in all our ages and stages of life.

People: Amen.

Hymn Book (presented by Donna Barber)

Presenter: Receive this hymn book. As a community of faith, help us to be in harmony with one another that our song may be one of joy and praise.

People: Amen.

Plant (presented by Donna Scott)

Presenter: Receive this plant, a cutting that has been rooted and cared for. Be among us respecting our roots and nurturing our new shoots. Help us to grieve those parts that wither and die. And encourage us to tend to the everyday needs of one another.

People: Amen.

A Globe (presented by Brian Reid)

Presenter: Receive this globe. Help us to remember our identity as partners with God, called to care for the peoples of the earth and for all of creation. Help us to see and understand our role in this new and changing world.

People: Amen.

Symbols of Newcastle (presented by Myno VanDyke)

Presenter: Receive these symbols of our community. Be present not only among us, but also in our community. Inspire us to live out the love of Christ with our closest neighbours.

People: Amen.

A Number of Small Gifts (presented by Tracy Bennett, Bennett Harris, Joshua Harris and Matthew Harris)

Presenters: Each of us in our community of faith comes with gifts to offer. Help us to name and share our gifts, and so take our place as ministers with you to this community and the world.

People: Amen.

Regional Council Liaison: Let all these be signs of the ministry that is and that will be in this community.

People: Amen.

New Minister's Prayer

Regional council liaison: Let us rejoice in the covenant we have made.

Prayers of the People (led by Susan Pascoe)

Going Into The World

***Hymn: VU 633**

vv. 1-3

“Bless Now, O God, the Journey”

**1 Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found.**

**2 Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way,
whose hope burns through the terrors,
whose love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound.
Together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.**

**3 Divine Eternal Lover,
you meet us on the road.
We wait for lands of promise
where milk and honey flow.
But waiting not for places,
you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written
on roads, as faith is found.**

***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: "Every Time I Feel the Spirit"
Traditional