

High Country Pastoral Charge



Annual Report 2025

Reports for High Country United Church's Annual General Meeting

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Minister's Report for 2025

"If you give food to the hungry and satisfy those who are in need, then the darkness around you will turn to the brightness of noon." Isaiah 58:10

When folks ask me what it's like to be a minister, I tell them it's quite a blessing. We truly have a beautiful and magically divine thing going on and I promise never to take our relationship as a community for granted.

We're starting to do some new things as we focus on trying to reach our young adults, families, children, and youth. Some of those things have included Christmas in the Barn and The Haunted Barn with the help of Debbie Arenburg and Sherry Hunter and friends. We were able to give to the Orangeville Food Bank and share information about who we are and what we do here.

As we celebrated the 100th Anniversary of The United Church of Canada, I've been reflecting on what our church can look like and be, moving into the future. We have some visionaries in our midst with some great ideas. I will need some help with tech-related fun when it comes to ideas related to monetizing material that gets posted on social media. If you want to help in that area, please let me know.

I'd say my favourite moments of 2025 in our community are:

- Living Life Conversations
- 100th Anniversary Service, with Rev. Eleanor Scarlett Rev. Kent Ward and Rev. Aiden Legault sharing in leadership. We also had Dennis Hahn play for us that day.
- Barn dances held in June and September. Thanks to Nancy Noecker for providing sparklers for the June barn dance and the fun video we made singing "This Little Light of Mine."
- Celebrating our wedding in July with so many folks from church attending.

There are more but you don't want this to be as long as a sermon, I'm sure.

In 2025 we started posting a short daily prayer and a daily workout online. These are challenging to keep up to, but good for my own spiritual practices, learning, and growth. I see that folks consistently look for prayers specifically and I like that we are praying the same thing together. These can all be found on our blog page of our website if you ever need a prayer.

In all honesty, 2025 included a lot of discomfort and trust in my faith. I've learned that God likes making sure I don't get too comfortable, because then it means I'm not growing and doing the work we're called to do. I trust God will always provide, and time and time again, I'm never disappointed. I pray that you have or will experience that kind of strength and trust and faith I put in God in your own lives. It is slightly stressful but liberating when you can truly let go and let God. I believe that if things are meant to happen, they unfold in mysteriously divine ways. And in 2026, I look forward to seeing how that continues.

May we be blessed in our ministry and outreach. Rev. Janet Henderson

Council Chair's Report for 2025

Dear Members and Adherents:

2025 has been a very busy year for our church!

We are very blessed to have Reverend Janet! We all appreciate her energy, enthusiasm and new ideas. Janet inspires us all to find ways to do more and to live a Christian life. Janet has continued to do an outstanding job with fundraising obtaining grants for all our outreach programs, paving our parking lots and new heating and solar for our church! The luncheon speaker series is very popular. Thanks Janet, for helping and inspiring us to provide all these outreach programs for our area seniors. Janet continues to use technology to enable us to go online and provide services to not only our shut-ins but the world.

Our music concerts are very popular and have provided us with excellent additional income. They are lots of fun. We are scheduling some past groups and some new exciting entertainment for 2026.

We are grateful that your giving, loose collection and donations have increased from previous levels and our increased rental income is also very helpful with expenses. We hope this welcome trend continues.

I would like to challenge us all to become an even more **welcoming church**. We have so much to offer our community and we can show this off by inviting people to all our programs and concerts.

I would especially like to thank our UCW for all their generous financial support and mention all the many other things they do for us to keep us moving forward. We couldn't do it without your help ladies. You do so much for us in so many ways!

Our official board met regularly through the year. We made many decisions on your behalf.

Again, thanks to Lamont Waddell and Hal Gillett for volunteering to remove the snow in our parking lots and Dave Logan for the grass cutting and trimming. I would also like to thank all the volunteers (Bev Dawkins, Debbie Baker, Mary and Don Hawkins and others) for all their regular help with keeping our building clean and tidy.

I would like to thank Joe Hines and John Rutledge for their excellent carpentry work.

I would especially like to take this opportunity to thank Susan Butler for her years of very dedicated service as our treasurer. Susan's willingness to provides us with monthly financial statements is most helpful for our decision making and takes hours of her time. Thanks Susan.

I would like to sincerely thank the members of our council! You are a hard-working dedicated group. We especially appreciate your ideas and the effective way that we work together to accomplish all that we do.

Doug McKeen, Chair, Official Board 2025

**High Country United Church
Leadership Contact Information**

Council Role & Name	Email	Phone
Minister Rev. Janet Henderson	revjanetucc@gmail.com	519-938-0213
Council Chair Doug McKeen	marydougmckeen@hotmail.com	647-625-0006
Council Secretary Beverly Dawkins	beverlyjdawkins24@gmail.com	519-942-2977
Church Treasurer Mary McKeen	marydougmckeen@hotmail.com	519-216-5308
Member of Council Hal Gillett	hkgillett@bell.net	519-942-2205
Member of Council Mary Hawkins	hhawkdg@aol.com	519-217-4859
Member of Council Sheila Orton	jamesorton@sympatico.ca	519-938-8964
Member of Council Debbie Sheardown	gdsheardown@gmail.com	519-940-1954
Member of Council (Ad-Hoc) David Baker	dave@davebakerconstruction.com	519-941-3972
Member of Council (Ad-Hoc) David Logan	logancrew@me.com	

Auditors

Linda Cornelius	linda5291@yahoo.com	519-941-5707
Laurel Lennox	westsprucefarm@gmail.com	519-942-2211

Envelope Secretary

Beverly Dawkins	beverlyjdawkins24@gmail.com	519-942-2977
Debbie Sheardown	gdsheardown@gmail.com	519-940-1954

Finance Chair

Mary McKeen	marydougmckeen@hotmail.com	519-216-5308
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Ministry & Personnel Chair

Jodie McArthur rjmcarthur.oville@rogers.com 519-942-4635

Nominations

Jennie Bradley jenniembradley@hotmail.com
Darlene Bricker c_dbricker@yahoo.ca

Seniors Ministry

Karen Gillett hkgillett@bell.net 519-942-2205

Trustees Legal Names:

David Baker dave@davebakerconstruction.com 519-941-3972
Alan Lanktree 519-941-4326
Raymond Hooper rehooper44@gmail.com 519-925-3257

United Church Women

Gail Harrington gharrington4949@gmail.com 519-941-5826

Western Ontario Waterways Representative

Mary McKeen marydougmckeen@hotmail.com 519-216-5308

Worship Chair

Rev. Janet Henderson revjanetucc@gmail.com 519-938-0213

Youth & Sunday School Chair

Krista Parke 62mkkj67@gmail.com 519-942-8786

Finances: Givings

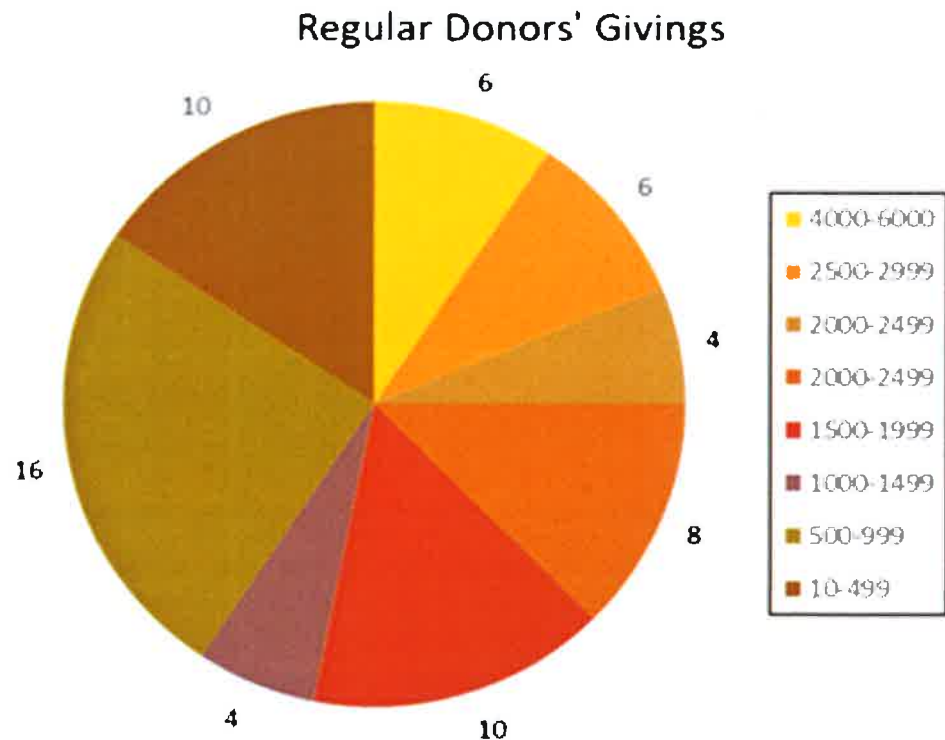
Givings Report for the Annual General Meeting for the Fiscal year of 2025

Category	Amount	#People/Family
Donations*	1,450.00	5
General	62,105.00	60 *
M&S	4,810.00	13
Loose	2,255.25	
In-Kind	4,915.41	10
Memorial	3,765.00	16
Totals	79,300.66	* incl others attending online or infrequently

Par We began the year with 16 Par donors and finished with 16 .

\$Range **#Donors**

4000-6000	6
2500-2999	6
2000-2499	4
2000-2499	8
1500-1999	10
1000-1499	4
500-999	16
10-499	10
# Regular Donors	64



Respectfully submitted by Beverly Dawkins

Finances: Financial Statement for 2025

HIGH COUNTRY UNITED CHURCH			
FINANCIAL STATEMENT			
for the period January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025			
INCOME STATEMENT			
RECEIPTS		2025	2024
Offering - Envelopes		62,105.00	65,683.50
Loose Collection		2,255.25	2,388.05
Donations		1,450.00	3,905.00
M&S Givings		4,810.00	4,600.00
Housing Investment Fund Contribution		9,600.00	9,600.00
Building Fund		2,023.00	
UCW Contribution			10,000.00
HST Refund		2,367.58	2,548.44
Concerts		6,421.40	8,155.93
Rummage Sale			336.00
Seniors Grant			24,700.00
Ontario grant			8,000.00
Rental		4,940.70	1,888.00
Memorial Fund		3,765.00	2,180.00
Miscellaneous Income		6,032.45	697.00
Donations in Kind		4,915.41	2,357.73
Edna Rintoul Estate			19,961.90
Strawberry Supper		5,800.00	4,000.00
Orangeville Theatre			380.00
Dods and McNair		1,600.00	1,800.00
		118,085.79	173,181.55
DISBURSEMENTS			
Minister's Salary		64,356.00	\$ 59,352.00
Charge Share - CPP		3,778.58	\$ 3,476.52
Charge Share - EI		1,508.45	\$ 1,435.08
Pension and Group Insurance		12,556.68	\$ 10,768.20
Minister's travel		2,259.50	\$ 1,848.29
Minister's Continuing Education		1,266.00	\$ 1,230.00
Presbytery Assessment		5,111.00	\$ 3,719.00
Insurance		10,129.22	\$ 9,361.54
Service Agreements		1,290.50	\$ 1,630.80
Photocopier paper & copy costs		2,698.24	\$ 1,731.65
Telephone		3,897.54	\$ 3,824.74
Heat		3,759.56	\$ 3,473.77
Hydro		4,178.98	\$ 3,773.34
Office Supplies		857.89	\$ 830.87
Worship Supplies		357.54	\$ 639.98
Snow clearing/grass		450.00	\$ 750.00
Church & Equipment Maintenance		5,415.44	\$ 1,017.00
Miscellaneous		1,943.59	\$ 508.21
M & S Paid		4,810.00	\$ 4,600.00
Donations in Kind		4,915.41	\$ 2,357.73
Memorial Fund Expense		917.93	
Seniors Grant Expenses			\$ 21,548.05
Ontario Grant Expenses			\$ 3,336.02
Concert - food grant			\$ 533.93
Grief Counsel		200.00	\$ 2,400.00
		136,658.05	\$ 144,146.72
Excess of receipts over disbursement			
December 31, 2025		\$ (18,572.26)	29,034.83
Fund balance, beginning of year		\$ 56,252.00	27,217.17
		\$ 37,679.74	56,252.00
	less Fed & Ont Gr	\$ (12,662.75)	
Fund balance December 31, 2025		\$ 25,016.99	
Fund Balance consists of:			
General Fund	\$	5,016.99	
GiC	\$	20,000.00	
	\$	25,016.99	
Put forward by:	Verified by:	Date:	
Susan Butler	<i>Susan Butler</i>	<i>Feb 2/26</i>	
	<i>Linda Cornelius</i>	<i>Feb 2/26</i>	

Finances: Proposed Budget for 2026

HIGH COUNTRY UNITED CHURCH			
2026 Proposed Budget	As Amended		
		Budget 2026	Actual 2025
RECEIPTS			
Offering - Envelopes		65,000	\$ 62,105
Loose Collection		2,000	\$ 2,255
Donations		3,000	\$ 1,450
M & S Givings		5,000	\$ 4,810
Housing Investment Fund Contribution		9,600	\$ 9,600
UCW Donation		10,000	\$ 5,000
Strawberry Supper		4,000	\$ 5,800
Concerts		4,000	\$ 6,421
HST Refund		1,250	\$ 2,368
Rental		2,500	\$ 4,941
Memorial Fund		2,000	\$ 3,765
Misc Income		500	\$ 4,041
Donations in Kind		1,000	\$ 4,915
Orangeville Theatre		350	
Upgrades		2,000	\$ 3,150
Barn Tour			\$ 442
Building Fund			\$ 2,023
		112,200	\$ 118,086
			\$ 95,100
DISBURSEMENTS			
Minister's Salary		\$ 69,360	\$ 64,356
Charge Share - CPP		\$ 4,090	\$ 3,779
Charge Share - EI		\$ 1,638	\$ 1,508
Pension and Group Insurance		\$ 13,860	\$ 12,557
Minister's Travel		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,260
Minister's Continuing Education		\$ 1,300	\$ 1,266
Presbytery Assessment		\$ 5,536	\$ 5,111
Insurance		\$ 12,000	\$ 10,129
Service Agreements		\$ 1,650	\$ 1,291
Photocopier paper & copy costs		\$ 2,500	\$ 2,698
Telephone		\$ 4,000	\$ 3,898
Heat		\$ 4,000	\$ 3,760
Hydro		\$ 4,500	\$ 4,179
Office supplies		\$ 1,000	\$ 858
Worship Supplies		\$ 350	\$ 358
Snow/Grass		\$ 450	\$ 450
Church and Equipment Maintenance		\$ 2,000	\$ 5,415
M & S Paid		\$ 5,000	\$ 4,810
Donations in Kind		\$ 4,000	\$ 4,915
Grief Council			\$ 200
Miscellaneous		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,860
		\$ 141,234	\$ 136,658
			\$ 126,883
Excess receipts over disbursements		\$ (29,034)	\$ (18,572)
			\$ (30,783)

Finances: Building Fund

High Country United Church
BUILDING FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 December 31, 2025

INCOME STATEMENT

2025 **2024**

RECEIPTS

Interest earned on savings account and GIC	\$	270	\$	421
Accrued interest on GIC since July 23, 2025		242		50
Interest earned on investments		512		471

DISBURSEMENTS

Payment to High Country United Church for elevator repairs		2,023		-
(Decrease) increase in fund during year		(1,511)		471
Fund balance, December 31 of previous year		17,990		17,519
FUND BALANCE December 31, 2025		16,479		17,990

Building Fund balance made up of:				
Savings account - interest @ 0.25%		1		2,021
GIC & accrued interest - matures July 24, 2026 @3.40%		16,478		15,969
		16,479		17,990

Statement put forward by: *Mary L. McKeen, CPA, CA*
 Verified by: *Laura Linnerty Feb 2/26*
 Date: *Susan Butler*

Finances: Grants & Sponsorships Received

Grants & Sponsorships Received in 2025 (See also The Trustees Report)

Funding Provided and Information	Total Received	Total Spent in 2025	Balance at Dec 31, 2025
<p><u>Presbyteries of Toronto Conference</u> <u>(United Church of Canada)</u> To cover the full cost of upgrading heating and cooling and the installation of solar panels.</p>	\$145,493	\$28,039	\$117,454
<p><u>Enabling Accessibility</u> <u>(Government of Canada)</u> To cover the full cost of paving the parking lots.</p>	\$27,660*	\$21,470	\$6,190
<p><u>Canada Summer Jobs</u> <u>(Government of Canada)</u> To cover the full cost of hiring a student for 8 weeks.</p>	\$5,384*	\$5,384	\$0
<p><u>New Horizons for Seniors Programming</u> <u>(Government of Canada)</u> To cover the full cost of lunch & learns (catering and speaker honorariums) and Dreamers Unite (speaker honorariums and program costs) for the year.</p>	\$17,800*	\$10,117	\$7,683
<p><u>Anonymous Community Donor</u> <u>(Sponsor)</u> A community donor contributes \$200 each month designated to ensure our Grief Support Group continues.</p>	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$0

*Funds not used from these grants to be returned or accounted for.

Finances: Housing Investment Fund

High Country United Church
HOUSING INVESTMENT FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENT
for the year ended December 31, 2025

INCOME STATEMENT

2025

2024

RECEIPTS

Interest earned on savings account and GIC	\$ 850	\$ 1,065
Accrued interest on Term Deposit	15	31
	<u>865</u>	<u>1,096</u>

EXPENDITURES

Payments to Central Treasurer re: housing allowance	<u>9,600</u>	<u>9,600</u>
	<u>9,600</u>	<u>9,600</u>
(Decrease) in cash during year	\$ (8,735)	(8,504)
Fund balance, December 31 of previous year	<u>22,634</u>	<u>31,138</u>
FUND BALANCE, December 31st DUCA Credit Union	\$ <u>13,899</u>	\$ <u>22,634</u>

CAPITAL STATEMENT

Membership share	1	1
Savings account - interest @0.25%	1	5
Term Deposit and accrued interest - matures Dec 19, 2026 @3.05%	<u>13,887</u>	<u>22,628</u>
TOTAL HOUSING INVESTMENT FUND	\$ <u>13,899</u>	\$ <u>22,634</u>

Statement put forward by: *Mary L. McKeen, CPA, CA*

Verified by: *Laura Penney Feb 2/26*

Date: *Susan Butler*

Finances: Memorial Fund

HIGH COUNTRY UNITED CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND					
		Dec 31/25			
	Balance at	DONATIONS	Expense - Lower	Move funds to	Balance at
	Dec 31/24		Hall Blinds	General Fund	Dec 31/25
Ann Haddock	\$ 1,792.00			\$ (1,792.00)	
Muriel Overland	\$ 920.00			\$ (920.00)	
Arnold/Elva Dynes	\$ 1,225.00			\$ (1,225.00)	
Don Nash	\$ 100.00		\$ (100.00)	\$ -	
Kay Ledlow	\$ 625.00		\$ (107.93)	\$ (517.07)	
Lynn Gibson	\$ 200.00		\$ (200.00)	\$ -	
Bonnar Banks	\$ 3,495.00			\$ (3,495.00)	
KM Anderson	\$ 100.00		\$ (100.00)	\$ -	
D McArthur	\$ 50.00		\$ (50.00)	\$ -	
Bill Young	\$ 100.00	\$ 810.00		\$ (910.00)	
Drew Gwilliams	\$ 50.00	\$ 135.00	\$ (60.00)	\$ (125.00)	
Klassen		\$ 50.00	\$ (50.00)	\$ -	
Donna Collins		\$ 200.00	\$ (200.00)	\$ -	
Janet's Aunt		\$ 50.00	\$ (50.00)	\$ -	
C Hawkins		\$ 50.00		\$ (50.00)	
Lisa - D Buchanan		\$ 100.00		\$ (100.00)	
M Jefferson		\$ 925.00		\$ (925.00)	
Paul Pattison		\$ 50.00		\$ (50.00)	
Beth Cole		\$ 250.00		\$ (250.00)	
Lloyd Lorenz		\$ 20.00		\$ (20.00)	
Charlie Bryan		\$ 750.00		\$ (750.00)	
Doris B Brother		\$ 25.00		\$ (25.00)	
Krista's Cousin		\$ 50.00		\$ (50.00)	
	\$ 8,657.00	\$ 3,465.00	\$ (917.93)	\$ (11,204.07)	NIL Balance
				Funds to go toward	
				Barn Roof	
	Submitted by Gail Harrington				
	and Debbie Baker				

Finances: Sunday School Financials

High Country United Church Sunday School Financial Statement

Treasurer's Report

Report - December 31, 2025

Receipts	Fundraising	0.00
		0.00
	Total Receipts for Year	0.00
Expenses		
	Supplies	34.90
	Bank Fees	0.00
	Total Expenses for Year	34.90
Cash Statement		
	Bank account - January 1, 2025	1351.39
	Total receipts	0.00
		1351.39
	Total expenses	34.90
	Bank Balance Dec 31, 2025	1351.39
	Cash on hand	1.10
Total Cash as of December 31, 2025		1,352.49

Elizabeth Haddock

(12)

Membership

Funerals

We mourned with our friends and neighbours, saying goodbye to some amazing people who will be deeply missed.

Allan, Norma (Hunter)
Bentley, Shirley Anne (Stewart)
*Bryan, Charles Victor
*Cole, Frances Elizabeth "Beth" (Young)
Hawkins, Clark Thomas
Murphy, Lisa Darlene (Buchanan)
Price, Douglas Mervin
Reed, Kimberley Jane
Schnier, Waldemar Rudi Richard "Wally"
*Wilson, Charlotte "Ruth" (Lanktree)



**Church members*

Weddings

We celebrated the marriage of Kyle Henderson & Rev. Janet Jones, Don Trepanier and Elizbieta Pytel, and James Schwarz and Shannon Sipple.

Baptism

Rory Honeyborne was baptized in June.

Confirmation

Calum Boston was confirmed in June.

New Members Received

Nancy & Bob Dickie
Darlene & Wally Kolodziechuk
Nancy Noecker
Sue Shier
Cindy Spaans

Total Membership in 2025: 99

The number of prayer shawls given in 2025: 56

*So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.
1 Corinthians 13:13*

Submitted by Rev. Janet Henderson

Nominations List 2026

Council

Doug McKeen – Chair
Beverly Dawkins – Secretary
Mary McKeen – Treasurer
Susan Butler
Hal Gillett
Mary Hawkins
Sheila Orton
Ad Hoc
Dave Baker
David Logan

Trustees

David Baker – Chair
Alan Lanktree
Raymond Hooper

Worship

Karen Gillett
Doug McKeen
Gladys Meek (as able)
Donna Rutledge (as able)
Nancy Noecker

Ministry & Personnel

Jodie McArthur
Don Hawkins
Phil Brett

Finance

Mary McKeen
David Logan
Phil Brett

Youth & Sunday School

Krista Parke
Elizabeth Haddock – Treasurer
Shyanne Bricker
Rev. Janet Henderson

Envelope Secretary

Beverly Dawkins
Debbie Sheardown

Western Ontario Waterways Rep

Mary McKeen

Auditors

Linda Cornelius
Laurel Lennox

Nominations

Jennie Bradley
Darlene Bricker

Online Statistics and Information

Facebook & Instagram Combined Statistics	2025	Change
Views	179,457	157,166
Interactions	4,339	+103%
Link Clicks	770	+175%
Visits	7,972	+54.3%
Follows	74	+72.1%
Lifetime Followers	281	+52
Watch Time	21 days, 16 hr	+163.4%
Most viewers are female, aged 65+. Most people reached live in Canada (Orangeville, Shelburne, Grand Valley, GTA, Alliston, Barrie, Caledon, Mississauga). Other tune in from USA, India, Brazil, Nigeria, Pakistan, Uganda, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Spain		

We continue to stream live on YouTube and Facebook on Sunday mornings. In 2025 I started posting daily prayers and daily workouts on Facebook and Instagram which increased our views significantly. Our highest view content was “Is it time to try church? Posted on November 25. Seen by 690, Liked by 12, 5 shares and 2 comments.”

YouTube Statistics	2025	Change
Views	1,786	+82%
Watch Time	258.7 hours	
Subscribers	71	+18
Most Viewed Video: July 20 Worship Service: Music of Alan Jackson		

We removed restrictions on YouTube so followers can comment on videos now.

Social Media Following	2024	2025
YouTube Subscribers	54	71
Instagram Followers	43	60
Instagram Following		40
Facebook Followers	229	281
Facebook Following		52

In 2025 we also purchased our domain: www.highcountryunited.ca which also helped us solve some of our weekly newsletter emails that would get lost in the shuffle.

Website Page Views		6,927
Website Unique Visits		4,272
Weekly Newsletter Subscribers	84	118

Submitted by Rev. Janet Henderson

SENIORS MINISTRY PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT

Coordinating team

Bev Dawkins, Karen Gillett, Elizabeth Hooper, Doug McKeen, and Marilyn Nash

We have had another very successful, productive and fulfilling year in 2025 in our Seniors Ministry Program!

Our Lunch and Learn program continues to be a huge success and very popular, both with our congregation members and with the community at large. We continue to enjoy seeing familiar faces in our midst at each session, as well as welcoming new participants each and every month as the popularity of this program continues to grow. The following is a break-down of our Lunch and Learn session content for the year 2025:

JANUARY:	Ann Fenton from Grandpals in the Schools
FEBRUARY:	Dr. Brij Patel of the Orangeville Vision Development Centre
MARCH:	Peter Kirchberger, Audiologist at the Orangeville Hearing Clinic
APRIL:	Community Living Dufferin
MAY:	Lisa Bowers of the Orangeville Optometric Centre
JUNE:	Rev. Jan on History of the Dufferin County United Churches
SEPTEMBER:	Nancy Noecker with a little Square Dancing
OCTOBER:	Ann Fenton from Grandpals in the Schools
NOVEMBER:	Betty-Ann Reid of Lifewater Canada
DECEMBER:	Pam from New Hope Community Church

The wonderful variety of content ensures a new and informative experience every month, and the delicious lunches provided are every-popular too. What a great way to engage in togetherness and fellowship while learning something new!

We continued to offer our regular weekly seniors activities this past year as always, and these have become a mainstay and a highlight of the week for our participants. These include:

Tuesdays at 10:00AM:	Puzzles and Knitting
Tuesdays at 11:00AM:	Arthritis Foundation Exercises
Wednesdays at 11:00AM:	Strength and Stretch Exercises
Fridays at 11:00AM:	VON SMART Exercises

A new addition to our Seniors Ministry Program in 2025 was the creation of our very own Book Club, and this is very exciting for all the avid readers among us! The selection of books we have read in our inaugural year has been varied, thought-provoking and inspiring, and book club

members look forward to the next month's offering every month with great anticipation and enthusiasm. We read one book per month, and we then meet to discuss each book and share our thoughts and ideas, questions and feelings about what we have read. It is a wonderful opportunity not only to read books which we may not have considered reading if left to our own devices, but also to potentially see the story in a completely different way through the eyes of others as we share with each other the journey on which the story has taken us personally.

As always, the Seniors Ministry continues to offer Monthly Tech Support/Classes with Stephanie Hawkins. These are invaluable, and incredibly beneficial in helping our seniors (or anyone else who needs help!) to navigate the sometimes confusing (and always challenging), ever-changing world of technology with which we are faced each and every day.

Among all the positive news of our Seniors Ministry is the sad news that our dear Marilyn Nash has had to leave our midst. Her family has moved her out of Orangeville and closer to them, as she continues to grapple with ongoing health challenges and now needs daily care. We miss having her here with us, and although she is no longer able to actively participate in our Seniors Ministry she will always be an intimate member of our High Country United Church family, and we hold her ever in our hearts, our thoughts and our prayers.

In conclusion, our Seniors Ministry Program has been a wonderful success again this past year! We continue to offer many programs and opportunities, both old and new, to our High Country family and to our larger community. We foster an all-inclusive, open-door, all-are-welcome Ministry.

We are dedicated to connecting with our community, encouraging and welcoming any and all to come join us, to try something new, to learn something new, to enjoy the company of old friends, to make new friends, to share experiences, to embrace life, and to have fun! Our passion is to reach out to others both near and far, and to shine God's light in our world through togetherness and fellowship.

May our Seniors Ministry continue to thrive and to serve, through the blessing of God.

A great big thank you to our wonderful Rev. Jan, without whose tireless effort, enthusiasm and dedication this incredible Seniors Ministry would not be what it is. Rev. Jan is an inspiration to us all!

Respectfully submitted by
Karen Gillett

High Country United Church Board of Trustees 2025

The Board of Trustees for High Country United Church are Raymond Hooper, Alan Lanktree and David Baker.

We have had another great year in our Church Family growth in the Church, in the community and on line both on Sundays and other activities. Thanks to Pastor Janet for her enthusiastic energy and tec supports that she brings to our Church. Thanks to all the volunteers who look after Decorations, Flowerbeds, Lawns, Snow removal, Cleaning, and Church maintenance.

Our annual service contracts for both Septic and Elevator were completed. The Church is using Ecclesiastical Insurance for the Church coverage with yearly increases in coverage to keep up with increased building costs. Insurance for the next year is at about a 13% increase over last year and for this reason we have asked our broker to reach out to see if there is another company that can do better for us.

Our Church is being used daily for many church activities as well as rentals and concerts. Thanks to Rev Janet and Doug McKeen for planning and scheduling these events.

With a grant from Presbyteries of Toronto Conference of \$149,493.00 for a new gas furnace for the sanctuary with a heat pump which will give us air conditioning for the summer months, heat pump heating for the basement with new gas furnace for back up, a Generac backup generator for the for the Church, additional insulation for the attic of the sanctuary and Solar Panels for the roof of the Sanctuary and all but the Solar panels have been installed.

With a grant of \$27,600 from the Enabling Accessibility grant though the Government of Canada we were able to pay for the paving of our parking lots. We received \$5,563 from Canada Summer jobs to hire a Summer Student for 8 weeks.

New Horizons for Seniors Program grant was received though Canada Employment and Social Development for \$17,800 that funded our Dreamers Unit and our monthly Lunch and Learn.

Thanks to Rev Janet and Susan for applying and administering the programs. Thanks, and appreciation to the UCW women for all their dedication and hard work raising funds to help support our on-going cost of the Church. Without this the Church would not be able to meet all it's expenses.

We have been notified by the Dufferin Building Department that we cannot use the shed for any functions.

2025 Trustees Report

In 2026 we will be looking at some upgrades to the shed that will be required in order for us to be able to continue to use the building. We thank the members that contributed to upgrades this past year and we ask for your continuing support this year with work we have ahead.

Again, we must be mindful of keeping up with safety aspects of the building including removing snow, keeping all exits doors clear, closing all fire doors before leaving the Church and making sure the lights are off, heat is set to away, the stoves and dishwasher are off, back door is closed and both front doors locked. When the Shed is being used, the back exit door is required to be unlocked and accessible for traffic.

Respectfully submitted

David Baker, Chair of Trustees

HIGH COUNTRY UCW REPORT 2025

The UCW is an intricate part at our church; a dedicated group of 14 members that reach out and help wherever they are needed. We meet six times a year on the 3rd Monday of the month.

This year as part of our programming we had a video presentation about epilepsy and how a brain operation has stopped epileptic seizures on a young girl. We also had an interesting guest speaker who presented a topic called "Connecting the North".

Our annual Strawberry Supper was again a success with nearly 300 people in attendance. The women work hard to get this event up and running and thanks go out to everyone, men and women who make this event happen.

This year we have continued making fruit, apple and meat pies. The popularity of these pies will help support our church finances. Again this fall about 20 of us got together on 2 different days and make apple pies. This year our sales were a bit lower but we still sold 278 large and 92 small pies. The reputation of these pies are known well beyond our community. Thanks goes out to Susan Butler who untiringly makes pies through out the year – keeping the books straight and the freezer inventory accurate.

This year we gave \$13,500.00 to local and Canadian charities including the Red Cross for the Forest Fire Relief Fund across Canada. Internationally we gave \$3,900.00 including the Red Cross for the rebuilding of Jamaica after the devastating hurricane.

We also gave \$1,000.00 to the Mission and Service fund and gave \$5,800.00 to the General Fund of our church- profits from the Strawberry Supper.

We recognize our shut ins at Christmas time. This year we gave 16 poinsettias to our friends of the church. We also recognize our friends who are sick, need encouragement and who have special birthdays and anniversaries.

We purchased blinds for the basement windows of the church.

We ended our year with a Christmas Dinner for the ladies who have helped in various ways. For the entertainment of the evening Rev. Jan had a Christmas Trivia game.

Thanks to all the women in our church who are always ready to donate their time whether volunteering, baking or helping out where needed. We are so thankful for your service. I'm sure 2026 will be another successful year with your assistance.

Submitted by Gail Harrington, UCW President

HIGH COUNTRY UNITED CHURCH WOMEN			
TREASURER'S REPORT - DECEMBER 31, 2025			
INCOME			
Fruit Pies (\$9724.00-1816.64)	S-562 L-534	\$	7,907.36
Meat Pies (\$11,041.00-1414.89)	S-1773 L-136	\$	9,626.11
Apple Pies (\$4,534.00-565.97)	S-142 L-263	\$	3,968.03
Strawberry Supper (\$7,416.00-\$1,477.27)		\$	5,938.73
Catering (\$1,100.00-\$249.23)		\$	850.77
Miscellaneous		\$	340.00
GIC matured		\$	10,000.00
GIC interest		\$	541.73
		\$	<u>39,172.73</u>
EXPENSES			
High Country United Church general fund		\$	5,800.00
Headwaters Healthcare Foundation		\$	2,000.00
United Church - Mission and Service Fund		\$	1,000.00
United Church - Gifts with Vision		\$	1,550.00
Donation to Zoey (Bricker family)		\$	1,000.00
Orangeville Food Bank		\$	2,500.00
Bethell Hospice Foundation		\$	1,500.00
Matthews House		\$	1,500.00
Canadian Foodgrains Bank		\$	1,500.00
Community Living Dufferin		\$	1,000.00
Canada Red Cross - fires		\$	1,000.00
Red Cross - Jamaica		\$	996.00
Family Transition Place		\$	500.00
Sleeping Children Around the World		\$	400.00
Big Brothers/Big Sisters(\$1000 +\$500)		\$	1,500.00
Dufferin Men's Shelter/Choices Youth Shelter		\$	500.00
Senior Santa program		\$	500.00
Connect It North - (150.00 + \$500)		\$	650.00
Lifewater Canada		\$	500.00
Camp Bimini		\$	250.00
Orangeville Fair		\$	189.00
Christmas Dinner (\$510-\$1,981.72)		\$	1,471.72
UCW Assessment		\$	44.00
Miscellaneous		\$	911.58
TD GIC (matures Nov 28/26)		\$	10,541.73
25 Chairs, 1 Table and 1 Fridge		\$	1,960.14
Supplies		\$	397.63
Inventory		\$	3,908.62
		\$	<u>45,570.42</u>
Excess of receipts over disbursements		\$	(6,397.69)
Balance beginning of the year		\$	<u>17,171.42</u>
Balance December 31/25		\$	<u>10,773.73</u>
TD Canada Trust Bank	\$	10,773.73	
TD GIC matures November 28/26	\$	10,541.73	
	\$	<u>21,315.46</u>	
Submitted by: Susan Butler	Audited by: <i>Mary Z. McKeen, CPA</i> <i>Judith Connelley</i>	Date: <i>Feb 2, 2026</i> <i>Feb 2, 2026</i>	

Worship and Sunday Morning Activities

Sunday School:

It's usually held on the last Sunday of each month. Krista and Aster have been doing a great job of being prepared for young ones and we consistently have more children and youth attending. We have Lego in the sanctuary as a backup activity.

Music:

Thank you to our volunteer musicians who carry us through the year: Karen Gillett, Linda MacGregor, Doug McKeen, Gladys Meek, Donna Rutledge.

We added in a gospel kind of music theme one Sunday a month. I love the songs you're introducing me to.

Thanks to all who contribute to the music life of our worship services including the flutes and the acoustic piano. Thanks to our small and mighty choir which includes: Merilyn Banks, Cliff & Darlene Bricker, Hal & Karen Gillett, Linda MacGregor, Doug McKeen, Marilyn Nash, Nancy Noecker, Joy Trimble. Thanks to Debbie Baker, Jennie Bradley, Laura Bradley, Sam Bradley, Sara May, Jodie McArthur, Andrew McArthur and others who joined the choir for some special services.

When church is closed due to weather, a service is put together and offered online.

Worship:

Thanks to Linda MacGregor and Karen Gillett for decorating for each season. Thanks to Linda for preparing Communion Elements too. Thanks to Debbie Baker who changes our Antependia as the church seasons change.

We continue to provide worship services once a month at Shelburne Residence and Dufferin Oaks as Trinity Primrose United Church searches for a permanent minister. I would estimate that on the Sundays when everyone is well, 30-40 people attend in each location. Thanks to Betty Brett, Gladys Meek, Beverly Dawkins, and Nancy Noecker for their help with these services this year.

We celebrated the United Church's 100th anniversary this year which had us attending and participating in worship services in Shelburne, Orangeville, and here at home. We held our service in the barn and held a barn dance too. We are thankful that weather held out for a live in-person Christmas Eve service.

We celebrated the Confirmation of Calum Boston and the baptism of Rory Honeyborne during worship services in June.

Submitted by Rev. Janet Henderson

Events & Activities in 2025

Regular Weekly Activities:

Tuesdays at 10:00AM – Knitting and Puzzles
Tuesdays at 11:00AM – Exercise Class: Arthritis Foundations
Wednesdays at 11:00AM – Exercise Class: Strength & Stretch
Fridays at 11:00AM – Exercise Class: VON SMART Workout
Sundays at 10:30AM – Worship Service
Sundays at 7:55PM – Weekly Prayers on YouTube and Facebook

Regular Monthly Activities:

First Sunday at 2:00PM – Worship Service at Shelburne Residence
First Sunday at 3:30PM – Worship Service at Dufferin Oaks
Second Friday at 1:00PM – Tech Class & Support
Third Monday at 2:00PM – United Church Women (UCW)
Third Tuesday at 2:00PM – Living into Hope, Grief Support Group
Third Wednesday at 7:00PM – Living Life Conversations
Last Monday at 11:00AM – Lunch & Learn Series
Last Thursday at 1:00PM – Cancer Support Group
Last Sunday at 7:00PM – United Generations Worship (online)

Concerts This Year:

Saturday, March 29 at 2:00PM – Alex Burnett and Friends
Saturday, April 12 at 3:00PM – Wellington Wanderers
Saturday, May 24 at 2:00PM – Stan Chang
Saturday, June 14 at 7:00PM – Barn Dance with Greg Holmes & Friends
Saturday, September 27 at 7:00PM – Barn Dance with Greg Holmes & Friends
Saturday, November 1 at 2:00PM – The Missing Link and Friends

Other Events, Workshops, and Community Participation:

Apple Pie Day in October (delayed this year due to the readiness of apples)
Ongoing pie orders throughout the year
The Haunted Barn (Deb Arenburg & Sherry Hunter) – Oct 30 to Nov 2 from 6-9PM
Christmas in the Barn (Deb, Sherry and Sarah) – Dec 18-21 from 6-9PM
Christmas Dinner for the UCW ladies
Christmas Dinner for the Men
Strawberry Supper in June
Murder Mystery Dinner by our Youth & Young Adults - Sep 20
Dreamers Unite gatherings
Tech Support – Identifying Online Scams, monthly
Exercise Group Lunches, monthly
Cooking Classes with Dufferin Family Health Team Dieticians

Fundraising team for Bowl for Kids Sake, supporting Big Brothers/Big Sisters
Fundraising team for Out of the Cold, supporting The Orangeville Food Bank
First Aid & CPR Training
UCW Presbyterial Reunion (Dufferin-Peel UCW Presbyterial)
Central West's Self-Management Team – various Workshops and Programs
Tart Making Classes
Creation of a new recipe book
Name Tags for church
Book Club

Rentals have included (not exact numbers)

- Rural Rescue Training (ongoing partnership) x6
- Meetings x 11
- Birthday Parties x2
- Baby Showers x1
- Memorials x2
- Weddings x4
- Family Christmas Parties x2

In everything that is happening around the church, please be kind, gracious and welcoming. If you see something that needs to be addressed, please check with Rev. Jan first. There may be things happening behind the scenes that have already been discussed. (We don't want anyone to have a negative experience or interaction. And well-intended interactions can sometimes be received as rude and create more work for Rev. Jan, well into the evening hours.)

Venue tours available all year long by appointment. Rental agreements are available on our website and hard copies are available in the office upon request. We offer hourly rates and day rates. We have add-ons that include technology, event supplies, and more.

High Country United Church

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, February 23rd, 2025

Attendees: Rev. Janet Jones, Ch. Doug McKeen, Sheila Orton, Susan Butler, Gladys Meek, Nancy Noecker, Beverly Dawkins, Mary Hawkins, Alan Lanktree, Donna Rutledge, John Rutledge, Aster Buchanan, Seth Buchanan, Linda McGregor, Marilyn Nash, Gail Harrington, Cliff Bricker, Darlene Bricker, Brian Buchanan, Philip Brett, Darlene Kolodziechuk, Walter Kolodziechuk, Faye Allan, Margaret Boys, Doris Buchanan, Betty Brett, Jennie Bradley, Elizabeth Hooper, Ray Hooper, Mary McKeen, Dave Baker, Debbie Baker, Merilyn Banks, John Robertson, Lynn Robertson, Hak Gillett, Karen Gillett, Bob Dickie, Nancy Dickie, Carole Buchanan, Bruce Buchanan, Cynthia Spaans and Andrea Curlock

Constitution of the Meeting: Rev Jan constituted this meeting of the congregation of High Country United Church in the name of Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, for all business that is appropriate to bring before it.

Motion #1: Nancy Noecker moved that Doug McKeen be named chair and Beverly Dawkins be named as secretary of this meeting, 2nd by Sheila Orton and carried.

Motion #2: Gail Harrington moved that all people not in full membership in the congregation be permitted to vote on temporal matters, 2nd by Dave Baker and carried.

Motion #3: Bob Dickie moved the acceptance of the agenda as distributed, 2nd John Rutledge and carried.

Call to order: Ch. Doug McKeen welcomed all and called the meeting to order.

Motion #4: John Rutledge moved to accept the Annual Reports and Financial Statements 2024 for High Country United Church, 2nd by Mary McKeen and carried.

Motion #5: Jennie Bradley moved to accept the report of the Nominating Committee as presented, 2nd by Margaret Boys and carried.

*Nomination Report is attached

Nominations List 2025

Council

Doug McKeen – Chair
Bev Dawkins – Secretary
Susan Butler – Treasurer
Hal Gillett
Mary Hawkins
Sheila Orton
Debbie Sheardown

Ad Hoc

Dave Baker
David Logan

Trustees

Dave Baker – Chair
Alan Lanktree
Ray Hooper

Worship

Karen Gillett
Gladys Meek (as able)
Doug McKeen
Donna Rutledge (as able)
Nancy Noecker

Ministry & Personnel

Jodie McArthur
Don Hawkins
Phil Brett

Finance

Mary McKeen
David Logan
Phil Brett

Youth & Sunday School

Krista Parke
Elizabeth Haddock – Treasurer
Rev. Janet Jones
Aster Buchanan

Envelope Secretary

Bev Dawkins

Auditors

Linda Cornelius
Laurel Lennox

Western Ontario Waterways Rep

Mary McKeen

Nominations

Jennie Bradley
Darlene Bricker

Motion #6: Beverly Dawkins moved to accept the congregational budget for 2025, 2nd by Debbie Baker and carried.

Motion #7: Beverly Dawkins moved the 2024 AGM Minutes to be accepted, 2nd by Darlene Bricker and carried.

Business Arising: Action Item – Explore other landline suppliers to reduce costs.

New Business: An addendum prepared by Rev Jan is attached. It highlights plans and details she spoke to and Dave Baker spoke to regarding upcoming projects such as Heating and Cooling, Grant applications in process, UCC's 100th Anniversary, and Greening the church.

NB The congregation will be included in all final decisions.

Beverly Dawkins moved to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Hall Gillett

HCUC Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 15th, 2025

Attendees: Chair Doug McKeen, Rev. Janet Jones, Beverly Dawkins – Secretary, Lynn & John Robinson, Elizabeth & Ray Hooper, Alan Lanktree, Sheila Orton, Susan Butler, Mary McKeen, Bette & Philip Brett, Kathy Farrelly, Darlene & Walter Kolodziechuk, Carole & Bruce Buchanan, Aster Buchanan, Brian Buchanan, Debbie & Dave Baker, Nancy Noecker, Nancy Hossie, Marilyn Banks, Ray & Mary Hawkins, Gladys Meek, Karen & Hal Gillett, Linda McGregor, Seth Buchanan, Gail Harrington, Marilyn Nash, Jim and ?

Doug McKeen opened the meeting about the Proposed Upgrades for HCUC. The proposal is attached.

Rev Jan offered a prayer for guidance during our deliberation.

Doug McKeen thanked Dave and Debbie Baker for contacting contractors for quotes and Rev Jan for searching for grants. The grants she found were not government-funded.

The keys are saving energy, reducing our carbon footprint, and saving money.

Once the congregation approves the proposed upgrades, she can secure the grants.

Q & A

The congregation had many questions, and there were robust discussions. Rev Jan advised us that bridge loans are available with no interest until approved grant funds are in hand.

Motions:

1. *Gladys Meek moved that the Congregation accept the Proposed Upgrades for HCUC, excluding the pew reconfiguration, pending funding, 2nd by Nancy Noecker. Carried with no opposition.*

2. *Don Hawkins moved that the pews be reconfigured to create a centre aisle and, over the next year, monitor the impact on the congregations and community, 2nd by Mary McKeen. Carried with two opposing.*

The meeting was adjourned in prayer by Rev Jan.

How to Do a Great Hospital Visit (or at home visit)

There are times when caregivers or doctors or special family may pop in and they may feel exhausted. You don't want to overwhelm them. If they say "not today" offer another day or time. If they still say no, it's possible that they might only want close family visiting at this time. If that is the case, feel free to send them a card to their home and include your phone number.

1. Where possible, contact the person you're visiting and make sure they're up for it.
2. Arrive as close to that time as possible.
3. How long do you stay? Pay attention to their body language and cues they may give you. For folks who are pretty sick, a 15 minute visit may be long enough or even too long. Some like long visits. Some don't. When in doubt, tell them you have about a half hour and see if they offer direction in regards to their timing. It's okay to leave sooner. Just don't overstay your welcome.
4. Should I leave? If a doctor or nurse comes in, always leave the room. Don't ask the patient or professional if you should leave. Just say you'll be back in a few minutes or even head home then. (Doctors don't know your connection with the patient and nurses are often quick and don't want to trouble people. If we all have a mindset of leaving the room while a professional is there, it helps everyone avoid a possibly awkward conversation, and the patient can remain open and clear with the professionals who are directing their care.)
5. What do we talk about? Ask them how their care is going. Is there anything they need? Can you help them (feed a cat, take their garbage out, etc.)? Talk about everyday things you normally would – friends, family, politics, etc. Sometimes it's nice to feel normal.
6. Can we pray? Ask, "do you want to pray together"? If so, offer prayers for comfort and peace. Where healing is possible, pray for speedy and restored health. Where healing is not possible, pray for pain management and great care. Where there are unknowns, pray for practitioners who are wise and open, for test results that will point them in the right direction, and for acceptance and patience for the journey.