

CHURCH CHAT

THORNDALE UNITED CHURCH NEWS

Mission Statement: "We are a Church that is a place for spiritual renewal and growth and a place in which we learn about and engage in Christ's work of peace, love and justice. The Church as the body of Christ is a fellowship of hope, a family where all are welcomed, valued, needed and nurtured."



Image: Christian.net

MINISTER'S MESSAGE:

Minister's message

As we enter the month of November, I am reminded of the many blessings we share as a congregation and as followers of Christ. This is a time of reflection, gratitude, and preparation as we journey toward the Advent season. Let us take a moment to give thanks for the abundance in our lives, for the support we show one another, and for the opportunities to grow in faith together.

Over the past weeks, I have witnessed acts of kindness and generosity within our church community, from volunteers lending a helping hand, to heartfelt prayers for loved ones facing challenges. These moments are a testament to the spirit of unity and love that defines our church.

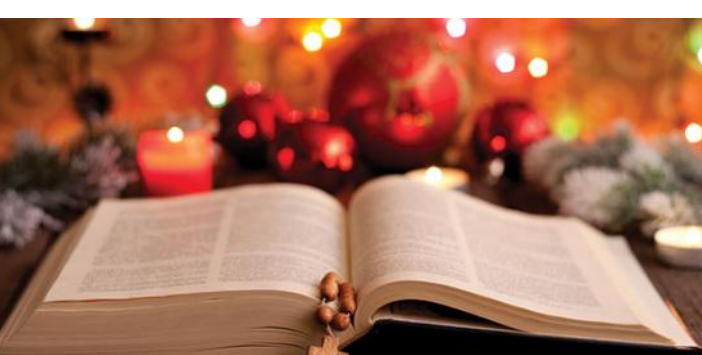
I encourage each of you to continue reaching out to your neighbours, sharing words of encouragement, and participating in our upcoming events. Whether it's joining us for worship, attending a Bible study, or contributing to our outreach programs, every effort strengthens our bond and furthers the work of Christ in our world.

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Church Chat Issue:
November December 2025

Sunday Worship for people of all ages
11:00 am at Thorndale

Office: 519-609-6132
office@tzuc.ca
www.tzuc.ca



Please remember to keep our church and its ministries in your prayers. May God guide us with wisdom, fill us with hope, and help us to be instruments of His peace in our community.

With gratitude and blessings,

Pastor Pam

THORNDALE CHURCH SERVICES

Church services are held at 11am on Sundays. Lighthouse Sunday School is available during services.

Did you know that we have a Coffee Hour before worship the second Sunday of every month? All are welcome to join us for this social time! Please note December coffee hour is at 10:00am.

We also do a collection for the Dorchester & St. Marys Food banks on these Sundays.

Saturday November 29th 9 - 12pm - Thorndale United Church is holding a hamper collection for the St Marys Foodbank.

Their wish list includes: food items such as juice, mixes (muffin, cake, cookie, pancake), oatmeal, and canned pasta; toilet paper; toys geared more for teenagers including room décor lights, lava lamps, Pokémon, makeup and hair items, paint sets, unique card games and problem puzzles like Rubik cubes. One specific request was for Lincoln Logs. A more unique request we had this year was for Flying Squirrel passes which is in London. Any donations are greatly appreciated.

Thorndale UCW are again supporting an ELUCO (East London United Church Outreach) family for Christmas. If you also would like to donate please put cash or a Gift Card for Walmart, No Frills or Dollarama on the collection plate (Marked ELUCO) or give to Chris Tipping by November 30th.

Thorndale UCW will be filling some Christmas stockings for Karen's Place in London. If you would like to contribute to this project, here are a few suggestions: lotion, manicure set, small journal & pen, mitts, hat, scarf, fun winter socks or slippers, Christmas decorations, chocolates, Christmas cookies or something you deem appropriate. Please contact Charlene Kuepher to donate or for more information.

Tues. December 9th - Thorndale UCW will be holding their Christmas Meeting in the Fellowship Hall. We would like to invite other ladies from the congregation to join us for this special meeting. We will be having a catered meal from Village Catering at a cost of \$25. Come for coffee at 9:30 with the meeting starting at 10. If you would like to come please notify Yvonne Elliott at 519-461-0067 by Dec. 1st.

Wednesday December 3rd 7:30pm. Thorndale United Church Council Meeting.

Saturday December 6th - Full Day Kids Christmas Camp - Call the church for details and registration.

Sunday December 7th 11am - White Gift Sunday, items will be going to St Marys Foodbank

Sunday December 7th 7pm - Lessons and Carols Service at St. George's Anglican Church. Readers are needed for this service; please contact Pam.

Sunday December 14th before church. Thorndale United Church Coffee Hour

Wednesday December 17th 7pm - Community Christmas Celebration at Browns United Church. This is an evening of local talent sharing. If you would like to perform a song, musical piece on an instrument, reading, telling a joke or any other performance please contact Pastor Pam. Refreshments will follow.

Wednesday December 24th 8pm - Christmas Eve Service at Thorndale United



Lest we forget...

For our November UCW meeting we presented a time of remembrance for those who served our country in the war.

We invited Keith to come play guitar and sing a couple of songs.

Keith sang & played "Last Night I had the Strangest Dream". This song was written amid the ever looming threat of war. Keith also sang "Where Have All the Flowers Gone". We were also treated to Yvonne playing "Let There be Peace on Earth". We enjoyed both songs and sang along as well.

Yvonne Meahan's, Marlene Purdon & myself prepared the program for this month touching on remembering the Farmerettes. These women worked the farms during the war harvesting crops, tending to livestock & performing all aspects of farm work to support the war efforts. The experience was often challenging, involving hard work & low pay but the young women were proud of their contributions to Canada's home front & formed strong bonds with each other.

Along with our goodies we enjoyed with our tea & coffee, I made some Anzac cookies. These cookies were originally made without eggs or milk & were a very crunchy oat-meal cookie. The cookies were referred to as 'jaw breakers'. They were often made to be sold at fairs & markets to raise funds for the war efforts. The cookies were also sent off to the troops. They have a nice flavour but are good to serve with tea or coffee.

Let us all remember those who served & gave their lives for us all.

Lest We Forget

Charlene K





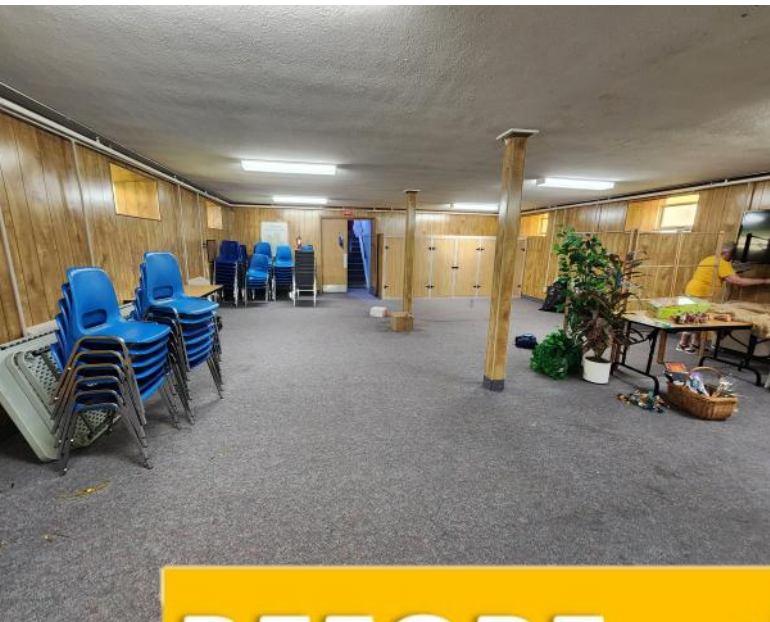
NOVA SCOTIA

Keith & I enjoyed a wonderful adventure in August by taking off on a road trip to Nova Scotia.

We managed to put on 6,000 km!! We travelled to Halifax, New Brunswick, Truro, Peggy's Cove, Lunenburg, Cape Breton, St. Andrews by The Sea and Bay of Fundy. We ate a lobster roll while watching the sail boats floating by. We sat at the wharf and enjoyed listening to a concert. We went for a horse drawn carriage ride around Lunenburg. We went whale watching and were lucky enough to have the whales show up for us. We visited with a friend in Cape Breton for an over night stay and a delicious dinner. We had so many more adventures - All in all we had a wonderful trip that we will reminisce about for years to come!!

Keith & Charlene





BEFORE



AFTER

After Vacation Bible School this past summer, the Fellowship Hall received a major facelift. On Oct. 1, 2025 we were welcomed back into the space to which Murray and Ed Lee applied their expertise to. New lighting, a new ceiling, upgraded wiring, brightly painted walls and new carpet make this space inviting and friendly. Just like our congregation!

The original Church had the basement dug out in 1959. During its shutdown, worship was held at the Thorndale Continuation School. The contractor for the job was Gord Robson, the owner of Kintore Box. The current owner of Kintore Box is Bill Chantler who is Gord's grandson.

Keeping everything local, Ken Brock of Thorndale dug out the basement with his bulldozer in 1959. At the same time a front entrance was added to the North side of the church and a second wall of concrete was poured against the original stone wall. Much of the labour was done by volunteers. A kitchen, bathrooms and an oil furnace were added. The paneling that was installed was remarkable quality and as such, was left in place during this current renovation.

There have been other major renovations to happen to our Church throughout the years. The two small washrooms were combined into a larger one that can be found at the top of the back stairs now. The current nursery was once a garage with a dirt floor where Sunday School classes were held. Skip ahead 42 years and you'll find that the Kitchen was relocated and renovated in 2001. Our Church has also seen the former Minister's Office turned into an accessible bathroom as well as a chair lift installed to provide access to everyone who enters our doors. In the last two years, our friend Penny Jones spearheaded a renovation to the now "Zion Room" making it a multipurpose meeting room and classroom. If you take a tour around our church, you'll find plaques placed to acknowledge the generous contributions from families for some of these updates.

The West Nissouri History Book has more details on the journey to the Worship space we have now. Everything from being washed out in 1883, a pipe organ installed in 1911, to a mortgage burning in 1971!

From Girl Guides to Bluegrass, to Trivia Nights and Family Christmases, to Sunday School classes and Bridal Showers, think of all the events this space has held and how many members of our community it has blessed!

Sources: West Nissouri History Book, John Elliott & Pat Jones

Article submitted by Marilyn Flanigan



Hey Mom & Dad!

Do you need some extra time this Christmas to make your list and check it twice?

Kids JK – Grade 6 are invited to

CHRISTMAS CAMP DAY

Saturday, December 6th

9am – 4pm

Thorndale United Church



Crafts
&
Games

Music
&
Drama



Snacks & Lunch provided

Cost \$20 per Child

Max. Family cost \$50

Half-Day Option available

We recognize this can be a difficult time of year. Please don't let cost be a barrier to participating in this camp. If you need assistance, please ask

Pre-registration required & space is limited

Register early by emailing Lighthouse@tzuc.ca

If you find the Christmas season puts undue pressure on you, please reach out to the church.

We might be able to help or direct you to others who can.

minister@tzuc.ca or (519) 609-6132

In need of prayer?

Prayer requests can be sent to prayer@tzuc.ca



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Clays Family Update

Lorna (Clays) McKercher - Lorna lives just outside of Seaforth on a farm with her husband John who she met while attending University of Guelph. They have been married 25 years and have two children. Caitlin, 21 who is attending University of Ottawa taking International Business Management and Finance and Finlay, 18, is taking Engineering at Queens University in Kingston. Lorna is National Director of Agriculture for the Royal Bank of Canada. She is an active member of Northside United Church in Seaforth.

Brenda (Clays) Yallop - Brenda lives in Waterloo with her husband Graeme who she met while attending Laurier University. They have been married 20 years and have two girls. Olivia, 17, who is in Grade 12 and Abby, 14, is in Grade 9 at Waterloo Collegiate Institute. Brenda works at Opentext as a Software Team Lead. She is a member of First United in uptown Waterloo.

Submitted by Elaine Clays

Jones Family Update

I am looking forward to hearing updates about other children that have passed through our Sunday School, so I had better return the favour.

Zach has been married to Sheila Beye now for 25 years. I know, it makes me feel old too. They live in Strathroy and have two girls, Molly and Lillianna. Zach works as a Service Adviser at Genesis London. Sheila works in retail and is an amazing Mom and Wife. Molly is in second year University, taking Psychology at Tinsdale University in Toronto. Lillianna is in grade 8. The whole family are very active in their home church, London Gospel Temple.

Melissa has been married to Nickolas Walker for 9 years. They have just bought a new home in north London. Melissa works at Belle Temple Stables. Nick works at London Health Science Centre, purchasing and distributing medical supplies. As well, he has a music studio, N.W. Percussion, and plays drums for Gravity Funky. Both of them are very involved in their church, Ridgeview Community Church.

Submitted by Pat Jones



Anyone interested in having an Advent Memorial Poinsettia for the church decor, orders will be taken anytime before Sunday November 23 from either Doreen Madge or Yvonne Elliott.

They will be there for the Advent season until Christmas Eve at which time they can be taken home for your family to enjoy.

Our first "Tough Question Sunday" is November 23, 2025. Rather than a regular sermon Pastor Pam will be answering several tough questions that have been submitted. Questions range from "Who made God" (asked by a child) to explaining why Jesus cursed the fig tree and the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. Plus several other challenging questions. Come and learn with us. And if you have a question of your own, email it to Pam at pamwilcox@hotmail.ca



EMPOWER

Lighthouse Ministries Youth Group

Every Wednesday this group meets for dinner with IGNITE then heads to the Zion Room to explore their faith and gain Bible knowledge before playing games.

They are also responsible for many of the "Little Jesus" figures popping up around town. If you find one, it is yours to keep because everyone needs a little Jesus!



We are filling 6 stockings for the residents of Karen's Place which is a special home for woman over 50 who have been unhoused. This is a wonderful place for them to get back on their feet to learn some life skills and to be given a second chance. We would love to bless them each with a stocking full of things a lady might enjoy. For example, pampering and self-care things like face masks, hand cream, practical and useful things like cozy socks, hair accessories, toiletries, journals, pens and edible treats like chocolate, candies, or snacks. If you would like to donate any of these items, please leave them by the doors of the church Sunday morning or call Pam to arrange pick up. Monetary donations can be left on the collection plate marked with the word Stockings. If we collect more than we can use we will pass the excess items on to ELUCO to bless some of the women they serve.





Bible Study

You ... yes YOU ... are invited to join us for a wonderful Advent study looking at the common themes of Hope Peace Joy and Love as well as their Biblical significance. If you have never been to Bible study this is a great one to join. Enjoy the conversation and friendships as we learn together.

Advent Bible Study runs for four Tuesdays including Nov 25, Dec 2, Dec 9, Dec 16. We will begin at 7 pm and never go past 9 pm. Bring a mug and enjoy a cup of tea with us.

For more info contact Pastor Pam by phone at 519-320-9458 or email pamwilcox@hotmail.ca



COME JOIN OUR ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

HOPE Nov. 25
1 Corinthians 15:12-20

PEACE Dec. 2
Colossians 1:19-20; Romans 5:1

JOY Dec. 9
John 15:1-17

LOVE Dec. 16
Luke 2:8-14, John 3:16

Tuesday Nights, 7pm - 9pm (at the latest)

All are welcome

No experience necessary!

Thorndale United Church
245 King St.



Once a Month Cooking

Looking for a group of 5-10 to gather one Saturday this winter to prepare 10-12 freezer meals together in the church kitchen.

Participants are encouraged to share their family's favourite bulk cooking recipe for us to prepare. We will do some planning together ahead of time to come up with recipes that our families will like.

Shopping would be done the day before (in bulk to save money) and cost divided between everyone.

Ideally, we will go home with one ready-to-serve meal so we don't have to do MORE cooking when we get home!

Please reach out to Marilyn by phone or email if this is something that interests you!

marilyn@mccutcheonfarmdrainage.ca

519-494-0552 (text or call)

Thanks! Marilyn Flanigan

Thank you from the Beef Supper Committee for the support of our Church members, community and student volunteers. We fed 881 people. (Last year, 779). Profit for the event was \$9,753.71. We could not have done it without you.

Thank you!



“New month, new intentions, new goals, new love, new light, and new beginnings.”

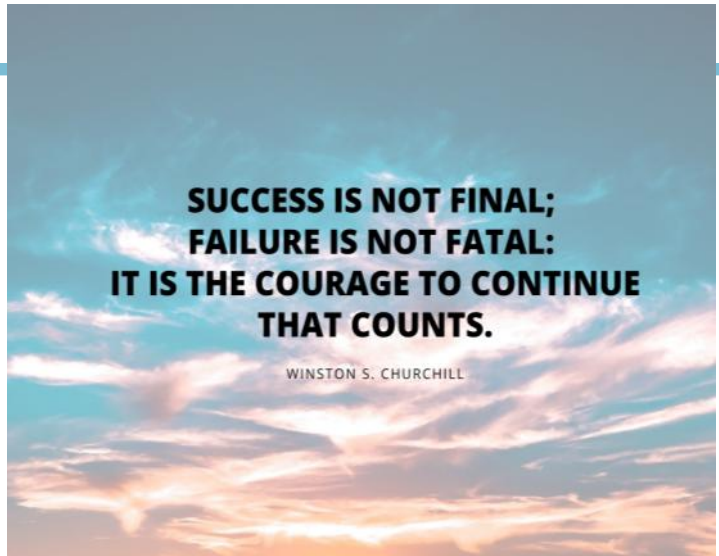
APRIL MAE MONTERROSA



blog.gratefulness.me

**SUCCESS IS NOT FINAL;
FAILURE IS NOT FATAL:
IT IS THE COURAGE TO CONTINUE
THAT COUNTS.**

WINSTON S. CHURCHILL



The Lord's Prayer

The following Lord's Prayer was written by a 15 year old school boy in Winnipeg Manitoba who got an A+ for his entry.

The Lord's Prayer is not allowed in most Canadian and US Public School anymore so he wrote this "school prayer".



Now I sit me down in school
Where praying is against the rule

For this great nation under God
Finds mention of Him very odd.

If scripture now the class recites,
It violates the Bill of Rights.

And anytime my head I bow
Becomes a Federal matter now.

Our hair can be purple, orange or green,
That's no offense; it's a freedom scene.

The law is specific, the law is precise.
Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.

For praying in a public hall
Might offend someone with no faith at all.

In silence alone we must meditate,
God's name is prohibited by the Province

We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks,
And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks.

They've outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible.
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.

We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen,
And the 'unwed daddy,' our Senior King.

It's 'inappropriate' to teach right from wrong,
We're taught that such 'judgments' do not belong.

We can get our condoms and birth controls,
Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles

But the Ten Commandments are not allowed,
No word of God must reach this crowd.

It's scary here I must confess,
When chaos reigns the school's a mess.

So, Lord, this silent plea I make:
Should I be shot; My soul please take!

Christmas

EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

DECEMBER 24 AT 8:00 PM

THORNDALE
UNITED
CHURCH

Everyone Welcome

Grace Fulton

1923 - 2025



Obituary Overview

Grace L. Fulton

Surrounded by family on Wednesday, September 10th, 2025, Grace L. Fulton of Thorndale passed away at University Hospital in her 103rd year. Beloved wife of the late Hugh L. Fulton (2006). Predeceased by her loving daughters Joyce Garland and Linda Dickson and grandson Michael. Grandmother to Jason Dickson (Vanessa Brown) and Lindsay Dickson (Matt Crocker). Loved by her great-grandchildren Jessica, Drew, Alice, Jack, Sam, and Lenore. Predeceased by brothers Burt, Carl, Neil, and sisters Clara and Mary. Visitation will be held at Memorial Funeral Home, 1559 Fanshawe Park Road (East of Highbury) on Thursday, September 18th at 10am. Service to follow at 11am with Rev. Pam Wilcox officiating. Interment will follow the service at Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens. Memorial donations may be made to the Thorndale United Church (245 King St.) or charity of choice.



Grace at a church birthday celebration with her grandchildren.



Church sign celebrating Grace's 100th Birthday



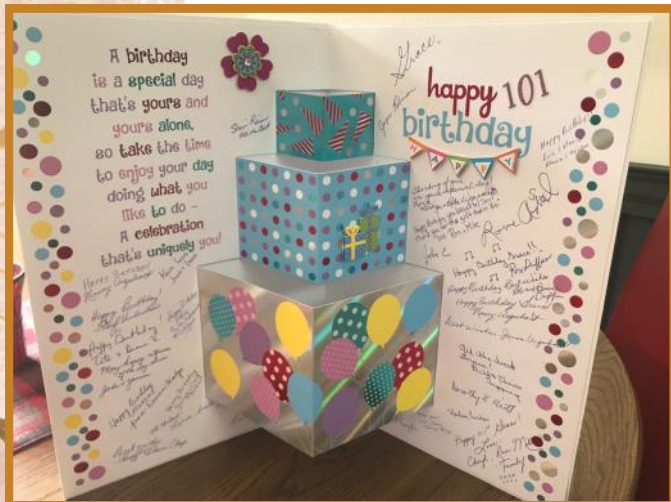
Grace following a church service. She was given the beautiful flowers that were on display during the service.



Grace showing a puzzle for her birthday



Grace and her family at her 100th Birthday celebration



Grace's 101st Birthday card.

Grace's 102nd Birthday card.



Grace Fulton's United Church Women (UCW) Involvement over the years

Grace had been a Charter Member of the Thorndale United Church UCW. Over the years, she was a faithful monthly visitor to those who were unwell and/or those unable to attend regular church services and activities. Grace worked on other UCW initiatives such as the 'Milk Bag Mats' project and was the 'Penny/Coin Convenor' since 1972. A mere 50 years ago, she starred in a play called 'Costly Life' that was performed at a UCW meeting in 1976. Grace gave a presentation and spoke about her 1989 trip to New Zealand. She took on the role of UCW Secretary in 1991/92. Grace will be greatly missed!

Elaine Clays



Grace was blessed with an aura of gentle kindness. During my childhood, Grace offered her warmth, respect and acceptance. She was so much more than a secretary for dad's (Dr. Ross Green) medical practice. She was a family friend. Grace connected with Mom (Shirley) through the Thorndale United Church Women's group. Her door was always open to us children, and living directly across the street, we had easy access to the rhubarb and berries in her garden. Grace's friendly smile was always a welcome treat, and she has left us with heart warming memories.

Kathy Marie (Green)



What do you call a priest that becomes a lawyer?

A father-in-law.

Why did the nurse need a red pen at work?

In case she needed to draw blood.

Why can't your nose be 12 inches long?

Because then it would be a foot.

Why do bees have sticky hair?

Because they use honeycombs.

What do you call a rooster staring at a pile of lettuce?

A chicken sees a salad.

What did one traffic light say to the other?

Stop looking! I'm changing!

Why did the gym close down?

It just didn't work out.

Where do you find a cow with no legs?

Right where you left it.

What do you call a pig that does karate?

A pork chop.

What do you call a train carrying bubblegum?

A chew-chew train.

Did you hear about the two people who stole a calendar?

They each got six months.

Why did the Clydesdale give the pony a glass of water?

Because he was a little horse.

A ham sandwich walks into a bar and orders a beer,

bartender says "sorry, we don't serve food here."

Why shouldn't you write with a broken pencil?

Because it's pointless.

How many times can you subtract 10 from 100?

Once. The next time you would be subtracting 10 from 90.

Confirmation





Well another successful pie making day!!

As usual these ladies continue to amaze me.. their resilience & loyalty in making a day like this successful is an example for us all....from early morning around 8 a.m. until after cleanup around 5pm.

Still and all a good time was had by all... lots of chatter at coffee breaks with goodies brought in & shared. And then lunch break with a selection of pizzas!!

Delicious apple, cherry & blueberry pies will be enjoyed by many families over the holidays so ladies & gentlemen give yourselves a bit of a pat on the back for a good job well done!!

Submitted by Charlene





**I mixed up the labels in my
wife's spice cabinet.
She hasn't noticed yet ...
But the thyme is cumin.**



Motivation of the Month BELT IT OUT

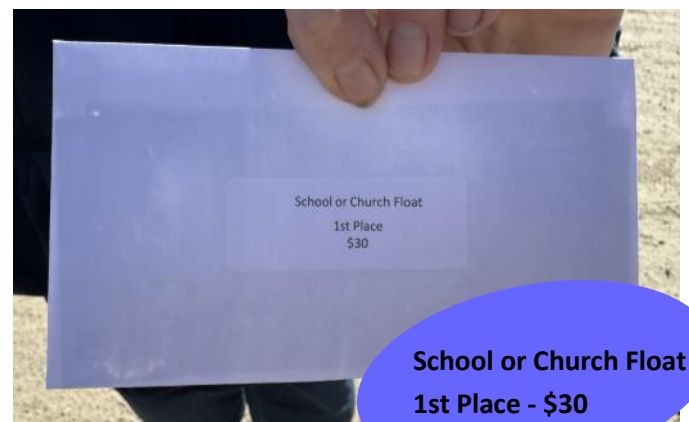
'Tis the season to sing! Joining a choir doesn't just lift your voice - it lifts your spirits, too.

Researchers have found that singing in a group can make you feel calmer and happier, while also boosting your energy and social connection. The best part is you don't need formal training or choir experience to feel the benefits. Just showing up and singing along can help you feel part of something bigger than yourself.

If this sparks your interest please come join the church choir on Thursday evenings and find out more about our group!

All are welcome.

See you at the **FAIR**



School or Church Float
1st Place - \$30