

Dear friends of Greenbank and Seagrave,

It has been an absolute privilege to be the minister of Greenbank United Church and Seagrave for this year.

I have had the privilege to grow with you all in ministry this year. I have loved seeing how you live out your values in the wider community.

As we come into Advent, I invite us to consider the way that you have seen divine love this year. This can be in big ways, or smaller scale individual acts of kindness. And I encourage us all to enter the season of Advent with open hearts to see the ways that God's love for all the world are being revealed. I also invite each of us can take actions to bring the spirit of love to those in need within our wider communities.

I sincerely hope that each of you will find the warmth of community at Greenbank and Seagrave this Advent and Christmas season. The holidays can be a lonely time, so may we all strive to be even more intentional about creating community at this time.

We will be celebrating the season of Advent from Sunday November 30th to December 21. Every Sunday we will mark another Sunday in Advent with candle lighting, Scriptures and of course carols!

We are also excited to celebrate Advent beginning with a Christmas concert led by Irwin Smith at Greenbank on November 30th at 7pm. We will also be having a Christmas concert at Greenbank United Church on December 6. At Seagrave United Church, we will be hosting a Christmas Roast Beef Dinner and Choir Music concert on December 13th.

We recognize that the Christmas holiday is a challenging time for many people. It can be challenging to be surrounded by abundant joy when facing loss. We will be hosting an evening Tinsel and Tears service at Seagrave United. More details will be shared as dates are finalized.

On Christmas Eve, we will be hosting two services to celebrate the birth of Jesus, love revealed. From 4-5pm, Seagrave will be hosting wagon rides followed by a family friendly service at 5pm, sharing the Christmas story and singing carols. At 7:30pm, Greenbank United will be hosting a candlelight Christmas Eve service to contemplate the Christmas story.

Best wishes for a joy-filled Advent and a love-based Christmas,

Ian Wilgus