



# STAYING CONNECTED

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MCIVOR CHURCH FAMILY

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January 4, 2026

## GREETINGS FROM PASTOR SHERRYL

In 1994 when I moved to Toronto to work on my Master of Divinity degree, I arrived shortly after Christmas and started my first course the week after January 6 (Epiphany), at what was then the Ontario Theological Seminary.

My professor loved Epiphany and referred to it as the first day after Christmas. It was then that I learned about why there were twelve days of Christmas and why January 5 was referred to as the twelfth night of Christmas.



The course began in Luke with the birth of Jesus Christ and then moved to the significant journey of the magi and how their following the star and arriving with gifts to meet Jesus Christ was astonishing in so many ways! Not only were these magi obedient and able to understand they were to follow the star to meet Jesus, but they also were disobedient to Herod's request to return the way they came and inform him of where the Christ child was.



In these days of Christmas, as we reflect on Jesus Christ coming to earth to bring us grace and mercy, may we also take time to reflect on the magi, who at great risk, followed a star, brought generous gifts to Jesus Christ, avoided Herod and his schemes on their way home and were witness to the birth of the Son of God.

- **Where do you and I take risks to encounter Jesus Christ?**
- **Where are you and I called to be obedient to God's call on our lives?**
- **Where do you and I struggle to answer God's call in obedience?**
- **What kinds of gifts have you and I offered to God: gifts of time, gifts of service, gifts of listening to others, gifts of praying for others, gifts of practical help?**
- **Have there been times in our lives that choosing disobedience meant following God?**

In these days of Christmastide, may we take time to reflect, be people of gratitude for all God has given us in Jesus Christ His Son and be like the magi who risked much to meet Jesus Christ and share their gifts with Him.

