**Sample Christmas Eve Letter**

Formatting Notes:

* Use colour if you can (Staples has relatively cheap colour copying if your church doesn’t have a copies)
* Have printed copies available to share with guests.
* Consider using a QR code to direct folks to it as well.
* Add pictures…maybe even a picture of the person the letter is from

CHURCH LOGO December 24, 2024

Dear Friends,

I am so glad you are reading this, and whether you are doing so in the comfort of your own home, or in the warmth and excitement of the church building at one of our special Christmas Eve Services, I hope that this finds you well.

If you’re sitting in the church preparing for worship to start, I hope you are feeling welcome and at home. Please feel free to keep your cell phone ON to capture any wonderful words or images that make your heart sing. If you post them online, tag us @YOUR CHURCH.

We want to extend a special welcome to young worshippers—your wiggles and giggles are part of God’s gift that you bring to our space. We are happy you are here! Feel free to come right up front if you want to see better and help tell the story.

We will be celebrating Communion; please know that all are welcome at the table. Whether you are a first-time visitor, a long-time member, or anywhere in between—you are welcome to share in this meal. Whether you are certain about faith, full of questions and doubt or anywhere in between—you are welcome at this table. This is not the table of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ United Church or even the United Church of Canada. This is the table of Jesus the Christ Child—all who seek are to be fed, to bring their hunger for self, for others, for justice and for mercy…

All are welcome—really!

 [Say something about a topic your worship service may touch on…for example]

This year I have been reading about how we imagine the nativity story and the important role community, connection and radical hospitality plays, especially when we allow the cultural context of the story to inform our retelling.

In first century town like Bethlehem there was no commercial hospitality industry, no Air BnB. So when we read that there was no room at the inn, it means the guest rooms built into people’s homes—but the thing in, there were also likely no stables built separate from the family home. The manger would be part of the home where animals were brought in a night, essentially the common living space.

So when we read that Mary, Joseph and Jesus were in a manger, we are probably reading that they were in the main living space of someone’s home, surrounded by local midwives or other women who would have come to help at the time of birth. That is a pretty different image from two tired travelers alone in a barn.

This emphasis—that the divine comes into being in the midst of those who show hospitality, those who take the chance to open doors, and the simplicity of helping folks who struggle—is a beautiful one. It is what we celebrate on this night and seek to allow to transform our faith for the rest of the year.

[This part should be based on your Mission Statement or Case for Support]

Life can be busy, exhausting, and can feel deeply disjointed.

At \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ United Church, we are all about making connections.

Rooted in an inclusive understanding of the Christian Tradition, informed by the insights of the modern world, open to the wisdom of other faiths,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ United Church exists to make space for individuals, families, and communities to explore personal meaning, spiritual nurture, engage with the challenging ethical questions of our day. We are here to work on building more meaningful, just, generous and sacred relationships with self, others and the natural world.

We are all about connections—What can we do together to make this world more beautiful?

 Here are some things happening in 2025 at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ United Church…

[List 3-5 diverse programs or projects…ideas include Book studies, Children’s programs, craft circles, updates on Affirming work or Anti-racist education taking place, invitation to weekly worship (especially if there is an upcoming sermon series)]

All of these activities and so much more are hosted, supported and funded by people who have found a connection to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ United Church. We are grateful for these gifts of time and money. During today’s service, a financial offering will be collected. You are invited to share and help us build more connections towards a beautiful, just world. Thank you for your generosity.

Thank you for reading this and coming out this evening (afternoon). I hope to see you again.

Have a Merry Christmas and a great start to 2025
—From me and my family to you and all those you love.

[Signature]

Name of a human (minister, worship chair, board chair)

Email, Website, Social Media Handle, etc.