

# Union and Sutherland's River Presbyterian Churches

Thorburn and Sutherland's River, NS

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*Modelling faith in our communities one  
conversation at a time*



*Thorburn*



*Sutherland's River*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Interim Moderator:**  
**Greg Dickson**  
902-759-8221

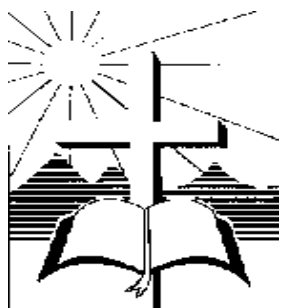
**Clerk of Session**  
**(Thorburn): John Reeves**  
902-922-2666

**Clerk of Session**  
**(Sutherland's River):**  
**Faye Visser-Booth**  
902-695-2988

**Board of Managers**  
**(Thorburn): Jane Taylor**  
902-755-4408

**Treasurer (Thorburn):**  
**Kathy Campbell**  
902-759-1705

**Treasurer (Sutherland's**  
**River): Reg Booth**  
902-695-2988



## **The Stages of Pandemic**

As we continue to self-isolate and observe the necessities of physical distancing and disinfection of shared surfaces during the COVID-19 pandemic, I think it might be useful for us as citizens of Earth and of heaven to remember a few things.

First, this not the only instance of pandemic the world has ever faced. Examples of world-wide infection extend to and well before the Black Plague; several appearances of typhoid and typhus; the Spanish Flu following the first World War; many outbreaks of Ebola (the most recent reported in recent weeks as the second-most severe of them all), and of course, SARS. Many lessons have been learned, and new discoveries about how to manage our lives and expectations appear every day as we await immunizing vaccination.

Second, and I think more importantly, we are not alone in dealing with the contagion. Interesting, is it not, that just as we were learning (some of us of the first time) that we are not in this mess alone, we also came to understand by the same token that we are all in this together. It is a world-wide and humanity-wide problem.

But Christian friends, what's most important of all is that God is with us and has provided us with all we need to come through this difficult and uncertain time – good government, strong public health guidance and a strongly supported economy so nobody has to live in poverty even if they cannot work. Sure, we may not have all we want, but I hope we can agree that we have all we need. God, you see, is good, always!

Friends, the cost of discipleship can sometimes seem so high as to be ridiculous too.

Are we still willing to pay it..?

May God be Praised!

Rev. Greg Dickson

## Church Community News

Hello everyone!

It's been quite a spring/summer so far; not like anything we have experienced in our lifetime. Thankfully, here in N.S. we are beginning to be able to move around more freely, taking precautions, of course.

At this time, we extend our sincere sympathy to the families of Phillip Stewart, Johnny Palmer and Anne Henderson and to the family of Dave Sinclair of Sutherland's River. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families at this sad time.

Over the years, Johnny served on the Board of Managers, was a member of the Kirk Session and "a jack-of-all-trades" when it came to repairs around the church property.

In early years Anne was a Sunday School teacher, was a member of the Ladies Guild and the AMS. She was a willing worker and took pleasure in looking after the 'pie table' at our church suppers.

On a happier note, we offer our sincere congratulations to all the 2020 High School Graduates. This has been a year these Grads will never forget in view of the Pandemic restrictions, etc. Congratulations to Emily Cooley, Ashley Livingston, and Jayden Palmer of our church family. These girls were also the recipient of several awards during the Graduation. We are proud of you and wish you all the best in whatever your future brings. Well done!!!

Submitted by Gail Jordan

## Remember When



## Helping Children

HELPING KIDS  
FEEL SAFE  
AND SECURE  
DURING  
CRAZY TIMES



So far 2020 has been a very stressful year. Pandemic. People out of work. Stock market ups and downs. Racism struggles. Police brutality and the murder of George Floyd and others. Unemployment. Riots.

Many would say 2020 has been the most stressful year in their entire life.

When parents are going through tough times, children pick up on it and can become stressed out as well.

Fear can come from catching a small glimpse of the news, overhearing conversations between teens or adults and seeing what their parents post and read in social media.

It is common for kids to pick up on these things and become fearful during these crazy times.

So how can we help our children feel safe and secure during all of this? Here are some steps.

Monitor how much exposure kids have to the news. While most protests and riots have been peaceful, many have not. Media is showing images of fires, looting and violence.

Children do not have the emotional security to understand what they are seeing, and it can lead to fear, insecurity, and sadness.

Talk with children. It's important to talk with children about what they are seeing and hearing in an age appropriate way. Help them understand what is happening. If you don't, they will try to fill in the blanks themselves and may come to scary and frightening conclusions in their mind. They may even think someone is coming to get them.

As parents and leaders, we are called to walk through these times with our children and have the wisdom to help guide them through it. And during these crazy times, we must check our children's emotional temperature and help them adjust it as needed.

Be a safe place where kids can ask questions. Find out what they are thinking and reassure them that you will keep them safe. Let them know there is a great group of people that are working hard to keep everyone safe.

***Relevantchildrensministry.com***

**Lamentations 3:21-24** *But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."*

## Restoring the Bell



The church Bell is a piece of history hidden high up in the steeple of Union Church. It is engraved with "Union Church, Thorburn, N.S. 1913. It had been out of commission for some time but was recently restored to working order with replacement of a pin holding the ringer. This let the bell chime out on Easter Morning despite the church being empty due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Later the bell was also rung along with others across the province in memory of lives lost in the tragic events out of Portapique.

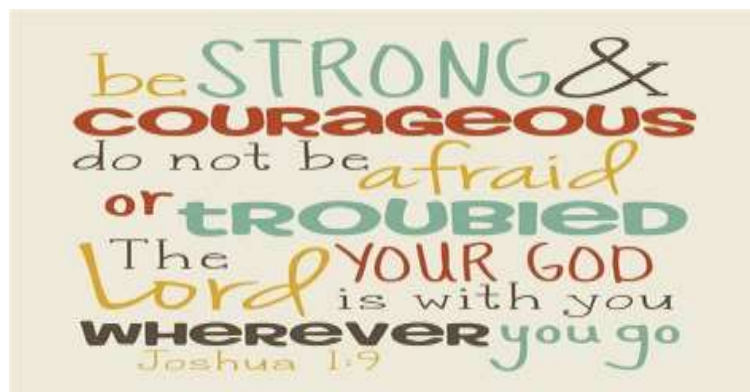
We recently reviewed Church Records from 1913 in hopes of finding some information on the bell's origin and installation but so far could find no entries on the subject. If anyone has any history on the bell it would be great if they could share.

It is always humbling to think of all the occasions both happy and tragic that the bells chiming must have marked over the years whenever it is rung.

Submitted by Paul MacLellan

**(Editor's Note:** It was Paul who "restored the bell" and rang it. Many thanks, Paul)

## Sunday School Update



Unfortunately, due to COVID 19 restrictions we were not able to finish our Sunday School year. The good news is that our Church is reopening this Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup> and we hope to restart Sunday School in September. After that, we will have a special celebration to honor our students from this year and welcome any new students. Many thanks to Miss Susan and Miss Courtney for all their help! We miss our students and wish them and their families a wonderful summer and look forward to when we can be together again!