

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

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Easter Message from the Moderator (Abridged)

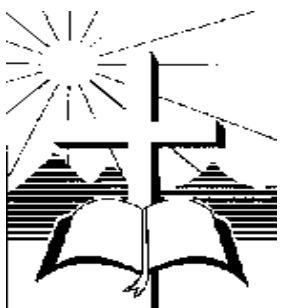
On Easter Day and in the season that follows, we proclaimed with joy that "Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!" This is the good news that has been proclaimed to us, which we received, in which we trust, and through which we are being saved.

As the Apostle Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 15:1–11. Paul writes:

"For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve."

In a pastoral reflection on this passage, D. Cameron Murchison imagines the thoughts and feelings of the women when they went to the tomb. Although these friends of Jesus are obviously sad and grieving, Murchison notes that dealing with death is complex. While grief is in the forefront, "other, less mentionable feelings swirl through the experience as well—relief, to name one. For the things that lead to death frequently place heavy burdens on those who only stand and wait... As deeply as grief may go, certain gains accompany the loss that death brings. Though we are generally disinclined to publicize it, we are often relieved as well as grieved when death comes."

I wonder if you have experienced something like that feeling at the cancellation of a meeting or event during the COVID-19 pandemic. Undoubtedly, you've been disappointed by many of the plans that have needed to be abandoned or postponed. But I expect in a few cases, there has also been a sense of relief.



A Message from the Moderator (cont'd)

Maybe it was the event you knew was going to be a huge amount of work to organize and prepare for. Perhaps it was something you were only planning to attend in order to please someone else. Maybe it was an extended family gathering that was likely to be uncomfortable and difficult. Perhaps it was an encounter that you expected to be conflictual and stressful. “We can’t go ahead with that plan because of the pandemic,” someone said, and you thought, “Oh thank goodness, it’s cancelled.”

The disciples, as we get to know in Mark’s gospel, constantly struggled with fear. Even as they witnessed the love and power of God made present in Jesus, they could not see or imagine how Jesus’ humble service and self-giving love would ultimately usher in the Reign of God in the world. Indeed, on the first day of the week, when the women at the tomb got the news that Jesus has been raised, the story ends with them running away, giving in to their fear.

But we know that’s not the end of the story. We came to know and follow the Risen Christ because the disciples did go and tell the other disciples. And together, in the power of the Holy Spirit, they told the world. Remember that passage I started with from the Apostle Paul? “For I handed on to you...what I in turn had received: that Christ died...and that he was raised...” God’s plan to conquer sin, death and hatred with the power of goodness, love and life was not cancelled, and his followers were sent to participate in the risky, difficult and wonderful work of proclaiming and enacting that love in the world.

The COVID-19 pandemic has prompted a lot of fear, but it has not stopped the church from continuing Christ’s ministry and mission in the world. We have developed creative and courageous ways to keep on enacting God’s love and telling the good news that “Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!” Well done, friends! Thank you for your faithfulness, for your generosity, and for your courage as you have been going and telling the good news in these fearful and uncertain times. Let’s enter into the 2021 General Assembly with that same courage and trust that God is with us and God has good plans for us. It’s not cancelled, so let’s pray for the church, pray for the commissioners, pray for the Moderator, and pray for the Holy Spirit to guide and equip us for our mission together.

—The Rev. Amanda Currie,
Moderator of the General Assembly

Sunday School Gifts



Many thanks to Evelyn, Gail, Chrissie and Olivia for making Easter extra special for the Sunday School students! They really liked the delicious chocolate bunnies from Evelyn and the beautiful bunnies that were made by Gail and Chrissie with the help of her granddaughter, Sunday School Student, Olivia, pictured above. Delightful surprises amid these challenging pandemic times and much appreciated by all!

Go Clean Get Green



A big shout out to Tyler MacLean and Randy Palmer for planning a much needed big clean up in our communities! This was part of a community litter clean-up initiative planned each year by Pictou County Solid Waste and partners. Afterwards a social distanced BBQ at Crossroads was offered which was much appreciated by many of the hard-working volunteers! A large number of people participated which was wonderful to see because if you are a walker or even drive, you can see there is a huge need. It's hard to understand why people litter so much on this beautiful earth God gave us. Please do your part to help keep our environment clean. All it takes is a little awareness and planning. Remember, we need our outdoor spaces more than ever during this pandemic. Spread the word, as studies show that with each individual that takes action, many of their peers are likely to do the same. By keeping our Environment clean, we are contributing to the physical and mental well-being of our friends and neighbors not to mention the people who want to visit our area once the pandemic restrictions are over. Below are some tips to help, every little bit helps!

Clean up trash and dangerous materials around your place.	Upcycle anything you can, this is a popular option with young people to help the earth.	Secure papers inside your car and in truck boxes so they don't blow out.
Walk or bike instead of driving whenever it is possible. This is also good for you health.	Secure any garbage put outside to be picked up, make sure there is no food to attract animals.	Turn off the water when it doesn't need to be running. For example, when brushing your teeth.
Conserve electricity by turning off the lights or electronic devices not in use.	When outside, always make sure your garbage is taken home.	Shop local, not only good for the environment but the local economy too.

Camp Geddie Re-Opens!



Camp Geddie is excited to share that we are opening our in-person camps. All of the details can be found on our website campgeddie.ca. Registration for campers is open and the link is on the homepage, our Facebook page and Instagram page. All camps and dates are subject to change based on public health guidelines and restrictions. We are so excited to be operating in-person camps!! Spaces are limited so register early. See you this summer!

Thorburn Play Group



Kids First Family Resource Centre would like to send an appreciative thank you for the generous loan of space to host Thorburn Playgroup.

Since October 2020 we have been bringing parents and their little ones together to safely socialize on Thursday mornings from 10-11:30am.

Kids First offers a large array of programs and support to families throughout Pictou, Antigonish, and Guysborough County's.

For more information, please contact us at 902 755 5437 or look us up on Facebook (Daisy Curry)

Remember Skating on These Ponds?

Church Pond: (next to Presbyterian church – now church parking lot)

Dump Pond: (lower end of Old Row. Remember the 'hollow' sound you heard when skating)

Old Row Pond: (located in flat area between Old Row and High Row. You could skate from one end of the Old Row to the other)

New Row Pond: (between New Row and Thorburn Cemetery)

Woodin's Pond: (located below John Woodin's property, towards what used to be the overhead bridge – Anyone remember harness racing on this pond?)

Dr. Bill's Pond: (located behind his house on High Row – later owned by Mrs. Ben Muirhead. This pond went from behind Dr. Bill's home, past Dewtie's, past Nason's and ended behind Gerald McLellan's property.)

Greenwood Pond: (near old Greenwood School)

There was also an Outdoor Rink located behind the former Mary Long home.

Submitted by Gail Jordan

Sunday School Update



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Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord

2 Peter 3:18

The good news is that church has reopened but unfortunately, due to COVID 19 restrictions, we were not able to finish our Sunday School year. However, we had many classes during the times of less restrictions and really enjoyed learning about God with the students who were able to come. We will have a special bag with nice items for them which will be delivered in July. Many thanks to Miss Susan and Miss Courtney for all their help! Also, thanks to Amanda MacDonald and Ashley Robertson for being there and helping too! We miss our students and wish them and their families a wonderful summer and look forward to when we can be together again in September!

Darlene Reeves