

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



Sutherland's River



Thorburn

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A Word on Prayer

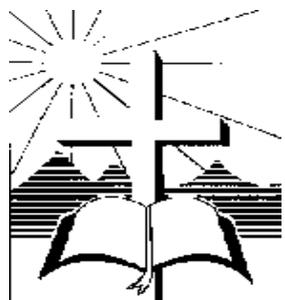
Prayer. Every Christian engages in this central, somewhat mystical yet important spiritual discipline with a serious degree of respect, and with varying levels of personal comfort. And pretty much every Christian would agree that an active prayer life is central to our relationship with God.

But what exactly prayer is and how should we pray sometimes eludes us. St. John Damascene provided a memorable and versatile definition. "Prayer is the raising of the mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God." By this definition, we can identify the four main kinds of prayer: Adoration, Contrition (or Confession), Thanksgiving and Supplication. You will see that this forms the acronym ACTS and is found in every Sunday morning service in our Prayers of Approach and Confession and in the Prayers of the People before we are dismissed.

Christ himself provided us examples of all these forms of prayer - except Contrition since he never sinned. One such example recorded in Matthew gave us this prayer of Jesus to God, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth ..." (Matt 10:25). Here, in the Son's joy-filled glorification of the Father, we find the model for our adoration.

John, in his turn, must have been standing among the mourners near Lazarus's tomb as Christ's voice rang out, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me" (John 11:41-42). We can make this prayer of thanksgiving our own.

And finally, supplication. Perhaps the most unforgettable instance is Christ's agonized entreaty from the cross when, breathless and beleaguered, he expended the last ounce of his strength begging mercy for his executioners: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)



A Word on Prayer (con't)

In addition to the four forms of prayer, Christian tradition distinguishes three ways of praying: vocal prayer, mental prayer, or meditation/contemplation.

Vocal prayer takes on new significance when we realize that God Himself gave us words for it: the Psalms that Christ prayed aloud with His fellow Jews; and The Lord's Prayer which is really a format for our own prayer life. The key to vocal prayer is the devotion with which we enter into it.

In mental prayer, we speak spontaneously with God about the mysteries of the faith, passages from the Bible, or events in our lives or in people close to us. Both vocal and mental prayer can lead to contemplation, which offers us silent communication with God in love. Unlike vocal and mental prayer, contemplation is a gift that cannot be summoned by our own efforts but must be received humbly from Him.

Perhaps the most startling aspect of prayer is our very ability to engage in it – both in the speaking and in the listening. So, friends, I encourage you to pray. For prayer is a gift though which unlike any other creature on earth we are able to converse with God-self, the One who made us.

Rev. Greg Dickson
Interim Moderator

Our Deepest Sympathy

This past month we lost two much loved and dedicated members of our congregation and community.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers are with the family of Warren Mason at this sad time. Warren was involved in all aspects of his church and until recently was an active member of the Kirk Session. He was an ardent supporter of our Community Soup Luncheons. Warren was often the first one in the kitchen peeling potatoes, husking corn, chopping onions for whatever soup was being served that day.

We also extend deepest sympathy and prayers to the family of Murray Stewart at this difficult time. Murray supported all church activities and, until recently, was an active member of the Kirk Session. In the community, he was always ready with a hammer and saw to lend a hand where needed.

Our deepest sympathy is also extended to Jane Taylor and family on the death of her sister, Dawn Rhyno.

Newsletter Challenge.....For Our Next Issue

We would like to have more submissions from our congregation for our Newsletter. It's a great way to share memories of past church events, share milestone anniversaries, favorite recipes, photos, poems you may have written– it all makes interesting reading. Get your thinking caps on and “be creative”. Thank you.

Any submissions can be e-mailed to Gail or John at one of the following addresses:

gailjordan38@gmail.com or jxreeves@msn.com

The Sound of Music



Many thanks to Katie Aucoin for her beautiful music while filling in for our organist Karen during her vacation. Thanks also to Katie's brother, Pierre, for his awesome contributions and to her family for coming and worshipping with us. Karen went to Calgary to see her family after not being able to see them during the COVID Pandemic. Welcome back Karen, we hope you had a great time with your family!

Beautiful New Sign at Camp Geddie



One of our members at Union Presbyterian Church in Thorburn, Jillian Roy, designed a beautiful new sign for Camp Geddie. Jillian is pictured above on the left with the new sign and is a Camp Leader at Camp Geddie. On the right is a picture of Jillian and some of the campers and leaders. Camp Geddie is located on the shores of the Northumberland Strait and welcomes many young people each year to a wonderful camp experience based on Christian values. Camp Geddie's mission is to invite all to experience the joy of God's beauty and love in creation and to nurture a relationship with Christ and Christ's people in a caring community through play and worship. The beautiful area provides a stunning location for an outstanding camp experience. This year, Union Church, with help from the Soup Lunch donations, sponsored 3 students from the community to attend. Many thanks to Jillian for working on the great design and to everyone who supports this important initiative that benefits many young people to experience God's love in a unique way.

Sunday School Update



We look forward to seeing our students again and welcoming any new students. Classes will take place downstairs at Thorburn Union Church each Sunday at 11:00am to 12:00 noon, starting again September 26th, 2021. The purpose of the program is to help young people enjoy time together while developing a love of God, good values, faith in times of difficulty and community spirit. This will be done through stories, crafts, videos, games and music while teamwork and youth leadership are developed. The program is not specific to any one religion /denomination but is based on Christian values. Everyone is welcome! Safety guidelines will be followed. For further information or sign up, please phone or text Darlene at 921-0639 or e-mail at darreeves@hotmail.com

A Rocking Idea

Many people brought in painted rocks for our collection. We didn't get a photo of all of them as many were taken before we had a chance, but this is a good thing though, as they drew a lot of attention. Families and young people out for a walk stopped to look at them and they sparked some interesting discussion around God and Church. It was nice to see children reading them and anything that piques their interest about God and Church is worthwhile. Other churches in Canada are doing this and people are stopping by and taking them. It was also nice to see the creative designs. Thanks to Tina for this fun idea!

