

# 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*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## Service Times

Sutherland's River:

9:30 a.m.

Thorburn: 11:00 a.m.



## The LGBTQ+ Question

When the General Assembly gathers next month in Halifax, final steps will be taken on a path leading to change in The Presbyterian Church in Canada forever. Commissioners will be asked to receive and approve the parallel definitions of marriage, and to approve the ordination of gay clergy. While there will also be clear statements concerning freedom of conscience and graceful dismissal, the Church will have moved in what is for many of its people a very controversial direction. Much work has been done to adjust our governing documents, including Living Faith, and this work will also be introduced for final approval and implementation.

*The Presbyterian Church in Canada holds two parallel definitions of marriage and recognizes that faithful, Holy Spirit filled, Christ centered, God honouring people can understand marriage as a covenant relationship between a man and a woman or as a covenant relationship between two adult persons; AND that congregations, sessions, ruling and teaching elders be granted liberty of conscience and action on marriage.*

Part of the definition of Reformed theology that The Presbyterian Church in Canada holds stems from the Protestant Reformation of the 16th Century. But another important part is that we are committed to continually reform our theology as our understanding of God's purpose in the world deepens. This means that when we say God is the same today as since the beginning of time, we also say God includes everyone – everyone – in the grand design of creation. Eternal life is available to whosoever believes in God and comes by the grace of God through our faith in Him.

## The LGBTQ+ Question (con't)

And God does not make mistakes.

Further, the Church will also formally permit the ordination of Elders and Ministers who are in same-sex marriages.

Friends, this important decision has the potential to either damage the Church or to strengthen it. Let us pray only that we may welcome this change without fear, and that God's will be done in this as in all things.

**Rev. Greg Dickson,**  
**Interim Moderator**

## U.C. Friends



The Union Church Friendship Club had a great time of learning and fun during our trip to the Stellar Curling Club! Many thanks to all the volunteers, especially Courtney Snell-Brewer for setting this up for us, to Marla Davidson and Jill Gratto for sharing their expertise that evening and also to Tracey MacLeod for the delicious fruit kabobs! This curling club was started in the 1800's and continues today. One thing that stood out for us is that the sport is a lot more difficult than we realized. We really appreciated the generosity and hospitality of the Stellar Curling Club!



We often hear about active learning being necessary for our children today. Hence why Darlene and some of our Sunday School students are waving the palms they made by tracing hands. They are waving and moving to a music video about Palm Sunday. The interactive activities help keep the children engaged in their learning. Also on Palm Sunday, some of the children and their families greeted upstairs and passed out the bulletins and a piece of palm to each member of the congregation as they came into church. Sharing the palm to remember Jesus' journey to the cross was started a long time ago by some of our church members and Sunday School is glad to carry on this tradition!

**Please mark these important upcoming dates in your calendar: Sunday School and U. C. Friends are having lunch and refreshments after church on May 28th in honour of all our great volunteers who work continually to make our church and community a better place for all God's people. In addition, on June 11th our summer service and potluck will be taking place at Camp Geddie. This also marks the closing of Sunday School for the summer. Please plan to join us!**



## **Learning About God's Word Together**



We had a wonderful group for the Living Faith classes in April. Our group reviewed the Living Faith Booklet, and it helped us grow and solidify our faith. We'll be offering another class in the future, and all are welcome to join in. Seated in the forefront is Cailin who will be joining the church soon and Barbara at the back who transferred into our church. Others who met were Rev. Greg, Murray, Paul, John and Darlene. It was a great time of fellowship and learning!

## **The Board of Managers Dinner and Fellowship**



The Board of Managers and their helpers have worked tirelessly to provide fellowship and great food while raising money to help our church. The latest turkey dinner was amazing! Everyone really enjoyed the time together and the delicious food baked by loving hands. We really appreciate all the effort by this dedicated group of people!

## Let's Celebrate!



We had the pleasure of sharing a special occasion with the congregation after church in Thorburn recently to celebrate the birthday of Gerald MacLellan. Gerald's many, many years of faithful service is an inspiration for us all! **Many thanks and Happy Birthday, Gerald!**

## Looking Back and Ahead



The Men's Fellowship group from Sutherland's River and Thorburn churches held its first meeting on March 25th, 1991. Seated from left to right: Palmer MacLellan, Murray Stewart, Everett Jeans, Gerald MacLellan, Clifford MacDonald, Logan Chisholm, Fred Livingston. Standing from left to right: Ralph Scott, Calder Livingston, Gilbert Fraser, Warren Mason, James Cameron, Stewart Williams, Wally Johnson. This fine group of men worked together for the betterment of both churches. As the two churches amalgamate this month, let us remember their strength and all toil together to continue God's work. *"For we are God's servants, working together...God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it."* (1 Corinthians 3:9-11)

**We welcome them and pray that God will bless all the members from Sutherland's River Church as they start this new chapter in their faith!**