

Union Presbyterian Church

Thorburn, NS

Modelling faith in our communities one conversation at a time

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Service Times
Thorburn: 11:00 a.m.



Together in Ministry

In this article, we begin a study of the term laity. This term is used rather loosely to describe anyone in the church who is not ordained to the clergy but has its beginnings in the Old Testament where its root is found in the Latin *laos*, meaning “people”. As Christians, we are all of us, ordained and not, the people (*laos*) of God.

In the New Testament, the idea of the *laos* of God was extended to include nations and other ethnic groups, including the Church as a whole. In the Church, the *laos* conducts ministry within the immediate community; to keep covenant holiness as well as to offer witness to the world (1 Peter 1:15-16). In other words, “ministry” in the New Testament consists not only in the sacramental “ministry” of the community leaders, but also in the priestly ministry of the whole people of God in the world, according to their giftedness.

Distinctions between clergy and laity began to appear in Christian literature some time in the third century, when the terms for laity (*laos*) and clergy (*kleros*) marked two different classes of Christian. *Laos* became associated with the non-specialist, uneducated masses and *kleros* characterized the charism (the setting-aside, or holiness) of office. Instead of seeing Spirit-given abilities as the basis for ministry, the church comes to regard officeholding as the gift. Therefore, only individuals who held an office were viewed as individuals with ministries – and often were called Priests, the ones called to preside in the liturgical and sacramental life of the church. Martin Luther, during the early days of the Protestant Reformation, taught that every Christian is open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and is called to be a vehicle of God’s work on earth. Later, John Calvin modified this to say that the actions of individuals must always be subject to the work of the Spirit speaking through the...

Together in Ministry.... (cont'd)

church. Today, and since the Reformation, every believer is called upon to exercise their gifts as members of the priesthood of all believers. More to come...

Rev. Greg Dickson, Interim Moderator

Welcoming New Members



Welcome, Barb and Cailan! Sunday, June 18th was a special day for the congregation of Thorburn church. We had the pleasure of welcoming two new members into the fellowship of our church family, Barbara Biggar and Cailan MacLellan. May God continue to bless them in their journey of faith!

Ephesians 2:20-21 NLT *Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.*

Volunteer Thank You



Thank you to our congregation. When I moved away, my world grew, and I realized how small it was before. In our small community, there are few opportunities for people to feel special. (I met a girl when I visited McGill who knows Bill Gates, and a friend of mine was on Dragon's Den). We make do with what we have, our volunteers are always looking for new ways to involve the community; To make us all feel part of something important, let us shine, and make us feel special. Our volunteers fill in the spaces and each crvice with love and light - making our small world big and full. Love, Jillian

Our young people honoured our volunteers by singing a special chant to them and giving them thank you cards that they made with the help of Sunday School and U.C. Friends. They also received a writing pen saying, "Volunteers are the Heart of our Church!" Afterwards they provided a delicious lunch and time of fellowship together.

The note, seen above, was left by one of our young members of the congregation, Jillian Roy, at the Volunteer Thank You Tea, along with 3 different kinds of delicious sandwiches she made for the special occasion. Jillian will be going into her second year of university this Fall and we wish her all the best!

Final Service Sutherland's River



Top left: Rev. Greg conducts the final service with music provided by Katey and Pierre Aucoin. Top right: Faye Visser, Clerk of Session cuts the delicious cake. At left: The beautiful daughter of Cody and Taylor Avery was the final baptism celebrated at Sutherland's River Presbyterian Church before its closing. It really was a blessing to have her baptism on a day filled with memories of times past. May God bless the Avery family. Thanks for sharing this important spiritual moment with us!

After 169 years of witnessing to the Word of God the members of Sutherland's River Presbyterian Church decided to cease worship services. The last service was held on the 14th of May 2023.

The decision to close the church was not an easy one to make and was made with prayerful consideration. In these modern times church attendance is far from what it used to be as Sunday has become much more secular. Efforts were made to encourage attendance, but to no avail. At the same time expenses around maintenance of the property continued and a time was coming when the church would fall into a deficit. Thus, it was determined to close before that day arrived.

As a result, Sutherland's River Church amalgamated with Union Presbyterian Church and the members have had their memberships transferred to Thorburn. On a positive note, Thorburn now has more choir members and a larger congregation, and we are very happy to have them with us!

Although it was a moving service after all the years of dedicated worship, the final service was also a celebration with a very special baptism, a delicious meal and a great time of fellowship. It was a lovely farewell to a beautiful little church!

In closing, please note that the deconsecration service for the Sutherland's River church will be held on the 16th of July at 2:00 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to come out as we mark the end of an important era.

Worship at Camp Geddie



Our church had a special service at Camp Geddie celebrating the upcoming summer season and the closing of Sunday School and U.C. Friends for the summer.

As we arrived at Camp Geddie to set up, on the far left is the first thing we saw, a little unsettling, but after removing the food source, this black bear returned to the woods.

After a lovely service and beautiful music provided by Katey and Pierre Aucoin, we had a delicious potluck lunch.

Later the young people headed to the beach for a scavenger hunt. They found many interesting things and it was impressive to see them picking up anything that did not belong on the beach as well. Then they had a great time flying kites with the ocean breeze giving the kites a good uplift.

Many thanks to Marla and Jillian for organizing the activities! Also, a huge thank you to the Davidson family for providing kites for all the kids to fly at Camp Geddie. Even some of the adults joined in the fun!

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the wonderful day.



We were delighted to hear that the Thorburn Fair and activities are resuming this year. We've been asked to do a special service that weekend at our church. Please mark the calendar for August 20th and come out and join us at the 11:00 am service as we mark this special time. Everyone welcome, please invite your family and friends!

May God bless everyone with a safe, happy summer!