

# Union Presbyterian Church

## Thorburn, NS

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

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### Ministry Before Calvin

In the Middle Ages, the idea of church was carried out largely by the monastic community – the ascetic, literate, faithful few whose call to God’s service set them apart from the rest of society.

Also at that time, the language used by the priests in liturgy was in Latin, a foreign tongue for most people. The reading of scripture had been reduced to a few sentences; the sermon had disappeared and a screen before the altar shielded the people from seeing the priest’s actions as he spoke so quietly that he could not be heard, either.

So, the laity during the Middle Ages became almost completely passive - simply because they could not read. Their “work” eventually fell to providing material support – to maintain the structure of the “clergy classes” within the church. And their sense of salvation was tied to what they did, and how much they gave.

This is not to suggest that there was no evidence of lay ministry at this historical time, because this is when the great cathedrals and imposing parish churches were built all across Europe. The skills of master masons and other stoneworkers created the imposing structures that gave evidence to the whole community of the presence of God in its midst. The later, or High Middle Ages, saw a flowering of creative expressions of the faith through the eyes of artists and the hands of sculptors.

It was also a time when the concept of ministry was focused on the Crusades, which sought to regain the Holy Land from the Muslim empires in bloody war where many suffered and died. For tens of thousands of European Christians — clergy, laity, men, women, and children — service to Christ came to be identified with military action alone. The role of the Christian was to accept passively the dictates of their church and state, in spite of their suffering. Any who dared to dissent, whether clergy or laity, were defined as heretics and treated brutally.

There was no concept of love in the Middle Ages.

**In the Service of Our Lord,  
Rev. Greg Dickson**

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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

**Clerk of Session**  
**John Reeves**  
**902-921-1460**

**Board of Managers**  
**Jane Taylor**  
**902-755-4408**

**Treasurer**  
**Kathy Campbell**  
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### Service Times

**Thorburn: 11:00  
a.m.**



## **Gratitude Tree**



As our world becomes more complex and challenging, it is more important than ever for us to turn to God with gratitude and love. Research shows that being grateful helps us feel better and have less anxiety. Jesus taught us the importance of love for God and others. Our U. C. Friends group for young people started a tree of Gratitude and our Sunday School and Congregation added to it. Thanks to everyone for your participation!

*"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

(1 Thessalonians 5:18)

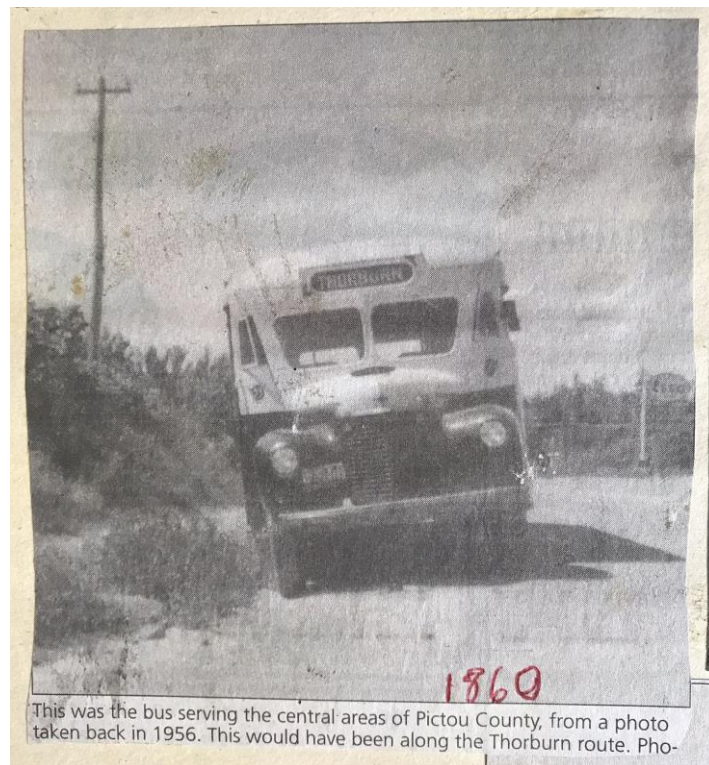
## **Operation Christmas Good Samaritan Boxes**



Last year our church helped our Sunday School project by helping fill and donate 23 Good Samaritan Boxes that were sent to Ukraine. This year we have a goal of 25 to be completed by November 19<sup>th</sup> to be mailed to children. These boxes bring joy and the love of Jesus to many across the world. If you can contribute to this important Christmas project, please see the boxes and information in the vestibule of the church. Many thanks!

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## **Bus Looking Back**



Back in the 1950's, Thorburn had a regular bus route to town. The prices were 5 cents for teenagers and 10 cents for adults and many utilized the service. This bus service was appreciated by the locals as cars weren't as plentiful as today. Speaking to some of the people who took the bus, they really enjoyed the experience at the time and were glad to be able to take it to town and other places.

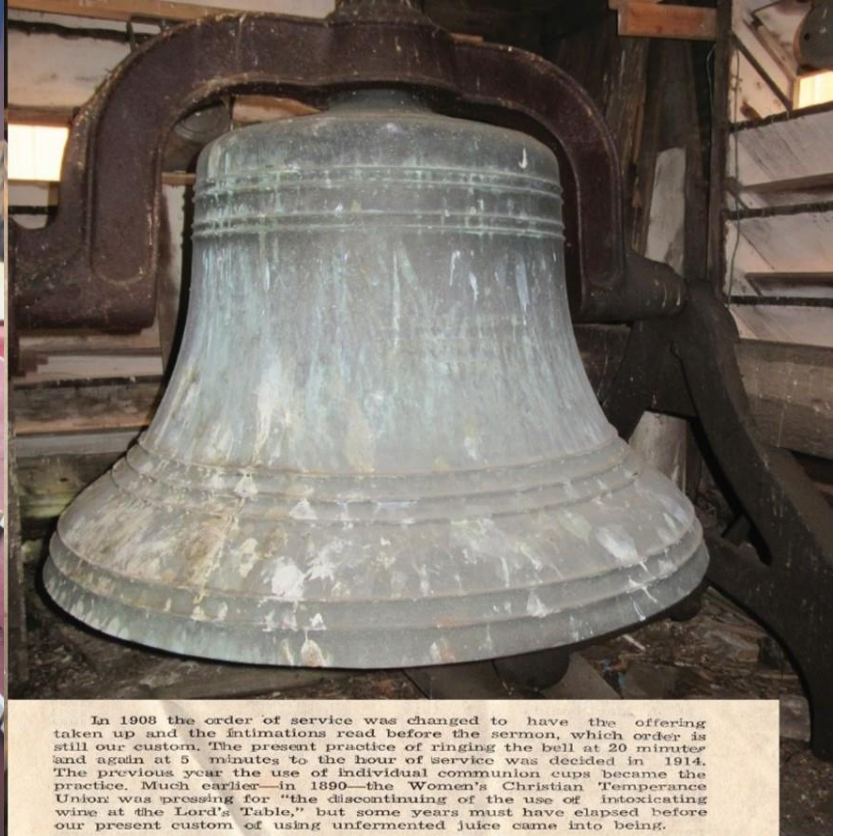
## **Food Bank Contributions**



As prices rise and the cold weather approaches, the needs of local Food Banks are increasing. Many thanks to everyone who contributed our church Food Bank Box. It was pretty much full after our Family Sunday Service. Barb and Reg oversee this important initiative but are away for a few weeks, so the Sunday School and families wanted to help out. Thanks to everyone for their contributions!



## Ring the Bell



Ring of the church bell has become once again a tradition at our church. It is rung at 10:40 and 10:55 each Sunday morning. It's a lovely sound and reminder of days gone by when the ringing of the church bells in communities was often heard and was a way of communicating with the villages and cities. Paul faithfully carries out this task each week or finds a replacement and is also training the next generation. Below is a photo of Paul and Tena's grandson, Bentley, right, and another Sunday School student, Owen, left, learning the ropes. They have discovered that the bell is much heavier than they thought. Nevertheless, they were giving it their best and having a lot of fun at the same time!

## Gratitude Sunday

On October 15<sup>th</sup> we had a joyful service on Gratitude. The Sunday School participated in greeting at the door, lighting the Christ candle, reading scripture, helping the congregation add to our Gratitude Tree and collecting for the Food Bank. Afterwards they hosted a fellowship time with refreshments.

It was wonderful to see all the generations together in the service. Research shows that our young people need that contact with their elders as they feel connected to the Church Family and learn more about God. They see they belong and are important to our whole church community. The children's story about Jesus and the Ten Lepers helped them understand the importance of thanking God and being grateful for all he has done in our lives. The hymns and music really enhanced this experience for them. Many thanks to everyone who helped or contributed to this intergenerational service. We hope to have several during the year. Your heartfelt encouragement of our young people is most appreciated!



As the bugle plays the Last Post, the old men stand up proud and tall. Year after year their numbers get fewer. Someday no one will stand there at all, but we shall never forget them.

Submitted by Gail J.