

Union Presbyterian Church

Thorburn, NS

Modelling faith in our communities one conversation at a time

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January 2024 – John Calvin

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Service Times

Thorburn: 11:00am



Website

unionchurchthorburn.ca

Online Donations

www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/union-presbyterian-church/

This article begins a description of one of the most influential characters in the Protestant Reformation and his contribution to the modern-day Church. It is a huge task and will probably demand more than one Newsletter to present. So here goes...

John Calvin - also known in his native France as Jean Cauvin - along with Martin Luther in Germany, Erasmus in the Netherlands, John Knox in Scotland and Savonarola in Italy, sought to correct what they regarded as imbalances in the life of the church. The major thrust of these Reformers was to return the church to the practice and theology of the Bible, and particularly to that of the New Testament.

During his time of influence, Calvin also returned the language of worship to that of the people; introduced the sermon; demanded the weekly celebration of Communion and the singing of the Psalms as a major parts of Sunday worship. He also explained that there were two essential parts of the Christian life: (1) the love of righteousness, and (2) the following of the rules that conform us to Christ:

1. that we may devote ourselves to God.
2. that we may seek to serve God and neighbour.
3. that we may patiently bear the cross; and,
4. that we may know in what manner we ought to use the present life and its material benefits.

He wrote, "Necessity demands that we possess all things as though we possessed them not; that we bear poverty with mildness, and abundance with moderation."

January 2024 – John Calvin (cont'd)

In his various documents, Calvin worked in a state or national church setting. This resulted in the call that we acknowledge each other as brothers and sisters in Christ and live in a mutually supportive manner for the good of society. In his day, not only was each citizen a member of a city or nation state, but each citizen was also a member of the church that was established by law within that city or state. Each citizen therefore had an obligation to conduct their affairs in a Christian way. For one thing, taking a stand against the teachings of the state church became equated with treason against the state itself, thus leading to some of the more distasteful events that took place throughout the Reformation period, such as the various wars of religion and the persecution of dissenters.

More to come....**Rev. Greg Dickson**
Interim Moderator

Christmas Caroling and Hot Chocolate at the Seniors Complex



Many thanks to everyone who came to the Mountain View Seniors Complex in Thorburn for caroling and hot chocolate and treats. It was an enjoyable time and great to see this inter-generational activity in our community. A special thanks to Kay Gratto and friends for the warm welcome into their beautifully decorated community room. It was a great way to kick off the Christmas Season!

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”
 2 Corinthians 5:17

December was a busy month here at UPC. The Sunday School children were busy getting ready for their special Christmas presentation, making ornaments to include with the goodie boxes that were sent to shut-ins in our community and nursing homes and the choir director and choir were busy preparing special music for the services leading up to Christmas. Our volunteers packed 35 (plus) goodie boxes which were delivered and were very much appreciated by the recipients.

As we say good-bye to 2023, we leave behind both happy and sad memories within our church community and our family units. Here's to a new year filled with joy, peace, love and good health. Happy New Year to everyone as we enter 2024.

Submitted by Gail Jordan

Making Christmas Crafts for Shut-ins



Another multi-age activity where we made ornaments to put with the shut-in Christmas boxes that were delivered to some of our members and other people in our community. This was an enjoyable learning activity for the young people where their elders were great role models in giving back to the community. Of course, they got to take some as well to decorate around their homes. Special thanks to everyone for helping and especially Gail for bringing our "Jesus is the Reason for the Season" cake!

Programs our church offers for young people

Sunday School (ages 3 and up) and U. C. Friends (ages 8 and up), welcome any newcomers throughout the year. If you know anyone who would be interested in either or both of these programs please email Darlene Reeves at reevesdarl@gmail.com for further information or to sign up.

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." - Lamentations 3:22-23

Memories of our Christmas Services



These are just a few photos of the many highlights of our Christmas services. It was wonderful to see so many come out for the Sunday School Family Service on December 17th. Many thanks to everyone who helped with the children and who those provided the food and fellowship afterwards! The Christmas Eve Service on December 24th had a great turnout and the help of so many who provided beautiful music, greeted everyone, did readings and took part in any way. It brought many together at this special time of the year to give glory to God and recognize his many gifts to us. *(T to B) Paul, Tena & Bentley light the advent candle, Sunday School shares the Christmas story and Campbell moves us with her lovely singing of O' Holy Night.*

Many Thanks To Our Wonderful Congregation

As we start the year **2024**, John & Darlene would like to thank everyone who helps in so many ways in our church and community. Whether it be helping with our Board of Managers, Session, preparing budgets and bulletins, helping with our young people and seniors, sharing your musical talents, scripture reading, greeting, soup lunch, delicious suppers with time for fellowship, food bank, setting up, decorating, and keeping the church in good working order, coming to services, making food, offering your support and encouragement to everyone you meet. We are blessed to have such a dedicated, faithful church family!



**May your 2024 be
blessed with lots
of happiness and
good health!**