

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.



Website
unionchurchthorburn.ca

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

Together in Ministry

The 149th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada was held in Waterloo, Ontario from June 1-4 this year. During this time, the Church presented a renewed apology to Canadian First Nations; established a new path to Ordination for future Indigenous church leaders and encouraged increased inclusion in congregational leadership for Presbyterians across Canada.

The Church's relationship with Indigenous peoples in Canada has been marked by colonization and racist beliefs that underscored colonization (i.e., the superiority of a Christianized, western European worldview). In recent years, the Church has repudiated its role in running residential schools; its complicity in the harms of colonization and rejected the Doctrine of Discovery. The church is committed to walking toward reconciliation by advocating that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is the framework for reconciliation; responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and engaging with the findings of the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Further,

- The church acknowledges that colonialism and resulting racism that targets Indigenous peoples for violence is race-based genocide.
- The church affirms that all doctrines, policies and practices advocating for superiority of peoples or individuals on the basis of national origin, or racial, religious, ethnic or cultural differences are racist, scientifically false, legally invalid, morally condemnable and socially unjust.

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

- First Nations in Canada should have a constitutional guarantee to the right to self-government and to an adequate land and economic base arising from Aboriginal title, Aboriginal rights and treaty rights.
- Resource development should not take place on unceded land until either there is a claims agreement in place or until terms are negotiated satisfactorily with the Indigenous peoples concerned.
- Regional and national groupings of Native people have a special right to be heard by federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments and the various courts of the church.

Let us pray that these understandings and work become normal in our time.

Rev. Greg Dickson
Interim Moderator

Worship at Camp Geddie



Our Summer Church Service, potluck and Sunday School Closing was held in June at Camp Geddie. This oceanside service was made all the more special by being held outdoors in the beautiful nature the Lord has provided to us. God blessed us with good weather and a great turnout. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to make this a great day especially all those who provided music, read scripture, Sunday School helpers, Helena and the Camp Geddie Staff, those who helped clean up, everyone who brought delicious food and Brenda for overseeing it. Your help was much appreciated and made this a memorable day for our children and families!

Worry Advice

As worry is a great thief of joy, this quote found in a letter of March 30, 2020, the Dalai Lama shared this thought: **“I take great solace in the following wise advice to examine the problems before us: ‘If there is something to be done—do it, without any need to worry; if there’s nothing to be done, worrying about it further will not help.’”**

Care Home Worship



Our young people and some of the choir visited the Vale Seniors Residence in Thorburn this past Christmas and now Union Presbyterian Church have resumed services at Senior Residences in Pictou County as part of an initiative with the Pictou County Church Council of Services. As seen in the photo above, our first stop in 2024 was Ivy Terrance in Trenton. John Reeves, our leader of services, and Margie Weir, our organist, along with some of the members of our wonderful church choir take part in these services. Also, the congregation is always welcome to join us. Since resuming these services, we have been to High Crest Manor in New Glasgow, Valley View in Riverton, Glen Haven Manor, New Glasgow, Riverview in Riverton, and High Crest Place in New Glasgow and we will continue to do these services on a regular rotation. It's always a moving experience and an important way to keep in touch with others who have contributed so much to our communities over the years.



Big Brothers Big Sisters

Bowling Fundraiser

Our church was asked this year to participate in the Big Brothers, Big Sisters Bowling Fundraiser for kids in our local area. Thanks to everyone who sponsored our team. Receipts, for those who requested them, will be sent out by the BBBS organization. The money raised from this fun event is used to help young people in Pictou County through the great BBBS programs offered in our schools and communities.

Wedding Bells



In June, our church was blessed with a very special wedding, shown in the beautiful photo above is the bride, Susan Henderson, and the groom, Joseph Simpson, and their attendees. A wonderful reception followed downstairs in the church and a lovely time was had by all!



This year for Mother's Day, Sunday School gave out flowers. Thanks to Chris and Courtney for greeting and passing them out to all those in our church who help our young people in many ways.



Even the Sunday School children had to get in on the lovely wedding above by getting the church flower box ready. As seen in the photo, Bentley and Banning were taking this important job very seriously.