

# Union Presbyterian Church

Thorburn, NS

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

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## Service Times

Thorburn: 11:00 a.m.



## Letter of Concern

**Guy Smagghe is the Director of PWS&D, and he wrote a letter to the Prime Minister on March 4th. This is an extract sent in by Rev. Dickson:**

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

We write you today, our hearts heavy with grief at the ongoing assault on Gaza, to urge Canada to take immediate steps to provide leadership in bringing an end to the suffering. The atrocities we see daily in Gaza defy our Christian principles of compassion, solidarity, dignity, respect, inclusion, and justice.

It is unacceptable that organizations providing humanitarian assistance in Palestine are actively prevented from providing life-saving assistance. Half a million people in Gaza are on the brink of starvation and despite compelling evidence, the international community has yet to take decisive action to prevent the worst. It is our collective moral responsibility as Canadians to advocate for compassion, inclusion, and justice.

Pursuing justice through violent means can perpetuate cycles of revenge and conflict. A superficial peace that ignores underlying injustices is fragile and unsustainable, and a true peace requires addressing root causes of the conflict in Palestine, ensuring fairness, application of legal conventions and upholding human rights. We believe Canada must use its influence with Israel and the Palestinian Authority to promote a just and lasting peace. We have a duty to speak out.

Therefore, we call on Canada to proactively engage to stop the atrocities in the name of war and promote peace and dignity for the people affected by the conflict.



## Website

[unionchurchthorburn.ca](http://unionchurchthorburn.ca)

## Online Donations

[www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/union-presbyterian-church/](http://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/union-presbyterian-church/)

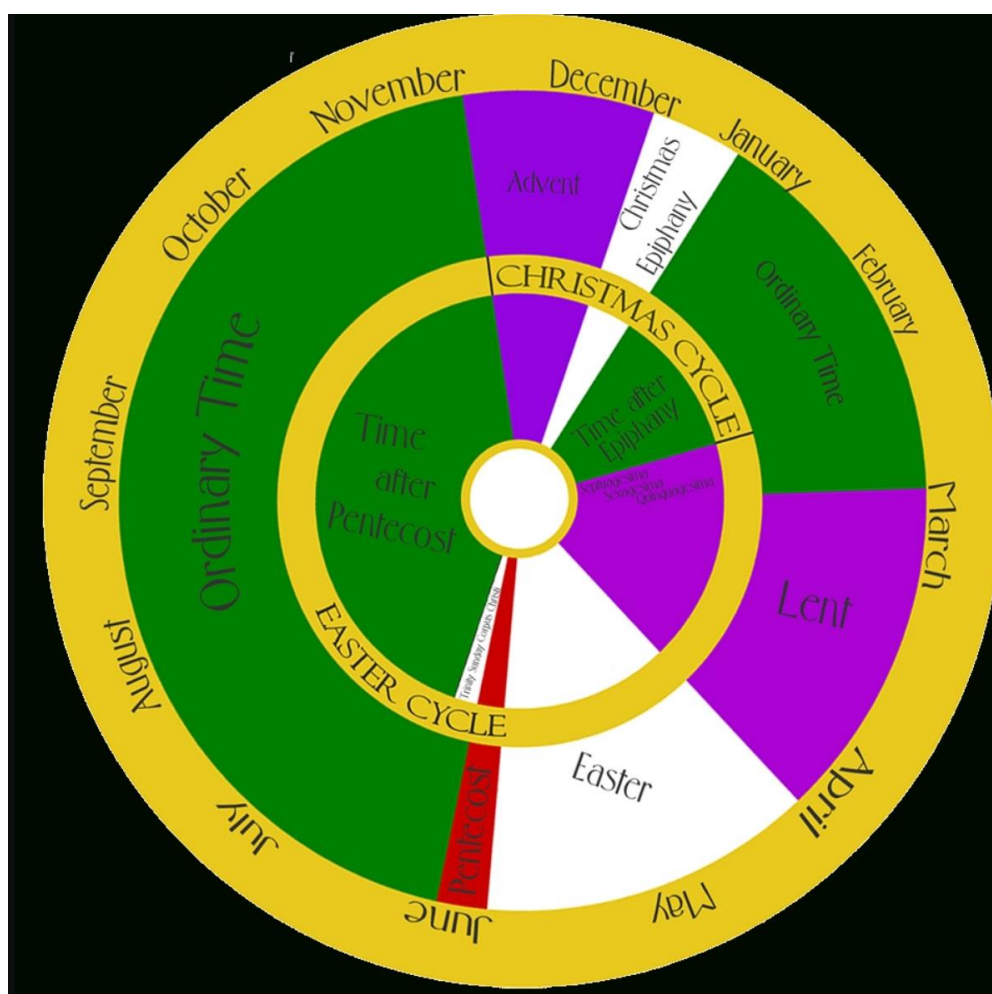
- Call for an immediate ceasefire to allow aid into Gaza, protect civilians, and uphold human rights.
- Take decisive action to prevent further suffering in Gaza and advocate for increased humanitarian aid and support for Gaza's population, particularly those on the brink of starvation.
- Appeal to all parties in Israel and Palestine to adhere to international humanitarian law, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and prioritize the protection of civilians.
- Call for an immediate resumption of dialogue towards a lasting peace agreement between all parties.
- Ensure sustained, safe access to all health facilities in order to supply them with urgently needed lifesaving healthcare on a regular basis.

We are available to provide further information or clarification as needed, and we look forward to your response with prayers for grace and wisdom for the important leadership you provide.

Sincerely, Guy Smagghe

Director, Presbyterian World Service & Development

## Liturgical Calendar



One of our members, Barb Foote, who changes the cloths (Pulpit Falls) on the altar each season of the liturgical calendar asked us to put an explanation in the newsletter for this practice so that we understand the significance of each change. The above wheel showing the colors and the explanation below should help. We really appreciate Barb's help in making sure the Pulpit Falls are changed at the appropriate times each year!

## Liturgical Calendar (cont'd)

### **Historical Roots of Advent**

The calendar year may begin on January 1, but for Christians the Christian year begins with Advent – four weeks before Christmas. Advent is the beginning of a cycle of time that celebrates the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Purple is the colour of Advent.

The Christmas Season begins on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December and runs to the first Sunday in January. This season leads us to Epiphany on January 6, with its focus on the coming of the magi (or Three Wise Men) which celebrates the universality of the gospel, God came for all people. These twelve days celebrate the Light that is entering the world and is represented by the colour white.

### **Historical Roots of Lent**

In the early church, Lent was a time of training and preparation for baptismal candidates at Easter. By the fourth century, it developed into a 40 day period, following the biblical pattern of 40 days of preparation and anticipation. Lent, in our tradition, is a time to re-examine and reaffirm our identity as people baptized into Christ's body, the church.

Our baptism is a symbolic dying and rising with Christ. In Lent, we turn with Christ towards these events in his life. Along the way the Spirit gives the opportunity for us to redirect and refocus our lives, and more fully realize our baptismal identity. We recall where we are going and what it cost God for us to become resurrection people. We become open to the possibilities of new beginnings all around us. The season of Lent points us to Easter.

### **Historical Roots of Easter Season**

The Easter Season is seven weeks after Easter. It seems likely that Easter was modelled after the Jewish festival of Shavuot, The Festival of Weeks, which was seven weeks long and ended with the celebration of Shavuot on the 50th day. In Christian tradition, the Easter season leads us to celebrate Pentecost, the gift of God's Holy Spirit on the 50th day.

### **Historical Roots of Pentecost**

Pentecost is a Greek word meaning Fiftieth Day. It was applied to a Hebrew Festival that happened 50 days after Passover. Christians used the term Pentecost for the celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit, 50 days after the Resurrection. The earliest records of this feast date back to the 4th century, although Acts 20:16 shows that Paul considered it an important day. The account of Pentecost is recorded in Acts 2. Pentecost crowns the Great Fifty Days of Easter.

### **Historical Roots of Ordinary Time**

The seasons of the Christian church are organized around two major celebrations – Christmas and Easter. The long period of time between Pentecost Sunday and Advent, as well as between Epiphany and Lent, have long been referred to as Ordinary Time. The original meaning of Ordinary Time seems not to have the meaning of mundane or common. Rather, it meant “counted time” – the time counted between the major celebrations of the church. Traditionally, this time focused on the mission of the church to the world.

A man was walking through the woods when he sees a bear charging at him. He knows he can't outrun the bear, so he starts praying. 'Dear Lord, I beseech thee, please let this bear be a Christian!' The bear catches up to him, knocks him down on the ground then gets on his knees and says 'Dear Lord, thank you for this food I am about to receive, Amen.

*Submitted by Gail Jordan*

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## Modern Day Ghost Town



How many people do you know who actually lived in a “Ghost Town”?

For me, the answer would be: ONE

This town known as, Kitsault\*, is located in northern British Columbia, close to the Alaskan border. It is one of the best preserved, modern day, ghost towns. You could only reach this town by water-plane.

In 1979, Molybdenum was in high demand, and this location was a new place to start up a mine. In other locations, this mineral had become depleted from mining. A new and modern town was built for about 1200 residents, attracting workers from all over, to this northern location. It had everything a town would need, such as a school, mall, bank, library, shops, recreation centres, houses and apartment buildings. In 1980 the first families started moving in. However, with a recession in 1982, the price of Molybdenum dropped, and the mine had to close down. By 1983 everyone had moved out. In that short time, **Josie Butler, one of our talented choir members**, had the opportunity to live there.

As she was expecting a baby during this time, it was recommended to be close to a real hospital. At 8 months pregnant, Josie was flown by water-plane to Prince Rupert, over 200 KM away. It was a long bumpy flight, with a detour to Alaska to pick up another passenger, and no toilet onboard. Yikes! Imagine! Then, in Prince Rupert, Josie boarded with a family she had never met before. That could be interesting, like camp for grown-ups. Once baby was born, Josie was able to go back to Kitsault and join her husband and children and her parents who had come to visit.

Also, during this time, Josie was offered a job as a teacher. She accepted to teach kindergarten, a group of about 17 children. The government wasn't going to pay for a teacher, because they considered this class size to be too small, (no comment) so the parents all chipped in and paid Josie themselves. Unheard of, right?

Josie, thank you for sharing some of your whirlwind adventures with me. I truly enjoyed learning about the town of Kitsault too.

**Cotributed by: Manon Potvin**

*\*If you put “Kitsault BC” in a Google search, there are a few of videos and photos. Nature is taking over, and moss is growing on buildings and parking lots have weeds and grass sprouting from cracks in the pavement. (Note: The current owner keeps it up in hopes of future growth)*