QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Union Presbyterian Church

Thorburn, NS

Modelling faith in our communities one conversation at a time

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Thorburn:11:00 a.m.

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Website

unionchurchthorburn.ca

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

The Courts of the Church

In the Presbyterian Church, a system of Courts is found. Unlike episcopal, congregational and independent systems where you will find Bishops, Monsignors, Prelates, Canons, Pastors and the like, the Presbyterian Church operates from the ground up in a system that begins in a Congregation and ends nationally.

The first level is called Session

Every congregation has a session that is comprised of a minister and ruling elders. Each has a voice and a vote. Session centers upon leadership, nurture and the pastoral care of the members and adherents of the congregation. Sessions are active in leadership and enable the people of the congregation to live in the world faithfully as Christian disciples. Sessions also exercise primary care for the welfare of the congregation. It is the responsibility of the session to oversee the observance of the sacraments, the time and place of worship services, the stewardship needs for ministry, the spiritual nurturing of the congregation, the competent conduct of the business of session, and the guidance and discipline of the membership.

The next level in the Courts system is Presbytery

Presbyteries are made up of all the ministers serving within their bounds, and congregational ruling elders who have been appointed by their sessions as representatives. Together these individuals, each with voice and vote, form the constituent roll of the presbytery with focus on pastoral care, guidance and discipline under the polity of the Book of Forms.

The Courts of the Church (con't)

Presbyteries have responsibility for the pastoral oversight of congregations, ministers and candidates for ministry within their bounds. They also make decisions, like: erecting and dissolving congregations; reviewing requests for mission funds; approving calls to ministers; ordaining, inducting and recognizing ministers; dissolving pastoral ties between ministers and congregations; responding to requests sent from other church courts; and promoting the plans and programs of higher courts.

The third level of Courts is Synod.

Synod meets annually and each member has a voice and a vote. It reviews and certifies the effectiveness of the ministries of the presbyteries and sessions within their bounds; transmit to and deal with all items received from the General Assembly and engage the church through education, information and fellowship conferences and events.

The highest Court in the Church operates on a national scale and is called General Assembly.

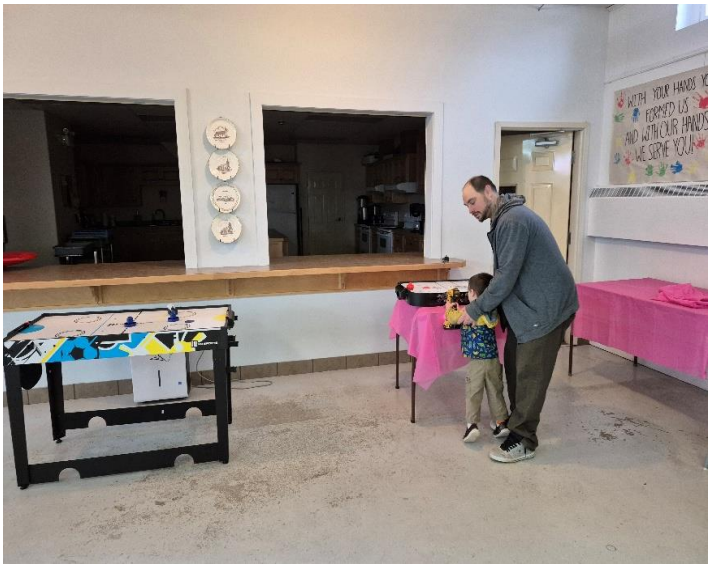
As the highest court of the church the General Assembly is unique. It meets annually and elects its own moderator. Representation consists of one-sixth of the total number of ministers whose names are on the constituent rolls of the presbyteries, and an equal number of ruling elders.

The ministries of the General Assembly focus on doctrine, policy and discipline pertaining to congregations, sessions, presbyteries, synods, and professional church workers in The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The law of the church is enacted by the General Assembly, so it is, in effect, responsible for the spiritual and temporal welfare of the entire denomination and its decisions are final.

The Presbyterian systems of Courts has stood the test of time and is unique. It works well and we pray it will continue for many generations to come.

Rev. Greg Dickson
Interim Moderator

New Games for Church Youth



Many thanks to one of our congregation members, Stephen Samson, for setting up some new games for our U. C. Friends Group. In the photo you can see him showing his son Vinny how he used the drill to put the games together. These games will be used before and after U. C. Friends activities and when we do Games Evenings. Also, a huge thank you to MOPC who made it possible to purchase these games through our grant. For the young people, we also purchased art supplies, board games, puzzles and things to put together. U. C. Friends are already enjoying using them!

FOR THE LORD IS GOOD AND HIS LOVE ENDURES; HIS FAITHFULNESS

CONTINUES THROUGH ALL GENERATIONS.

PSALM 100:5

First Alpha Learning Group at Union Presbyterian

Our Alpha Group is thriving with 14 members and will continue into May. It's great to spend low stress time together sharing a meal and learning in fellowship with others in the group. We covered many topics so far: Why am I here? Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die? How can I have faith? Why and how can I have faith? Deep topics for sure, but really interesting to look at these together and grow in our faith. A big thank you to the group, you are so helpful and encouraging!

Although it doesn't always seem like it, God is moving in positive ways across our nation. Over 5000 Alpha courses were held in churches and communities all over Canada last year. Over 52 000 people began or restored a relationship with Jesus. That news is really encouraging!

Volunteer Week

Volunteer Week is in April, and we wanted to recognize all the wonderful volunteers in our Church. You go above and beyond so often and all you do makes a big difference in our Church and Community. Thank you so much, you are awesome! When the weather improves, the Sunday School students will beautify the flower box in front of the church in your honor. Thanks for being there sharing your gifts and love!

Attention: Volunteers Needed At Thorburn School

Our grade 6,7 & 8 students will be participating in exploratories to learn how to knit and crochet. The teachers who are leading this activity are looking for volunteers to help them show our students these fond pastimes. This activity will take on Fridays; May 16th, 23rd and 30th from 12:25 to 2:15 pm at Thorburn Consolidated School. If you are interested in volunteering, you can call 902-922-3840 or stop by the school and leave your contact information. We look forward to meeting some of our local crafters and hobbyists.

1872 - THORBURN – 2002

130 years have passed since Thorburn came to be
And oh so many changes within its history
From stores on every corner to a couple here and there
Garages, banks and barber shops with a striped pole to show where
Men from every corner of the county came each day
To work the Six-foot and MacBean and collect their weekly pay
Then a devastating fire in Nineteen forty-three
Levelled many a business and formed our destiny
Without a fire dept., help came from towns nearby
And tho' it all seemed helpless they gave it a good try
Johnnie's store, The Pool Hall and Johnstone's still stood tall
The Post Office, Sheparski's and Haddad's survived the fall
Health wise we weren't wanting, Doctors, we had two
A drugstore where druggist Geeordie told jokes-he knew a few
A bus left every hour – to New Glasgow it did go
And 50 cents paid the fare, an ice cream and the show
Our sports teams brought us glory – they really knew their game
And now they are recorded in the Sports Hall of Fame
There's Lowell MacDonald who made us proud to see
His prowess in the N.H.L.as we were glued to our T. V.
Now all those years later we look back in history
And tho' there's been some changes, some are good we all agree
A fire dept is on call, their response time is just great
An elementary school house and a rink where we can skate
A dedicated Doctor still comes out once a week
And everybody knows it's Howard Locke of whom I speak
Three Churches look after the Spiritual needs of all
A War Memorial stand erect – honoring those who heard the call
Oh so many memories – no room to tell them all
But these are just a few of them I happened to recall
So for all of us who love this home, this place that we hold dear
May Thorburn grow and prosper – each and every year!

A very interesting poem by Barbara Palmer. She was one of our Union Presbyterian Church's dedicated members and sang in the choir among many other things.

Barbara wrote the poem on the occasion of the 130th anniversary of Thorburn.

The law will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restore your strength. ***Isaiah 58:11a***