QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 9, Issue 4
October 1st, 2025

Union Presbyterian Church

Thorburn, NS

Modelling faith in our communities one conversation at a time

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

In His Service (cont'd)	2
UC Friends	2
Sunday School	3
Beyond Words	3
Power of Prayer	4
Saturday Brunch	4

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Clerk of Session
John Reeves
902-922-2666

Board of Managers
Jane Taylor
902-755-4408

Treasurer
Kathy Campbell
902-759-1705

Service Times
Thorburn:11:00 a.m.

Follow us on Facebook

Website
unionchurchthorburn.ca

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

In His Service

Among the many things that identify Presbyterians from among the general population is that we hold service to others as an important part of our Christian faith.

Jean is a quiet woman and often shy about her faith. However, as people move about the congregation, story after story about Jean's generosity and kindness is heard. Jean is a person who serves.

Jean's church was built in a time when the surrounding community was relatively wealthy. There were not many people from other parts of the world and walks of life. But over the years new arrivals to Canada seemed to settle in Jean's neighbourhood – and one of her neighbours was a refugee family.

Some of her friends argued that the refugee 'problem' was so huge there was no point in trying to do anything. Others like Jean decided to reach out and welcome the newcomers, knowing that to help one family would make a difference. She knew that Living Faith tells us: We are called for a purpose: we have been predestined to be like Christ and to serve God. Our Mission is service, a call to help people in need and to permeate all of life with the compassion of God. (Living Faith 3.6.2)

So following Jean's example, the congregation decided to reach out. And to their surprised delight, the support flowed in—dollars, donations of furnishings, and offers of assistance. And so did other families from nations around the world, thankful to God for providing a place where they could be welcomed as neighbours rather than feared and ignored as some kind of problem.

In His Service (cont'd)

Friends, Presbyterians serve through our own initiatives and quiet actions; through support of our congregations; through the mission and development work of the denomination; and through service opportunities in our communities. We are Christians who seek to follow Jesus' example of serving others and understand that our humanity is transformed when we serve and allow ourselves to be served too.

In His service,

Rev. Greg Dickson
Interim Moderator

U.C Friends are back!

U.C. FRIENDS

Come enjoy the fun!

Ages 7 & Up - No Cost

Thorburn Union Church Hall

Refreshments provided

For more information or to join contact Darlene at reevesdarl@gmail.com or text 921-0639

"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." ***Galatians 6:9***

Just as farmers wait patiently for the harvest, God calls us to be faithful in the "planting seasons" of life. Our work for Christ is never in vain.

Sunday School

Thorburn Union Church Hall on Sundays

11:00 am to 12:00 noon

The purpose of the program is to help young people ages 3 and up to enjoy time together while developing a love of God, good values, faith in times of difficulty and to interact in a positive way with others. This will be done through stories, crafts, videos, games, and music while teamwork is developed. The program is not specific to any one religion/denomination but is based on Christian values. Refreshments will be provided. For further information or to sign up, please contact Darlene at reevesdarl@gmail.com or call/text 902-921-0639

A fun place to learn and make friends!

Beyond Words: Living the Gospel in Our Community

As followers of Jesus, we know the power of words. A sermon can inspire. A Bible verse can comfort. A prayer can heal. But when it comes to reaching out to our community, words alone are not enough. The call of Christ is not simply to "speak" his love but to "show" it.

Randy Petersen, a Christian writer on outreach, reminds us that meaningful mission requires more than sermons. It requires sacrifice. True outreach costs us time, energy, and sometimes comfort. It means stepping outside the church doors and being present where people are—listening, caring, serving, and walking alongside them.

When Jesus sent his disciples out, He didn't tell them just to preach. He told them to heal, to help, and to bring peace to every household they entered (Luke 10:1–9). In the same way, our outreach is not complete until it combines both words and deeds—until our neighbours see the love of Christ alive in us.

Reaching our community doesn't always require big programs or large budgets. Often, it's about simple faithfulness: showing up, building relationships, and being available. That might mean volunteering at a local shelter, mentoring a young person, supporting a food drive, or just being a listening ear for a neighbour going through a hard time.

Think about this: your life may be the only "sermon" some people ever hear. Our neighbours notice when we take time to care. They remember when we stop to pray with them. They are touched when we help carry a burden, however small. These simple acts can open doors for deeper conversations about faith and hope in Christ.

As a congregation, we are called not only to gather on Sunday but to scatter during the week as Christ's hands and feet. Each of us has opportunities—big or small—to reflect God's love in our neighbourhoods, workplaces, and schools. Together, these small steps add up to a powerful witness.

The world does not just need more sermons—it needs more love lived out. Let's be a church that not only proclaims the good news but also demonstrates it, every day, in practical ways. As James reminds us: *"Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead"* (James 2:17).

May God give us courage to go beyond words and become living witnesses of his love in our community.

The Power of Prayer

We often hear about the Power of Prayer, but we often don't put it into practise as a whole church.

It was a beautiful summer, and the students are back in school. We have the opportunity to pray for young people, their families, teachers and staff to have a successful school year and feel the presence of God in their lives.

A small group of us from the spring Alpha Session are praying for two High Schools: North Nova Education Center and Northumberland Regional High School as part of the Alpha Initiative for churches to pray for high school across Canada. Alpha provides a prayer below, or you can use your own.

Also, some of us are adding our local Elementary schools; Thorburn Consolidated School and Frank H. MacDonald Academy.

Prayer can make a difference. May all the students, families and staff have a year filled with positive learning and feel the love of God in their hearts!

Lord, we pause and give you thanks; For all staff who have planned and prepared over the summer months for the year ahead, give them wisdom, strength, and knowledge. For the students, as they begin a new school year, we bring before you the excitement, the nerves, and the unknowns. Be close to them in every hallway, classroom, and conversation. For those who know you, help them trust you more. For those still exploring faith, may they and their families sense that you are near and available. Fill them with hope and courage to begin again. Amen

"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

Jeremiah 33:3

Saturday Brunch and Other Fall Activities

As we enjoy Fall with its beautiful colors, we also restart many of our favourite activities and some new ones. The Board of Managers' delicious dinner was a great success and a time to meet old acquaintances again. New this year from this dedicated group and volunteers was a successful Saturday Brunch. Also U. C Friends and Sunday School have started up again and we look forward to helping our young people grow their faith in God. We are also in the process of planning for a new Bible Study series to be offered this Fall. We hope you can join us; more information will be in a future bulletin. Please pray that God will help those in our church and community going through difficult times and continue to bless our activities and faithful volunteers!