

Bethel Presbyterian Church

Corner of George & Brookland Streets
Sydney, NS

www.bethelpresbyterianchurch.ca

Sunday, March 26th, 2017



Mission Statement

Our vision is to be a local community of believers where:

- Jesus Christ is head;
- The Bible has the ultimate authority as the true, infallible and complete Word of God;
- Salvation through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and belief in His finished work on the cross is preached;
- The Gospel of Christ is spread in our community, our nation and around the world in both work and action;
- Believers encourage each other and hold others in higher regard than themselves so that each may use the gifts God has given him/her to the glory of God.

Minister

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Peter MacDonald

Secretary

Sharon Morrison
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Custodian

Mr. Allan Townsend

Hall: 902 - 564-5069

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Organ Prelude

Announcements

Bill Sneddon

Reader

Todd Gouthro

We Gather Together – Our Approach to God

Call to Worship

Prayer of Adoration and Approach (The Lord's Prayer)

Hymn # 374 Oh for a thousand tongues to sing

Prayer of Confession

We Hear God's Word

O. T. Lesson: 1 Samuel 16: 1-13 (p.202)

Responsive Psalm # 23 (p.392)

Hymn # 375 Fairest Lord Jesus

Litany for Fourth Sunday in Lent Eileen MacNeil

Reader: The Lenten journey continues.

All: Lent's questions confront us.

Reader: Where will the road take us?

All: What kind of people will we be?

Reader: Will we live by faith even when we cannot see the road ahead?

All: Will we lean on Christ, trusting him to open our eyes?

Reader: The quest will test us and try us.

All: Do we really want to continue?

Reader: Do we really want to follow the Christ path?

All: We pray that Jesus will be our guide.

Reader: Let us pray.

God of the healing touch: we are confounded by the uncertainty in our world and in our lives. Because we are afraid, we seek shelter in easy things that make false promises. Open our eyes so that we are able to distinguish the illusions that trap us from the visions that set us free.

All: Stay with us as we seek your wisdom.

**Stay with us as we consider our relationships.
Stay with us as we discern our vocations. Amen**

Children's Story

N.T. Epistle Lesson Ephesians 5: 8-14 (p.829)

N.T. Gospel Lesson John 9 (p.758)

Sermon **With open eyes**

Our Response to God

Hymn # 372 Praise him, praise him

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession

Offering

Offertory

Anthem Open our eyes with Open my eyes that I
may see Cull arr. Harlan

Doxology (#830)

Prayer of Dedication

We go out in service to the Lord

Hymn # 670 Amazing grace

Benediction & Choral Amen

Postlude

WELCOME We welcome everyone to this service of worship this Lord's Day and pray that this will be a time of blessing for all. We are pleased to have Eileen MacNeil leading the Lenten responsive reading this morning. Everyone is invited to a time of fellowship in the hall following the service. On duty today are Sharon McKay and Eileen MacLean.

Nursery

Today: Catherine Sneddon and Lisa MacKenzie

Next Sunday: Vivian Morrison and Carol MacLeod

Sunday School Shepherd

- Wendy MacDonald

Greeter at the North Door

- Brian Mikkelsen

Greeter at the Choir Room Door

- Wayne MacDonald

Visiting the Hospital this week

Kathy Hardy 562-8578 Tom MacRae 562-3893

Ushers for April

George Jessen (C), Margaret MacLeod, Sonny MacAulay, Mary Penny, Todd Gouthro, Glayne MacQueen

Readings for next week

Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8: 6-11; John 11: 1-45

To the Current Fund

- In memory of Frank MacLean from John & Susan MacNeil, New Waterford
- In memory of Helen (Ellis) Clarke from husband John, children Jamie and Linda, granddaughter Faith Helen

To Camp MacLeod

- In memory of Roy Ferguson from wife Leah

This Week

Tuesday

7:30 pm Session will meet in the Shaw Room.

ADVANCE NOTICES

Preparatory Service will be held Thursday, April 6th at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

Spring Communions will be held on Sunday, April 9th at 10:30 and 7:00 pm.

Presbyterian Men's Good Friday Breakfast will be held at Bethel Church Hall April 14th at 8:30. Service will follow in sanctuary following the breakfast. Our Men's chorus will provide special music. Rev. Corrie Stewart will preach. Free will offering will be taken to cover breakfast.

Bethel congregational Good Friday Service will be at 1:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

Presbytery Workshop

In response to the 2015 General Assembly's call for the Church to engage in prayerful conversation, discernment and Bible Study on the topics of human sexuality and sexual orientation...

Presentation: "Sexual Minorities...Can we talk?"

The Rev. Dr. Clyde Ervine will address these topics

1. "Taking a hard look at how the church has treated sexual minorities
2. "Exploring why some want to retain and some want to revise our Church's guidelines on same-sex relationships."

This workshop will be presented at the following locations:

Knox, Baddeck

Thursday, April 20th, 2017 6:30-9:30pm

St. Andrew's, Sydney Mines

Friday, April 21st, 2017 2:00-5:00pm

Bethel, Sydney

Saturday, April 22nd, 2017 9:00-12:00 noon

This workshop is intended for Members and Adherents of the Presbyterian Church in Canada within the Presbytery of Cape Breton

The Rev. Dr. Clyde Ervine

Clyde is minister of Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Catharines, ON and teaches a course on worship at Knox College. He was one of the leaders for our lay worship training. Clyde focuses on congregational preaching and ministry and is completing a book on this topic.

**Seventeenth Annual Women's Breakfast
Sponsored by The Life and Mission Committee
Presbytery of Cape Breton**

Place: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, North River Bridge

Date: 29 April 2017

Time: 8:30 AM

9:30 AM Program in sanctuary, entitled The Lord's prayer

Cost: \$8.00

Reservations and cancellations necessary.

Reservations can be made by calling Joan Richardson

@ 902 564-5140

On **June 3rd** The Cove Auxillary will hold a yard sale. If you have something you would like to donate bring it to the Hall in the morning to the downstairs hall. There is a room ready for us to store things.

Mission Moments – Working towards a brighter future

Gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Tyndale St.-Georges Community Centre in Montreal's Little Burgundy neighbourhood as it works to ensure that each member of the community has the opportunities and skills to help realize their potential. The high school perseverance program matches students with peers or older students. Participants gain skills and confidence that lead to more regular school attendance and higher grades, and mentors gain awareness of individual differences and satisfaction from using their abilities to help others. Noah, a volunteer in the program says, "I think if we want a brighter future and a more intelligent community, then we have to help each other out and do our best to succeed together."

Presbyterians Sharing supports inner-city communities

“OUR COMMUNITY IS NOW CLEAN AND NOW SO IS MY HOME”

While it may not seem like much, access to proper household toilets can significantly improve the health and well-being of a vulnerable community. In Lyness's village in Malawi, inadequate latrines meant open defecation was common. Waterborne disease was an ever-present danger, and her family suffered greatly. Presbyterian World Service & Development partners started working in Lyness's village to teach communities about the link between poor sanitation and poor health. They also supported residents to build sanitation platforms, which make latrines more sanitary and easier to use. The impact has been life changing. "My family no longer suffers from diarrhea which came as a result of poor sanitation," shares a joyful Lyness. "I have also learned to wash my hands each time I use the toilet." Lyness is thankful that a clean community means a healthy family. This

Lenten season let us respond faithfully to Christ's call to serve those in need. Through support of PWS&D, we are providing communities with sanitation and safe drinking water — enhancing their health and quality of life.

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