

THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Date: April 2024

Editor: D. Mills

Hello Bethany!



This is our monthly newsletter. This serves as a snapshot of what is happening for our community of faith.

You are encouraged to share a story or announcement.

Send along an email to office@bethanyunitedchurch.ca or contact us at 902-455-0521, x. 221.

The deadline for May 2024 newsletter submissions:

Wednesday,
April 17th by Noon.

*If you or know of someone who would like to receive a hard copy of this newsletter, let us know! We will saddle up our snails!

Guess the Phrase

Send an email with your response:
office@bethanyunitedchurch.ca

gnikool

Answer will be shared in

May 2024 Community Spirit

BULLETIN FROM THE BOARD OF MANAGERS



How does that apply to Bethany?

Just like you do at home, the church must sort all its waste prior to its pickup. Our church uses special garbage containers (black, blue and green) located throughout the building and outdoors in the laneway.

Bethany must pay for its waste pick-up. Our contract is with GFL Environmental, a local company that provides sustainable environment solutions.

Our contract with GFL covers pick-up of regular garbage, green and blue bin items.

Last year Bethany spent \$3,450 for waste management.

This is just one of the many operating expenses that is included in the church's operating budget.

~ Sincerely submitted by Betty Tozer,
Communication Representative

Safe Ministry Update

Wooden Doors – 2669 Joseph Howe Drive

Bethany's primary entrance point for the church office are up a set of stairs and in through a beautiful pair of wooden doors. These doors are proving to now be showing their age. They have undergone many different repairs and tweaks but are on the "to be replaced" list as they pose a security concern for the church. We are attempting to limit the use of these doors until they are replaced so do refrain from using them when the church office is not open this includes Sunday mornings. Old habits are hard to kick, but we appreciate everyone's diligence at this time.

Message from Executive Board

It is now April and officially Spring. The snow has cleared, the ice has left the lakes and new plant growth is appearing----a joyful time to be reinvigorated.

Our Annual General Meeting is occurring this month, and we encourage all who can to attend on April 7th following the worship service. The Agenda/Annual Report is available at the Church but has been circulated electronically to everyone. A special thank you to all who have submitted reports and also to Dana Mills, Ian Parker and their team for producing this great resource for us.

As mentioned in our previous messages, 2024 is an important time for us as we prepare our Community of Faith Profile for the UCC. In this endeavour, we will review our present status and contemplate the vision of Bethany's future. This of course is part of the process required as we enter our search for a new Pastoral Relationship. This is an opportunity for all to play a role in this process and we will be working on the details of how to best accomplish this---please feel free to offer comments and suggestions and we definitely need your input AND volunteering efforts!

We offer special thanks to Reverend Kevin Little who has announced that his time with us is coming to a close as of the end of June 2024 and we are grateful for all that he has done to strengthen our congregation and its commitment to social outreach.

Charles Maxner & Glen Knapp, Co-Chairs

Visit our website: www.bethanyunitedchurch.ca

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel: Bethany United Halifax

Follow us on Facebook @bethanyunitedhfx and Instagram @bethanyunited

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday -Friday 10am-3pm.

Guess the Phrase

pro mise

ANSWER:
Broken Promise

Congratulations to:
Richard Anningson

☺ Holy Humour

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



I APPRECIATE THE EFFORT, BUT THE WHOLE
'SITTING ON MY RIGHT HAND' THING IS
NOT AS LITERAL AS YOU SEEM TO THINK.

12-05-2011

Our hearts, minds and spirit are all open.

Along with our physical space.

Expect when you visit to continue to adhere to precautionary measures and good health screening checks to occur throughout common areas of the building to reduce exposure to COVID-19 and to assist with safety of all. Please do your when visiting the church for worship or attending a planned ministry opportunity or meeting. The Board of Managers require all to adhere to the procedures in our church complex as recommended by Nova Scotia Public Health and our In-Person Implementation Team (IPIT).

Call 902-455-0521 to reach:

- **Pastoral Care/Lead Minister: Kevin Little x.222 (or Press 1)**
- **Ministry Resource: Dana Mills x. 221 (or Press 2)**
- **Building Care: James Sweet (Caretaker) & Board of Managers x. 221 (or Press 2)**
- **Finance: Tina Gascon x. 225 (or Press 3)**
- **Ministry of Music: Shawn Whynot x.223 (or Press 4)**
- **Children & Family Care: Louisa Duck x. 224 (or Press 5)**
- **Community Engagement: Ann Bradley x. 227 (or Press 6)**

READ ALL SIGNS AT ALL ENTRANCE POINTS.

THEY HAVE BEEN PLACED THERE BY GOD'S LOVE.

CLEAN HANDS – KEEP SPACE FROM OTHERS – SCREEN YOUR HEALTH – BE KIND

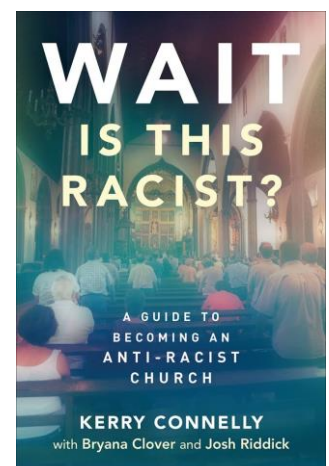
THINGS TO KNOW FROM THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Any time is a good time to focus on anti-racist actions and dismantling racism in all its forms. In the United Church, we honour this important commitment. As the United Church's anti-racism policy reminds us, the struggle against racism is a continuous effort. This means that anti-racism work is important on any day and every day.

Watch an informative video entitled, [Becoming An Anti-Racist Church](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVyDT3w43u8) here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVyDT3w43u8>

Join a community of practice. A new online gathering starting April 22, called [Wait—Is This Racist?](#), is based on the popular book of the same name. These gathering aims to be a community of practice. With members of different congregations, the focus is on co-creating anti-racist communities of faith.

Sign up through: <https://churchx.ca/local/shop/product.php?id=140>



SUNDAY MORNINGS @ BETHANY UNITED CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICE @ 10:30am

In-Person - In Community – In Safe Ministry

The service will be streamed LIVE via our YouTube channel. Subscribe today: “BETHANY UNITED HALIFAX.” The link will also be uploaded to our website for recorded viewing. www.bethanyunitedchurch.ca



SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 10:30am

We are excited to welcome children and their families to our spirit-filled weekly ministry and life-giving learning space.

Register with Louisa @ lduck@bethanyunitedchurch.ca

(Sunday School is for children ages 3 to grade 9)

Entrance to access the Gymnasium is 2669 Joseph Howe Drive (ramp door)

MONTHLY QUOTE

“If you think you’re too small to make a difference, you’ve never spent the night in a tent with a mosquito!”

~ African Proverb

Prayer for April 2024

Embracing Parent,

You grace each of us with equal measure in your love.

Let us learn to love our neighbors more deeply, so that we can create peaceful and just communities.

Inspire us to use our creative energies to build the structures we need to overcome the obstacles of intolerance and indifference.

May Jesus provide us the example needed and send the Spirit to warm our hearts for the journey.

Amen

(A Prayer for Community)

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday -Friday 10am-3pm.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MINISTRY



Bethany Meditation Group (20 minutes silent meditation, with some preamble...). 8-week session, WEDNESDAYS at noon, April 10 to June 5.

The meditation sessions are led by Yvonne Macor, based on 35 years experience studying Yoga, Vedic knowledge, Buddhist and Christian methods, and meditation retreats.

JOY Luncheon (Just Older Youth) next happens Tuesday April 9th at Noon, in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for a light lunch and guest speaker for \$10.

Gluten Free option available if you contact Ann by April 7th.

Please sign up or register by email or phone with Ann by April 7th.

Guest Speaker: Dana Pardy is a talented musician and holds a certificate in Music Therapy from Acadia University. She is currently working towards a Master of Divinity degree at AST, seeking ordination in the spring of 2025. She is the student minister at Petite Riviere Pastoral Charge. Dana will share with us how music therapy has informed many aspects of her working life be it in music education or ministry, and the benefits music therapy has to offer at various points in our lives.

Wednesday Drop In/ Walk and Talk at 10 -11:30am, until April 24. You are invited to come and walk our maze of hallways for exercise now that the weather is getting colder. If walking is not your thing just drop in for a cup of coffee, tea or a healthy smoothie and friendly conversation in our Fellowship Hall. Kevin will join us the first Wednesday of each month. He brings a question for us to ponder and discuss. We look forward to seeing you. Please use the ramp entrance at 2669 Joseph Howe Drive.

YOUTH GROUP Sunday Evenings from 7:00pm – 8:30pm. (September - June)

This is an opportunity for youth in Junior and Senior High School to expand and deepen their faith in a safe and faithful community of peers. Each evening begins with a group check-in and a theme-based discussion with a related activity such as an outreach project; followed by a time of hanging out and eating snacks, which are available for purchase. For the rest of the evening, we play games, everything from crazy run around games to community building games.

Community Health Team Programs

Our space plays host to a variety of these free health and wellness programs in the coming months. Visit Bethany's Community Opportunities/Events website page to link you to this information, to register to attend, or email them at cht@nshealth.ca. For further assistance, call 902-460-4560 (greater HRM area) or toll free at 1-844-460-4555.

There are also online health and wellness program options as well:
<https://library.nshealth.ca/HealthyLiving/RegisterForPrograms>

Music Ministry

The Bethany **Handbell Choir** enjoys ringing the wonderful brass handbells that create a rich and beautiful sound. This choir also enjoys ringing a great variety of musical styles from a multitude of time periods. This choir rehearses on **Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM** in the **Sanctuary**.

The **Senior Choir** is Bethany's Adult Choir open to all ages. If you enjoy singing in a group, why not give us a try. Fun Fact: Only a portion of the choir members are able to read music, many of them listen and learn the notes by ear. The choir is a fun, social, and enthusiastic group that likes to explore a variety of musical styles. We rehearse on **Thursday evenings from 7:30 - 8:30 PM** in the **Fellowship Hall**.

If you are interested in joining one of the groups above please speak to Shawn Whynot, Director of Music.

The Spring 2024 session of the “**Bethany Pluckers**” – our very own ukulele group begins **Wednesdays, 6:45pm, April 17 – May 22.**



STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY At Bethany we have many options for members/adherents and visitors to contribute to the life and work of our faith community. All donors are assigned a number when a donation is received and will be eligible for an official receipt at the end of the year. Many regular donors choose to give weekly through our contribution envelopes.



If you are currently set up to receive a boxed set, but either wish to switch to PAR (monthly giving via direct deposit) or stop receiving these sets and simply give as you are able, please contact Tina Gascon, x. 225 so she can assist and make desired changes. Unused envelopes can be returned to the church office.

We try to remain focused with recycling and reduce our impact on Creation.

2024 Transfer of Membership

We welcome all who are interested in joining the UCC or in transferring their membership to Bethany from another community of faith. If anyone would like to know more, please contact Kevin Little, 902-455-0521, x. 222 or kevin.little@eastlink.ca and you can discuss the specifics. It is an easy process. All people who gather at Bethany United Church for their spiritual care are part of our church family.

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LOCAL OUTREACH

THANK YOU for your **continued support with our efforts to collect items that are needed throughout the greater community**. Your donations are greatly appreciated! The following donation items can be placed in the main entranceway of the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings or at the Joseph Howe entrance through the week during office hours 10:00 – 3:00 PM

Dignity. Period. A campaign to help people with periods in Nova Scotia afford the menstrual products they need. Donations of pads, tampons, and menstrual cups are welcome and will be disbursed to local food banks.

Food Bank Donations: Non-perishable food items with a particular need for nutritious items such as canned beans and legumes, vegetables and vegetable soup, canned fruit, pasta, canned tomatoes, rice, rice noodles, nut butters and whole grain breakfast cereals. Any donation you are able to make would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your donations of hats, mittens, and warm socks for the colder months of the year. These items are no longer required, and we will return to collecting in the fall.

St. Andrew's Sunday Supper - March 24th, 2024

Thank you to all who supported this important outreach ministry with either the provision of casseroles or fresh fruit. Your donations are greatly appreciated.



Minister's Ministry (Kevin Little)

Faith Study Series 2024

The Year of Living Biblically:

One Man's Humble Quest to Follow the Bible as Literally as Possible

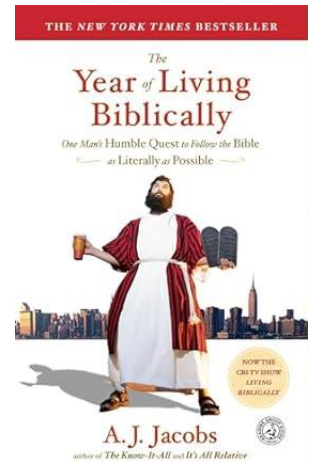
Tuesdays @ 7-8 pm

February 6 – (taking a break in Holy Week) to April 30

In-person MacKinnon Chapel, ZOOM participation available (link to be provided).

There are many scholarly texts that attempt to wrestle with so-called. Biblical literalism. I have used many of these in faith studies over my thirty-year career as a United Church ordained minister. But these texts rarely connect to the real-life questions mainline church members have about whether the Bible can be, should be, taken literally.

Bestselling journalist (not a theologian or Biblical scholar) AJ Jacobs attempts to live the Bible literally, chronicling his experience in 12 monthly chapters. Critics enjoyed the book, which includes some humour in the situations that Jacobs creates. If you have ever wondered, "Is it possible to live the Bible literally?", now is your opportunity to learn for yourself and engage friends and family should the question emerges.



Participants do not need to buy or have the book. A summary of each chapter will be provided.

For more information on this study please contact Kevin Little, 902-817-2782 or kevinlittle@eastlink.ca.

MINISTER MUSINGS is a daily blog by Kevin...

<https://www.bethanyunitedchurch.ca/ministers-blog/>

Pastoral Care If you need to see him in-person, he is available, "I am always here for you..." If a phone call would be helpful, let him know. If you email him, you will receive a response quickly. He is not hard to reach. His cell number is 902-817-2782.



MacKinnon Unit of the United Church Woman will meet on

Thursday, April 18th in the Ladies Parlour at 1:30pm.

Two entrance points via the 2669 Joseph Howe Drive entrance ramp door or 7171 Clinton Avenue parking lot doors. (Park in designated church parking spaces only.) Public health protocols at that time will be followed.

This is the only women's group meeting regularly at Bethany. All women interested in getting together are very welcome. For further details speak with Kathy Brown or Zenora Rackham.



God's Love Is Wider

Bethany's Affirming Working Group will be hosting workshops and events in the upcoming months as we continue our journey of exploring what it means to be an Affirming Congregation. Please stay tuned for further details. For more information regarding Affirm United, available resources and upcoming events, please visit our **Affirming Ministry** page on our Bethany website <https://www.bethanyunitedchurch.ca/affirming-ministry>.

The Affirming Working Group can be reached at: bethanyaffirming@gmail.com.

We welcome new members and questions, opinions or concerns you may wish to share with the committee.

Stay tuned for upcoming learning events.



The Men's Club will meet Wednesday, April 3rd in the Fellowship Hall at 6pm for 6:30pm.

Join us for our last meeting of the Bethany's Men's Club before our summer hiatus!

We are delighted to welcome as our guest speaker, our own Elizabeth Carter, who will lead us through the history of George's Island. In the 18th and 19th centuries, Halifax was a key naval base of the British Empire. Defending it was crucial, and George's Island was central to protecting the Citadel, the emerging city, and the British fleet. Elizabeth's talk will be highlighting the Fort's evolution over the decades to accommodate new developments in weaponry.

The Men's Club is back in full force, with many men signing up for a year's subscription. However, all men are welcome even if without a subscription. Bethany men who are not subscribers are welcome to attend Men's Club meetings at a cost of \$20.00, payable at the door. Everyone will also be treated to a delicious meal by Tina, Dave and friends. (Please let Tina know of any medical restrictions or food allergies).

Please RSVP by Sunday, March 31, 2024, at the latest at bethanyunitedmensclub@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

For more information, please email bethanyunitedmensclub@gmail.com or speak to Randy Tyler, Tim Cormier, Doug Shields, or Jim Musgrave.

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday -Friday 10am-3pm.

Bethany's "Bargain Bonanza & BBQ" is fast approaching!

It's that time of year, folks! The Bethany Sunday School is getting ready to host the "Bargain Bonanza & BBQ" on Saturday, May 25th, from 10 AM - 1 PM in the Fellowship Hall and Gym. The children are excited to get started, and we need your help! Please keep us in mind as you're sorting through things this winter and as you begin your spring cleaning.

*We will begin accepting donations on
Sunday, April 14th to May 19th, in the gym.*

Drop Off Times:

9:30-10:15 am (before Sunday Worship)

11:30am - 12:30pm (after Sunday Worship)

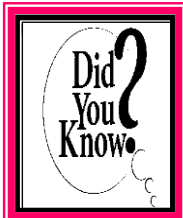
Keep an eye out for volunteer sign-up sheets in April. We're looking forward to hosting this fun event. Thank you and stay tuned!

Items to donate:

- **Small electronics and appliances:** clock radios, coffee makers, toaster ovens, Instant Pots, bread makers, slow cookers, etc.
- **Outdoor and Sports gear:** camping, skiing, hockey, baseball, croquet sets, boules, etc.
- **Tools:** hand tools, small power tools like saws, drills, etc.
- **Wall art**
- **Kitchen essentials:** dishes, cutlery, utensils, serving dishes and platters.
- **Linens:** sheets, pillowcases, bathroom towels, tea towels, tablecloths, cloth napkins, runners, table toppers, doilies, etc.
- **Books:** children's books; adult novels
- **Retro and Curio:** small home décor items such as lamps, vases, figurines, throw cushions, etc.
- **Accessories:** luggage, backpacks, purses, wallets
- **Christmas decorations**
- **Children's toys**

We ask that everything be clean, and in working order when it is dropped off. As you may remember from previous flea markets, there is a cost to the church if we have to dispose of items.





April is Volunteer Appreciation Month, a time to celebrate and thank Canada's 24 million volunteers. The official week in Canada is recognized April 14 to 20. This year's theme is "Every Moment Matters."

The theme highlights the importance of every volunteer and each contribution they make at a moment when we need support more than ever. The sharing of time, skills, empathy, and creativity is vital to the inclusivity, strength, and well-being of our communities. At Bethany United Church our volunteers are fundamental to meeting this challenging moment. By coming together, committing support, and increasing our collective efforts and impact, we contribute exponentially to the quality of life we all strive for. We want to share with you that we celebrate the importance of each and every volunteer's impact in our community of faith. In 2023, we recorded **10, 750** hours of service that require approximately **200** volunteers that give their gift of time and talent. Now more than ever, we lift up every one of those moments because they matter.

SAVE THE DATE!

Vacation Bible School

July 8 -12, 2024 @ 9am - 12pm

For ages 4 to 11 years old

Theme to be announced soon! Contact Louisa for information or to offer your support.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday April 7, 2024, at Noon, in Sanctuary

Just following the worship service. All are welcome!
Grab a coffee or tea and snack from the Fellowship Hall
and return for this important gathering.

Annual Report 2023 are now available in print and online.

Financial Report Review Meeting with Treasurer,

Rob Steeves at 7:30pm on Thursday, April 4, 2024

in the MacKinnon Memorial Chapel.

(Please contact the church office if you plan to attend this special meeting.)

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