

# THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Date: February 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](mailto:office@bethanyunitedchurch.ca) or contact us at 902-455-0521, x. 221.

**The deadline for March 2024 newsletter submissions:**

**Wednesday,**  
**February 21st, 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](mailto:office@bethanyunitedchurch.ca)

# HUG

Answer will be shared in

**March 2024 Community Spirit**

## Message from Executive Board

With February's arrival, we are well into 2024. February also offers us an extra day as this is a Leap Year. February marks the beginning of Lent and on behalf of the Executive Board we encourage you to partake of some of the many activities held at Bethany but in particular, the ever-popular Pancake Supper is upcoming on February 13th.

Also, February marks the occurrence of the "Have a Heart Campaign," an important initiative of the Local Outreach Committee.

As noted in the January Community Spirit, we will be undertaking the development of our Community of Faith Profile, which includes our Living Faith Story. The Executive Committee will be deliberating on this at the upcoming meeting in February about how best to accomplish this and have widespread congregational involvement in the process. Stay tuned for further information about this exciting opportunity and we look forward to your input to this endeavor!

Best, Charles Maxner & Glen Knapp



## Safe Ministry Update

### Security Concern

*The seven entry points of our church complex are monitored by a security system. The wooden doors, that lead to the church office at 2669 Joseph Howe Drive are not functioning well at all and continue to pose a risk. When entering or exiting from this location, please ensure the door is secured, if not monitored due to staff supervision between the hours of 10am -3pm, Monday to Friday.*

*Our evening security checks led by volunteer effort have found these doors unsecured leaving the church vulnerable to unwanted fines and other safety concerns.*

## BULLETIN FROM THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

It takes staff, volunteers, and outside contractors to keep our church facility operating. Over the next few months, the BOM is going to introduce you to these people and companies.

Its mid-winter and you arrive for Sunday service after a snowstorm. You have no problem parking and walking into church. How does this happen?

Bethany has a contract with a local firm, Brickworks. Jordan O'Hearn and his ten employees manage snow and ice removal contracts throughout the city. Brickworks prides itself on delivering their services with their client's best interest in mind.

Brickworks has been providing Bethany with reliable and dependable service since 2016.

Our contact with Brickworks covers snow removal and salting that includes driveways, parking areas, walkways, and steps. Brickworks applies salt when there is evidence of ice or potential of ice forming on surface and temperature remains below zero. Brickworks begins snow removal within 5 cm of snow. The contract includes all snow and ice removal, no matter the amount of snow that falls. Our latest contract is based on a monthly flat rate fee, for 5 months, for a total of \$7,500 (plus HST).

Visit our website: [www.bethanyunitedchurch.ca](http://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

Working Working Working  
Working Working Working Five  
Working Working Working Five

**ANSWER:**  
***Working Nine to Five***

**Congratulations to:**  
**Christie Chisholm**

😊 Holy Humour



## **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)**

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**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**

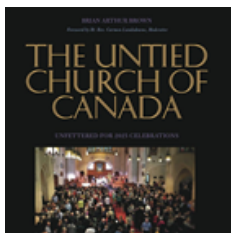
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## **THINGS TO KNOW FROM THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

### **Visit the United Church Bookstore**

1-800-288-7365 ~ [info@ucrdstore.ca](mailto:info@ucrdstore.ca) ~ <https://ucrdstore.ca/>

*United Church Bookstore has faith in our books—and our church supplies, magazines, and gift items! Many of their books and other products have been developed by The United Church of Canada, but they also distribute books and supplies from other sources. United Church Bookstore is a ministry of the General Council Office. Sales support this ministry and flow into the unified budget of the General Council Office. Some recent offerings to check out:*



*The United Church has now slimmed back down to its 1925 size of 300,000 active households but is discovering that being leaner can actually mean being healthier in certain important ways. That “untied” church is now “an ecclesial machine; lean, green and keen,” implementing a Strategic Plan for 2023–2025, celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025, and preparing for its next century in an evolving Canada. Cost \$39.99*

*If Not Now, When? This Lenten devotional invites us to deepen our love for Creation and take action or fast for a climate in crisis. Includes a study guide. Cost \$16.29*



## **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](http://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](mailto: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**

**“Until the lion tells his side of the story, the tale of the hunt will always glorify the hunter.”**

**- African Proverb**

### **Prayer for February 2024**

**God of embolden justice,**

**Help us make meaningful collective progress on Indigenous justice, racial equity, and Two Spirit or LGBTQIA+ rights both in the church and world.**

**Demonstrably deepen our bold effective solidarity on other justice issues, through ecumenical collaboration and denominational networking.**

**Guide us to be clear about our identity and unique public witness that requires bold action on social justice commitments.**

**Thank you for a bold love that is wide. Amen**

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# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MINISTRY



**Bethany Meditation Group (20 minutes silent meditation, with some preamble...). 8-week session, WEDNESDAYS at noon, starts January 31 through Lent.**

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 February 5<sup>th</sup> at Noon, in the Fellowship Hall.** Join us for a light lunch and guest speaker for \$10. Gluten free option upon request.

Guest Speaker: Dave Kilgour, Community Manager, Square Roots, Fairview/Clayton Park.

*“Everyone needs to eat. This non-profit organization aims to redirect perfectly good food that would be thrown away, into the hands of those in need within these communities. They tackle the issues of food waste and insecurity with a heartwarming social mindfulness.”*

**Wednesday Drop In/ Walk and Talk** at **10 -11:30am.** 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](mailto: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.**

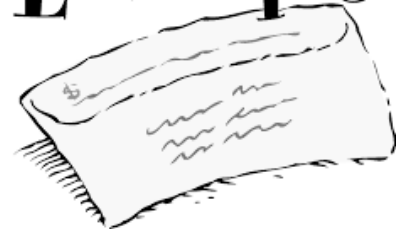
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## STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

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:

# Offering Envelopes



Many regular donors choose to give weekly through our contribution envelopes. **2024 ENVELOPES** are available for pick up starting from the church office during open hours or on Sunday mornings before or after the worship service in the Narthex.

*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.*

We will reassign you a new contribution number and the unclaimed box set will be returned into circulation to a new household.

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

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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.

**\*New\* Clothing Items for the Winter Months: Hats, Mittens, Gloves, Scarves, Socks and Undergarments (all sizes W, M, Children).**

A hamper is in place in the Narthex (the main entrance of the Sanctuary) during the winter months. Your donation is greatly appreciated and will be delivered to various agencies to support those in need.

**Have A Heart Campaign** Help us raise funds for **Brunswick Street Mission** on Sunday Feb. 4th and Feb.11th. The Local Outreach Committee is greatly concerned for those living rough in our city. Through the generosity of our congregation funds will be donated to Brunswick Street Mission, where staff and volunteers work very hard to provide supplies and support to persons living rough. An envelope will be provided as you enter worship on those dates and donation baskets will be at the entranceways. You can also drop off your envelope at the office through the week or make a donation online on our website. Please make cheques payable to **Bethany United Church** and marked **Have a Heart Campaign**. Please have a heart and give as you are able. Your donation is 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](mailto: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.

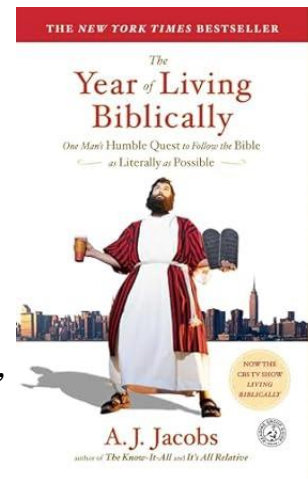


**MacKinnon Unit of the United Church Woman will meet on**

**Thursday, February 15th 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](mailto:bethanyaffirming@gmail.com). We welcome any questions, opinions or concerns you may wish to share with the committee. If you are interested in being a contributing member of this committee, please let us know.

**Save the date: Wednesday, February 21, 2024**  
**7:00 -9:00 PM** in the **Fellowship Hall**  
**Guest Speaker: Rev. Shaun Fryday**

*Shaun will share his journey as a United Church Minister and what is involved in creating safe spaces for LGBTQ+ communities.*

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### **BUILDING CLOSURE AND CANCELLATION POLICIES**

During the week and Saturday, the Board of Managers in collaboration with lay and ministry staff, decide if the building closes to renters and members for clean up after weather systems, other building repair or maintenance issues.

On Sundays, the process for this decision falls to the Lead Minister, Clerk of Session, and Chair of the Executive Board regarding cancellation of worship service.

An announcement decision will occur by 8am. Check in various locations, depending on access to power and technology as applicable for the circumstances:

- Bethany website announcement banner at top of the page
- Facebook page: @bethanyunitedchurchhfx
- Instagram account: @bethanyunited
- Congregational Email
- Telephone system will be forwarded to our Ministry Resource Support staff as required.
- Posted to entrance points will be a closure notice.

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**The Men's Club will meet Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall at 6pm for 6:30pm.**

We are delighted to let you know that our speaker for the evening will be Kathleen Martin, Executive Director of the Canadian Sea Turtle Network. Based in Halifax, the Canadian Sea Turtle Network is a charitable organization involving scientists, commercial fishermen, and coastal community members that works to conserve endangered sea turtles in Canadian waters and around the world. The Network won the 2007 Gold Canadian Environment Award for Conservation. This promises to be a very topical and enlightening presentation, especially as our society, our world, and our church work to come back into harmony with the natural world God intended us to share and pass along to future generations.

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, February 4, 2024, at the latest at [bethanyunitedmensclub@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyunitedmensclub@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.

For more information speak to Ian Parker, Randy Tyler, Tim Cormier, Doug Shields, or Jim Musgrave.

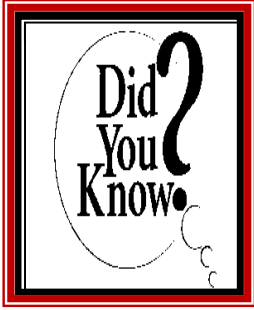
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## **2024 Transfer of Membership**

We have had a lot of people coming recently who have inquired about 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](mailto:kevin.little@eastlink.ca) and you can discuss the specifics. It is an easy process. All persons who gather at Bethany United Church for their spiritual care are part of our church family.

## **2024 Confirmation or New Membership**

Interested in confirming your commitment of faith as kin within the Christian community of the United Church of Canada speak with Ann Bradley, Louisa Duck, or Kevin Little for more information and upcoming opportunities.



For many years this annual event was organized and supported by the members of Bethany's Men's Club and coordinated by Anne & Vince Ihasz. This event continues to evolve and has become a well-loved and supported community event. Beginning Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, tickets will begin to be sold!

So, plan to have a sweet supper served by the sweetest members of our community of faith. This year it's the night before Valentine's Day, so bring a friend or your sweetheart.

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## *-Shrove Tuesday -*

### Come and Enjoy Pancake Supper

Pancakes, Bacon, Ice Cream, Cookies, Tea & Coffee  
\*Gluten Free Option\*



February 13th, 2024  
4:30 to 6:30 pm  
in the Fellowship Hall

Tickets \$10 Adults and \$5 Children 12 & under

LIMITED SEATING - PLEASE PURCHASE IN ADVANCE

TICKETS AVAILABLE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL  
FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup> & 11<sup>TH</sup> AFTER SUNDAY SERVICE  
OR CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.

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