

NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

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Minister: The Rev. Dr. Kelly Burke, B.A., M.Div, D.Min Office Administrator: Lorna Ball
Choir Director: Rev. Jane Johnson, B.Sc, B.Th., M.Div Supply Musician:Nathaniel Sargeant

March 17th, 2024 11 am
Annual Meeting Sunday/The Feast of St. Patrick
The Stories We Carry: Lent V: "A Table Story"

Welcome and thank you for joining in our worship this holy morning! We hope you feel at home in our midst. Let us pause to remember that in this region we live and work and worship on lands that are, by law, the unceded territories of the Wabanaki peoples—predominantly the lands of the Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqiyik and Passamaquoddy. May we live with respect on this land, and live in peace and friendship with its people. If you are visiting or new to the congregation please introduce yourself to Rev. Dr. Burke. Grace and peace to you all.

Thought for Meditation:

Let me fillet the supple bones from the fish. Let me pit the cherries. Husk the corn. You say how much cinnamon to spice the stew. I've made bad decisions, so I'm grateful for this yoke lowered onto my shoulders, potatoes mounded before me. With all that's destroyed, look how the world still yields a golden pear. Ellen Bass

THE GATHERING

WELCOME & LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*INTROIT: Come Touch Our Hearts, #12 MV, v.1

Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,
from failing embers build a blazing fire;
Love strong enough to overturn injustice,
to seek a world more gracious, come touch and bless our hearts.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

Leader: Let us worship together!

***HYMN # 343 VU I Love To Tell The Story**

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Our Lenten journey continues, O God. Our Forty Days - days of dimming light, and deeper attention;

People: Days of stories that lead us to Jerusalem.

Leader: Stories of funerals and miracles, water and storms, family and extravagance. And today, a story of what happens 'round a table.

People: With characters that are ordinary and brave; Frightened and fascinating. Unabashed. Misunderstood. Hungering....

Leader: Like us all.

People: And so we gather together here:

Leader: For this is the House for us ALL. And now as Jesus taught his companions, we pray together, saying:

Our Father who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil,

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,

For ever and ever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S HYMN # 88 MV Over My Head, Refrain

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN: The Lenten Story Boxes

CHILDREN'S HYMN # 88 MV Over My Head, Refrain

T H E W O R D O F G O D

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 66, p. 784 VU, Refrain 2

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 26: 17-30

ANTHEM: *Long Ago & Far Away* Mayberry/Stubbington, arr.

2.

SERMON: *On Tables, Achin Tans, And Belonging*

***HYMN #460 VU All Who Hunger**

T H E R E S P O N S E

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING & OFFERTORY: (#581VU When We Are Living, v.2)

Through all our living, we our fruits must give.

Good works of service are for offering.

**When we are giving, or when receiving,
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN # 79 MV Spirit, Open My Heart

***THE LITANY OF THE DIMINISHING LIGHT**

Leader: Our Lenten journey deepens, and the light continues to fade....

[The fifth purple candle is snuffed]

Just enough light to see 'round the table:

People: Just enough light to see one another.

Leader: Companions on the way.

People: So too, Companion us as we go, O God.

Leader: And over all the thresholds we cross. Amen, and amen.

ALL SING (VU. 144, words adapted, K. Burke):

Were you there, when they shared a final meal? (Were you there?)

Were you there, when they shared a final meal?

Oh-oh-oh-oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,

Were you there when they shared a final meal? (Were you there?)

The bulletin today is dedicated in loving memory of Myrtle (Pond) Price, wife of the late Milton Price (1926-1994) by her children Brian, Doug, Maxine and Philip & families.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

E-Mail: nmuc@nb.aibn.com

Website: www.newmarylandunited.ca

If you know of someone in hospital please notify the Church. Please forward items of prayer and celebration to the Minister. For emergencies, you may call Rev. Dr. Kelly Burke at 470-9634.

Greeter This Week: Meg Simms

Teller This Week: Dorothy Webster and Merlin Tracy

Trustee on Duty (Mar): David Ward

LOOKING AHEAD:

Mon., Mar. 18th - 1 pm-2:30 pm - Lenten Conversations (see below)

Wed., Mar. 20th - 6:00 pm - “Chili Night” plus presentation (see over)

Sun., Mar. 24th - 11:00 am - Worship Service – Palm Sunday

Thur., Mar. 28th - 6:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Potluck & Service

Fri., Mar. 29th - 10:00 am - Good Friday Service

Sun., Mar. 31st - 11:00 am - Easter Sunday

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Join us today for our Annual Congregational meeting & luncheon following the service. **Open to all members and adherents of NMUC.**

LENTEN CONVERSATIONS: Join in as you can for 5 weeks of conversation. **On Being Human: Life, Sacred Stories, & Rituals** beginning Monday, February 26 from 1 pm to 2:30 pm here at church.

MAUNDY THURSDAY – Please come and join in for **Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 6 pm.** We begin downstairs with a potluck supper and all the joy and conversation that goes on across tables. Then we move to the ‘Upper Room’ (sanctuary) for a ritual hand washing, sacred stories and a simple, pared down communion. We end by stripping the sanctuary in preparation for Good Friday.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – The **Men’s Club** will be holding their annual **Chili Dinner on Wednesday, March 20th starting at 6 pm.** Meal consists of chili (vegetarian & meat), garlic bread and homemade dessert. Following the meal, guest speaker – **Mac MacFarlane** of the **York Sunbury Search & Rescue** will be speaking about “**Project Lifesaver**” – a project which uses technology and searching skills to protect those at risk of wandering and providing peace of mind to families. **Freewill offering.**

M&S FUNDRAISER: The **Sunday School** has started its annual M&S fundraiser. This year, we have the **Share-the-love jars!** Please pick up a beautifully decorated jar and donate a toonie to the jar each time you show an act of kindness and share-the-love in the world. The goal is to raise at least \$30 in each jar. We will be collecting the jars in the fall. Thank you for supporting this worthwhile cause.

CHURCH BULLETINS - Anyone wishing to sponsor a Sunday bulletin (\$20), please contact the church office (459-3313). We encourage everyone to consider being a sponsor as it off sets the cost of our weekly bulletins. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the foyer if you’d like to sponsor a bulletin for a particular day.

NMUC LIBRARY – Just a reminder that we have plenty of interesting books in our church library for anyone to borrow. There have been a couple of requests for “large print” novels for our library. If you have any at home or know someone who would like to donate some, we’d love to have them.

JIGSAW PUZZLE LIBRARY – Just a reminder that we have a lovely selection of jigsaw puzzles in the mini kitchen (off the sanctuary). They are available to anyone who would like to borrow them. A great way to pass the time. Donations of puzzles are greatly appreciated.

GREENER VILLAGE COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE: For the month of March, we will focus on packaged cookies. However, as always, everything is deeply appreciated.

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

NASHWAAKSIS UNITED CHURCH (46 Main St.) will be hosting a **“Stew Take-Out” on Friday, March 22 from 4:00-5:30 pm.** The menu includes delicious homemade Beef Stew, rolls, and carrot cake for dessert. The cost is \$15.00. Cut off for reservations is Monday, March 18th. Please call the church office @ 506-458-9452 or e-mail admin@nashwaaksisunited.ca *Please use the front door for pick-ups.

STORM NOTICE

In the event that Church service is cancelled due to inclement weather, you will be informed in the various manners, but not before 8:30 am.

1. E-mail notification: If you have e-mail, this is the most direct method.
2. Radio Stations: CBC, JOY-FM, CAPITAL
3. Website: <http://www.newmarylandunited.ca/> It will be on the Home Page.
4. The answering machine on the church telephone (459-3313).