

NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

875 Route 101 Hwy. Nasonworth, NB E3C 2C1 Phone:506-459-3313
Minister: Rev. Kelly Burke, B.A., M.Div Office Administrator: Lorna Ball
Musical Director: Allan Morgan, B.Mus Choir Director: Carolyn Hatt, B.Mus, B.Mus Ed

February 1st, 2015 11 am

Welcome and thank you for joining in our worship this joyous morning! We hope you feel at home in our midst. If you are visiting or new to the congregation please introduce yourself to Rev. Burke. Grace and peace to you!

Thought for Meditation:

I'm religious not because I'm ignorant. I'm religious because I'm in awe.
Howard Smith, 20th C scientist

THE GATHERING

*Please rise in body or in spirit for sections marked with an asterisk.

*WELCOME & LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*INTROIT: Gather Us In (Marty Haugen, from *Gather*)

Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now and we shall awaken,
We shall arise at the sound of our name!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Light of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us worship the Lord together!

*HYMN#313 VU God, Whose Almighty Word

OPENING PRAYER:

Come into our midst this morning, O God. Come and settle in with us. Come and *unsettle* us. Break open our hearts. Astound us with your Word and your authority. Make us anew. And hear us as we pray together:

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.

HYMN#167 MV Hush! Hush!

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 111, p. 833 VU

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 1:21-28

ANTHEM: *It's Me, O Lord, Standing in the Need of Prayer*

SERMON: *So The Strangest Thing Happened During Service....*

***HYMN#12 MV Come Touch Our Hearts**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

OFFERING & OFFERTORY (D. Dufner, OSB, from *Gather*)

**Like ripples in a pool, our gifts, however small they are,
will reach and heal a needy world, will comfort near and far.**

**For Christ will bless our bit of bread, the loaves our hands provide,
till empty baskets overflow and all are satisfied.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN# 326 VU O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing**

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BLESSING: May the God of Hope Go With Us (#424 VU)

**May the God of Hope go with us every day
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.**

**May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

**Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful, when we hear Christ's call.**

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. Burke at 470-9634.

Greeters This Week: Deborah, Amber & Emma Knorr and Loraine Ward

Tellers This Week: L. Penney and Frank Glendenning

Trustees On Duty (Feb): Jim Merrill and Allen Parlee

Nursery: Lorna Ball

Sunday School: Krista Tupling and Brodie Power

LOOKING AHEAD:

Sun., Feb. 1st - 11:00 am - Worship Service

**Tue., Feb. 3rd - 6:30 pm - Worship Committee
7:00 pm - Men's Club**

Wed., Feb. 4th - 1:00 pm - Quilters

Wed., Feb. 11th - 7:30 pm - U.C.W. Meeting (see over)

**Sun., Feb. 15th - 12:15 pm - Annual Congregational Meeting
(snow date Feb. 22nd) (see over)**

Mon., Feb. 16th - 1:00 pm - Bible Study beginning (see over)

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING –12:00 noon–Sun, Feb. 15

Plan to attend our annual Congregational meeting and stay for a potluck luncheon between the service and meeting. If you would like to bring some fingerfood to share for lunch, that would be most appreciated: for instance, sandwiches, cheese & crackers, fruit, a veggie tray, etc. Coffee, tea, and juice will be provided. **(Open to all members & adherents of NMUC.)**

UCW will meet on **Wed., February 11th at 7:30 pm** in the home of Dorothy Webster, 215 Bradshaw Drive. This will be our annual **Bring and Buy meeting**, so bring your new or gently used treasures and join us for an evening of fun! For more info, call Dorothy at 457-9795.

GATHER, TALK, EAT: Nourishment in the Season of Lent

What would be your last meal on earth?

Where would you choose to eat it?

Who would you like to share your table?

Lent, with its old emphasis on fasting and quiet, may seem like an odd time to pursue such things as gathering together to share stories and food. But this is exactly what I am proposing. Together we will reflect on holy stories - both scriptural and personal - that centre around a recipe, a meal. After all, meal-sharing is central to the story of God and critical to a healthy communal life. For more info contact Rev Kelly.

When: Mondays at 1:00 pm, starting February 16th through to March 23rd.

Where: Rev. Kelly's – 100 Berkley Drive, New Maryland, (Forbes's subdivision)

GREEN COMMITTEE – If you have a manual thermostat or no thermostat at all, one way to save energy and money this winter is to install a programmable thermostat. When installed and used with the four pre-programmed temperature settings for weekend and weekdays, you can save about \$100 each year while staying comfortable.

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

SEEKING TOWELS Recently a member of the congregation told me that she needed to clean out her towel cupboard and wondered if by chance we could use any gently worn towels at our monthly Christ Church Outreach program that we support. I said that we should take them and see. So she gave me an assortment of fresh smelling used towels and I packaged them into bundles of 3 or 4, with 2 bars of soap on top, put them into clear plastic bags and set them on the clothing tables. I am pleased to report that they were scooped up (by 4 individual people) as soon as the doors opened! So if anyone else has any older towels that they would like to see go to a good cause, please bring them to the church and we will package them up and take them with us when we go again on **February 16th**. If it is easier to have them picked up, call me at 457-2377 and I would be happy to come and get them. Thanks, Nancy Ostaff, Chairperson, Outreach Comm.

FOOD BANK: For the month of **February** we will focus on **canned soups (all types)**. However, as always, everything is deeply appreciated. As well, they are collecting egg cartons and clean plastic bags.

COMMUNITY EVENTS: Thank you Lord: For the **6th year, St. Paul's United Church** (224 York St) is offering **Thursdays in Lent, 12 – 1 pm, February 19 – March 26.** You are invited. We are one. Your voice is important. The themes we will be exploring are: Week 1–Covenant, 2–Faith, Week 3–Courage, 4–Love, 5–Mystery, 6–Passion. Come, bring your lunch and share in Fellowship exploring the mystery of our faith in Jesus Christ. /5.

African American Spirituals

These are songs created by Africans who were captured and brought to the United States to be sold as slaves. This stolen race was deprived of their families, their culture, their home, and their languages. But the white masters could not take away their music. Over the years these slaves and their descendants adopted Christianity, the religion of their ‘owners’. They re-shaped it into a deeply personal way of dealing with the oppression and violence of their enslavement.

They expressed their faith in songs, which were to become known as “Spirituals”.

But these songs also became a way of communicating among themselves without their owners’ knowledge: this was particularly important when a slave was planning to escape bondage into freedom by way of the Underground Railroad.

This music was “lost” for a time after the Act of Emancipation (which called for the end of slavery) and the end of the American Civil War. But such powerful music could not stay hidden.

We treasure it now for its beauty and strength, and as a reminder of what humanity is capable of, in the name of God: both violence and cruelty, and also grace and beauty.