

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
Supply Musician: Rev. Jane Johnson, B.Sc, B.Th., M.Div

February 26th, 2022 11 am
The Lenten Journey Begins: Pondering The Mystery Of Jesus

Welcome and thank you for joining in our worship this sacred 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 friendship with its people. Grace and peace to you all!

Thought for Meditation:

*Sometimes with the bones of the black
sticks left when the fire has gone out
someone has written something new
in the ashes of your life.*

You are not leaving.

*Even as the light fades quickly now,
you are arriving. David Whyte*

THE GATHERING

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

THE LIGHTING OF THE LENTEN CANDLES

THE GATHERING & WELCOME

*Introit: Gather Us In #7 MV

Gather us in, ground us in you.

Gather us in, ground us in you.

Gather us in, gather us in,

Ground us, ground us, in you.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you!

Leader: And so our Lenten worship begins.

***HYMN #115 VU Jesus Tempted In The Desert**

OPENING PRAYER ENDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: And so begins this Lenten Season, O God, and so begins our journey, our pilgrimage:

People: The way of wilderness and encounter; the way of wonder and reckoning;

Leader: the way of fire and ash, of things seen and unseen.

People: Open our minds and our hearts, that we might be attentive to the gift and the challenge of the stories along the way.

Leader: Bless our intentions and our perseverance as we wrestle with the mystery of Jesus,

People: as together we travel the Lenten path.

Leader: And now 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 # 85 MV Take, O Take Me As I Am

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S HYMN # 85 MV Take, O Take Me As I Am

THE WORD OF GOD

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 4: 1-11

SERMON: *Shriven and Ashed, Into The Wilderness We Go!*

*HYMN #73 MV O God, Why Are You Silent?

THE RESPONSE

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN # 635 VU All The Way My Saviour Leads Me

*THE LITANY OF DIMINISHING LIGHT

Leader: Our Lenten journey has begun, and the light begins to fade....

[The first purple candle is snuffed]

and so we pray:

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy upon us.

**Have mercy upon us, O God, according to your steadfast love,
according to your abundant mercies.**

We offer you our failures, we offer you attempts,

The gifts not fully given, the dreams not fully dreamt.

Give our stumblings direction, give our visions wider view

our offering of dust and ashes, our offering to you.

Sung Response: Oh God we call. Oh God we call.

From deep inside we yearn,

From deep inside we yearn,

From deep inside we yearn, for you.

And hope shall rise from ashes, for 'A broken and contrite heart I will not ignore,' says God. 'Even now, return to me,' says the Lord.

Quiet your heart, and pay attention. For I am with you in the wilderness and always. Amen and amen.

***CHORAL BLESSING: Stay With Us Through The Night (#182 VU, v.1)**

**Stay with us through the night
Stay with us through the pain.
Stay with us, blessed stranger,
Till the morning breaks again.**

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: Loraine Ward

Tellers This Week: Dorothy Webster and Jim Merrill

Trustee On Duty (Feb): Ann Urquhart

LOOKING AHEAD:

Tue., Feb. 28th - 1:00 pm - Lenten Conversations (see below)

Wed., Mar. 1st - 1:00 pm - U.C.W. Meeting at the church

Wed., Mar. 1st - 1:30 pm - Men's Club Meeting

LENTEN CONVERSATIONS:

Beginning Tuesday, February 28, 1:00 pm

Join us at church for an hour and a half -ish of conversation and reflection. We will use scripture stories of this season as our jumping off place, and will add in our own memories, our understandings, and our questions- which is to say our own sacred stories. We will carry on for 6 Tuesdays, but as the Angels always seem to say, "Fear Not" if you have to miss a week. While the weeks will link in their own way, they are all free standing. We will love to have you whenever you can participate!

Can't join us in person? Please reach out to me, 506-470-9634, as I am looking at a Zoom version as well!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY

Join us following the service today for our Annual Congregational Meeting and potluck luncheon . Open to all members and adherents of NMUC.

The **2023 Church envelopes** are on the table in the upper foyer for you to pick up. Only those who use their envelopes regularly have been issued new ones this year. In an effort to reduce our costs, those using PAR will not receive 2023 envelopes.

Church Offering

Anyone wanting a church envelope number (an annual tax receipt is issued for all contributions) or anyone interested in signing up for PAR (pre-approved remittance – where monthly contributions can be made to the church through your bank), please contact Sue Morrison (458-8150) or smorriso@unb.ca.

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.

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 choir room. They are available to anyone who would like to borrow them. A great way to pass the time in the cold winter months. Donations of puzzles are greatly appreciated.

The **March** issue of **Broadview magazine** has now arrived and is available to borrow in the library area.

GREENER VILLAGE COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE:

Currently there is an urgent need for **kid-friendly snacks**. However, as always, everything is deeply appreciated.

The **OUTREACH COMMITTEE** would like to gauge the interest of the congregation to resume volunteering at the Fredericton Community Kitchen. If you are interested, please contact Emma Geneau to discuss scheduling.
emmag13@live.com

NEW FUND-RAISER FOR M&S sponsored by NMUC Sunday School: Toonie Calendar Clocks are here! Pick up your one-of-a-kind clock, personally decorated by Sunday School kids. Add a toonie on each of the indicated special occasions. These will be collected in November 2023. If you have any questions, contact Sheila Power at 506-292-4106.

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).