



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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# Newsletter - March 2020



March 29 - *Communion Sunday* - 11:00 am - *Please join us for the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*

WE LOST A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER. WE EXPRESSED OUR LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF MARG GUTHRO IN OCTOBER OF 2019.

**March 20** - **Monthly potluck luncheon** will be held at noon in the lower hall. This is free because it's potluck and everyone is asked to bring something that's ready to eat. It's meant to be a social time and will be followed by games, so bring your checkerboard, crib board etc. You are invited to bring a friend or neighbor, as this is not just for our church. Please use the James St. entrance. These will be held monthly on the third Friday. This is an endeavor by the Mission/Outreach and Hospitality Team.

**A reminder: Winter Cancellation Policy at First: Anytime there is a weather watch or warning of bad weather, First's policy is to call the church office and any cancellation notice will be on the phone voice mail message, posted on ECFM 94.1 and the church FaceBook page.**

We had a busy Advent/Christmas season at First Church. We had a group of volunteers that contributed to our community by manning the Salvation Army kettles. On Dec. 15 we had the Sunday School Christmas performance following the service. That was followed by a potluck downstairs after with cookie decorating for the children. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service was held at 7:00 pm with special music and the finale by the Children's Handbell Choir. For the final service of the year, Rev. Andrew held a Service of Healing and Anointing.

*This rite can be deeply meaningful and affecting; great care should be taken to ensure that appropriate privacy is kept and that people are comfortable. It will be rewarding and important that ongoing teaching about healing and prayer is done in the congregation so that as many people as possible have a full and sufficiently informed understanding of how the Bible and church understand the practice of healing.*

*As people are gathered for the laying on of hands, the presider may want to lean close to hear what the individual's specific petition is. Those who take leadership in prayer will find it helpful to spend considerable time reflecting upon the most beneficial way to address certain requests so that the prayers that are offered are pastorally and theologically suitable.*

*One by one the presider will hear the request for healing and prayer appropriately and privately with the person.*

**Job Opportunity:** The Office Administrator will be retiring at the end of July. This position will begin the first of September, with full training and on-going support. If you or anyone you know would be interested, they may contact the office by email, phone or personally to find out more about this part-time position.

**A note from the Organist** (after his health emergency and surgery in December): First, thank you to all of you who remembered me with cards, calls and good thoughts during my time in the hospital and recuperation period. It is great to be back among you to share in the music ministry that our choir brings every week.

**Feb. 23 was the date of our Annual Meeting following the service. We have some big decisions to be made in the next few years and we welcome any ideas for fundraising or ongoing revenue sources. We recognized Emma Campbell for her many years of dedicated service to the congregation.**

**Congratulations to Justin Savage** who left February 24 for Thunder Bay to participate in the NS Special Olympics for bowling. He was the only athlete from Pictou Co. and came in 4<sup>th</sup> in his division.



We are in the process of making arrangements for a new church directory. We haven't done one since 2015 and faces have changed. The dates are **April 16, 17 and 18**. You don't need to buy the pictures, but you'll get a free directory if you get your photo taken. You will receive a call from Universal Portrait Studios (beginning on March 30) to set up an appointment, or you may take one of their cards from the bulletin board or doorways and make your own appointment at your convenience. **INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS WILL BE TAKEN IN THE KITCHEN AREA OF THE LOWER HALL. PLEASE USE JAMES ST. DOOR.** All groups and team leaders should take pictures also. They may be submitted electronically to the office.



Sharon St. John United Church is challenging us to put in a team for **Bowl for Kids** taking place on April 4. Rev. Andrew has set up a team to bowl at 1:00pm. Please call the church office (902-752-5691) if you would like to be part of the team. There are pledge sheets in the office.

**As mentioned at the Annual Meeting**, our current financial health is not good. One way you can help is when you're buying your weekly groceries, pick one item up for the church. This would cut down on our operating costs. There are boxes at each entryway for your donations.

- paper for the office (white – 8 1/2 X11)
- salt and sand (winter)
- paper towels
- toilet tissue
- finely ground coffee
- clear and blue garbage/recycling bags
- liquid hand soap
- rubber gloves
- large bottle of vinegar
- javex
- stamps for the office



## EASTER SERVICES:

**Maundy Thursday** (April 9) - a service with an agape feast. Joint service - to be held at St. Andrew's Church at **7pm**.

**Good Friday** (April 10) - joint service at **11:00 am** at St. Andrew's Church

**Easter Sunday** (April 12) - Sunrise service at **8:00 am** at Lauri Park (beside Fire Station)  
followed by muffins and coffee in the Upper Hall.

Regular Easter morning service at **11:00 am** with Sacrament of Holy Communion

**April 26:** -The Church will be holding a Potluck fundraiser immediately following the church service. This will be a Benefit event for the Scott Grant Family, so please come and show your support. May we suggest A-N casseroles, meats, etc, O-Z sweets - cookies, squares, tarts, etc.



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