



A warm welcome to all visitors and persons seeking a relationship with a faith community. How do we define “visitors and persons seeking faith”? Just turn to the back of this bulletin for more details. At Bethany United Church we remain committed to the health and safety of our community of faith. *We remind all individuals to wash or sanitize hands upon arrival when visiting our sacred space.*

If unwell, please be mindful of your neighbour.



*Today's bulletin is in loving memory of
John Robert Mahen
fondly missed by his wife, Maureen.*

~ Ushers for April 2024 ~

Randy Tyler, Bev Grant, and Pam Carter

~ Hosts for Coffee Hour ~

Carolyn & Bob McGee, Sandra & Rick Anningson, and Julia Jewett

Audio Visual Ministry Team:

Penny Allen, Glen Knapp, Stephen Morley, Barry Paton & Rob Steeves

Our monthly newsletter is online via our website www.bethanyunitedchurch.ca or a hard copy can be picked up from an usher or from the church office thru the week.

WORSHIP SERVICES WILL REMAIN ONLINE VIA LIVESTREAM ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL BETHANY HALIFAX OR VIDEO RECORDING SHARED ON OUR WEBSITE.

Church Office Update!

Volunteering is a great way to get plugged into your church, feel like part of a community, and serve God at the same time. If you are uniquely equipped with specific skills and gifts or want to learn a new skill or grow a gift, YOU are invited to utilize these gifts in our community and within our church office. **Contact Dana Mills, 902-455-0521, x. 221.**

PLEASE NOTE! WORK HOURS FOR TINA GASCON, FINANCE OFFICER - MONDAYS, 10am-3pm, or by appointment: finances@bethanyunitedchurch.ca or 902-455-0521, x. 225.

Our **Treasurer, Rob Steeves**, is also available if you have questions. Please drop him an email (rbsroad@hotmail.com) or call the office to schedule a time to meet. He too is in the church most Mondays and at various other times during the week.

Bethany United Church
Sunday April 14, 2024

Minister: Rev. Kevin Little

Ministry of Music: Shawn Whynot

*Transportation Ministry... need a lift or can you offer a lift?
Contact Heather Gillis at heatherwgillis@gmail.com or 902-454-5309
and she will try her best to help you navigate here safely and with support.*

As disciples of Christ, we are called to serve any way we are able. One opportunity is to give what we can for the work and witness of this community of Christ. Offering plates are located at the entranceways. We give and receive with grateful hearts.

*Sunday School is concurrently being offered at 10:30am in the gymnasium.
All children between the ages of 3 and 13 are welcome!
Young ones are also welcome to remain in the sanctuary for worship.
Speak with Louisa Duck, youth welcome to help lead in this time faith.*

Music for the Gathering: An Easter Melody

G. Oldroyd

Choral Introit: Let's Sing unto the Lord

Carlos Rosas

Acknowledgement of Territory

Ann Bradley

Bethany United Church as a community of faith recognize and acknowledge that colonialism and oppression has been committed by the church, its antecedent denominations and is present today. We acknowledge that the stories of the past, the present and future people from Mi'kma'ki across this unceded territory hold a diverse spiritual belief, history, and way of life. We are called to hear the truth and work towards reconciliation. To live out apologies for the reality and irrevocable harm these communities have suffered. There is much work to be done repairing these relationships. We seek a healing relationship with the Mi'kmaq people, one based in the original intent of peace and friendship.

Opening Hymn: VU 179 This is the Day

Welcome and Announcements

Ann Bradley

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Ann Bradley

We light this candle as a symbol of the light of Christ, which cannot be held back by distance, which shines in each one of us, no matter where we are.

Call to Worship (Written by Thom Shuman)

One: We are witnesses, to the love God has poured into us.

We are witnesses of God's love, sharing it with each person we meet. We are witnesses to everyone we encounter, little children like us, sisters and brothers in God's family.

Many: Amen.

Easter Prayer VU 188

Hymn: VU 480 Let Us Break Bread Together

Scripture readings: Psalm 4 VU 727 Luke 24:36-48

Karen Hatcher

Sermon: Witnesses of God's Love

Ann Bradley

Ministry of Music: The Festal Day is Here

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Ann Bradley

Closing Hymn: VU 509 I, the Lord, of Sea and Sky

Benediction (Written by Nathan Nettleton)

One: Go now as God's chosen witnesses to testify that Christ has been raised and that we are raised with him. Do not look for him among the dead but be glad and rejoice in his salvation. And may God raise you from all that would entomb you; May Christ Jesus call you by name and go ahead of you; And may the Holy Spirit empower you for all that is good. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ.

Many: Amen

Prayer (sung by all)

The time has come, O God, for us to leave this place.

Guide us and protect us and lead us in Thy grace.

Wherever life may take us, as we go our separate ways,

Help us share with others, the things we've shared today.

May the peace of God the Father, and the love of Christ His Son,

Guide us in the days ahead and shelter us each one.

May the blessings of the Spirit, fill us from within,

Protect us and return us, to this fellowship once again.

Music for Going Forth: Voluntary in E minor

J. Stanley

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**OUR HOSPITALITY MINISTRY IS ALWAYS KEEN TO HAVE NEW USHERS AND COFFEE HOUR HOSTS.
PLEASE SPEAK WITH PAM CARTER OR JULIA JEWETT IF INTERESTED.**

"We walk by faith, not by sight." ~ 2 Corinthians 5: 6-7

Bethany United Church [7171 Clinton Avenue]

Mailing Address:

2669 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4G5

(902) 455-0521 or office@bethanyunitedchurch.ca



We are located on the land known as We'kwaltijk (Northwest Arm) "end of the bay; ending without a river coming in" (Mi'kmaw place names in an area of Sipekne'katik on the Atlantic Coast in Mi'kma'ki.) in Sipekne'katik "area of wild potato/turnip" (District of Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.).



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. We welcome any questions, opinions or concerns you may wish to share with the committee.

God's Love Is Wider

A special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, straight, gay, confused, well-heeled or down heeled; wailing babies, excited toddlers, questioning children, adults with all the answers; to those strong singers or silent hummers; those "just browsing", just woken up, or just out of prison; those who are more Christian than the Moderator of the United Church of Canada or haven't been to church since Christmas years ago; those over 60 but not grown up yet and teens that are growing up way too fast; those doting moms, hockey dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters; those who are in recovery or still addicted; those with problems, down in the dumps, or don't like organized religion; those who think the world is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here with their loved one who is visiting and wanted to come back to Bethany one more time; those who are inked, pierced, both or neither; those who can use prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as kids; or just got stuck at the Armdale Rotary and wound up here. A "visitor or person seeking faith" can be a pilgrim, tourist, seekers, doubters ... and YOU!

(Adapted from a message shared by Coventry Cathedral, England and Fort Massey United Church, Canada)

Thank you, Joan Craig, for passing along this definition to Kevin.

Would you like to contribute offsetting the costs of printing the bulletin each week?

There is a spot reserved for a message in tribute or in memory of a loved one who you wish to honour. Amount requested to place a note is \$50.00.

Contact the church office to reserve your date for 2024.



Thank you

We offer thanks to Ann Bradley for extending her gift of ministry in leadership and sharing her message with us today. Our lead minister, Kevin Little, was required to be at Crossroads (Timberlea-Goodwood) United Church today. Kevin is serving as their Supervising Minister, and this is their scheduled Annual General Meeting. Kevin was invited to lead their worship and is preaching.

Don't forget to purchase your Sunday School Quilt Draw tickets in support of "Out of the Cold" during Coffee Hour or from the church office during the week. Tickets will be sold until May 19th! Price: \$10.00 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$20.00

