

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.

...I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jeremiah 31:33

LDS Scripture of the Day



*Today's bulletin is in loving memory of my parents,  
affectionately remembered by Bobbi Lord and family.*

*~ Ushers for March 2024 ~*

*Tina & Pierre Gascon and Pam Carter*

*~ Hosts for Coffee Hour ~*

*Jodi Myers & Rick Rivers, Yvonne Macor & Phillip Keeley,  
Bev Grant, 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](http://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 while simultaneously lightening the load of a church's staff. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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**  
**Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 17, 2024**

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**Minister: Rev. Kevin Little**

**Ministry of Music: Shawn Whynot**

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*Transportation Ministry... need a lift or can you offer a lift?  
Contact Heather Gillis at [heatherwgillis@gmail.com](mailto: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: The Holy City**

**D. Wagner**

**Choral Introit: Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God**

**H. Willan**

**Acknowledgement of Territory**

**Ann Bradley**

*We begin by acknowledging Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory upon which we gather this morning. For many thousands of years, the Mi'kmaq Peoples have had an oral tradition that offers a unique and diverse perspective of the world. These oral traditions were gifted from the Creator, and are values and customs, passed on to the youth, as a responsibility of the elders, and provide an ancestral consciousness by which to live. May we understand that these ways of living were almost lost; acknowledge these acts of pain and suffering, let us leave them in the past, and go forward to develop a new relationship, a healing friendship, and find new ways of being in peace.*

**Opening Hymn: VU 642 Be Thou My Vision**

**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 Joanna Harader)**

**One: Holy One, dwell within us.**

**Many: Whisper in our ears;**

**One: Glimmer in our vision;**

**Many: Write upon our hearts.**

**One: We wait**

**Many: with open ears, open eyes, open hearts. Amen**

**Opening Prayer (Written by St. Ambrose of Milan, AD 339-397)**

One: O Lord, who has mercy on all, take away from us our sins, and mercifully kindle in us the fire of your Holy Spirit.

Take away from us the heart of stone, and give us a heart of flesh, a heart to love and adore you, a heart to delight in you, to follow and enjoy you, for Christ's sake...

Many: Amen.

Hymn: VU 373 As Comes the Breath of Spring

Ministry of Music: I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

T. Waldrop

Bible Readings *Psalm 119* VU 838 Part Two & *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

Peyton Duggan

Sermon *The heart of the matter*

Kevin Little

Ministry of Music: Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)

E. Butler

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Ann Bradley

Closing Hymn: VU 586 We Shall Go Out with Hope and Resurrection

St. Patrick's Blessing VU 319

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.

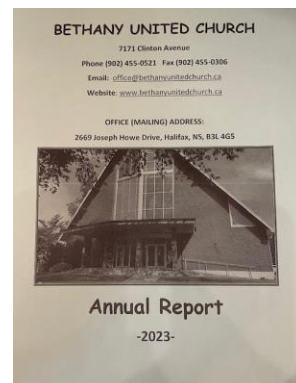
May the blessings of the Spirit, fill us from within,

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

Music for Going Forth: Improvisation on an Irish Tune - Slane

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**Annual Report 2023** is now available from the Narthex on Sunday mornings or via the church office Monday to Friday, 10am-3pm. Please hold the date for our Annual General Meeting on Sunday, April 7, 2024, following the church service in the Sanctuary at Noon.

We extend a **big thanks** to **Ian Parker** who oversees the editing and printing once the document is compiled. Ian's diligent and reassuring presence this time of year is most appreciated. Thank you also to all the leadership volunteers and ministry staff for your efforts to ensure reports were submitted in a timely and organized manner. It takes an awesome group of volunteers and ministry team effective in their communication of make this resource available. We are blessed as a community of faith.



**"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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*