

Montague Pastoral Charge

Sunday, March 23, 2025

11:00 a.m.

Hillcrest United Church

Ministers: All of Us

Clergy: Timothy Wisnicki BSc. MDiv.

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Sheila Mallory

Director of Music: Anne White

Website: www.hillcrestunitedpei.com

Facebook Group: Hillcrest United Church, PE
mgr_hillcrest@outlook.com

3rd Sunday in Lent



Bulletins are in loving memory of

Derek MacConnell

Love Mom - Melva O'Connor-Rafuse



Sunday, March 23, 2025

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude “How Firm a Foundation” J. Funk arr. Berry
“Be Still, My Soul” Jean Sibelius arr. Cindy Berry
“Morning Song” by F. Mendelssohn arr. Ernest Dicks

Introit VU # 312 verse 1

**Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love, and peace,
Source and end of human knowledge,
God whose grace shall never cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
Power to rescue and release.**

Welcome & Acknowledgement

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Candlelighter: Thane LeLacheur

Call to Worship (based on VU #109)

Now quit your care, anxious fear and worry.

Lent calls us to prayer, trust, and dedication.

Reply with love to love most high!

Lent leads us to the place where God's glory flashes.

Make clear where truth and light appear!

The fast God has chosen is to break every yoke:

To fight until every wrong is set right!

Righteousness and peace will show their faces

to those who feed the hungry in their need.

Divine it is when all combine!

Our light shall break forth as the morning;

love shall be the prize.

Arise and make a paradise!

Opening Hymn VU# 218 “We Praise You, O God”

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Like a gardener, God, you tend us. With great love you have planted us in good land. With patience you nurture us with food and water for the soul. With firm hands you train and prune our branches when they hinder our growth. Humbly you bend down to sift the soil and loosen our roots. We thank you for your faithful care, and pray that our lives may bring forth the fruits that you desire, in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray: **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, forever and ever. Amen.**

Children's Hymn VU #356 "Seek Ye First the Kingdom"

Children's Time

Children's Prayer

Bulletin Bag Delivery 5th Anniversary Celebration

Good News

**We celebrate you, in all that you do,
We love you; God bless you.
We celebrate you.**

Passing of the Peace

(Children may go to Sunday School.)

Prayer of Confession

We need your healing, merciful God: give us true repentance. Some sins are plain to us, some escape us, some we cannot face. Forgive us, we pray. Set us free to hear your Word to us. Set us free to serve you.

...moment of silence

Words of Assurance

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination

O God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Speak to us through these scriptures today, so that we may hear your Word, and live. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 55:1-9

Reader: Heather MacPherson

Psalms 63 (VU #781)

Luke 13:1-9

The Gloria Patri – *Music by Alan Coffin*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.

Senior Choir Anthem “On Eagles’s Wings”

by Michael Joncas arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Sermon “Meditations from a Manure Pile”

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn MV # 87 “Water Flowing From the Mountains”

Minute for Mission

Reader: Clara VanderAa

Invitation to Offering

Offering Dedication VU #116 verses 1 & 4

Giver of the perfect gift.

Only hope of human race,

Hear the prayer our hearts uplift,

Gathered at thy throne of grace.

Oh, may these our Lenten days,

Blest by thee, with thee be passed,

That with purer, nobler praise

We may keep thy feast at last.

Offering Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Life & Work of the Church

Closing Hymn VU# 288 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Benediction

Closing Blessing VU # 312 verse 4

Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit,

One God in community,

Calling Christians to embody

Oneness and diversity.

This the world shall see reflected:

God is One and One in Three.

Postlude “Religioso in F Major” J. L. Battmann

We extend a warm welcome to guests visiting with us today.

Please join us for coffee after church.

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

Office Hours are Mon. through Thurs. 9 a.m. to noon.

Clergy Visiting - Please let the office (838-2698) or Timothy (905-269-7381) know if anyone in hospital, long-term care or at home requires a visit or Pastoral Care.

Puzzle Exchange – check out the beautiful puzzles on our Puzzle Shelves by the offices. Please feel free to take one, leave one and/or borrow one.

Lost & Found – the box is overflowing – please take a look to see if you have left something behind – it is probably there. It is located at the front of the church, pulpit side.

Easter Sunrise Breakfast volunteers – thank you to the folks who have offered to volunteer at the breakfast already. More volunteers welcome – please let Nancy know if you are able to help.

What will we do with the South Field? Stewards & Trustees would like to form a small group to dream/brainstorm future uses for the field south of the church. We are looking for a few members of the congregation to

join the group for some blue sky conversations. Please contact the office 838-2698 or Melissa 969-9339.

THANK-YOU/GOOD NEWS

-Congratulations to Ellen MacNearney on her 3 Gold Medals at the World Special Olympics in Italy this month

THIS WEEK AT HILLCREST

Today

12:30 - Lenten Bible Study on the parables of Jesus in the Shaffelburg Room. All are welcome and encouraged to bring a bagged lunch.

Tuesday

7 pm – MPC Executive meeting

Wednesday

12:15 pm - Lenten Midday Communion service in the Chapel

2-4 pm Bridge group – New and experienced players welcome. For more information call Sandra at 388-8844

7 pm Senior Choir invites you to join this great group. Call Anne 838-2681 or just come along.

Thursday

Community Luncheon – will take place from 11:30-1pm. Everyone welcome and bring a friend.

Men's Meditation Group meets in the Shaffelburg Room at 9:30 for a time of contemplative conversation. All welcome.

Friday

Knitting/Craft Group – all welcome with your knitting, crocheting, sewing or other crafts at 10:00 or just come along for some friendship, coffee and conversation.

Sunday

Youth Choir Practice – at 10:00. New youth are most welcome to join. Contact Anne 838-2681 or just join us.

EASTER SEASON SERVICES

March 12 - April 16 – Wednesdays at 12:15 pm

Lenten Midday Communion services in the Chapel

April 17 - 7 pm - Maundy Thursday service at Sturgeon

April 18 - 11 am - Good Friday service at Hillcrest

April 20 - 7 am - Ecumenical Sunrise Service at Hillcrest

Easter Worship Services - 9 am - Sturgeon

11 am - Hillcrest

HERE & THERE

Phase III Concert Sunday March 23, 2 PM . Three former members of Phase II Gerry Hickey, Blaine Murphy & Keila Glydon, look forward to returning to a wonderful venue in Lower Montague to perform a variety of Rock 'n Roll, Country, R & B - even a little bit of gospel. \$15. A canteen service will be provided . Hope to see lots of familiar faces at the Lower Montague Women's Institute Hall, 88 Lower Montague Road.

Food Bank Sunday is next Sunday, March 30. Thank you in advance for you kind and generous donations to SK&QF Bank.

Worship Committee will meet on Tues. April 1 at 9:30 am.

Session Meeting was postponed due to weather and has been rescheduled for Tuesday, April 1 at 7 pm

Congregational Care Meeting – Wednesday April 2 at 9:30 am

UCW Online Auction – March 31 to April 11

In 8 days, the online auction will begin. The UCW are gratefully accepting a variety of new or gently used household items, dishes, jewelry, toys, tools, linens, the ever-popular baked goods and home preserves. Products and services from businesses are also popular auction items. If you wish to donate baked items or preserves, please call Nancy at the office, 838-2698, or Helen at 902-326-2126 with the details.

As was done last year, a percentage (40%) of the profits will be donated to the local food bank, so it is a win - win activity for all

involved. Items can be dropped off at the office. (Let us know if you wish anything picked up for the auction.)

Plant & Bake Sale – is coming soon. If you have any pots/dishes that volunteers could use to start some plants for the sale, please drop these off in the office and folks can check in the office for pots. Thank You.

Camp Abby - the volunteer Board of Directors is vital to the success of a camping season. As they prepare for their annual meeting on March 31st, they are looking for a Board member OR someone willing to help without being a Board member who has a flair for grant writing. There is money out there to apply for but no one on the Board has the skill set to do this. IF you know of anyone or are interested yourself, please contact Sharon Howatt for more information at slhowatt@pei.sympatico.ca or 902-432-9193.

Former 'BLUE CRYSTALS' Concert Park Royal United Church presents a special concert on Saturday, April 5, at 7:00 PM, featuring members of the former Blue Crystals and more—performing classic hits from the 1960s and 1970s across contemporary, country, and rock genres. The event also features We3, a local trio known for their vocal harmonies. Enjoy a fudge sale at intermission (cash only). Tickets are \$15 for adults, free for children, and available online via Eventbrite, at the Church Office, e-transfer or at the door (cash only), **available now**. Proceeds support Park Royal United Church programs. For details, call (902) 894-9656.

Spirit of Spring Concert Sunday, April 6th from 2-4 PM at the Montague High School. Featuring the Chaisson Trio, Bluestreak, Cian O'Morian & Mary MacGillivray, Maxine MacLenna, Jo-Anne Ford & Sheila MacKenzie. Admission by donation. 50/50 Draw-Bake Sale-Auction. Presented by St. Mary's Parish, Montague – a roof and furnace repair fundraiser.

Music Teacher Recital – 2:30 pm, Sunday, April 13th Music Festival invites you to join us for our 3rd “concert in reverse” when students and others listen to teachers perform! Great variety of music with donations to help fund this year's Kings County Music Festival. *(Receipts will be issued at the concert for donations of \$10 or more – thank you*