

## Announcements

### **Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> – Welcome Back Picnic!**

After the service on **September 24<sup>th</sup>**, we will be having our annual Fall picnic. This year it will be a potluck! Bring sandwiches or sweets to share and plan on staying for a time of fun and fellowship!

**Isle-a-Chords Reunion: New Date!!** *The Isle - a - Chords are holding a 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Celebration Song Service on **September 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm** at St John's Presbyterian Church in New London. There will be a free will offering going to QEH and PCH. All are welcome to come out and hear former members, who began in 1973, once again singing hymns together!*

### **Mission Moment**

For the five congregations that comprise the Northern New Brunswick Regional Ministry, 'church' goes well beyond someone's physical presence in the building on Sunday morning. Over the past year, they have asked themselves, "How do we reach out to those in our community and meet them where their needs are greatest?" Each congregation faces a wide diversity of social and economic challenge in their communities, including drug addiction, homelessness, unemployment and food insecurity. A common thread that unites their communities despite distance: people are searching for acceptance and help. The congregations are working to meet these needs through compassion and care.

## **SUMMERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Minister: Rev. Bradford Blaikie  
Church Administrator: Cheri MacKenzie  
Music: Christa McDougall



Phone: 902-436-2557  
Web: [summersidepresbyterianpei.ca](http://summersidepresbyterianpei.ca)  
Email: [summersidepresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:summersidepresbyterian@gmail.com)

~ September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 ~

*“to know, love and serve God wherever we are and  
to inspire others to do the same  
by our thoughts, words and deeds”*

*SPC Mission Statement*

## Our Approach to God

Call to Worship:

Praise the Lord.  
**Let us praise God together.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love;  
**as far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our sins.**

So let us rejoice in God's gracious presence.  
**Let us praise the God of mercy together.**

**Hymn: #706 Come, let us sing**

Opening Prayers

***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 debts as we forgive our  
debtors. 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.***

Assurance of God's Love

Welcome & Announcements

**Hymn: #201 We come to ask your forgiveness**

Time with Children

## Listening for God's Word

Prayer for Understanding

Scripture Readings: Matthew 18:21-35  
Psalm 103:1-13 (*responsive*)  
Romans 14:1-12

Ministry of Music

Message: "The Gift of Forgiveness"

**Hymn: #774 God forgave my sin / Freely, freely**

## Our Response to God's Word

Stewardship Moment

Reflection / Doxology & The Presentation of Gifts / Prayer

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God all creatures high & low  
Praise God in Jesus fully known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit one.***

Pastoral Prayer

♪ ***Hear our prayer, O God. Hear our prayer, O God.  
Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.*** ♪

**Hymn: #670 Amazing grace**

Benediction & Dismissal: **Walk With Me**

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As you prepare for this morning's service to begin, you are invited to reflect on the following...

*"Some Christians are more offended by the idea of everyone going to heaven than by the idea of everyone going to hell."  
~ Rachel Held Evans*



*Why is it sometimes so hard to forgive each other?*

*Why do you think that Jesus ties God's forgiveness to our forgiving others? What is the relationship between the two?*

## **Things to pray for this week...**

We give thanks for the Northern New Brunswick Regional Ministry and pray that they continue to find new ways of meeting the physical and spiritual needs within their diverse communities.

We pray for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones, especially during this time of lingering post-pandemic challenges. May they find comfort and peace in the knowledge of God's eternal love and presence.

Thursday (September 21) is the **International Day of Prayer for Peace**. We pray for peace worldwide, and for world leaders, as well as for PWS&D partners providing life-saving aid and emotional support to families suffering the terrifying consequences of war.



**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 18:21-35 (NRSVUE)

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup> “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup> When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, <sup>25</sup> and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup> So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup> Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup> But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup> Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup> And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup> So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 149 (NIV)

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
**and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and do not forget all his benefits—  
**who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.**

The Lord works vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.  
**He made known his ways to Moses,  
his acts to the people of Israel.**

The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
**He will not always accuse,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.**

He does not deal with us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.  
**For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far he removes our transgressions from us.**

As a father has compassion for his children,  
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 14:1-12 (NRSVUE)

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

<sup>12</sup>So then, each one of us will be held accountable.