

Announcements

Annual Meeting: Calling everyone interested in the future of the church!!! You are encouraged to join us at this year's annual meeting. But first, let's deal with some common myths about Annual Meetings:

Myth #1: Annual Meetings are only for those interested in financial issues. This is a myth! While money and budgets do take up some time at annual meetings, it is important to remember that the decisions that we make about how we spend our money is directly related to what we believe about God and what direction we want our church to take in the future. These are issues that concern everyone in the church!

Myth #2: Annual Meetings are only open to members of a congregation that are enrolled on the membership list. This is a myth! Congregational meetings are open to everyone – members and adherents alike. That means if you come to church but aren't on the membership roll, you can still come and be involved. That means if you don't come every week, but only whenever you can, you can still come and be involved!

Myth #3: Annual Meetings are long & boring. This is a myth! The reality is that most annual meetings don't last much longer than an hour and a half. This time flies by when you are engaged in discussions about something as important as the life and ministry of your church!

And now for the facts... Churches are at their best when they have input from as many people as possible! God's will is best discerned in groups by different people with different ideas.

This year our **Annual Meeting** will be held immediately after worship on **February 25th** and will be a time of celebrating the year past and looking forward to the year ahead. Please plan to join us!

Starting February 15, the **Queen Elizabeth Hospital Foundation is selling locally grown Vanco Tulip bouquets in support of the essential medical and technology equipment for the QEH.** Each bouquet has 10 stems and costs \$10 with a minimum order of 5 bouquets. Bring a little spring into your office or home by **preordering your bouquets online at qehfoundation.pe.ca/tulips or by calling 902-894-2425. Order deadline is February 29!**

Pick up will be available Thursday, March 7 in Charlottetown, Summerside or Montague. Visit www.qehfoundation.pe.ca/tulips for more information on each location.

SUMMERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Minister: Rev. Bradford Blaikie
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~ February 18th, 2024 ~

*“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

Prelude

Call to Worship:

We are beginning our journey through Lent.

God is with us on the way.

We come to find light in the shadows and strength in our weakness.

We will remember God's faithfulness.

We seek God's mercy and truth step by step, day by day.

We trust in God's steadfast love, so we worship with grateful hearts!

Hymn: **#196 Throughout these Lenten days and nights**

Opening Prayers

Assurance of God's Love

Welcome & Announcements

Children's Time & Hymn: **God Sees the Little Sparrow Fall**

Listening for God's Word

Prayer for Understanding

Scripture Readings: Exodus 1:6 – 2:10

Message: *"The First Week of Lent: Not on My Watch"*

Ministry of Music: *"Come Taste the Goodness of the Lord"* ~ J. M. Martin

Experiencing God's Word

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Hymn: **#528 Jesus calls us here to meet him**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements



Our Response to God's Word

Pastoral Prayer after Communion

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.

Hymn: **#775 Sent forth by your blessing**

Benediction & Dismissal: **Go Now in Peace**

Postlude

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

"Sometimes, the most holy thing we can say is, 'No – not on my watch.'"

~ Nadia Bolz-Weber

Can you think of a time when you did not feel seen or heard by the people around you? What would have helped to make you feel visible?



Who (individually or as a group) is not being seen today – in your church, neighbourhood, city, or the world?

Can you think of times when you realize you haven't truly "seen" someone?

Things to pray for this week...

We pray for interim moderators and search committees as they work to assist congregations in calling a new minister.

Did you know that Rev. Brad currently sits on the national church's Committee on Church Doctrine? We pray for the Committee as they meet Thursday and Friday of this week to discern how to help the church thoughtfully and faithfully point to Jesus Christ in a rapidly changing complex context.



On Saturday evening, people here in Summerside (and across Canada) will be joining together in the Coldest Night of the Year walk. We pray for all people who face housing insecurity. We pray that governments and decision makers work to remove barriers so that all people have access to affordable, safe and adequate housing.

Scripture Reading: Exodus 1:6 – 2:10 (NIV)

⁶Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, ⁷but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them.

⁸Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. ⁹“Look,” he said to his people, “the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. ¹⁰Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.”

¹¹So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. ¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites ¹³and worked them ruthlessly. ¹⁴They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.

¹⁵The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, ¹⁶“When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.” ¹⁷The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. ¹⁸Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, “Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?”

¹⁹The midwives answered Pharaoh, “Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.”

²⁰So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

²²Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.”

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, ²and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. ³But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. ⁴His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

⁵Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. ⁶She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This is one of the Hebrew babies,” she said.

⁷Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, “Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?”

⁸“Yes, go,” she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. ⁹Pharaoh's daughter said to her, “Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.” So the woman took the baby and nursed him. ¹⁰When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, “I drew him out of the water.”

God Sees the Little Sparrow Fall



God sees the little sparrow fall,
it meets his tender view;
if God so loves the little birds
I know He loves me too.

*He loves me too, He loves me too,
I know He loves me too;
because He loves the little things,
I know He loves me too.*

He paints the lily of the field,
perfumes each lily bell;
if He so loves the little flowers,
I know He loves me well.

God made the little birds and flowers,
and all things large and small;
He'll not forget His little ones,
I know He loves them all.

