



NEWS AT FIRST  
NOVEMBER 2024  
ISSUE #6

As you will see in this 6<sup>th</sup> issue of NewsAtFirst, this church continues to be a happening place, filled with exciting events, study groups, and new opportunities. Supporting all of this is our regular Sunday Worship which continues to inspire, challenge, and encourage us. Are we not all blessed to be part of this?

One of these special occasions took place on Sunday, September 29, 2024, and our brand-new Roving Reporter, Honorah Sheppard, was there to cover it.



### **Hello First United readers!**

I am excited to be writing this section for NewsAtFirst! This article was my first assignment as the Roving Reporter. I was put to the task of writing a little something on the workshop I attended featuring Rev. Dr. Rob Fennell at First United. This was a great experience for me. It was a wonderful follow up to the Wednesday Morning Spiritual Formation I had attended last fall offered by Rev. Cath based on his book, Turning Ourselves Inside Out. So, with pen in hand, I listened with great determination to find what I thought you readers might be interested in hearing!

Rev. Fennell began the workshop with how he came to write about this topic. It all began with a Facebook conversation on the future of the church which fashioned itself into a deeper question of “When are we going to hear about the good stuff where churches are thriving?” This led to a study by Dr. Fennell and his co-author Russell Daye on What do thriving churches do? What makes them thrive? What qualities do they possess?

As he spoke, I took pages of notes, but to summarize for you, I’ll share the key points from his handout titled “How Are We Doing?”, given to the group to reflect on and discuss. The handout outlined six practices that thriving churches embrace:

- They say yes.
- They are lifelong learners (open to coaching and discipleship).
- They take risks.

- They have open-hearted leadership.
- They possess a strong sense of identity (What makes First United *First U?*).
- They have a willingness to "turn inside out."

At the bottom of the handout was a question "What could we try?"  
I invite you to go over these points for future discussion.

One more point I would like to add, Dr. Fennell pointed out how important it is for each one of us to really ask ourselves "How to express/explain our faith in 60 seconds". This question can be a powerful step in conversations on defining one's faith.

So, I leave these points with you to ponder in these changing times. May the Holy Spirit guide you. As Rev. Dr. Fennell pointed out... "The Holy Spirit is at work calling the Church into existence!"

Finally, a big thank you to everyone involved in putting this well-organized workshop together. Many blessings and thanks to all!

Honorah Sheppard





**A Comfortable Pew at First United**  
Submitted by Malcolm Macpherson

The Music, Worship and Concert Committee, acting on a recommendation from the Profile Team and with the authority and blessing of Council, took the lead on looking into the possible removal of four pews in the front centre of the sanctuary and replacing the pews with padded chairs. The committee came to Council with a proposal which was approved, after careful consideration and discussion. The Council decision was brought to the attention of the congregation by e-mail followed by a Sunday morning announcement. Now fifty -five burgundy padded chairs provide more comfortable seating during worship and other events. They also allow for more flexibility of seating arrangement within the sanctuary.

The chairs arrived during the summer and a team, led by Property Chair Grant Campbell, carefully removed the pews and stored them in the church basement. The chairs were installed behind the rail. Some minor repair work to the floor will need to be done in the future.

Thanks to a private donation made to the Worship, Music and Concert Committee, the entire cost of the chairs was covered. No extra funds were needed from the operating budget. Additionally, some members of the congregation made donations to the project.

Initial feedback from congregants is extremely positive! People like the more comfortable seating for worship, concerts and rehearsals. Small gatherings at the front of the sanctuary are more intimate and promote fellowship, as the chairs can be arranged in any fashion. The space is calming and more comfortable for families during funerals.

The only caveat is that if people wish a more comfortable seat, then they must sit closer to the front; however, the experience is worth it.



A few of our Crafters are testing out the new chairs. I think they like them!

(Truly, which group looks more comfortable? 😊)



This year we are fortunate to have six **Choral Apprentices** joining the Choir for rehearsals and worship. The Ann MacIntosh Gourley Memorial Music Fund and the Moffatt Fund make this possible. They are as follows:



**Erica Bowman** loves to make music! She is in grade eight at Bible Hill Junior High. Outside of school she takes piano lessons with Lorraine Brocklehurst, voice lessons with Brenna Conrad, and is singing with Cantabile this fall. She enjoys performing musical theatre, with recent roles as Winnifred the Woebegone in Redcliff's "Once Upon A Mattress," and Sebastian the crab in last summer's Spotlight musical, "The Little Mermaid." Erica takes part in Truro Music Festival each year, and as a result of a couple of awards, went on to Nationals this year. In her spare time Erica likes to write, read, and draw. She is happy to be a choral apprentice.

**Holden Hoover** is a 16-year-old grade 12 student at Cobequid Educational Center in Truro, Nova Scotia, with a passion for music. For over two years (since April 2022), he has been a Choral Apprentice with the First United Church Choir. Holden enjoys singing, performing, and playing the trumpet, and he appreciates a wide range of musical styles. At CEC, he is an active member of both the choir and the band. Holden also takes vocal lessons from Brenna Conrad, participating in the Truro Music Festival annually and completing an annual Royal Conservatory Vocal Exam. Last year, he co-founded the Resonance Youth Choir and serves as one of its youth leaders, guided by Chris Bowman, the adult mentor, and director.



**Lily Arthurs** is a grade 11 IB student at CEC. She takes voice, piano and oboe lessons and loves performing. She sings in several choirs including being a part of the leadership team for the Resonance youth choir. She also performs in her school musicals and bands. She is very excited to be a choral apprentice in the First United Church choir for her second year!

**Matthew Davis** is 14 years old and was born and raised here in Truro. He attended École Acadienne de Truro until this fall, when he started grade 9 at CEC. He has been in various musical and theatre groups including the Cantabile Boys Choir, Resonance Choir, Stagecoach and this past summer performed in the Marigold's Spotlight Theatre program. In addition to his voice instruction with Brenna Conrad, he also plays piano and drums, and is looking forward to joining the cast of the CEC musical for the first time this year.

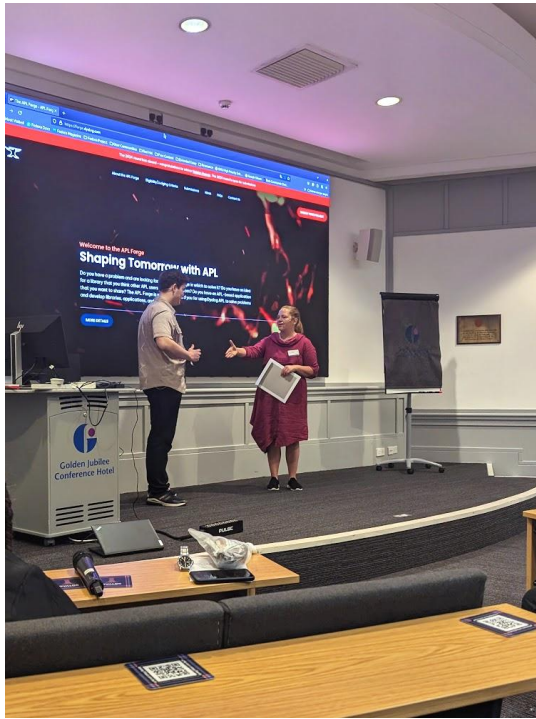


**Olivia Gouthro** is 16 years old and is in grade 11 at CEC this year. She has had a passion for singing and performing ever since she was little and started taking lessons shortly after when she was 7 years old. She performs in the Truro Music Festival every year, performs in the CEC musical, was part of the starting team for Resonance Youth Choir, and this fall she is performing as Veronica Sawyer in Neptune's YPCo show of Heathers. Apart from singing, Olivia also enjoys playing the piano, being the skip of her curling team, competing in Track and Field, dancing, and spending time with her pets!

**Thomas McDowall** is studying at the Dalhousie Agricultural campus with the Truro Start Program for a Bachelor's Degree in Science. He is glad to be able to stick around home for another year to get ready for life in Halifax, and very glad to continue to sing with the choir.



One of our Choral Apprentices, **Holden Hoover**, recently won a major competition, and an adventure followed. Here you can read about it in Holden's own words:



This past September, I had an incredible opportunity to travel to Glasgow, Scotland, to attend a conference that left a profound impact on me. I wanted to share a bit about this journey with all of you, as it has shaped my thoughts about the future in ways I hadn't anticipated.

My journey began years ago when, at the age of 12, a family friend (who lives across the street from my grandmother) introduced me to a unique programming language called APL. I know that programming might seem like a world away, but what drew me to APL was how it allowed me to talk to computers in their own language. It became a tool that fueled my curiosity and helped me

understand complex ideas without getting lost in technical details.

Earlier this year, I learned about an international programming competition called the APL Forge. Encouraged by my family friend, I decided to enter—not expecting much, but eager for the experience. For the competition, I developed a system that collects and processes real-time data broadcast by airplanes. Think of it like being able to track flights in the sky, knowing their positions, speeds, and altitudes as they fly overhead, using an antenna in my bedroom window. My application pulls this information together into a database that could be used to visualize flights, like an online map of all airplanes.

To my surprise, I won the competition. It was both humbling and exciting. Winning meant that I was invited to present my work at the International Dyalog APL Conference in Glasgow Scotland (not New Glasgow, Nova Scotia!), where people passionate about APL gather to share ideas and projects.

Traveling to Scotland was surreal. Meeting experts and pioneers in a field I care about was inspiring. These were people whose work I had followed and admired, and suddenly, I was sharing conversations and meals with them. Even though I was feeling a little bit sick during the trip, the experience was invigorating.



Presenting my project to an international audience was a highlight, and the positive reception was incredibly encouraging.

One of the most impactful moments came when I had a conversation with an engineer from ExxonMobil after my presentation. She asked if I had ever considered pursuing engineering instead of focusing solely on computer science. We ended up talking over lunch about how engineers use science to solve real-world problems. Our conversation sparked something in me. It made me realize that my passion isn't just about the theoretical side of things; I want to create practical solutions that can make a difference in people's lives.

Since returning home, I've been exploring the possibility of studying engineering. I've started looking into universities that offer strong engineering programs, both here in Canada and abroad. While I'm not entirely sure where this path will lead me, I'm excited about the possibilities and the chance to apply what I love in a way that can have tangible benefits.

This journey has taught me so much about the value of stepping out of my comfort zone and being open to new opportunities. I'm grateful for the support and encouragement I've received from friends, family, and this community.

If you're interested in seeing more about what I've been up to, my presentation is available online on the Dyalog Conference website and on YouTube (<https://dyalog.tv/Dyalog24/?v=SNCKynZShnQ>).

Thank you for taking the time to read about my adventure. I'm looking forward to the future and whatever it may hold.



[Editor's note: For those of you who are reading this online, you can go to the website highlighted above and see Holden describing his project to those assembled in Glasgow, Scotland.]

## From the Rooftop

By Malcolm and Alison

At the September Council Meeting, Grant Campbell brought Council up to date on the state of the Hall roof. At that meeting Council decided that we needed to investigate the specifics of making repairs.

Early in October, the ad hoc group, which had been established to deal with “use of the property”, met to consider this issue. Members of that committee include Rev. Crooks, Alan MacLean, Carolyn Dalrymple, Jud Pearson, Chris Bowman, Grant Campbell, Grant Langford and Malcolm Macpherson.

The ad hoc group confirmed that the roof project is totally necessary as the existing roof is leaking and could cause more damage and possible closure of the hall if allowed to continue. Recognizing the urgency of the situation the group concluded that replacement work needed to be done before winter storms. The working group unanimously supported the project and gave their recommendation to the Council Executive. The Executive voted to approve it on behalf of Council with endorsement from Trustees, thereby saving valuable time as opposed to waiting until Council meets on November 19th. Council Chair Malcolm Macpherson sent an e-mail out to members of the Congregation bringing them up to date.

A metal roof replacement is being installed by Nor’Easter Roofing and will have a 50-year life span. This safeguards the continuing and future use of Memorial Hall by members and rental tenants. The replacement will cost in the area of \$78,000. Trustees have agreed to cover this necessary expense. However, this requires the need for a major fund-raising campaign at the congregational level, to be discussed at upcoming meetings of Council Executive and Council.



## **Meditation...Connecting with Peace Within.**

Meditation at First United Thursdays @ 10 am.

Nov 28th and Dec 5th – in the Parlour; Dec. 12th – in the Sanctuary



First, I would like to say I feel so blessed to share these moments of heart-centered meditation, discovering inner peace together with the family of First United. I am deeply grateful for the space and support First United has provided. The Parlour has become a “sacred space” for our group, where people feel comfortable and supported, sharing moments of deep connection.

So, you may ask “What is meditation, connecting with peace?”

Meditation, connecting with peace, is simply a meditation focused on discovering peace within by creating a feeling of peace and love in our hearts, connecting with the inner peace we all share. The peace that is with you always. In the heart centered meditation, we bring awareness to our ability to connect with peace and experience how focusing on inner peace and love strengthens the connection to the divine within us all.

It has been proven by science that meditation has many health benefits both mental (reducing stress, anxiety, depression, etc.) and physical (reducing blood pressure, inflammation, increases brain health, etc.).

Meditation also helps build self-awareness, empathy, positive energy, intuition, patience and higher consciousness. While meditating has many benefits on its own, meditating in a group can help build stronger connections with people. Being in an environment focused on love and peace is beneficial as we share the power of shared peace and stillness. The collective focus of a group can create a deeper state of connection to body, mind and soul.

With so much uncertainty going on in the world we could all use a little time out to focus on our own inner peace. It is also the time of year we often find ourselves absorbed in the season’s activities—shopping, decorating, baking, and endless

errands—that we may lose touch with our centered, peaceful selves. So please, I invite you to step away from the holiday rush for one hour and reconnect with the peace, love, joy, and stillness within.

All are welcome, there is no need for any prior experience with meditation. Just sign up, show up and enjoy the peace and deeper sense of calm that unfolds.

Hope to see you!

Honorah Sheppard

You can connect with me via facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/meditationconnection>



### **Message from Tracy Boutillier, Office Administrator**

It's my favorite time of the year! I love the fall season, with all its yellows, oranges and reds on the trees, the cooler temperatures and a sense of routine after the busy season of summer and traveling around the province. But as the trees have lost their leaves, I too feel less colourful and a little dreary. The thought of the long winter ahead leaves a lot to be desired these days.

With the time change, Stevie and I find ourselves taking our Wednesday night drives in the dark. We are no longer able to see the deer in the fields, or the birds gathering in the trees as they settle in for the night. Even checking in on the town projects, and how they are progressing is harder to see.

It is with a sad heart that we have been preparing the house and yard for the winter season. Putting away all the outside decor, flags, whirligigs, the chairs and table off the deck; dumping the old dead flowers, and the plastic ones get put into the shed for next year. (The deer like to eat them too, but not as much as the real ones.) But guess what we can bring back out? The bird feeders!! The feeders were only up for a few hours (minus the seed, mind you) and the chickadees were calling out, "hey, you forgot something". It seems like it has been forever since we have heard them chirping away to each other, so we made a quick trip to Home Hardware for some seed and filled the feeders. They soon found the seed and

have passed the news on that we are back in business. The backyard is still full of life, even if a little less colourful.

Because of the bare branches, we can once again see the full backyard and the buildings on the other side of the tree line. We can see the many different types of birds coming back to the feeders, and also the deer and raccoons as they cross between properties, and we can smell the skunks that are roaming to find the last bit of food before hunkering down for the winter. Let's not forget the folks in Vimy Court sitting in their windows watching the same activity on their side of the tree line.

As the seasons change there is always something to look forward to. For the birds it's the return of the feeders – an easy meal they can depend on for the next few months at least, but for us that means more time at home and hockey. Although we are not as busy as when Hayden was playing, our weekends are still plenty full. It can be a short jaunt to the RECC or a quick trip to Pictou or Amherst or even a weekend getaway to Yarmouth; always something to do to keep us busy and going.

The cold winter will soon settle us in for extra-long dark nights in front of the TV (or a good book) and the weather will dictate how far and when we travel. So, for now I will take the change for what it is.



### **Message from Chris Bowman, Minister of Music**

Though the summer seems like a very long time ago by now, I do want to thank all those who performed in, volunteered for, and attended this year's Summer Lunchtime Concert series. It was a most enjoyable series, well attended all summer long, and was the most financially successful set of concerts to date, with close to \$4000 in donations, which will go directly to support the work of the church.

Speaking of concerts, by the time this edition of News at First comes out we will have enjoyed several shows in November, from Cantabile, Joel Plaskett, James Hill

& Anne Janelle, and our own Resonance Youth Choir. Resonance's third project was "Earth Songs", and proceeds from the concert – \$1150.00 – went to the Truro Farmer's Market. Thank you to the congregation and the Moffatt and Gourley funds for the ongoing support of our young music-makers, including six choral apprentices this fall!

The handbell ensemble and church choir have been working diligently to provide music for our weekly church services, and are busy preparing for the Candlelight Christmas Concert, which will be held on Saturday, December 7th at 7pm. Please join us as we celebrate the start of the Advent and Christmas seasons. Please take note of the many concerts taking place in the month of December, as well as our special church services celebrating the season.

The first half of 2025 will feature the Choirs for Comfort benefit concert, the return of the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra (featuring members of Resonance and other NS youth choirs!), a collaboration between our church choir and two HRM church choirs with a chamber orchestra with Dr. Joel Tranquilla, and many other exciting events. Please follow the church's Facebook page and read your emails for further details in the months ahead.

Yours in harmony,  
Chris



**Message from Rev. Cathie Crooks, Minister of Word, Sacrament, and Spiritual Formation**

As I begin writing this wee piece for our Newsletter here at First, I am listening to a beautiful recording of Elaine Hagenberg's choral composition entitled, 'O Love'. Soprano and alto voices soar with the words of Rev. George Matheson's exquisite nineteenth century hymn. A solo cello soars with them, too. Matheson's words, penned in Scotland and born of a time of profound heartache, sing to us of both Love and Joy. ~

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thy ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller be.

O Joy that seeks me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain,  
that morn shall tearless be.

As I write and listen, I am keenly aware of the weariness of our world, of the pain in our world ~ of the sorrows wrought by systemic injustices dressed in so many guises. Innocent people are living in terror from Israel to Gaza, from Ukraine to Russian, from the United States to the unceded lands in our own country. There is a night-time of tears.

And, I am keenly aware, too, that Advent is upon us ~ the season in the Christian Church when we work and wait in hope, with anticipation, for the inbreaking of Peace, and of Joy, and, ultimately, of Love that will heal and restore. Social justice activists are organizing. Not-for-profit groups are strategizing. Peaceful protesters are mobilizing. People of faith are working hand-in-hand and communities are gathering in prayer. And the promise of a tearless morn rises. And we here at First United get to be part of that rising through our worship and our work, week by week. It is a holy burden and a sacred blessing.

As I finish writing this wee piece for our Newsletter, I am still listening to the beautiful recording of Elaine Hagenberg's choral composition entitled, 'O Love'. Soprano and alto voices soar with the words of Rev. George Matheson's exquisite nineteenth century hymn. A solo cello soars with them, too. Matheson's words, penned in Scotland and born of a time of profound heartache, sing to us...

As we move into this sacred season of Advent, in the midst of the weariness of the world, and the pain in the world, let us find moments in the midst of our working and our waiting to be held in the promise of this season ~ its Music, its Mystery, its Wisdom and its Word. Let us prepare our bodies, minds, and spirits to receive the Incarnate Love ~ and let us rejoice.  
May it be so.

First United Church's Annual  
**Candlelight**  
**Christmas Concert**  
 First United Church Choir  
 and the Handbell Ensemble  
 Saturday, December 7th  
 711 Prince Street, Truro  
 7:00 pm

**Cantabile**  
 Cantabile Choral Society Presents

**AN OLDE ENGLISH CHRISTMAS**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH AT 7PM  
 FIRST UNITED CHURCH, TRURO

FEATURING MUSIC AND ARRANGEMENTS BY  
 JOHN RUTTER, DAVID WILLCOCKS,  
 BOB CHILCOTT, AND MORE!

TICKETS \$20 ADULTS, \$5 STUDENTS  
 AVAILABLE AT:

- [HTTPS://TICKETSTRIPE.COM/ANOLDEENGLISHCHRISTMAS](https://ticketstripe.com/ANOLDEENGLISHCHRISTMAS)
- FIRST UNITED CHURCH OFFICE
- AT THE DOOR



**Brigid Christmas Blessings Tour**  
 Friday, December 20, 7 p.m.  
 First United, Truro

**CREATIVE VOICES**  
 PRESENTS

**Our Christmas Story**

DECEMBER 21, 2024 | 3:00 PM  
 First United Church | Truro, Nova Scotia

Artistic Director: Jacqueline Chambers  
 Collaborative Pianist: Sandra MacAulay-Thompson

Special Guests:  
 Brett Dill, oboe and Suppho Thompson, piano djembe

**TICKETS \$22**  
 Students: \$12  
 Available at MacQuarries

[creativevoices.ca](http://creativevoices.ca)

Creative Voices is a member of Nova Scotia Choral Federation



## First United's Summer Lunchtime Concerts A few of the many performances



*First United Handbell Ensemble*



*Erica Bowman*



*Lily Arthurs*



*Thomas McDowall*



*Sappho Thompson and  
Olivia Gouthro*



*Holden Hoover and Chiara  
Zwicker*



*Cameo by Spotlight Musical Theatre's "The Little Mermaid"*



*Resonance Youth Choir, June 16, 2024*



*Resonance Youth Choir, November 17, 2024*



Christmas Craft Market



Thanksgiving Sunday



October 27, Mackenzie and Dr. Paul Aitken, in dialogue with Rev. Cathie Crooks. Shown here with Susan and Rhonda Gallant

<

Paul Aitken conducting our church choir in his composition, "Peace Flows into Me"

>





<Rev. Cathie Crooks  
Wednesday morning Spiritual Formation

Bible Study with Kathy Mack, acting out the Liturgy of Psalm 24 >



The Worship, Music and Concert Committee planned a **Homecoming Sunday** on October 20, with the help of the Pastoral Care Committee. Over 100 handwritten invitations were sent, with many folks returning for a visit – among them, Judy Wheelock and Edie and Bev Young, pictured below. After a beautiful service of word and music, a reception was held at the back of the sanctuary, giving people a chance to visit one another. Huge thanks to Lynn Macpherson, Ruthie Hiltz, Judy Richards, Tillie Armstrong and Marie Braedley for making this a Sunday to remember. The congregation enjoyed performances by First United's Church Choir, Resonance Youth Choir, and our Handbell Ensemble. Thank you also to Rev. Cathie Crooks for her input and support.





Pride Parade



Day of Truth and Reconciliation



Remembrance Sunday

Guest Preacher Rev. Wendy Dean with Judy Hickman >



The day after the Yard Sale



This photo was taken by Myrna Breen during the November 16th Take-Out Community Dinner held at St. John's Anglican Church Hall which was co-hosted by Brunswick Street and First United Churches. In the photo, left to right, are Marie, Evelyn, Gay, Lorraine, Diane and Janet. Charlotte, Graham, David and Justin also contributed to the day!

### **Go, and Be Light**

Go, and be light that shines through darkness.

Go, and share hope where none is found.

Go, and step out amidst uncertainty  
and strive for some common ground.

Go, and reach out your hands for healing.

Go, use your voice to speak of peace.

Go and spread justice in your words and ways,  
and may kindness, through love increase.

Go, and be light!

~ Poem by Valerie Kingsbury & Chris Bowman

~ Music by Chris Bowman

<https://silentdawn.ca/composition/go-and-be-light/...>



### **My Lord, What a Morning!** by Alison MacLean

From the opening notes of Bach's Toccata, that began this celebration of the 264<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Congregation, to the Bell Ensemble's Postlude, "Resounding Jubilation", those who had gathered, experienced a deeply moving and inspiring time of worship. The service was a tapestry of traditional and fresh expressions of worship intricately woven into hope and vision for our future together in this troubled world.

It was "A Song of Praise to the Maker" from beginning to end as members of our Faith Family participated in many and varied ways.

Our storyteller, Kathy Mack, introduced us to the 'prayer angels' amongst us, folks who will center their hearts and minds on the prayer requests from members of our Faith Family, as we launched the Prayer Angel Ministry.

The Scripture passage was from Colossians 3:12-17, read by Susan Gallant, representing the group of folks who are joining First United this morning. The reading helped focus us on Rev. Cathie's message to come "*Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience... and to these qualities add love...*"

The choir sang of walking 'gently here upon the sacred earth' and of going forth to 'heal a broken world'. They made a joyful noise as they sang 'Unto the Sky' with much liturgical stomping and clapping!

Rev. Cathie led us in Prayer and into her Reflection. All that had preceded this moment prepared us to open our hearts and minds to her message, which began with a delightful story from Cathie's childhood – a story of an annual camping trip with cherished friends and the remembered warmth of campfires and friendship. Every year the family brought Cath a cardboard box full of gorgeous handsewn hand-me-downs of 'the most beautiful fabrics imaginable'. Those hand-me-downs thrilled her. But it was the other 'clothes' she remembers from those summers, "the enduring gifts of friendship which 'clothed' us in love." She knows she was fortunate to have experienced peace and thanksgiving as a child, as it is not always so. Cath reminded us that Paul's words are instructive to us as we celebrate this anniversary of our beloved family of faith.

The final words of her reflection: “As we move forward on this Anniversary Sunday into our beautiful and broken world, may we don these clothes anew. May we be strengthened for the journey by all those who have donned them before us, and by all those who don them in our midst this day and by all those to whom we will hand them down for the years to come. “

Then came the singing of the “Anniversary Hymn”, written for the day by Valerie and Chris in response to his reaching out to Valerie ‘on the Rock’. How honoured are we!

Rev. Cath then extended a warm welcome to new members who were transferring their memberships to join us here - Susan and Rhonda Gallant, Kathy and Ian Mack, Carolyn Hunt, Gail Spence, Letha and Harold Killam, Avis and Carvell McNutt, Wanalda Parsons, Mona Smith- Pike and Doug Pike. For their gifts and their presence, we give thanks.

Janet White, Chair of Outreach, read the hopeful story from Mission and Service about a Harm Reduction Model Unit in Hamilton, supported by our gifts to the Mission and Service Fund.

The Closing Hymn “Celebration” (Kingsbury/Bowman) reminded us: “We are co-creators of what is yet to be”.

Commissioning and Benediction – “Clothe Yourself in Love.”

A Lunch of Stone Soup was served in the Hall with over 70 people in attendance! Thanks to all who provided ingredients to add to the stone in the pot, to those who stirred the pot, and to Lynn and Malcolm who made the magic happen.

