

## HCUC update for March 17, 2024

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

What does it mean to 'lose your life to gain it'? Have you ever lost something and never found it and had to do something new? You can watch our service here: <https://youtube.com/live/CmHqPPoYBnw>

**In our prayers:** Jen (who had emergency surgery last week) and her parents Julia & Richard, Bruce Patterson, and Duncan

### Church Council Meeting notes:

**Finances:** So far this year, we are in a deficit of about \$4,200. We share this information in hopes of providing an opportunity to those who wish to help. (The money we receive from grants are specifically designated and can only be used for programs and cannot help to offset our operating costs.)

**Furnaces:** There is a grant available for energy efficient upgrades. We are thinking of using this for the furnaces before they give out. If you have information in this area or know someone, please be in touch with Doug McKeen or Dave Baker.

**Clean Team:** Do you have a couple of hours to volunteer each month? We're looking to share the load with vacuuming and other small cleaning tasks around the church. Please be in touch with the church office if you're interested in serving our community in this way. If we have 4 or 5 people, we'd only need 1-2 hours from each person per month, on days and times that work best for you.

**Music Opportunity:** Talk to Doug McKeen if you're interested in joining the choir for our special Homecoming Gospel Service on Sunday, April 28 at HCUC at 10:30AM and again at Trinity Primrose UC at 1:00PM. Practice will be on April 15 at 7PM at High Country UC.

**\$40 for 40 Days of Lent:** Rev. Jan invites you to add an extra \$40 or more to your donation around Easter as a way of saying Thanks to God for the gift of this church community and the wonderful ministry we do together. Rev. Jan says she's adding \$100 to her offering at Easter.

**Easter Mini Cheesecakes:** 6 Cheesecakes for \$15.00 beautifully packaged and delivered please contact Kassondra at [staveley.kassondra@gmail.com](mailto:staveley.kassondra@gmail.com) or text (519) 942-6391

**Mother's Day and Father's Day:** Please send in photos of your moms and dads (whether they are still here on earth or watching over us) so we can include them in our services in May and June. Deadline: April 15. You can bring them in an envelope and we can scan them in for you or you can email them to the church office at [highcountryunited@gmail.com](mailto:highcountryunited@gmail.com)

**Seniors Lunch Speaker Series:** Monday, March 25 at 11:00AM  
Presenter: Central West Health Care at Home <https://healthcareathome.ca/>

### Upcoming Concerts – tickets are available for both:

Saturday, March 23 at 3:00PM – Elvis in Concert with Spencer Bristow - \$20 each

Friday, April 19 at 7:00PM – Alex Burnett and Friends - \$20 each

**40 Days of Thinking** – Take 15 minutes to think about a topic listed below each day. Mar 18: Listen; Mar 19: Serving; Mar 20: Love; Mar 21: Alone; Mar 22: Birds; Mar 23: Music

**In the High Country Kitchen: Butter Tart Making Class:** Be in touch with Gail Harrington if you're interested in taking a class. Details are pending. [gharrington4949@gmail.com](mailto:gharrington4949@gmail.com)

**Rev. Sandra's Retirement:** Rev. Sandra McLauchlan-Abuja who has been with Westminster for 25 years is retiring after a full career in the United Church of Canada. Westminster will be celebrating her career on two dates:

- Saturday, June 22nd from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the church auditorium - a drop-in style event to chat with Sandra and enjoy a cool beverage and appetizer.
- Sunday, June 23rd the regular service at 10:30 a.m. - a service to celebrate her ministry on Manitoulin Island, in Mayfield, and in Orangeville.

### Upcoming Schedule:

**Sunday, March 17:** 8:00PM Weekly Prayers (online only, live)

**Monday, March 18:** UCW Meeting at 2:00pm. Rev. Jan shares glimpses of Hawaii.

**Tuesday, March 19:** Office open from 9:30 to 2:00

10:00AM – Knitting, Puzzles and Social Time

11:00AM – Arthritis Foundation Exercises

11:45AM – Fairweather Walkers

1:00PM – Strumming Seniors

**Wednesday, March 20:** Office open from 9:30 to 2:00

11:00AM – Strength and Stretching Exercises

11:45AM – Fairweather Walkers

12:30PM - Choir Practice

**Thursday, March 21:** Office is closed

**Friday, March 22:** Office open from 9:30 to 1:00

11:00AM - SMART Exercise Program (about 1 hour long) & Mini Yoga

12:15PM – Exercise Team Lunch

**Saturday, March 23:** Elvis Concert with Spencer Bristow at 3:00PM. Doors open at 2PM. Some tickets may be available at the door. Refreshments afterwards.

**Sunday, March 24:**

10:30AM – Worship Service – Lent V (Palm Sunday)

Reader: Cliff Bricker; Greeter: Bev Dawkins; Refreshments: Everyone (Main Dish/Dessert Favourites)

1:00PM – Rev. Jan preaches at Trinity Primrose in Shelburne

8:00PM – Weekly Prayers (Online only, live)

**Prayer:** God of unity, guide us as we work to unite your light and love with our hearts and minds. Help us to navigate the negative self-talk and to persevere through the tough stuff in life. May we continue to be a magnet for those in need of kindness and compassion. Unite us in heart and mind, O God. Amen.

Blessings from Rev. Jan  
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## **Biblical Matters**

### **Bible Trivia – Answers from last week**

What judge was a wheat farmer? *Gideon (Judges 6:11)*

Who was the first man to plant a vineyard? *Noah (Genesis 9:20)*

### **Bible Trivia for this week (answers revealed next week)**

1. Who was the first farmer?
2. What king, famous for his building projects, also planted vineyards, gardens, and orchards?

### **Reading the New Testament through 2024:**

For the week of March 18 to March 22

**Monday – Luke 12:** Worry is a big thing for many people. How can you embrace what is written in verses 22-34 and live without worry?

**Tuesday – Luke 13:** How much time should we give for repentance (of ourselves or others)?

**Wednesday – Luke 14:** How do you understand what verses 25-35 mean in “the cost of being a disciple”?

**Thursday – Luke 15:** Have you ever been separated from God? If so, what was the reunion like?

**Friday – Luke 16:** What’s the difference between doing good and doing justice? Can personal intentions factor in and, if so, how?