



Dear Friends

As I was walking across the Macdonald bridge my eyes were drawn to the chalk word below, LOVE. There are such messages to be found all around us. They are easy to miss. Our lives are mortal, finite, fragile. No one skates through this life untouched by disappointment, hurt, pain and loss. And yet...love lives. Jesus came to bring love to life, to show us abundant life, to remind us the kin-dom of God comes to life in our

midst, in grace-filled moments we do not control, they are a gift. And what is the only possible response to an unconditional gift? Thanksgiving.

I did not earn my life, my friendships, my connections to others, to the Other, to creation. Everything that makes my life worthwhile was a gift. One of the very places you can go to hear this message; that life is a gift, that you are a gift, that we are a gift, is a faith community. Every single day at Bethany layleaders, staff, volunteers, persons in the back pew, in the front pew, in the balcony, are giving thanks for you. We are not measuring your value based on some arbitrary definition of success, it's not what you look like, where you live, who you know, what you know. Rather, you are loved because...God made you a sister or brother to us. It's that simple and that profound. And whether we convey that message in an email, a call, a card, a gathering at a park, in the Hall, in the sanctuary, over the ZOOM platform, through livestream or on the sidewalks that surround our building, LOVE is alive.

No doubt you have received our recent Newsletter. All of our staff are eager to engage with you in ministry, ministry that brings love to life. Ann has programs to roll out that bring people to parks, to our Hall. She also is eager to connect with Youth again. Louisa is ready for Sunday School. Dana has supported 5 youth all summer thanks to Canada Summer Jobs grants and a partnership with Independent Living Nova Scotia. Their work (like the Photo Directory) is a gift for our church to treasure. Shawn is preparing to build community with our choir and bells. Tina is managing our finances with a discerning eye. And Jimmy is keeping the building looking splendid and welcoming whoever walks through the doors. And this doesn't even touch on the work of Chuck, Glen, Mary, Rob, Betty and Pam! We have an amazing team.

With COVID concerns still top of mind we are still cautious about large scale in-house gatherings. But we offer a safe space, a welcoming place, with lots of love.

Happy Thanksgiving! Kevin Little

PS I want to share two additional pieces of information I know you will want to know.



1) The Silent Movie Event is back featuring the 1923 Classic Comedy 'The Freshman' starring Harold Lloyd with Shawn Whynot, organist, providing a live, thrilling, fun-filled musical soundtrack. **Friday November 4th, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the main sanctuary of Bethany United Church, Halifax. Tickets will be available in early October at \$15 each.**

2) From the Treasurer:

- a. A very grateful **thank you** goes out to everyone who has continued to support Bethany financially during these interesting/challenging times.
- b. As in the past two years, we will not be doing a mass mailing of interim contribution statements, but anyone who wishes to have theirs sent out, please contact Tina at 902 455-0521 ext. 3 and she will be happy to look after your request.
- c. Your offering in the enclosed **Thanksgiving envelope** allows us as a church to make a difference, a hope-filled difference, in the lives of people you know and people you have yet to know but God knows. **Please be sure to print your name and envelope number in the space provided.** Thank you for being part of this ministry.

Rob Steeves, Treasurer