

2026 02 12 - 11 AM by Zoom APPROVED Meeting of Brechin United Church Council

Present: Gloria LeGal, Grace Skomorowski, Kathy Torhjelm (Representing M and P and Trustees), Rev. Katherine Brittain, Marilyn Huffman, Lynn Burrows, Keith Allen, Sue Ward, Eileen Carolan. Quorum met.

Gloria opened the meeting with the following reading.

"This morning on my way to work, I followed a car with a sign in the back window that said:
"Learning stick. Sorry for any delay."
Knowing that, I stayed patient through the slow shifts and jerky starts — and honestly, they were doing pretty well for someone still learning.
But then I caught myself wondering:
Would I have been just as patient if I hadn't seen that sign?
Probably not.
And that thought hit me hard.
Because the truth is, most people don't wear signs that explain what they're going through. You won't see:
"Going through a divorce."
"Lost a child."
"Feeling depressed."
"Just diagnosed with cancer."
If we could see people's struggles written out, we'd treat each other so much more gently.
But we shouldn't need a sign to show kindness.
Everyone you meet is carrying something you can't see. So let's choose patience. Let's choose grace. Let's choose love — even when there's no sign telling us to."

1. MailChimp is changing its free account this month so that we will only allow 500 sends (each message sent to an email address is one send). To maintain the ability to send weekly messages we need to upgrade our account. The options are to continue with MailChimp or change to another provider.

MailChimp "Essentials" Plan is the least expensive option (\$17.80 / vs \$41 a month) (compared to Cyber Impact and Constant Contact). MailChimp Essentials provides 500 contacts (email addresses) and allows up to 1500 sends which is 8 emails to our entire distribution list a month. The treasurer as budgeted \$360 for this expense in 2026.

The free version of MailChimp will allow us to send out Friday emails February 13, 20 and 27. We need the new system in place for March 6 Friday email.

Motion: That Brechin continue with MailChimp but upgrade to the Essentials Plan. **M/S** Keith Allen/ Susan Ward. **Carried**

- Gloria LeGal will process the upgrade to the MailChimp Essentials Plan. Will try to use the Brechin credit card.

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2. Keith has researched chair dollies for moving the chairs. He proposes that we purchase 2 dollies as recommended by the company that the chairs were purchased from. The funds for this purchase will come from the building account.

Motion: That Council approve the purchase of 2 dollies for moving stacked chairs. **M/S:** Susan Ward/ Marilyn Huffman. **Carried.**

- Keith will place the order and be reimbursed.
3. The school parking lot key has been changed to a key lock. The key is stored on site and Keith has notified users that need to unlock the parking area.
 4. Kudos offered to Keith for all the time and effort he expends on behalf of Brechin United Church.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 on a motion by Keith Allen.

Gloria LeGal, Chair of Council

Eileen Carolan, Secretary