

2026 03 25 APPROVED Brechin United Church Council Meeting Minutes and Team Reports

Attendance: Darlene Darby (Chair), Rev. Katherine Brittain, Gloria LeGal (past chair) Keith Allen, Mary Boyd (vice-chair), Grace Skomorowski, Salome Carey, Maureen Smith, Blaine Wilkins, Linda Wilson, Vickeri Cochrane, Kathy Torhjelm, Eileen Carolan (secretary).

Regrets: Susan Ward, Charlotte Richardson

Trustees: Kathy Torhjelm is representing the trustees.

Welcome and call to order by Darlene Darby at 10:01 am

Council picture taken for website.

Devotional: Gloria LeGal quoted Margaret Mead "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." And read "The Friendly Fridge" from You Are Essential.

Approval of Agenda as amended. M/S Mary Boyd/Kathy Torhjelm. Carried.

Adoption of Minutes.

Motion: That minutes of the February 25, 2026 Council meeting be approved as distributed.

M/S Mary Boyd/Grace Skomorowski. Carried.

Correspondence received:

1. Isabella Medas -Social Development Clerk/Public Safety Dept/Social Development Section-see attached. Darlene will reply and act as the contact person
2. Keith Allen received a letter from St Andrews United requestion information on maintenance and wondering if Brechin might be interested in sharing services. Keith replied outlining our current process without comment on shared services.
3. Reverend Brittain was contacted by the Unitarian Fellowship asking about sharing maintenance services. She will reply that since our needs are quite different, we plan to continue with the current arrangement.

Correspondence sent

1. Keith Allen replied to St Andrew's United outlining our current process without comment on shared services.

Minister's Report – Reverend Brittain - see attached

- Discussion of Memorial information and clarification of booking process.

Financial Report – Blaine Wilkins – see attached

- the PMR funds arrived in January and an adjustment was made so the income is distributed evenly over 12 months to better reflect the impact.
- Open donations have increased (envelope fundraiser not included yet)
- Upcoming PARtea planned to encourage folks to sign up for PAR. (Victoria Day weekend)

PMR report –Salome Carey

- Nothing to report

Motion: To accept above reports - **M/S Mary Boyd/ Kathy Torhjelm. Carried.**

Old Business

1. **Bookkeeper progress report:**
 - The transition is slow and is currently extra work for Cindy training Helene.
2. **Heritage sign-** see attached
 - Gloria LeGal will follow up with Don Evans in mid April when he returns to work about sign placement.
3. **Reaching Out relationship with Brechin**
 - No concerns
 - Reaching out will carry the Reaching out Banner in the parade and will march near the church group.
4. **Nanaimo Night Market**
 - Waiting for acceptance of application for a table.
5. **Pre-Zoning for Social Housing meeting**
 - Reverend Brittain and Keith Allen attended the meeting and shared their experiences with redevelopment.
6. **Gospel Choir fundraiser**
 - Darlene Darby will reach out to Shalema and ask that she discuss plans with Charlotte (not Tim).
7. **Emergency Plan** – New muster station has been added to the emergency exit signs.

New Business

1. **Treasurer vacancy**
 - Brechin needs to identify a person to fill this essential oversight role.
 - Darlene Darby would appreciate suggestions of anyone to approach.
 - Blaine Wilkins will send Darlene Darby the annual financial activities calendar to help describe the role. The duties are in transition. It is important to be comfortable with spreadsheets.

2. **Visibility**

Motion: That Brechin United Church purchase banner (12'x 2.5 '), a 7 ' tear drop flag and 2 table top tear drop flags from the visibility fund at a cost up to \$2000.00.

M/S Grace Skomorowski/ Salome Carey. **Carried.**

3. **Toward 2035 Survey** sent out to congregation. Survey closes March 31.
4. **Towards 2035 Workshop** April 15 at Knox United Church in Parksville. Gloria LeGal, Salome Carey, Grace Skomorowski and Mary Boyd will register to attend.

5. **Dishwasher**

Dishwasher is unreliable and difficult and costly to repair. Needs a part that has to come from Florida and cost and delivery date are not known.

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Motion: That Keith Allen be authorized to purchase a new commercial dishwasher and warranty with funds from the building fund to a maximum of \$10,000.00. **M/S** Gloria Skomorowski/ Kathy Torhjelm. **Carried.**

Leadership Team Reports

Ministry and Personnel: Kathy Torhjelm - see attached

Brechin 4 Action: Vickeri Cochrane -See attached.

Pastoral Care: Maureen Smith – see attached

- Prayer Shawl knitters are anonymous, and it would be nice to formally acknowledge their work.

Property: Keith Allen

- Freezer is being repaired (frosting up)
- Alarm system was fixed at no charge after yesterdays power outage.

Worship: Grace Skomoroski - see attached.

- Accessibility Survey recommended. Comments shared about doors to the bathrooms and lack of bars being challenges.

Stewardship and Finance: see attached.

- Then Let Us Sing workshop May 2 will cost about \$2000.00. Local United churches have been asked for donations.
- Reverend Brittain has booked the space and will send out advertising this week to centre – north island churches. She will ask Maggie Enwright to invite south island churches to come as well.
- Music Director needs to attend the workshop May 2 – M and P.

Fellowship: Linda Wilson - see attached

Intentional Communication

- Darlene Darby
 - Will reply to Isabella Medas and act as the emergency information contact person.
 - Will reach out to Shalema and ask that she discuss plans for Gospel Choir fundraiser with Charlotte (not Tim).
 - Will ask individuals to consider taking on the role of treasurer
- Reverend Brittain
 - Reply to Unitarian Fellowship that since our needs are quite different, we plan to continue with the current housekeeping and maintenance arrangement.
 - With Mary Boyd and Gloria Legal design banners.
- Gloria LeGal
 - Check with Don Evans (Mid April) and City of Nanaimo about placement of heritage sign.
 - Work with Reverend Brittain and Mary Boyd on banner design and place order for banners

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- Mary Boyd
 - With Reverend Brittain and Gloria LeGal design banners.
- Eileen Carolan
 - Work with Reverend Brittain to plan the Pet Café
- Linda Wilson
 - Work with Reverend Brittain to plan the Pet Café
- Keith Allen
 - Proceed with purchase of new dishwasher
- Blaine Wilkins
 - Send Financial annual activities calendar to Darlene Darby
- Kathy Torhjelm
 - Confirm Tim Weger's attendance at/ payment for May 2 TLUS workshop

Next regular Council Meeting: **April 29, 2026.**

Devotional: Darlene Darby

Closing Prayer by Reverend Brittain.

Adjournment of Business Meeting at 11: 56 a.m. on a motion by Keith Allen.

Darlene Darby, Chair

Eileen Carolan, Secretary

TEAM REPORTS

Ministers Report

Lent is almost over and we enter into Holy Week on Sunday. We've had a great turn out for the Lenten devotional/Spiritual practices series, which will wrap up this week.

Holy Week service planning is well under way.

Looking ahead

April 19th – Peter Sinclair, Executive Director of Loaves and Fishes will be our guest preacher. I am not taking that Sunday off – I invited him to come and speak as hosting a Fresh Food Market weekly is a key ministry of Brechin and there are many new(er) folks who might not know much about it.

May 2-3 - Then Let Us Sing workshop with Bruce Harding. Trinity United has agreed to contribute \$200 toward expenses. I have requested the same amount from St. Andrew's and Knox (Parksville) but haven't heard back from them. I am hoping we can keep the "suggested donation" low to be more accessible to as many United Church folks as possible. Bruce will lead worship on May 3rd.

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Pride – we have paid for the \$140 for the Progressive Faith Communities to have both a walking group and a table at Nanaimo Pride on June 14th. So far it is us, St Philip's Cedar Anglican, St. Paul's Anglican and the Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo officially represented. Other churches have people who are interested in joining us, but their congregations aren't in a place to formally commit.

Nanaimo Night Market – five churches participating, but we haven't heard yet if our application has been accepted. A representative from St. Paul's Anglican is coordinating and will let us know when it's official. I have tentatively signed Brechin up for July 16th and August 27th (because I know I will be able to be there for it). If we go with the plan of two churches participating each week, we will likely need to sign up for additional dates. The participating churches are us, Hope Lutheran, St. Andrew's Presbyterian, the Unitarian Fellowship and St. Paul's Anglican. Dates are Thursday evenings, beginning June 18th, ending August 27th, from 5-9pm

Help with pet café -the folks from St. John's Ambulance reached out to see if we were still interested in hosting this. I am, but need some help organizing it and wonder who would like to volunteer to help me get this going.

Respectfully submitted, Rev Katherine Brittain

PMR

No written report this month

Stewardship and Finance

Meeting of March 18, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

Present: Charlotte Richardson, Salome Carey, Blaine Wilkins, Katherine Brittain

Charlotte read an essay by Pastor Tom, www.firmlyrooted.church on Stewardship. Katherine opened meeting with prayer.

- Old Business:

Friends of Brechin Wall: It was decided to delay the monthly "Minute for Friends of Brechin Wall" during Sunday services until April 12th.

Queer Family Retreat: Katherine reported that Naramata Centre will look after registrations.

Measuring Donations against attendance: Charlotte presented a spreadsheet which needs to be amended and reviewed again. Katherine will look at the attendance figures that she was given to confirm that we have the same data. To be reviewed at next meeting.

ACTION: Charlotte will correct errors in spreadsheet, Katherine will confirm attendance information.

Brechin's Got Talent as possible fundraiser – Suggested the idea to Tim who approved.

No action indicated until after summer.

- Minister's Report:

Envelope fundraising is going well – \$4,000 due from those envelopes taken assuming they are all returned. The last envelopes will be offered again March 22nd.

Then Let Us Sing Workshop May 2nd, Worship leader May 3rd. Some of the cost will be recovered by other churches (Trinity, St. Andrews and Knox) which have been invited to share

Pride Parade and Brechin table – information shared on banner carried by Brechin participants

Night Market – on track, with ongoing dialogue with the other churches.

Memorial Service pamphlet – Updating information for public. A flat fee will be charged for memorial services to encompass all the services provided.

- Treasurer's Report:

Financial statements presented by Blaine.

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Division of Duties: Working well – Helen is working in the office every second Monday – taking on additional work that fits with her contracted hours per month.

Charlotte has provided identification to Credit Union to proceed with becoming a signor on the account to replace Lee.

Blaine has shut down the donate@shaw email account.

- Other Business:

PAR: Charlotte suggested a “PAR-tea” to encourage signing up for PAR. Scones and tea after church and someone with PAR forms to assist folk in completing the form to get started.

ACTION: Charlotte to contact Worship team / Fellowship to see if we may do this May 24th, with promotion of the event on the 3 preceding Sundays.

RECRUITMENT: S & F team needs more members

TREASURER : Situation is critical as Blaine will soon be stepping down.

ACTION: Ask Council to consider options.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20. Next meeting April 15, 2026

Submitted by Charlotte Richardson

Brechin United Church Income Statement 02/01/2026 to 02/28/2026

REVENUE

Revenue

Local Contributions	11,887.10
Canada Helps Local Contributions	215.76
Open donations	554.00
Special Events & Fundraising	594.85
Miscellaneous Revenues	235.00
Friends of Brechin Wall Fund	150.00
Unity Church Lease Revenue	2,625.00
Facility Rentals	775.00
PMR Support Revenue	2,917.00
Investment Income	562.50
Total Operating Revenue	<u>20,516.21</u>
 TOTAL REVENUE	 <u>20,516.21</u>

EXPENSE

Overhead Expenses

Equipment Service & Agreements	72.58
Insurance	264.96
Janitorial Supplies	330.59
Contract Janitorial Services	1,148.00
UCC & Region Assessments	843.45
Repair & Maintenance General	71.63
Telephone & Internet Expense	132.47
Kitchen Supplies	232.50
Total Overhead Expense	<u>3,096.18</u>

Payroll Expenses

Wages & Salaries	10,458.08
Contracted Music Services	1,800.00
Employee Benefits	2,692.85
Pulpit Supply	-247.00
Total Payroll Expense	<u>14,703.93</u>

General & Administrative Expenses

Worship Supplies	-459.10
Website Expense	53.24
Office Supplies	833.71
Bank Charges	1.31
Miscellaneous Expense	161.47
Subscription Expense	930.61
Bookkeeping and Payroll Expenses	328.71
Total General & Administrative	<u>1,849.95</u>

TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>19,650.06</u>
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NET INCOME	<u>866.15</u>
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Brechin United Church

Balance Sheet As at 02/28/2026

ASSET

Current Assets

Petty Cash	187.11	
CCCU Chequing Bank account	<u>46,313.11</u>	
Total Cash		46,500.22
Investments		198,770.67
GST Receivable	<u>884.25</u>	
Total Receivable		<u>884.25</u>
Total Current Assets		<u><u>246,155.14</u></u>

Capital Assets

Office Furniture & Equipment	288,636.00	
Accum. Amort. -Furn. & Equip.	<u>-288,636.00</u>	
Net - Furniture & Equipment		0.00
Church Building	2,098,149.38	
Accum Amortization Bulding	<u>-2,098,149.38</u>	
Net Building		0.00
Property		<u>347,000.00</u>
Total Capital Assets		<u><u>347,000.00</u></u>

TOTAL ASSET		<u><u>593,155.14</u></u>
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LIABILITY

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	428.21
Total Current Liabilities	428.21

Trust Accounts

Building fund	16,439.90
Clear Building fund	-694.65
The Spiritual Growth Fund	97.45
Mission & Service	2,681.00
Clear Mission & Service	-2,681.00
Loaves & Fishes	620.00
Clear Loaves & Fishes	-620.00
Memorial Fund	3,835.73
The Legacy Fund	63,205.82
B4A Youth Reconciliation Fund	7,685.03

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Clear B4A Youth Reconciliation Fund	-400.00	
Brechin4Action Fund	143.16	
Workshops & Events Grants	8,909.52	
Clear Workshops & Events Grants	-150.00	
Women's Friendship Group Fund	1,085.39	
Clear Women's Friendship Group Fund	-97.62	
Nanaimo Community Refugee Fund	96,431.80	
Clear Nanaimo Community Refugee Fnd	-61,834.62	
Total Trust Funds		134,656.91
PMR Support Revenue Suspense		29,166.00
Total Current liabilities		<u>163,822.91</u>
 TOTAL LIABILITY		 <u>164,251.12</u>
 EQUITY		
 Retained Earnings		
Retained Earnings - Previous Year		416,546.31
Current Earnings		12,357.71
Total Retained Earnings		<u>428,904.02</u>
 TOTAL EQUITY		 <u>428,904.02</u>
 LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		 <u><u>593,155.14</u></u>

Brechin United Church Comparative Income Statement

	Actual 01/01/2026 to 02/28/2026	Actual 01/01/2025 to 02/28/2025
Revenue		
Local Contributions	24,345.73	23,015.38
Canada Helps Local Contributions	215.76	0.00
Open donations	789.90	383.00
Special Events & Fundraising	902.55	0.00
Miscellaneous Revenues	350.00	312.00
Restorative Care Program Revenue	5,637.46	0.00
Friends of Brechin Wall Fund	150.00	0.00
Unity Church Lease Revenue	5,375.00	2,500.00
Facility Rentals	4,790.00	4,365.00
PMR Support Revenue	5,834.00	35,000.00
Investment Income	1,357.50	0.00
Total Operating Revenue	<u>49,747.90</u>	<u>65,575.38</u>
 TOTAL REVENUE	 <u>49,747.90</u>	 <u>65,575.38</u>

EXPENSE**Overhead Expenses**

Electricity	639.68	973.98
Equipment Service & Agreements	229.73	1,285.79
Insurance	529.92	520.52
Janitorial Supplies	330.59	669.71
Contract Janitorial Services	1,148.00	3,731.00
UCC & Region Assessments	843.45	815.27
Repair & Maintenance General	71.63	254.63
Telephone & Internet Expense	408.91	366.60
Shared Building Expense	841.62	758.53
Kitchen Supplies	232.50	314.25
Total Overhead Expense	<u>5,276.03</u>	<u>9,690.28</u>

Payroll Expenses

Wages & Salaries	20,841.16	16,416.37
Contracted Music Services	3,450.00	3,075.00
Minister Travel Expense	0.00	312.67
Employee Benefits	5,384.00	3,274.17
Pulpit Supply	-247.00	0.00
Total Payroll Expense	<u>29,428.16</u>	<u>23,078.21</u>

General & Administrative Expenses

Worship Supplies	-459.10	0.00
Website Expense	79.90	0.00
Office Supplies	1,139.88	343.67
Bank Charges	1.31	10.00
Do Not Use - Service Supplies	0.00	80.53
Pastoral Care Team Exp	0.00	28.18
Miscellaneous Expense	686.66	332.27
Subscription Expense	930.61	100.00
Bookkeeping and Payroll Expenses	306.74	265.54
Total General & Administrative	<u>2,686.00</u>	<u>1,160.19</u>

TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>37,390.19</u>	<u>33,928.68</u>
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NET INCOME	<u>12,357.71</u>	<u>31,646.70</u>
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Ministry and Personnel

The M&P team has had a busy month. We have met on Zoom as Sue Davis is enjoying the sun of Portugal. We look forward to her return in April.

Eileen continues to give support to Cindy. We are asking that council members who wish to meet with her, do so before 2:45 in the afternoon, so that Cindy has time to wind up her day so that she can leave at 3. Thank you for considering this.

Isabel Colebrook and Chris Carolan will provide support to Tim as he and the choir continue to provide joyful music to the congregation.

I met earlier with Katherine to let her know how much we appreciate her spiritual guidance both on Sunday mornings and the Thursday morning Lenten study group. We are all truly uplifted by this year's Lenten theme – Tell Me Something Good.

A contract with our bookkeeper, Helene Markmann-Hanes, has been completed and signed. It includes the regular 1.5 hours per month she provides to do month end work, as well as the 6 hours per month to complete other bookkeeping tasks.

In conversation with Keith, it has come to my attention that we do not have a written contract with the group that provides cleaning services to us, so this will be done.

In addition, all the team are taking the Pacific Mountain Region Sage training for M&P members. This is offered on-line and provides everything one needs to know about being a member of the M&P team
Respectfully submitted, Kathy Torhjelm

Brechin 4 Action

1. Pastoral Care's Newcomers' Event

Lynn attended the Pastoral Care Newcomers Event. She spoke to the 18 newcomers and others (total 30 people) about Brechin 4 Action, and she added that we are looking for new members. Lynn also shared how much she enjoyed the event and how well the newcomers enjoyed it. Lots of information was conveyed in the gathering.

2. Truth and Reconciliation

Vickeri and Lynn met with Blaine Wilkins about the \$5,000 Grant Money and the \$ 1285 matching grant to match donations from individuals at Brechin and elsewhere. Blaine will take responsibility for returning these to the UC Vision Fund and contacting the trustees at Brechin in order to release the funds from GIC's. Money (approximately \$1,285) from single donations through the Canada Helps portal cannot be returned. It can be used for other projects (i.e. Reconciliation or Youth in Nature). Jim, Lynn, Colleen and Marg will bring forth ideas where that money can be spent. \$372 was spent on art supplies.

A letter has been sent to individual donors advising them of the fact that the planned event has now been cancelled and why their donations cannot be returned. Also advised these donors of our plan to use their generous donations for an alternative event with a focus of Reconciliation.

3. Climate Change/Climate Action

Earth Day is Wednesday April 22, 2026 and B4 ACTION will do the service on Sunday April 26.

Brechin 4 ACTION met with Katherine on March 10 to develop an outline for the service.

Earth Day Theme for 2026 is "Our Power, Our Planet"

Another Potential Theme - Imperfect Climate Action Is Better Than Perfect Inaction

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4. Projects under consideration at this time:

Food Forests Presentation and Local Food Security

Presentation by Jasmine Tomczyk, open to community

Hosted by Brechin B4A. invitation to Nanaimo Climate Action Hub and Unitarian Fellowship.

Followup to 100 Mile Diet Potluck

As a result of last fall's Potluck there were a number of questions and answers from discussions held by those in attendance. Colleen has agreed to meet with Shelley to review these questions and answers and narrow it down to two and bring to the next B4A meeting.

Vegetarian Potluck Dinner at FUFON

Shelley contacted FUFON to discover that they had forgotten the proposed date of April 17, and she is presently waiting for them to confirm (this date may change). Suggest 3 people to go through these considerations and bring to B4A. Take to Brechin April Meeting. Diane offered to help.

Compassion Evening (FUFON Proposal)

Have we found out if Brechin is interested in this?

Consider a relaxed evening in May.

Climate Conversation Equipping Event – Train the Trainer

John attended this session.

3 or 4 Workshops based on For the Love of Creation.

Carpooling Initiative

The sign-up form has been re-written for clarification and once finalized it will be posted on B4A bulletin board. Shelley and Colleen will present an announcement/skit at church in coming months, explaining how the initiative works.

5. Other Business and New Business

Minute for Mission

Sunday March 14/26 – Marg

Sunday April 19/26 - Diane

Respectfully submitted by Vickeri Cochrane

Pastoral Care

The month started out on a busy note, with planning and hosting of the Newcomer Event on [March 7th](#). There were 21 newcomers and 9 team leaders present. Thanks to Reverend Katherine for opening with prayer. We then began with an ice-breaker activity, allowing people to get acquainted, followed by an inclusive and relevant discussion of the various teams that make Brechin function, encouraging questions of the leaders. Tim also gave a talk about how important music is in ministry, and an invitation to join the choir. Unfortunately, time constraints meant that the final ice breaker wouldn't be happening; our team will be looking at ways to allow for more such activities to take place in next year's event.

On [March 14th](#), we hosted Holly Smith's Celebration of Life and Memorial Tea. The attendance was over 100, with the Aviva choir and many friends contributing to a 2-hour service; the family was very appreciative. Many thanks to Keith Allen for his overseeing the seating, and Bruce Wilson for helping with reserved parking and opening the gate to the school parking lot. Also, thanks to Linda Braid, who

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gave our team a heads-up regarding the need for Food Safe procedures due to the breakdown of the dishwasher!

So far this month we have given out 4 prayer shawls to those who are sick, grieving, and needing comfort. We also have a list of names who have requested special prayers. The kind knitters keep the church in stock with their beautiful contributions! We hope to have another Blessing of the Shawls soon.

We continue to attend Wexford each month; the residents and staff are wonderful, participating in singing and prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Maureen Smith

Property

1. Dishwasher – we are awaiting a part for the dishwasher. The repair technician suggested a different brand, Stero, from a manufacturer called Hobart. If we continue to have problems with the JetTech we may want to consider replacing it with the Stero unit. The company we get the solutions from in Lantzville advertises Hobart brands and then would likely be able to service them. We searched far and wide for a technician to service the JetTech.
2. Fire inspection –This is a yearly undertaking by the Nanaimo Fire Department. We passed inspection without any deficiencies.
3. Foyer door—steps have been taken to eliminate the problem with the door binding on the tiles in the entrance.
4. Cleaning Contract—Simply the Best Cleaning Services provides this service for BUC at a rate of \$280 + gst for about 5 hours per week.

Submitted by Keith Allen

Worship

1. Worship Team met March 4, 2026 in the Arbutus Room.
2. Taize services at BUC will be on January 31, February 28 and March 21, 2027
3. We had a lengthy discussion on music licenses and decided we would continue with One License and defer obtaining CCLI until more discussion in January of 2027.
4. Worship would like to schedule a meeting with the AV and Power Point Teams.
5. Pride planning will be included in our April meeting agenda.
6. Rev. Katherine will be away April 12 and 26. Rev. Bert Ramsey will lead April 12 and the Brechin 4 Action Team will lead service on April 26.
7. Pre-service music will not be live streamed because many of the pieces used are not covered by our license.
8. The choir is learning pieces from the new “Then Let Us Sing” hymnal.

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9. Tim has provided the other United Churches with the piece that has been chosen for the joint choirs on Good Friday.
10. Tim will be taking time off from March 22 – 29.
11. Update of brochures to include Mission Statement and Core Values will be reviewed by Katherine with a report back to our next meeting.
12. The Property Team will help us with tables for Brechin Bargains on May 9th.
13. The Bruce Harding Event: May 2nd
 - a) Coffee at 9:30 AM
 - b) Workshop: 10:00 - Noon
 - c) Noon – 1:00 PM: bag lunch or eat out nearby
 - d) Worship 2nd session: 1 – 3 PM
 - e) A \$20 donation for attendees is suggested to help defer costs.
14. World Day of Prayer at St. Peter's Catholic Church was well attended by Brechin folk.
15. Maundy Thursday, April 2nd will include soup and buns "supper church" followed by a Communion using the "Tell Me Something Good" resource.
16. Good Friday Service at Brechin, St. Andrew's, Trinity and Cedar will be joining us. The joint choir will practice at 9:00 AM. There will be refreshments available before service. We will disburse quietly after service.
17. Peggy will arrange for refreshments at Kin Hut following the 8:00 AM morning service.
18. We had a brief discussion regarding an accessibility survey in order to better understand how people experience our space and how we can improve. I was asked to bring this idea to Council.
19. Diane Thomas will provide ferns for Palm Sunday.
20. We will meet again on April 1, 9:30 AM

Respectfully Submitted, Grace Skomorowski

Fellowship

Church has been so busy with activities, our team has not been planning much except for, May 9th for the Brechin garage sale, we are planning on a hot dog sale again.

Women's Retreat

Had a meeting with Leslie Flynn about facilitating. She is very enthusiastic and understands our goals. Theme will be "Casting our nets." Deposit made for facility and catering has been made.

Submitted by Linda Wilson.

From: Isabella Medas <Isabella.Medas@nanaimo.ca>

Sent: March 13, 2026 1:35 PM

Subject: Community Contact List

Hello,

I am reaching out to connect with faith-based organizations across the community to strengthen our communication networks.

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The City is developing a mailing list to quickly share information during extreme weather events, such as periods of extreme heat or cold, as well as other community-related updates that may affect vulnerable residents. Many faith-based organizations play an important role in community support, and we want to ensure you receive timely information that may help in your planning, outreach, or response efforts.

If your organization would like to be included on this mailing list, please reply with the following:

- **Primary contact name**
- **Email address(es) to include**
- **Organization name**
- **Preferred phone number** (optional)

Your participation is completely voluntary, and your contact information will only be used for the purposes of emergency and community-related communications.

If you have any questions, or if there is someone else at your organization we should connect with, please feel free to let me know.

Thank you for the important work you do in supporting our community.

Isabella Medas, BA (She/Her)

Social Development Clerk | Public Safety Department/Social Development Section

e: isabella.medas@nanaimo.ca

Looking for free or low cost resources in Nanaimo? See our [Surviving in Nanaimo Guide](#)

[Webinars for Church Treasurers](#) » [Forums](#) » [Forum for Questions and Comments](#) » [Description of Duties for Treasurer](#)

[DS](#) Re: Description of Duties for Treasurer
by [David Shearman](#) - Monday, 9 March 2026, 5:55 PM

While the Manual says the Treasurer must be a member of the United Church under B.7.6.3 (a) of 2026 Manual, that may be excepted with the approval of the Region. Earlier, at Section B.7.3.1 (e) of the 2026 Manual, it says, "Exception: There is one exception to the requirement in paragraphs (a) and (e) above for governing body members to be full members of the congregation: People who are not full members may be elected in special circumstances with the regional council's approval." I am aware of a number of congregations in this situation, where regional approval has been granted. This may become more common going forward.

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Visibility

I have been thinking about the ideas Katherine and the other churches have for Pride and the summer Thursday Market and, with Katherine and Darlene's permission, I talked to SignAge. All prices are estimates that will depend on the size of the banners or signs. Prices include any print or logos that we want on them.

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Pride Parade

If we are joining other churches in Pride Parade, it has been suggested that BUC may want a walking banner. **Lightweight vinyl banner, 12' x 2.5' - \$300**

Combined events with other churches, sharing costs proportionately

Summer market – a banner for the table does not give the best visibility along the table edge but may be our only option. Would we require one for sidewalk side and one for the roadside of our booth?

Lightweight vinyl banner, 6' X 2.5' - \$150

Each community should supply their own holders for information brochures, etc.

Pride Parade

The same material as *Summer market*

Alternate signs

Feather Flag



Teardrop Flag



Research shows that teardrop flags are preferable to feather flags as they don't blow in the wind. **Cost for an 11' flag is \$519** and I believe this may be too tall. The next smaller is 7'.

Available online

Suction cup flags (teardrop, rectangular or blade) that are approximately 24" high and teardrop flags are available online. Very reasonable prices.

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Our working group was for enhancing membership and **visibility**. They have raised funds that they dedicated to an unapproved mural. That group is no longer meeting. Are we able to use some of these funds for signage? Should we meet with the former members to discuss it?

Respectfully submitted,
Gloria

BRECHIN UNITED CHURCH
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Memorial/Celebrations of Life Booking

In keeping with United Church practice, Memorials/Celebrations of Life are led by Brechin's minister, who works with the family in planning the service. Brechin's music director is also included and coordinates the music for the service. Any additional participants or musical contributions should be discussed with the minister and music director during the planning process.

Time of Service

Memorial/Celebrations of Life/Funeral services may be held any day of the week except Sundays and Tuesdays. You can arrange the time and date with the minister and the Office Administrator will complete the booking process.

Music

Suggestions from the family are invited and the music director and minister will do their utmost to accommodate the wishes of the family. A solo or other special music selection may be included. If you would like recorded music to be part of the service, we will coordinate with the audio-visual team to determine what formats can be played through our system.

Flowers, Photographs and Symbols

It is most appropriate to have floral arrangements from family and friends. As Brechin United Church strives to be a fragrance-free environment, if possible please avoid highly scented flowers. A photograph of the deceased and symbols of their life may also be appropriate. The minister will support you in incorporating symbols, items and elements you find meaningful and comforting.

Parking

There is limited church designated parking at 2020 Estevan Road—12 church spaces at building. Extra parking is available along Estevan Road – 10 spaces, 2-hour limit 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and community parking on Beach Drive – 4-hour parking. We have permission to park at École Océane when the school is not in use and at Zougla Restaurant before 3 p.m. Wednesday to Monday and all day Tuesday. Parking is also available at Midas after 5:30 p.m.

Policies

Smoking of cigarettes and cannabis, vaping and use of alcoholic beverages is **NOT** permitted anywhere on the premises or adjacent property.

Memorial Services -includes Cedar and Birch rooms, kitchen, Arbutus Room, Minister, Pianist, A/V and memorial tea \$825

Reception/Lunches/Tea

Volunteers from Brechin's Pastoral Care Team are available to assist by setting up and cleaning up the reception room, and provide beverages, small plates and napkins. If you wish food, you are welcome to provide it from approved sources such as grocery store. One of the team will meet with you to discuss details. Please ask for more information and contact information of this team from the office.

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Dear Friends,

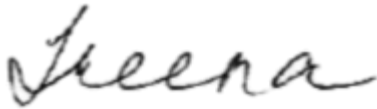
You're invited to join us for a region-wide conversation about the future of the church.

[Seven in-person gatherings](#) will take place across the province, bringing local communities of faith together to connect with one another and with the wider region. In these conversations, we'll explore the United Church's [Toward 2035](#) vision, reflect on data specific to your local area, and begin imagining a shared path forward for sustaining and strengthening our ministry.

This is a space for connection, curiosity, and collaboration. Together, we'll share wisdom, listen deeply, and consider new ways of working alongside neighbouring communities of faith.

All are welcome, active and retired ministry personnel, lay leaders, and anyone who feels called to engage in shaping the future of the United Church in their local context.

Blessings,



Treena Duncan
Executive Minister
Pacific Mountain Region



Kathy Davies
Regional Minister: Pastoral Relations and
Community of Faith Team Lead
Pacific Mountain Region