

*The United Church of Canada*  
*Bathurst Pastoral Charge*  
**First United Church, Bathurst**  
[www.firstunited-bathurst.ca](http://www.firstunited-bathurst.ca)

**November 27, 2022**

**Minister** Rev. Neal Palmer      **Music Director** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Margaret Daniels      **Greeters** Charles Ramsey &  
**Custodian** Lester Scott      Linda Knowles-MacPherson

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<b>Lectionary for today</b>	<b>Lectionary for next Sunday</b>
Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44	Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12
<i>Today's bulletins and the flowers are in loving memory of</i> <b><i>Cletus Lavigne</i></b> <i>by Judy, Macky &amp; Jennifer</i>	

*The asterisk \* identifies those times in the service where the congregation is invited to stand as able.*

*GATHERING*

**MUSIC AS WE GATHER**

**WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**THE ADVENT OF PEACE** *(responsively)*

*The Woods family (Courtney, Shaun, Charlotte & Julia)*

Today is the Advent of Peace.

As we light this candle, we remember all who live in the midst of conflict, in their own homes, in their communities, in their countries, anywhere in the world.

**We live in a fractured world of racial tensions and economic disparity.**

We light this candle as our commitment to embracing diversity.

**We are the peacemakers in the world.**

We light this candle to herald the coming of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

*The first candle is lit.*

**"Hope Is a Star"** – VU #7 (Verse 2)

***Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth.  
When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.***

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Adapted from Romans 13:11-14)

*(responsively)*

Friends, awake, awake!

**What time is it?**

The night is far gone, and the day is near!

**What time is it?**

Salvation is near! How should we live?

**Let's lay aside the works of war.**

Let's put on the armour of peace.

**Let's live honourably.**

**GATHERING PRAYER**

**\*GATHERING CAROL** – “All Earth Is Waiting” - VU #5

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,  
and open furrows await the seed of God.  
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;  
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,  
“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel.”  
One whose name is “God with us,” our Saviour shall be,  
Through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain,  
open new highways, new highways for our God,  
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,  
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.  
Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today,  
for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;  
again, on arriving, Christ brings liberty.

**PRAYER OF HUMILITY**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

***O holy Child of Bethlehem!***  
***Descend to us, we pray;***  
***Cast out our sin, and enter in;***  
***be born in us today.***

**\*GREETING ONE ANOTHER** (*responsively*)

...The Peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**SHARING A STORY** (*with those of all ages*)

**\*SINGING A SONG** – “Look to the Light”

Look to the light it’s shining.  
Open your eyes and see,  
that there’s love enough for the whole wide world,  
enough for you and me.  
Open your eyes and see.

Listen to the voices singing.  
Open your heart you’ll see,  
that the Spirit sings with the whole wide world,  
a song for you and me.  
Open your heart and see.

Reach to the earth with loving.  
Open our hands and see,  
that there’s food enough for the whole wide world,  
enough for you and me  
Open your hands and see.

Let’s join our hands together.  
Stretch `cross the earth and seas.  
For there’s room enough for the whole wide world,  
enough for you and me.  
Open up your eyes and see.  
Oh open up your eyes and see.

*Words and music: Pat Mayberry © 2000*

*Arrangement: David Kai © 2018*

**WELCOMING NEW MEMBER**

**SCRIPTURE READING** – 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 *Gary Branch*

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE** (*New member comes forward*)

## PRESENTATION

*(Brenda Parrott, Chair of Christian Development Team)*

On behalf of First United Church/Bathurst Pastoral Charge, I present the following person whom we welcome into the membership of this community of faith:

Stephen Gordon Maisey

## COMMITMENT OF NEW MEMBER

Will you join with us, as together,  
we celebrate God's presence,  
live with respect in creation,  
love and serve others,  
seek justice and resist evil?

**I will, with the Spirit's help.**

*(Certificate of Membership is presented)*

**\*CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT** *(responsively)*

Dear Friends in Christ, let's pledge to Stephen our support and care.

**As your siblings in Christ,  
we rejoice in the gifts you bring.  
We pledge our love and support to you.  
With God's help, we will live out  
the mission and ministry of Christ's church together.**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** "A New Creed" – VU #918 *(in unison)*

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.  
We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has  
come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make  
new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.  
We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to  
seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and  
risen, our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.  
We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.**

## WELCOME

Stephen,  
in the name of Jesus Christ,  
we welcome you to the privileges and responsibilities of membership  
in this community of faith.  
We thank God for your witness among us.

*(The congregation is invited to applaud.)*

**BLESSING** *(responsively)*

The grace of Christ attend you,  
the love of God surround you,  
the Holy Spirit keep you.  
Go now knowing...  
All who are united in the covenant of baptism  
are the Body of Christ in the world.  
Go in peace.

**Amen**

*ENGAGING*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*Gary Branch*

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122

**REFLECTION**

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

*RESPONDING*

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

*Pat MacIntosh*

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD**

**\*OFFERING HYMN**

*(Tune – Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow)*

*As we are watching for a sign  
As we long for new life.  
We trust your word revealed to us  
Today and all year through.*

*© Catherine MacDonald 2010*

**\*OFFERING PRAYER** *(in unison)*

**Holy One,  
may our gifts to you—these ordinary gifts of the work of our  
lives—be used for extraordinary things.  
We dedicate what we receive to your work for peace, justice,  
and hope in the world.  
May our gifts, no matter how small, help us take small steps  
towards your greatest peace.  
Amen**

**SHARING OUR CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** – VU #921 (Ecumenical Version) *(in unison)*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kindom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kindom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CLOSING CAROL** – "See amid the Winter's Snow" – VU #76

See amid the winter's snow,  
born for us on earth below,  
see, the tender Lamb appears,  
promised from eternal years.

*Refrain:*

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn;  
hail, redemption's happy dawn;  
sing through all Jerusalem,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a manger lies  
God who built the starry skies,  
who enthroned in height sublime  
sits amid the cherubim.

*Refrain:*

Say, ye holy shepherds, say  
what your joyful news today;  
wherefore have ye left your sheep  
on the lonely mountain steep?

*Refrain:*

"As we watched at dead of night,  
lo, we saw a wondrous light;  
angels singing 'Peace on earth'  
told us of the Saviour's birth.

*Refrain:*

Sacred infant, all divine,  
What a might love was thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss  
Down to such a world as this!

*Refrain:*

**\*BLESSING**

**\*CHORAL CLOSING** – “I Am Walking a Path of Peace” – MV #221

*I am walking a path of peace,  
I am walking a path of peace,  
I am walking a path of peace,  
lead me home, I am home.*

*(The Advent Candle is extinguished.)*

**POSTLUDE**

# Church News

This Week at First United - Nov 28 <sup>th</sup> to Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup>		
Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
	9:00 AM	Ways & Means Meeting - RMR
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
	7:30 PM	Property Management - RMR
Thursday	4:00 PM	Council – DEMH GYM

**Church office hours** - Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Peanut Butter Update** - As of November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 342 jars of Peanut Butter has been collected to go to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. **Our goal is 900 jars for the year** and we currently have 632 including what has been purchased with monetary donations.

**Memorial Hymn Sing** – The deadline for requests for the hymn sing is drawing quickly coming close. If you have not already done so, please fill out the information and submit it to the office by dropping it in the mail, offering plate or leaving it at the church office **no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>**. Join with us on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 2 PM to sing Christmas Carols that mean so much to us as we remember our loved ones.



**Poinsettia Fund:** Once again this year we are hoping to have the beauty of our sanctuary enhanced with poinsettias for the Christmas season. Those wishing to contribute to the annual poinsettia fund may place an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Please mark clearly on the face of the envelope – Poinsettia Fund with your name, PAR or envelope number. List the names that you wish to have printed in the Christmas bulletin insert. Donations will also be received in the church office – deadline is December 13, 2022.

**West Bathurst Cemetery Committee** wishes to express its appreciation to Dan Gregson, Jeff Gregson and Chris Astle for their generous donation to the cemetery in loving memory of their grandmother, Martha (McGee) Carroll.

# Church News

**Friends of First United** – We now have 3 rotating teams of individuals who bake and/or help with receptions for funerals. We are still short a few people. If anyone is available to assist with baking or working at the hall please contact Beth Sullivan by telephone at 548-3882 or by email at [wheel309@gmail.com](mailto:wheel309@gmail.com)

**Annual Christmas Benevolence Fund:** - It's that time of year! Giving to this fund is even more important than ever because COVID-19 is still affecting lives. Once again this year the process is a bit different, but we hope the results will be the same or better as previous years. Should you wish to give you will find an envelope on the tree which is now in the narthex. And then you may drop it in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office during the week. Make your cheques payable to First United Church. Please mark clearly that this donation is for the Benevolence Fund. The proceeds from this fund support the Bathurst Volunteer Center and people in our congregation who need assistance.

***We thank-you for your generosity***  
***– Community Outreach Sub-Team***

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-** The Community Outreach Sub Team reminds you that November is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Thus, we encourage you to actively support Passage House, which provides direct support to victims of abuse. You may do so by contributing a suitable White Gift or perhaps, a monetary donation to the Benevolence Fund.

**Broadview (Observer) Renewal** is due in December. If you receive this publication and have not yet renewed your subscription at the church office please do so by Monday, December 19, 2022. If you would like to start to receive this United Church of Canada publication please contact the office at 546-3532. The annual subscription rate is \$25 (tax included).

# Church News

## **Gifts with Vision**

Are you looking for a gift to celebrate someone special for Christmas, Birthday, Anniversary, Congratulations – for that someone who has everything, or who doesn't want anything more to add to their 'clutter'?

**Gifts with Vision** is the perfect gift for you to give! The United Church of Canada has put together a catalogue and online 'store' of gifts that make a difference in people's lives throughout Canada and the world. Each 'Gift with Vision' provides support for remarkable Mission and Service partners for special projects that address many life-changing issues, such as hunger, poverty, anti-racism, well-building, environment, healing and reconciliation.

There are catalogues, which show a small sample of what is in the on-line store, at the back of the church for you to take – we can get more! The on-line store is at [giftswithvision.ca](http://giftswithvision.ca).

**Thank you for being part of these life-changing activities!**

# Community News

**St. George's Anglican Church**, 432 King Avenue, will be holding **"A Family and Community Breakfast"** on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 8 AM to 10 AM. Come and enjoy fellowship and great food. Free-will offering at the door.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS** *(New Revised Standard Version)*

### **ISAIAH 2:1-5**

1 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

3 Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

4 He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

5 O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

### **PSALM 122**

1 I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

2 Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

3 Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.

4 To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

5 For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

7 Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers."

8 For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you."

9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.