

The United Church of Canada
Bathurst Pastoral Charge
First United Church, Bathurst
www.firstunited-bathurst.ca

January 29, 2023

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Peter & Edie Gammon

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12	Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 112:1-10 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 Matthew 5:13-20
Today's bulletins are placed in loving memory of <i>Lynn Vance by her husband Dale</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

LIGHTING THE CRIST CANDLE

...May this candle and the light it produces be a symbol and sign of all of these things...

The Christ Candle is lit.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP - "Come Touch Our Hearts"

MV #12 (*Verse 2*)

***Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;
create a space for spirit to grow in us,
let life and beauty fill us,
come touch and bless our souls.***

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – "Let Us Build a House"

MV #1 (*Vs. 1, 2, 4 & 5*)

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

(Refrain:)

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

(Refrain:)

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

(Refrain:)

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

(Refrain:)

PRAYER OF HUMILITY *(responsively)*

...We have heard it said:

...Charity always begins at home;

and we often believe without thinking.

(Observe silence followed by bell)

...We have heard it said:

...Celebrities are role models;

and we often believe without thinking.

(Observe silence followed by bell)

...We have heard it said:

...Tears are for women and children;

and we often believe without thinking. *(Observe silence)*

CHORAL RESPONSE – "How Deep the Peace" - MV #95

***How deep the peace, the confidence,
of those whose wrongs are forgiven.
How deep the peace, the confidence,
of those whose hearts are healed.***

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

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

In God's justice is our peace.

Jesus calls us to live in unity.

We seek to live the Spirit of Christ.

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

***SINGING A SONG** –

VU #575

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Anne Wilson

Micah 6:1-8

Matthew 5:1-12

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC - "Spirit of Life"

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Judy Losier

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD

***OFFERING HYMN**

*Praise God with songs that never cease,
Praise God who fills the earth with peace.
Praise God for love and joy within,
The Holy Child is born again.*

***OFFERING PRAYER (in unison)**

**Gracious One,
the poor struggle to put food on the table,
the meek are bullied in the schoolyards,**

**the mourners find no comfort in hollow words,
and peacemakers are publicly ridiculed
by those who should be emulating them.
And so, as we offer our gifts, we pray,
that they'll be used to bring blessing
to *all* in the world.**

Amen

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (responsively)

...For Earth staggering under the weight of global warming and
deforestation,

together, may we see and find another way.

For people staggering under the weight of poverty, violence, and loss,

together, may we see and find another way.

For nations staggering under the weight of pride and a need to
impose their will,

together, may we see and find another way.

And for the Christian Church staggering under the weight

of seeming irrelevance within secular cultures,

together, may we see and find another way.

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom 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 kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** – “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” – VU #684

Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your healing power,
and where there’s doubt, true faith in you:

(Refrain:)

*O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace:
where there’s despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there’s sadness, ever joy.

(Refrain:)

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we’re born to eternal life.

***BLESSING**

***CHORAL CLOSING** – “May the God of Peace” – MV #224

***May the God of peace and of all good,
may the God of peace and of all good
be always with you. Amen!
May God’s peace be with you. Amen!***

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

This Week at First United – Jan 30 th to Feb 4 th		
Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Thursday	4 PM	Council – Ruth Morrison Room

Church office hours – Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Peanut Butter – Once again this year we are setting a goal of **900 jars** of peanut butter to donate to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. Up to January 25, 2023 we have collected 49 jars.

Please Note – In an effort to assist the Bathurst Volunteer Center, should you wish to make a monetary donation you may now do so by **issuing your cheque to First United Church**, indicating it is to be used for the purchase of Peanut Butter. Your donation will be marked as such and will be included on your annual tax receipt. Your cheques can be dropped off at the church office or mailed. Periodically someone from our Community Outreach Team will purchase the peanut butter and have it delivered directly to the Volunteer Center.

Time for Fellowship – Would you like to assist the members of the Hospitality & Friendship Team to provide/serve refreshments following our church services? We are looking for families, individuals and youth interested in contributing to this enjoyable fellowship opportunity. Please feel free to add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Ruth Morrison Room and talk with a member of the Fellowship Team.

Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered already.

We welcome all for fellowship and refreshments following our church service.

Your *Hospitality & Friendship Team*,

Bill Stack, Debra Watling, Nancy Jagoe,
Shirley Sealy, Gayle Ferron, Jini Palmer



Church News

Sunday School is resuming today, January 29th and will continue up to and including Sunday, April 9th. There will be 2 Sundays during Spring Break where Sunday School will not be held.

Team Committee Reports will be required in order to prepare 2022 Annual Report. Would the individuals responsible for preparing each report please email them to the church office. The deadline for reports is February 10th. If you have already provided your report - thank you.

Community News

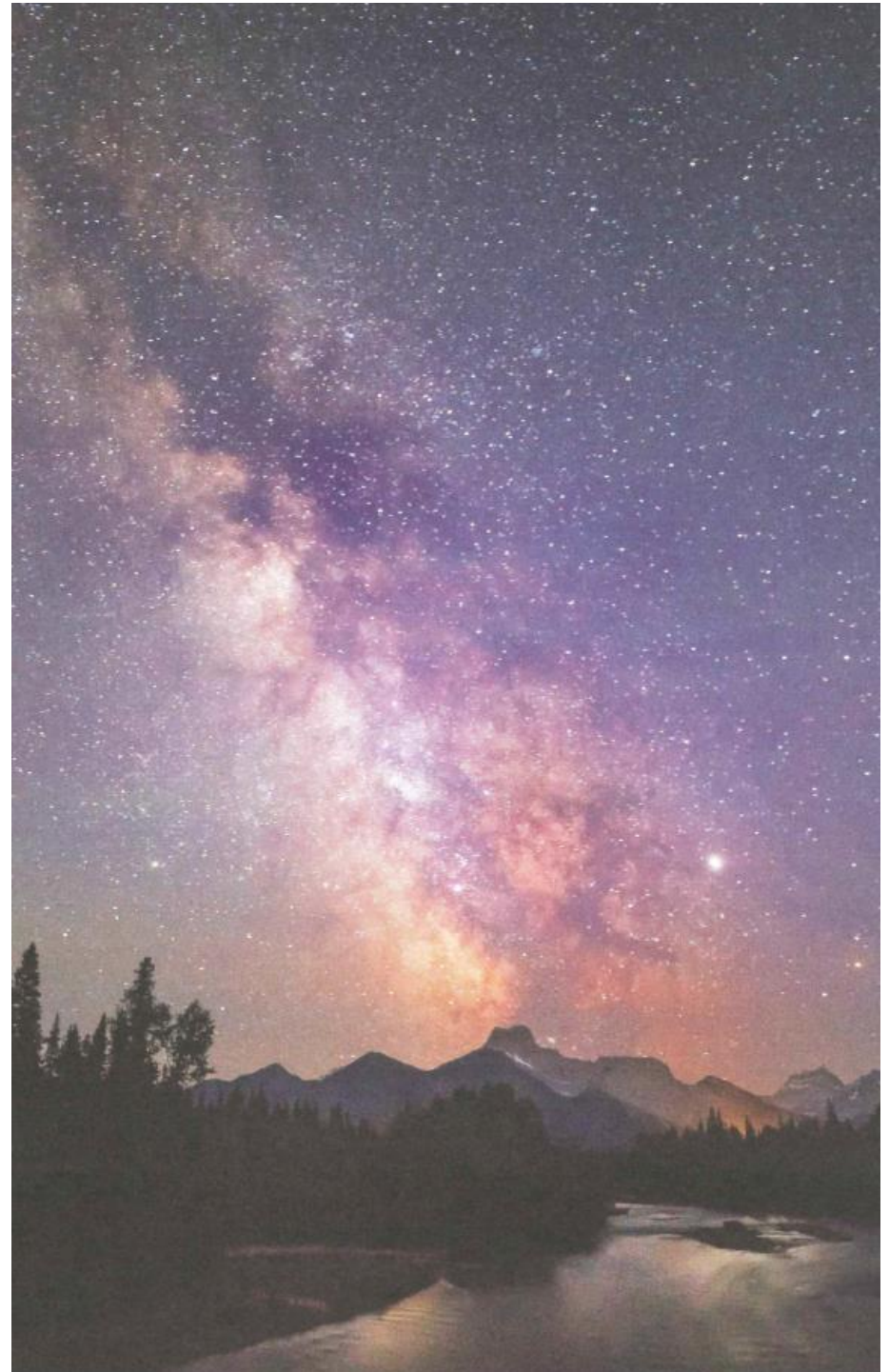
The Annual Robbie Burns celebration, organized by Bathurst Chapter, N.B. Scottish Cultural Association, will be held downstairs at Bathurst Curling Club on **Saturday, February 11th, at 4:00 PM**. Bring your favourite finger foods to go with the haggis. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased from Isabel MacLaggan by contacting her by telephone 506-546-5521 or email isabelmac30@gmail.com. Memberships for 2023 will be available. Everyone is welcome but advance notice is requested.

Service of ordination for Ms. Kathy Parks and Service of Recognition as Kathy joins the Ministry Team for the Northern New Brunswick Regional Ministry (Bathurst, Dalhousie, Campbellton and New Carlisle) of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The service will be on **Saturday, February 4th, at 2:00 PM** at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, 395 Murray Avenue Bathurst. The service will be followed by a reception with light refreshments.

A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on **Saturday, February 11th from 8:00 – 10:00 am**. Come and enjoy fellowship and great food. Free will offering at the door.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER will be held at Saint George's Church Hall, 432 King Avenue on **February 21st from 4:30 – 6:00 pm**. Tickets are \$ 10.00 each and take-outs are available. Tickets are available in advance from the Church Office (546-3225) or at the door.

Saint George's Anglican Church is having a **Yard Sale on Saturday, February 25th from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm** in the Church Hall at 432 King Avenue. Hope to see you there.



SCRIPTURE READINGS *(New Revised Standard Version)*

MICAH 6:1-8

1 Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

2 Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

3 "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

5 O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

6 "With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

MATTHEW 5:1-12

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

May the Spirit bless to our understanding these significant parts of our Christian story...