

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

July 16, 2023

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Genesis 25:19-34 Psalm 119:105-112 Romans 8:1-11 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Genesis 28:10-19a Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 Romans 8:12-25 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
<i>Today's bulletins are in loving memory of Ervine, Rella and Ronald Good placed by Judy Smith & Lorraine Good</i>	

*The asterisk * identifies those times in the service where you are invited to present yourselves, body, mind, and spirit, as is comfortable for you today...*

GATHERING

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

***WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** *(in unison)*

...As we gather to worship, let's respectfully pause to remember we live and work and worship on lands that are, by law, the unceded territory of the original peoples, the Mi'kmaq. May we live with respect on this land, and live in peace and in friendship with its people.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

As we light this candle, may we be ever mindful of the light of Christ in both our personal and collective lives.

The Christ Candle is lit...

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP – "Wind is Moving"

Seasons of the Spirit vol. 1 pg. 39

***Wind is moving over water,
patterns shifting out across the bay.
Grass is bending on the hillside;
clouds are drifting right across the sky.
O Holy Spirit, move over all our lives.
O Holy Spirit, move over all our lives.***

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsively)*

...We bring our hopes and fears, our struggles and our lives as they are, into the presence of the One who leaves doors and futures open to gracious possibilities.

God's word lights the paths before us.

May this time of worship empower us to make faithful choices.

Christ's word lights the paths before us.

May this time of worship renew and restore our relationships with God and with each other.

The Spirit's word lights the paths before us.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – "For the Beauty of the Earth"

VU #226
(Tune Dix)

For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,

(Refrain)

*God of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.*

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,

(Refrain)

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,

(Refrain)

For each perfect gift sublime
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,

(Refrain)

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

CHORAL RESPONSE – “Take, O Take Me as I Am” MV #85

***Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me, in me.***

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

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

And also with you.

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

Brooke Knowles & Helen Knowles

Matthew 13:3-5

***SINGING A SONG** – “Jesus Loves Me”

VU #365

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong,
in his love we shall be strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know,
As he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee,
Saying, “Let them come to me.”
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me still today,
walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give
Light and love to all who live.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

CELEBRATING BAPTISM

***BAPTISMAL HYMN** – “Out of Deep, Unordered Water” VU #453

[Participants gather near baptismal font during hymn.]

Out of deep, unordered water
God created land and life;
world of bird and beast, and later,
two-some people, husband, wife.

Refrain

*There is water in the river
bringing life to tree and plant.
Let creation praise its giver:
there is water in the font.*

Water on the human forehead,
birthmark of the love of God,
is the sign of death and rising;
through the sea there runs a road.

Refrain

*There is water in the river
bringing life to tree and plant.
Let creation praise its giver:
there is water in the font.*

Standing round the font reminds us
of the Hebrews' climb ashore.
Life is hallowed by the knowledge:
God has been this way before.

Refrain

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE (*Cheryl Brewster –
Representative of Christian Development Team*)

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND PROMISES

COMMITMENT OF PARENTS

COMMITMENT OF GODPARENT

(Brett Boudreau, Elijah's loving uncle)

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

As the congregation of First United Church, do you commit yourselves
to support and nurture these persons within a community which
worships God, loves and serves others, seeks justice, and resists evil?

We do, by the grace of God.

***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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE POURING OF WATER

(responsively)

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give thanks and praise.

...Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do here, that this
water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ.

Amen.

THE ACT OF BAPTISM (*responsively*)

Elijah Zhou Swan Boudreau,

I baptize you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit.

Amen.

MARKING WITH THE SIGN OF THE CROSS *(responsively)*

Elijah, child of God, from this day forward, you bear the sign of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS *(responsively)*

Elijah, may the Holy Spirit, Love's power, guide you, inspire you, and work within you, all the days of your life.

Amen.

PLACEMENT OF BANNER SHEEP

LIGHTING OF A CANDLE *(responsively)*

[Baptismal Candle is lit from Christ Candle, signifying the light of Christ, and as a reminder of the link between baptism and Easter.]

Elijah, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works, and give glory to God.

Amen.

[The candle is passed to Elijah's parents.]

PRESENTATION OF A BIBLE *(responsively)*

Elijah, receive this Bible and hear what the Spirit is saying to you and the Church.

Amen.

[A Bible is presented to Elijah's parents.]

BAPTISMAL STOLE *(responsively)*

[Baptismal Stole is draped around Elijah's shoulders.]

Elijah, you have put on Christ. In Christ you have been baptized.

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

DECLARATION AND CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

[A Certificate of Baptism is given to Elijah's parents.]

In the name of Jesus Christ, Elijah has been received into the holy catholic church, the body of Christ in the world.

[The congregation is invited to applaud.]

BLESSING *(responsively)*

Elijah, the grace of Christ attend you, the love of God surround you, the Holy Spirit keep you.

Amen.

[Participants return to their pews]

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Cheryl Brewster

Genesis 25:19-34

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION/YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Pat MacIntosh

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD

***OFFERING HYMN** – “These Gifts We Bring”

*These gifts we bring with grateful hearts,
to reconcile, make new.*

*Gather us in grace, show us the way,
to live our lives in Truth
to share Your love in all we do.*

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

**Holy One,
we give with gratitude
despite all of our imperfections.
We will use these offerings
to seek more union through our division
and greater love through all that separates us.
Bring to being in us, we pray, genuine expressions
of your love and grace in the world.
Amen**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(responsively)*

Holy One of each, Holy One of all...

we pray for our families, those with whom we are drawn together by birth or by marriage or by adoption.

May they receive care and love from you and from us as well.

We pray for our friends and neighbours, those with whom we are drawn together by common places of work or learning, by common aspirations and values.

Strengthen the ties between us.

May we find in these relationships the freedom and companionship and community that nurture us and the world around us.

We pray for our fellow citizens, those with whom we are drawn together by birthplace and nation, by regional ties and societal traditions.

Fashion these bonds to ensure the relationships and ideals we claim are paid more than lip service, so that who we are and have been, never closes us to who we may yet become.

We pray for those who are part of this community and in the whole Christian church, those with whom we are drawn together by a common faith and uncommon grace.

May we thrive in ministry, may we expand in mission, may we deepen in spirituality, and may we grow closer to one another and you.

We pray for those who are fashioned in your image, with whom we are drawn together in one family.

Free us to recognize the stranger as no stranger, but as a sibling. Free us to see the joy and need of any as the cause for our rejoicing and compassion.

THE LORD’S PRAYER – VU #916 (A Translation) *(in unison)*

**Our Father-Mother, who is in the heavens,
may your name be made holy,
may your dominion come,
may your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today the bread we need;
and forgive us our debts,
as we have forgiven our debtors;
and do not put us to the test,
but rescue us from evil.
For yours is the dominion, and the power,
and the glory forever.
Amen**

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN**

VU #644

“I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry”

I was there to hear your borne cry,
I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the word,
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young.
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

*BLESSING

***CHORAL SENDING FORTH** – "I Wish You the Blessing"

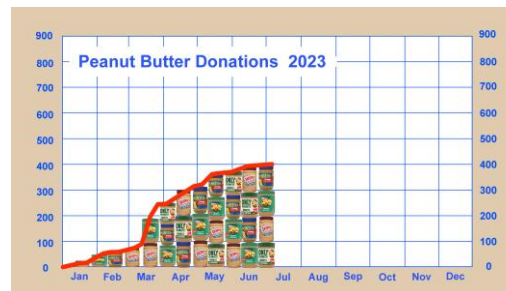
***We wish you the blessing of faith to sustain you,
friends to support you, challenge to stir you,
songs to empower you, peace to refresh you,
tears to release you, laughter to heal you,
love to nurture your soul.***

The Christ Candle is extinguished.

POSTLUDE

Church News

The summer church office hours are now in effect – open Monday to Thursday – 9 AM to 3 PM. The office will be closed on Fridays until after the Labour Day weekend.



Peanut Butter – Our pledge this year to the Bathurst Volunteer Center is **900 jars**. As of July 13th **410** jars have been donated.

Several cases of COVID-19 tests have been donated to First United Church. Please feel free to pick up some boxes of tests to have on hand at home.

Community News

The Anglican Parish of New Bandon will be holding their annual ***Strawberry Social and Bake Sale*** on *Wednesday, July 19* from 6:00 – 7:30 pm at Christ Church Hall in Clifton. This will be a sit down or take out event. Cost is \$8 per person. We hope to see you there.

St. George's Anglican Church will be hosting the ***Hospitality Days Breakfast*** on ***Saturday, July 22nd*** from 8:00 to 10:00 AM. Tickets to be sold in advance by dropping into the Church Office or calling 506-546-3225. Adults – \$ 10.00 and Children under 12 - \$ 5.00

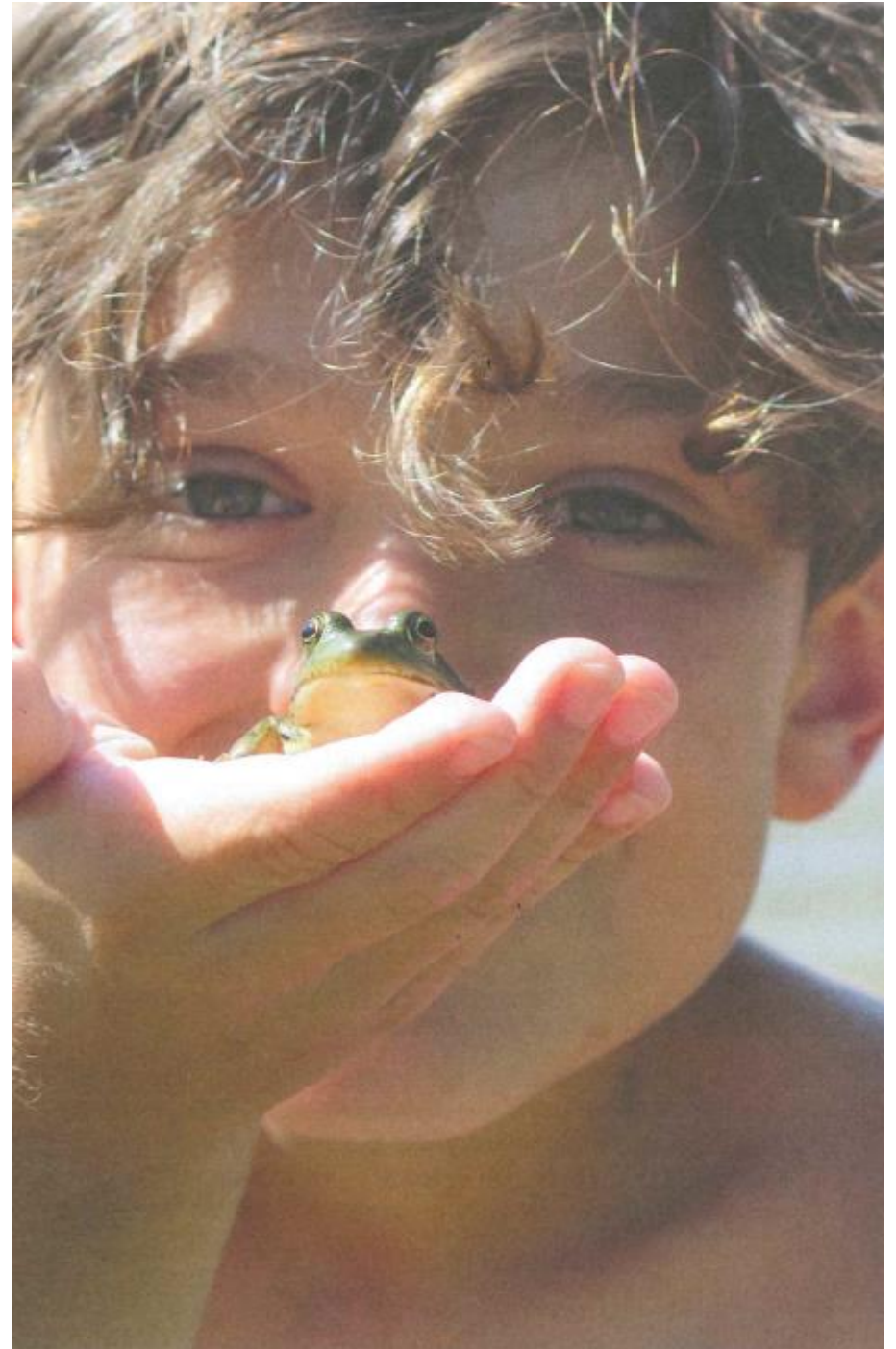
BBQ & Grand Opening of Pokeshaw Heritage Park and the VISTA Project will be held on *Sunday, July 23^d* at 4 PM. Exciting announcement to be made! An annual event of the Pokeshaw & Black Rock Recreation Council - 9203 Route 11, Pokeshaw, NB

Central United Church, Clifton will be hosting a Country and Country Gospel Concert on *Sunday, July 30* at 2 PM. Local entertainment and some new entertainers. Free will offering. Come and bring a friend! You won't be disappointed! It's a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon with your friends.

Community News

St. Lukes Invites Children to Stellar VBS: Shine Jesus' Light!

A summer kids' event called Stellar VBS will be hosted at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church from July 31st to August 4th. At Stellar, kids discover how they can shine Jesus' love and hope in everyday life! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, experience one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with a Cosmic Closing that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned. Family members and friends are encouraged to join in daily for this special time at 11:30 AM. Kids at Stellar VBS will join a missions' effort to provide school supplies and bed kits through "Sleeping Children Around the World" for families in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Stellar is for kids from 4-12. Youth 13 and up can volunteer as crew leaders. It will run from **9:00 AM to 12:00 PM each day and it's Free!** For more information, call 506-546-4645 or via email stlukes@bellaliant.com.



SCRIPTURE READING

GENESIS 25:19-34

19 These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac,

20 and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean.

21 Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived.

22 The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord.

23 And the Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger."

Why does it have to be this way for this mother and these children? *(Silence)*

24 When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb.

25 The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau.

26 Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

Why make a point of the details of Esau's appearance, and what does Jacob's grasping his brother's heel convey? *(Silence)*

27 When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents.

28 Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Why does love have to favour one over another? *(Silence)*

29 Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished.

30 Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.)

31 Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright."

32 Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?"

33 Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.

34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

In hearing this story, with which brother do you empathize? *(Silence)*

May the Spirit bless to our understanding this significant part of our Christian story...