

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

January 28, 2024

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Edie & Peter Gammon
Audio & Visual Technicians Shirley Allain & Donald Eddy
Today's Music Leader Linda Knowles MacPherson

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28	Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39
<i>Today's bulletins are placed in loving memory of Lynn Vance by Dale and family</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 AND TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT *(in unison)*

...Since time immemorial, Indigenous peoples have occupied and cared for this land, the country many call Canada, from coast to coast to coast. In naming this land mass, even more specifically, Bathurst, and its surrounding communities, as *Settlers*, we acknowledge this area as the traditional home of the Mi'kmaq people. As a Community of Faith, we seek to

rebuild right relations with the First Nation, Metis and Inuit peoples, to learn from them, and to live on this land, *their* land, with gratitude and respect—for its creation and Creator. This is our commitment.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Each Sunday morning, we gather around this candle, a symbol of Christ.

This ritual brings focus for our time together, a time when we pause to renew our faith and spiritual life with Creator.

May the light shine, gathering us in and bringing us to a place of peace and calm.

The Christ candle is lit...

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP

VU #82 (*Refrain Only*)

"A Light is Gleaming"

***A light is gleaming,
spreading its arms throughout the night,
living in the light.
Come share its gladness,
God's radiant love is burning bright,
living in the light.***

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN –**

MV #10

"Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom"

Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,
she who danced when earth was new.
Follow closely what she teaches,
for her words are right and true.
Wisdom clears the path to justice,
showing us what love must do.

Listen to the voice of Wisdom,
crying in the market place.
Hear the Word made flesh among us,
full of glory, truth, and grace.
When the word takes root and ripens,
peace and righteousness embrace.

Sister Wisdom, come, assist us;
nurture all who seek rebirth.
Spirit-guide and close companion,
bring to light our sacred worth.
Free us to become your people,
holy friends of God and earth.

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

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.

And also with you.

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

***SINGING A SONG** – “Jesus’ Hands Were Kind Hands” VU #570

Jesus’ hands were kind hands, doing good to all,
healing pain and sickness, blessing children small,
washing tired feet, and saving those who fall;
Jesus’ hands were kind hands, doing good to all.

Take my hands, O Jesus, let them work for you,
make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do;
let me watch you, Jesus, till I’m gentle too,
till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Anne Wilson

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC - “Fairest Lord Jesus”

RESPONDING

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS (*Minute for Mission*)

Judy Losier

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD

***OFFERING RESPONSE** (*Tune Old 100th*)

*Hope in our God so filled with love.
Peace in the symbol of a dove.
Joy in the coming of the Son.
Love fills us up and makes us one.*

Catherine MacDonald 2007

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

**Holy One,
we have entered this holy place
without any trepidation.
We now *freely* leave behind
a piece of our treasure,
in faith that courage will lead to more courage... and...
we’ll be amazed by *your* willingness to provide for us
and *our* willingness to give to those who have less.
Amen**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(responsively)*

Holy One,

we know we can demonstrate your love.

This is why, we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts,

those who need us to act as advocates:

For healing of the body,

we name those who suffer illness. *(Moment of prayer)*

For healing of the Spirit,

we name those who suffer complacency or doubt.

(Moment of prayer)

For healing of the mind,

we name those who question their intelligence or need companions in the work to take every thought captive.

(Moment of prayer)

For healing of war-torn countries,

we name those places where holiness has been ignored in favour of control. *(Moment of prayer)*

For healing of the planet,

we name the ecosystems that suffer when we're selfish consumers. *(Moment of prayer)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER – VU #916 (A Paraphrase) *(in unison)*

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name
echo through the universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed
by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever.
Amen**

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** – “As a Fire Is Meant for Burning” VU #578

As a fire is meant for burning
with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission,
giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs,
but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations,
finding neighbours everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers;
we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers;
we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions,
we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit,
we would live to God's delight.

Church News

As a green bud in the springtime
is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness
mid earth's peoples, many-hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens
when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance
of God's new and glorious dawn.

***BLESSING** (*in unison*)

(The Blessing for the Season of Epiphany is a common thread from week to week. Rather than one leader issuing the blessing to the Community of Faith, the blessing comes from each person to the congregation.)

**... We may fail; the Spirit does not.
We may end; the Spirit does not.
Bless and be blessed.**

**We may fail; the Spirit does not.
We may end; the Spirit does not.
Bless and be blessed.**

Amen.

***CHORAL SENDING FORTH** – MV #211
"Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light"

***Go now in peace,
guided by the light of Christ,
so you may be
nourished by the Word of Life.***

The Christ Candle is extinguished.

POSTLUDE

This Week at First United – Jan 29 th to Feb 3 rd		
Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Thursday	4:15 PM	Choir Practice
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market

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, 2024 we have collected 30 jars.

Team Committee Reports will be required in order to prepare **2023 Annual Report**. Would the individuals responsible for preparing each report please email them to the church office. The deadline for reports is February 15th. *Thank You*

The **Upper Room** booklets for January and February have finally arrived. They are in the narthex as well as on the table outside the church office door.

As part of our **Stewardship Program** here at First United, information on Planned Giving through Wills and Bequests is available to our congregational membership. All members are encouraged to review this information and take the appropriate steps pertaining to your wishes. The information is available from the church office.

Below you will find a stewardship quote relating to the same.

"I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare."
~ C. S. Lewis

Church News

Sunrise Breakfast will be held on **Sunday, February 25th, 2024** from 8:30 AM to 12 Noon in the Donald Eddy Memorial Hall. The meal will consist of pancakes, sausages, baked beans, scrambled eggs, hash browns, toast, juice, coffee & tea. Tickets will be available from members of the Ways & Means Team or from the church office.

\$12 for adults and \$5 for children



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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*,

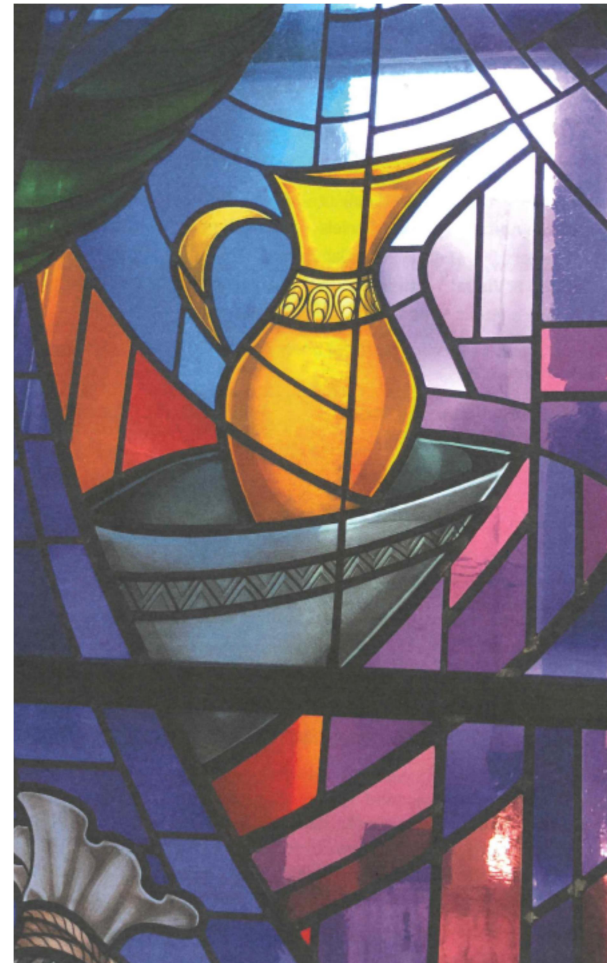
Bill Stack, Debra Watling, Nancy Jagoe,
Shirley Sealy, Gayle Ferron, Jini Palmer



Community News

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

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER will be held at Saint George's Church Hall, 432 King Avenue on **Tuesday, February 13th 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 (506-546-3225) or at the door.



SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13

Food Offered to Idols

1 Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

2 Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge;

3 but anyone who loves God is known by him.

4 Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.”

5 Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—

6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

7 It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.

8 “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do.

9 But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

10 For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols?

11 So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed.

12 But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

13 Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

MARK 1:21-28

The Man with an Unclean Spirit

21 They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.

22 They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.

23 Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit,

24 and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.”

25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet and come out of him!”

26 And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.

27 They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.”

28 At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

May God bless to our understanding these significant parts of our faith story...