



Happy Thanksgiving

2022

After two and a half plus years of COVID-19, where much has gone wrong, we turn to the wisdom of Earth and God to remember once again, like the people of Israel, that in every great struggle, there's the gift of milk and honey flowing through the land and our lives as well.

In Deuteronomy 26:1-11, we learn that the people are asked to bring the first fruits of the harvest and offer "thanks" for what God has done. This helps them remember that God's always with them too.

One other thing, God not only asks for the first fruits of the harvest, but also, that we share from the best we have. Not, in other words, from what's left over alone.

Friends, being reminded of that can be rather discomfoting. For me, at least. Thinking back to the times, for example, I've donated to clothing banks. Looking at a certain item I've never worn, and probably never will, but holding on to it in any event, just in case. Only to see it hanging there again the next year, never having been touched. Deciding to attend church or to get involved with one or more of its ministries, only after all other options have been exhausted. More of the same being applicable to offerings. How many of us, in other words, take a significant amount right off the top, before deciding on an actual number once all other matters have been dealt with?

Friends, my intent in sharing this, isn't to make us feel guilty. It's simply to remind us/to make us aware. With "us," most definitely, including "me."

Life, as we know, can be busy. So busy we don't have time, or don't take the time, to reflect on what's become the trend for us—day after day after day. With that, it's easy to simply keep repeating what's become our norm.

Friends, if we find ourselves without an answer, when asked why we do things in a certain manner, that could be a sign it's time for us to reassess things/to take a second look.

To slow things down, in other words...

To reflect on how we've been blessed.

To reflect on what stories about God and God's love we'll remember and pass on.

To scroll through family photos and share family stories, beginning with,

"Remember when..."

To give thanks for the Spirit's presence throughout the years.

To give thanks for each other.

Speaking of which, Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Yours in Christ, in friendship, and in thanksgiving...

Up-Coming Events at First United

October 9th – Thanksgiving / Holy Communion

November 6th – Remembrance Sunday

Late November – Take Out Turkey Supper

Community Outreach Team

The Community Outreach team continues to offer support to those within the community who are in need. 573 jars of peanut butter have been collected for the Volunteer Center to the end of September. The Volunteer Center supplies approximately 370 households monthly. This year First United also assisted the Community Schools by donating back packs and lunch kits collected here at the church.

Newsletters

To date, there are 109 households receiving the newsletter online. We thank all who have requested to be part of our online distribution. If you wish to have your letters in the future sent directly to your email send your request to firstadmin@nb.aibn.com

Donation Recognition

The Council of First United Church is pleased to acknowledge a very generous donation from the estate of William (Bill) Winton to our Endowment Fund.

Sandy Winton, Bill's daughter, writes that "it has been over 40 years since I lived in Bathurst and attended First United. Our family was raised in First United and I have so many fond memories of Sunday School, choir, mid-week groups, Youth Group and Elm Tree camp. My parents' involvement, of course, goes back much further- I even have the record of their marriage there in 1948."

Sandy continues, "I was blessed to have many enjoyable conversations in the past few years with my Dad about the role First United played in their lives. Dad really did consider First United to be his "Home Church".

Many of us remember the Winton family and we thank them for supporting the continued life and work of First United.

Finance Team

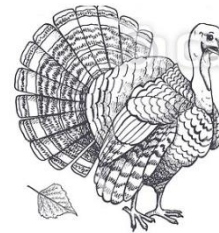
Special envelopes for Thanksgiving contributions can be picked up from the church office or found in the Narthex prior to the worship service.

Church envelopes for the coming year will soon be available. If you haven't had contribution envelopes in the past and wish to have them for 2023, please advise the church office. Another way of making contributions is through PAR.

PAR: Pre Authorized Remittance (PAR) is a convenient way to support the ongoing work of your church. Your monthly contributions are taken directly from your bank account or charged to a Major Credit Card. Currently we have 95 households using this method of support. Signing up for PAR takes only a few minutes and can be done for you at the church office. All that is required is a void cheque or your credit card information.

Ways & Means Team

The Ways and Means team would like to express a sincere thank you to all who helped in anyway with our Take-Out Beef BBQ. Because of the generous sponsorship of the Hatheway Group of Companies, the Ways and Means team realized a profit of approximately \$4,392.14.



The next Ways and Means team event will hopefully take place in late November - a take-out only **TURKEY SUPPER**.



Annual Remembrance Service

Each year, on the Sunday immediately prior to Remembrance Day, we honour our war veterans as well as those who lost their lives in war. Our Remembrance Service will be held on Sunday, November 6th. Those wishing to place memorial crosses in the sanctuary are reminded to contact the Legion office directly.

Council Highlights from September 6, 2022

The financial report as of August 31 showed a deficit of \$27,913 despite a Ways and Means net income of almost \$10,000 and a \$2,000 donation from UCW. Operating expenses showed slightly more than what was budgeted. Mission and Service receipts matched the set allocation for the period and an increase in the 2022 insurance premium was pointed out.

Reporting for the UCW, Anne Brooks said the local women's organization is disbanding thus affecting catering opportunities, sanctuary flowers and financial support. However, she said there is still a nucleus of UCW workers and other volunteers for catering but a coordinator is needed. Brenda Parrott volunteered to follow up on this requirement.

The final meeting of the UCW Open Circle will be held on September 26. The active membership is 12. The fall rally for all UCW members in the area – active and non-active – is scheduled for Saturday October 15 at 10 a.m. in the First United sanctuary. This annual gathering was not held during the Covid 19 shutdown.

Council officially declared that Lester Scott be named to the Board of Trustees replacing Margaret Demmings.

As chair of the Property Management Team, Lester Scott said windows are being replaced in the office area. The Team is waiting for an estimate on the repair of cement steps at the back door. Energy conservation is another Team concern.

Martha Vickers said the installation of the new audio system is delayed due to the slow delivery of equipment.

The choir has resumed weekly practices and participation in Sunday services with the distancing required. An appeal goes out for new choir members. Fellowship time has been held after Sunday service for the past several weeks. Sunday School will resume for eight weeks from October 16 to December 4 and badminton starts on October 12.

West Bathurst Cemetery Team

The West Bathurst Cemetery Committee is responsible for the upkeep of Saint Luke's "Old Scottish" Cemetery on St. Luke's Court and the West Bathurst Cemetery on St. Anne Street. The committee met on May 4, 2022, with Robert Branch, Heidi Jansson, Robert Willis and Gary Branch in attendance. The committee is looking for new members to join us. Shawn's Lawn and Property Maintenance was hired for the 2022 mowing season, and there was an increase in their fees this year due to the increase in gas prices.

A spring clean-up of the two cemeteries took place in May. A thank you is expressed to Peter Gammon for hauling the leaves and tree limbs to the city dumping

site for organic waste. A highlight for the committee was the repair of the fence and gate and the repair of the Mcgee Monument which were damaged by a car accident in 2021. These repairs were paid for by the Uninsured Drivers' Fund.

Additional mowing, weeding, and tree trimming were carried out during the summer. The cemetery records were updated as needed.

There were five burials/committals in 2022 up to September 5th. Work hopefully to be completed this fall with volunteer help includes monument repair and removal of a dead tree. A special thank you is extended to everyone who continues to support the Cemetery Fund with their donations. The donations made to August 31, 2022 total - \$1,960

Welcome to Ukulele Church!

Ukulele Church welcomes YOU to join on Sundays at 12:30pm Atlantic starting on September 11, 2022!

Ukulele Church is a 75-minute ONLINE (Zoom) Sunday worship time for children and all ages. It brings together Music, Ukulele Teaching, Biblical Storytelling, Art, Play and Liturgy, following a rhythm of Celebration – Contemplation – Devotion with Linnea Good, Catherine Stuart and Nancy Callbeck. Absolutely no ukulele or church experience necessary!

If you have questions, email cstuart@united-church.ca. To register, check out our website <https://ukulelechurch.com/>. We cannot wait to see you! See our invitation at the following link - https://www.youtube.com/supported_browsers?next_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DXiwv6q6xQvc

Message from The United Church of Canada

First United Church is pleased to announce the Board of Vocation has reappointed Blair Lewis as a member of the Credentialing Committee. These individuals serve faithfully through committees and task groups of the General Council and are essential to those who continue to guide, inspire and support the mission of The United Church of Canada.

Through Rev. Blair our church will be ever present in this aspect of the General Council's work.

From the Archives

Did you know:

- That there were two United Church of Canada congregations in Bathurst at one time?
- That at least 90 percent of the resident membership in both churches had to endorse uniting as one in order for amalgamation to happen?

To review our congregation's history, First United Church has historical roots in two religious organizations – St. Luke's Presbyterian Church (Church of Scotland) which was established here in 1829 and Trinity Methodist Church in 1830. The first St. Luke's sanctuary was built in 1839 at the top of St. Luke Court in West Bathurst. It was destroyed by fire in 1915 and two years later it was replaced by a new building next to Gloucester County Courthouse in downtown Bathurst. The original Trinity Methodist Church was erected in 1832 on Murray Avenue.

When the United Church of Canada came into being in 1925, these two local churches maintained their separate identities for 16 years. It was in 1941 that they amalgamated to become First United Church. Worship services were held in the former St. Luke's United Church while Sunday School, weddings, funerals and mid-week groups took place at the former Trinity United Church.

What makes it confusing for many people is that St. Luke's Presbyterian Church exists close by the corner of Murray Avenue and St. Andrew Street. That congregation exists because not all Presbyterians voted for United Church of Canada status in 1925. They preferred to remain with their original Presbyterian format. Consequently there are many continuing Presbyterian Churches across Canada including the one in Bathurst.

The 1941 amalgamation of St. Luke's United on St. Patrick Street and Trinity United on Murray Avenue was unanimous – not just 90 percent as stated above. In fact, the two congregations had already been joining together in frequent church services and other activities leading up to the amalgamation.

Then in 1947, the six year old First United Church added Donald Eddy Memorial Hall, built on the other side of St. Patrick Street. As the congregation began giving cash donations and pledges, the Church's Official Board was informed by Chesley Eddy that he and his wife, Grace, were prepared to give a substantial amount of money towards the project.

The welcomed donation was given as a memorial for their son Donald, who was killed in Holland while serving overseas during World War II. Thus the recreational and educational structure bears his name.

Decades came and went until another major decision was made. With the First United building showing its age over an 80 year period, it was decided to build a new church across the intersection and attach it to Donald Eddy Memorial Hall. This meant that all church services, activities and office facilities would be at the same location.

Dedicated in 1998, the attractive and more accessible edifice stands, ironically, on the same site as that of the former Trinity Church of the 1830's and the church parsonage, both of which no longer exist. Actually our so called "new church" will be marking its 24th anniversary in mid-November.

And so First United Church, at the corner of Murray Avenue and St. Patrick Street, has emerged through many amalgamations, location changes and additions extending over a period of almost 200 years.

Respectfully submitted by,

Isabel MacLaggan