

Christ is Risen! Rejoice!

It's hard to believe that this coming Sunday will be the 4th Sunday of Lent; this year Easter is quite early and the Lenten season is unfolding very quickly.

In the Easter season, Jesus teaches us how to live. We meet Jesus speaking peace and breathing the Holy Spirit (John 20:22). We listen to Jesus teaching about the true life of faith. We hear loud and clear the command to "love one another" and the calling to go into the world with gospel truth.

All across our country and our world people are asking important questions about what is of true significance and importance in our lived experience. Jesus teaches us that the substance and meaning that is wrapped up in all of our lives often is revealed in mysterious ways. It's often when we least expect it that God's love is revealed to us.

Lent and Easter challenges us to be open to the gift of grace in both predictable times and uncertain times in our lives. The Scripture readings during Lent and Easter remind us of the living covenant that God has with all who love and serve our Creator.

We live through the season of Lent with a blessing – a rainbow set in the clouds to remind us of God's promise to every living creature. This is a sign of protection, and as we look toward Jerusalem and the cross; we cling to the signs of God's covenant love.

There is a powerful poem titled "**The Way of Growth**".

"I used to think that Advent and Easter were separate events belonging to history and certain times of the year, but they are happening every day, every moment, angels bright as air, chiming:

He is born! He is risen!

Over every budding branch, each fist of fern,

making sense of the cycle of beginnings and endings and beginnings of our lives."

We go through the time of loss symbolized by Good Friday to the glorious power of the resurrection that is Easter Sunday. Christ is alive! Alleluia! God's steadfast love endures forever. Through faith we can go through the tears and grief that many experience in life to the radical hope found in God's love.

On Good Friday and Easter Sunday our church family will gather to express our loving support for one another and to celebrate the gift of God's covenant with each of us.

May the blessings of Easter empower you and your families as you move forward in 2018.

Rev. Blair Lewis



BATHURST PASTORAL CHARGE
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First United Church, our church, has a financial issue which has been developing over the past few years. Although our church has remained on solid financial ground due to the hard work of those in the past, in recent years our operating expenses have been exceeding our revenue by slight amounts. This situation is placing pressure on the long term sustainability of our Church.

First United has and will continue to offer all its members and active congregation a full level of Pastoral Services, including baptisms, weddings, counselling, hospital visits and pastoral funeral services. These services are the foundation of our Churches` existence.

However these services, which will be required by each of us sooner or later, have a cost associated with them that needs to be shared with ALL our members.

Our expenses have risen with inflation, but unfortunately our local givings have not kept pace. If you are on PAR (pre authorized remittances) we ask you to review your level of giving and, if possible, adjust for inflation. A phone call to the office is all that is needed. Of the 90 families we have on PAR only a few have increased their givings in the last few years.

If you are on weekly envelopes and able to do so, a small increase would go a long way to the future success of First United. If every member increased their weekly givings by the equivalent of the price of a cup of coffee and a donut, we would balance our budget.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

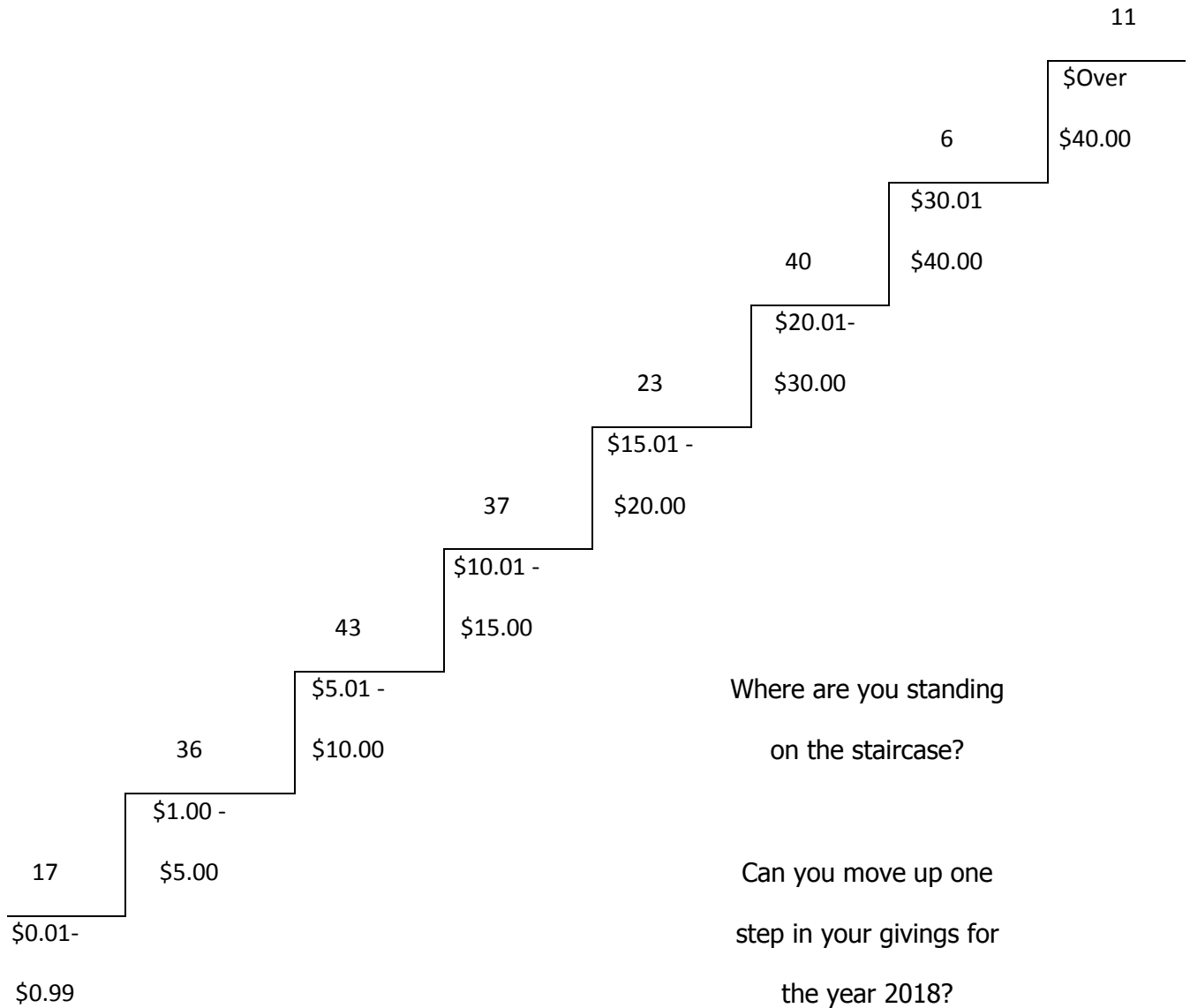
Sandra Boone, Chair

Notice from Bathurst Pastoral Council

If you feel comfortable and are able to increase your financial support the following could be used as a guideline.

These steps provide a snapshot of our congregation's giving patterns to **Local Giving**.

Each step represents a range of dollars given per week. The number on top of each step indicates how many givers give in that range.



God gives to us! We give to God!

We recognize that people also donate through Time and Talent to our church.
We thank you for your contributions.



Good Friday Service - March 30 - 10am

Easter Sunday Service - April 1 - 10am



Ham and Scallop Supper - March 22: 5-6:30

Sunrise Breakfast - April 23: 8:30-noon

Calling all Graduates: If you are a potential graduate of the class of 2018 for either BHS or ESN please advise the church office. The First United Church service honoring our graduates will be held on June 17, 2018.

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 92 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 number.

Did You Know: A couple of really good ways to keep updated on First United Church events are to check out our website www.firstunited-bathurst.ca or to follow us on Facebook. Here you will find upcoming events as well as cancellations if the need arises.

Newsletters: To date, there are 99 households receiving the newsletter online. This is a \$300.00 yearly saving. 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. Special envelopes for Easter contributions can be found in the Narthex.



Clean-up Crew

Waiters and Waitresses

The Ways and Means Team are looking for people to join their Clean-up and Serving crews. Even if you available to only work a couple of functions a year, it would be a great help to the team.

Call the church office to volunteer 546-3532.

Volunteers are paid in six figures...

S-M-I-L-E-S.

. ~Gayla LeMaire. ~



Easter



G	N	I	R	P	S	F	H	A	T	T	F	W	P	N
N	R	I	V	C	L	S	X	O	E	F	O	N	A	B
K	B	J	J	I	Q	Q	T	B	G	T	U	A	P	K
C	N	T	C	R	E	A	V	B	B	M	Y	U	H	T
C	Q	K	R	G	L	N	A	D	O	E	P	A	Q	F
P	H	P	T	Q	D	S	Q	U	G	A	T	N	U	H
B	P	O	Y	Y	K	Y	N	R	M	S	H	T	N	S
U	Z	X	C	E	M	Y	N	O	B	T	W	T	S	X
L	B	C	T	O	J	N	P	O	B	E	A	N	S	A
O	S	P	X	S	L	M	O	M	G	R	F	T	P	I
F	P	P	V	Y	K	A	R	I	R	Y	S	X	A	E
R	C	E	L	W	S	C	T	Z	A	N	L	A	G	R
F	A	L	E	K	H	T	I	E	S	N	C	G	L	A
Z	E	W	I	P	Z	K	A	H	S	U	S	X	M	W
J	C	Z	S	X	S	X	D	H	C	B	Y	G	X	E

BASKET
CHICKS
EGGS
HUNT
SPRING

BEANS
CHOCOLATE
GRASS
JELLY

BUNNY
EASTER
HATS
PEEPS



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Easter Blossom Sugar Cookies

Prep Time: 20 mins

Cook Time: 10 mins

Total Time: 30 mins

Ingredients:

- 36 Hersey Kisses
- 1 stick (1/2 cup) butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons milk
- Pink, yellow, blue & purple sugar crystals

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Remove wrappers from candies; set them aside.
2. Cream together the butter and sugar in a stand mixer, until light and fluffy. Add egg and vanilla, making sure both are completely incorporated.
3. In a small bowl add flour, baking soda and salt, whisking together to combine.
4. With your stand mixer on slow, add the flour mixture and milk. Alternating each and ending with the flour mixture. Ladle sides and bottom of bowl to make sure everything is blended together.
5. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Roll dough in colored sugar crystals and place on baking sheet.
6. Bake 8-10 minutes, or until cookies are set. Remove from the oven and let them sit for 2 minutes on baking the baking sheet.
7. Press a Hersey kiss into the center of each cookie. Remove cookies from baking sheet to a wire rack and let cool completely.

Adorable Easter traditions for kids

EXCHANGE LETTERS WITH THE EASTER BUNNY. I used to write a letter to Santa every year, and he always wrote me a little message when he finished eating the cookies and milk I left out for him on Christmas Eve. So why not do the same thing with the Easter bunny? Your child can tell him anything – school, an upcoming family vacation, the fact that she just lost her first tooth – and he can make sure there's a little note waiting for her when she wakes up on Easter morning!

PUT CARROTS AND WATER OUT BEFORE BED. This is similar to the whole cookies-and-milk thing for Santa...only it's rabbit-friendly.

MAKE BUNNY FOOTPRINTS. All you need to do is draw a set of over-sized rabbit feet on a piece of paper, cut them out, place them on the floor, and sprinkle flour or talcum powder around the edges. If you strategically place these all over the house, your child will be even more convinced the Easter bunny was there!

MAKE EASTER BUNNY PANCAKES! Once the Easter eggs have been collected (and eaten!), why not whip up a batch of bunny-shaped pancakes? Not handy in the kitchen? All you need is your favorite pancake mix and a rabbit cookie cutter, and you're set!



Art Work Dedicated in the Donald Eddy Memorial Hall.

Thanks to the talent of a couple of our members, Marie Olive and Adriene Elfner Hazen , we now have a beautiful addition to our hall. A ceremony was held on March 11, 2018 to dedicate the paintings and to honor the artists.

