

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

Aug. 13, 2017

Clergy	Rev. Blair Lewis	Organist	Martha Vickers
Office Adm.	Isabel Clouston	Greeters	Linda Newell
Custodian	Alan Wilcox		Chesley Eddy

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Lectionary for today	Lectionary for next Sunday
<i>Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28</i> <i>Psalm 85</i> <i>Romans 10:5-15</i> <i>Matthew 14:22-33</i>	<i>Genesis 45:1-15</i> <i>Psalm 67</i> <i>Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32</i> <i>Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28</i>

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

*The asterisk * identifies those times in the service where the congregation is invited to stand as able.*

Organ Prelude:

Choral Opening: 'Praise to the Lord' # 835 VU vs1
Praise to the Lord,
all of you, God's servants.
Blessed be the name
of our God now and ever.
From the rising up of the sun
may the Lord be praised,
praise to the name of the Lord!

Welcoming:

One: O come let us sing to God;
All: let us shout with joy to the rock of our salvation.
 One: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;
All: let us joyously shout to God with songs of praise.
Psalm 95:1, 2

Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:
Announcements:

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

One: We have been called the salt of the earth.
All: Let us remain distinctive and salty.
 One: We have been called the light of the world.
All: Let us shine brightly
in the midst of pain or confusion.
As we light the Christ candle
we are reminded of the life giving power
of the Light of God's love.
 One: We have been called a city set on a hill.
All: Let us, like Jerusalem, lift our gates, lift our hearts,
lift our voices in the worship of God.

Call to Worship:

One: God has given us this beautiful earth,
 all that grows, all that lives upon it.
All: Thanks be to God.
 One: God has given us breath to live and spirit to sing.
All: Thanks be to God.
 One: God has gathered us into a community of care and worship.
All: Let us worship God with love,
thanksgiving, and praise.

Prayer of Approach:

God, you touch our lives
 with mystery and hope.
 We come to this place today,
 ready to see your power working through us.
 Help us to be open to your Word,
 and to answer your call among us.
 In the name of Jesus. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** *'We Praise You, O God'* #218 VU

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding:

Eternal God,
 in the reading of the scripture, may your Word be heard;
 in the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known;
 and in the faithfulness of our lives,
 may your Word be shown. Amen.

Scripture Readings: Joanne Wiseman
Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Responsive Psalm: Psalm 105 #828-829 VU parts 1&2
Gospel Lesson: Matthew 14:22-33

Hymn: *'It Only Takes A Spark'* #289 VU

Message: "The Power of Doubt"

Anthem: *'Take Time to be Holy'*

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

Presentation of Gifts and Self to God:

Choral Response:

'Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow' #541 VU
***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low,
Give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.***

Prayer of Dedication: (in unison)

**Through these gifts, O God,
may all heed the voice of justice,
hear the call to compassion,
embrace the way of sharing,
and know solidarity with the loving Christ. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

**Gracious God,
we acknowledge and confess in your presence
the smallness of our love,
the narrowness of our concern,
the denial of our true humanity.
Through our careless hands have slipped
opportunities not taken, people not cared for,
days not celebrated.
We are ashamed and sorry
for the ways of our unfaithfulness,
and ask for reassurance and forgiveness. Amen.**

SB 1969

Choral Response: *'How Deep the Peace'* #95 MV
***How deep the peace, the confidence.
Of those whose wrongs are forgiven.
How deep the peace, the confidence.
Of those whose hearts are healed.***

Words of Assurance:

One: Compassionate One, hear our prayer:
stretch out your hand in healing love.
**All: Create in us a clean heart, O God,
and renew your Spirit within us.**
One: In the life, death and resurrection of Jesus,
we are assured that there is no sin so terrible
that God cannot forgive;
no hurt so terrible that God cannot heal.
God accepts, God forgives, and God sets free.
Receive the forgiving love of God.

Silent Prayer:

Reflective Music:

Pastoral Prayer:

O God,
as we go to our homes and our work this coming week,
we ask you to send the Holy Spirit into our lives.
Open our ears—
that we may hear what you are saying to us
in the things that happen to us and in the people we meet.
Open our eyes—
that we may see the needs of people around us.
Open our hands—that we may do our work well,
and help when help is needed.
Open our lips—
that we may tell the Good News of Jesus
and bring comfort, happiness, and laughter to others.
Open our minds—
that we may discover new truth about you and the world.
Open our hearts—
that we may love you and others as you have loved us. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 'We are Pilgrims' #595 VU

Commissioning: (in unison)
**Hear our prayers, God of grace.
Help us to fulfill them
working according to your purpose,
in peace, justice, and mercy, in all we do;
through Jesus Christ to whom,
with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all power and glory.
Now and forever.**

Blessing:

Those things, generous God,
that your servants have prayed for,
give us grace to work for;
and in the purpose of your love,
answer our prayers and fulfill our hopes.
May the blessing, of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
be with us on our journey.

* **Choral Closing:** 'I am Walking a Path of Peace' (#221 MV)

***I am walking a path of peace
I am walking a path of peace
I am walking a path of peace
lead me home, lead me home.***

Organ Postlude:

*Life is a song.
Love is the music.
~Author Unknown~*

Church News

This Week at First United –Aug. 14– Aug 19

Friday	Office Closed	Summer Hours
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The bulletin today has been placed
in loving memory of Arthur Young
by his family.

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2017 **900**

Total to Date **673**

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect
12-13 jars of peanut butter per week.

The Volunteer Center supplies, on average,
500 households monthly.



The Upper Room for Sept. and Oct. are in the Narthex. Please feel
free to take one. A container for donations is located with the
publication.

Notice from the Property Management Team For security
reasons, all doors to the sanctuary will be kept locked except the
one closest to the office. To enter the church during business
hours, please use the St. Patrick Street entrance.

Summer Hours: June - August the church office hours will
be Monday – Thursday, 8-4. Closed 12-1. To enter the
church or office during business hours, please use the St.
Patrick Street entrance.

*It's too big a world
to be in competition with everyone.
The only person who I have to be better than
is myself.
~Colonel Potter~*

Community Events

Camp on the Road (COTR) with Camp Medley is coming to your community this August 14th-17th! Drop off at 9 am pick up at 3 pm A day of COTR looks much like a day of Camp at our Medley sight (worship, games, nature, sports, *etc.*), Morning and afternoon snacks will be provided. Children are asked to bring a liter beverage (to be shared throughout the week) on the day of registration. Each child is to bring their own lunch. COTR is designed with grades 1-6 in mind, though we are open to having older children take on a leadership role if they wish to participate. We want to welcome all children to attend COTR, and encourage you to reach out into your communities for registration. If you have further questions or wish to volunteer or registrar you can connect with Laura McNulty @ mcnulty@nb.sympatico.ca or 506 546-2890

Bathurst Christian Women invite you to our Luncheon at Gowen Brae, 150 Youhall Dr, Bathurst on Wednesday, August 23, 2017 \$17 from 11:30am - 1:00pm, doors open at 11:00am. Cathy Morais, floral designer with l'Oasis Florist will present "Flower Arranging", and Harm Guers, marketing specialist and magazine producer of Beechville, NS will bring his message of "My Life as a Tag Line". Reservations are required before Saturday, August 19. Please contact Joanne at 542-1118 or ejgodin@rogers.com or contact Connie at 546-2127.

Old Fashion Gospel Music, with Peter Cook next Friday August 18th at 7:00pm at Centre Chrétien Evangélique de Beresford. Everyone is welcome. The concert is free but for those who would like to contribute to the Good Samaritan ministry, you can bring some non-perishable food. The concert will be in English. All the churches are invited and your friends.

*The shortest distance between two points
assumes you know where you're going.
~Robert Brault~*

Genesis 37:1-4: 12-28 New International Version (NIV)

Joseph's Dreams

37 Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan.

² This is the account of Jacob's family line.

Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.

³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate^[a] robe for him.

⁴ When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

Joseph Sold by His Brothers

¹² Now his brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem,

¹³ and Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them."

"Very well," he replied.

¹⁴ So he said to him, "Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me." Then he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron.

When Joseph arrived at Shechem,

¹⁵ a man found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?"

¹⁶ He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?"

¹⁷ "They have moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'"

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan.

¹⁸ But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

¹⁹ "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other.

²⁰ "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

²¹ When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said.

²² "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

²³ So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing—

²⁴ and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

²⁵ As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

²⁶ Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood?"

²⁷ Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed.

²⁸ So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels^[a] of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

Matthew 14:22-33 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.

²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone,

²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.

²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

²⁹ "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."