

*The United Church of Canada*  
*Bathurst Pastoral Charge*  
**First United Church, Bathurst**  
[www.firstunited-bathurst.ca](http://www.firstunited-bathurst.ca)

**Feb. 11, 2018**

**Minister** Rev. Blair Lewis      **Organist** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Isabel Clouston      **Greeters** Joanne & John Wiseman  
**Custodian** Alan Wilcox

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>II Kings 2:1-12</i> <i>Psalm 50</i> <i>II Corinthians 4:3-6</i> <i>Mark 9:2-9</i>	<i>Genesis 9:8-17</i> <i>Psalm 25</i> <i>I Peter 3:18-22</i> <i>Mark 1:9-15</i>

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

## THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

### Musical Prelude:

**\*Choral Opening:** *'Arise, Your Light Is Come'* #79 VU vs. 1  
***Arise, your light is come!***  
***The Spirit's call obey;***  
***Show forth the glory of your God,***  
***Which shines on you today.***

### Welcoming:

"The twenty-four elders worship  
the one who lives forever and ever;  
they cast their crowns before the throne singing:  
You are worthy, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honour and power,  
for you created all things, and by your will they existed  
and were created."

*Revelation 4:10*

### Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:

### Announcements:

### Lightening of the Christ Candle:

One: As we light the Christ Candle  
we celebrate life and offer thanks to God  
who has given us this beautiful snow covered earth  
and the star filled sky.  
God has provided us with a light  
to show us the way through the darkness.

**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.**

### Call to Worship:

One: The glory of God shines like a consuming fire.

**All: We have seen the glory of God  
in the face of Jesus Christ.**

One: The voice of God thunders like a mighty storm.

**All: Out of the cloud God speaks:  
this is my beloved son; listen to him!**

**Prayer of Approach:** (in unison)

**Sculpting God,  
you give galaxies their form,  
shape granite mountains,  
and design butterfly wings.**

**Dancing God,  
you choreograph the paths of stars  
and the flight of Canada geese.**

**Singing God,  
your divine song is sung by sparrows,  
mountain streams,  
and the rushing winds.**

**Wonderful God,  
we rejoice to be a part of the divine world  
which you love and sustain. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn:**

*'Joyful, Joyful We Adore You'* #232 VU

**Children of All Ages:**

**\*The Lord's Prayer:**

**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**Prayer for Understanding:**

Speak to us, O Lord our God,  
and let the fire of your spirit,  
burn brightly in our hearts.  
Open our minds  
to receive the wisdom of the law,  
the hope of the prophets,  
and the life of the gospel  
in the spirit of Jesus Christ,  
your living word. Amen.

**Scripture Readings:**

Pat MacIntosh

**Old Testament Lesson:** II Kings 2:1-12

**Responsive Psalm:** Psalm 50 #775 VU

**New Testament Lesson:** Mark 9 :2-9

**\*Hymn:** *'Teach Me, God to Wonder'* #299 VU

**Message:** "Living in the light"

**Anthem:** *'Spirit God, Be Our Breath'*

**THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS**

**Presentation of Gifts and Self to God:**

**Choral Response:** *'Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow'*  
***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)

**Gracious God,  
we give you thanks for the light of love around us  
and in the fire of faith within us.  
As we go forth in our lives  
we pray that our lives will reflect the one  
who is the image of your glory.  
We dedicate our offering in the name of Jesus Christ,  
the light of the world. Amen.**

**Prayer of Confession:**

**All: God of all glory, beauty, and grace,  
we have tried to hide from you –  
to hide our faces, to hide our sin –  
yet you have never hidden your love for us.  
We have tried to search for you –  
in church, in the clouds, on mountain tops –  
yet you have already revealed yourself to us  
in the face of Jesus Christ.  
Forgive us, and transform us  
so that our lives may shine with your glory,  
beauty, and grace,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

One: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

**All: have mercy on us.**

One: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

**All: have mercy on us.**

One: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

**All: grant us peace.**

**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.***

**Assurance of pardon:**

Our God comes and does not keep silent;  
 God speaks to us with grace and love  
 saying: you are my beloved child.  
 This is the good news of the gospel;  
 in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.  
 We offer praise and Thanksgiving to God.

**Silent Prayer / Reflective Music:****Pastoral Prayer:**

One: There is no joy that does not come from God's hand.  
 There is no pain that does not echo in God's heart.  
 Let us bring our thanksgivings and concerns before God.  
 Let us come before God in prayer;  
 We pray for your glorious creation –  
 stamp out fires of destruction,  
 drive away clouds of pollution,  
 and restore the beauty of this world.  
 Lord, by your spirit,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: We pray for the body of Christ –  
 open our hearts, in faith,  
 enlighten our minds with knowledge,  
 and strengthen us to proclaim the gospel.  
 Lord, by your spirit,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: We pray for the people of all nations –  
 show the nations your vision of justice,  
 offer the leaders your mantle of wisdom,  
 and give the people your blessing of peace.  
 Lord, by your spirit,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: We pray for those who are perishing –  
 feed those who are starving,  
 comfort those who are suffering,  
 and receive the dying into your arms.  
 Lord, by your spirit,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: We pray for those whom we love –  
 bless our families, friends, and neighbors,  
 help them in times of trouble,  
 and be near when they are afraid.  
 Lord, by your spirit,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: Holy one, make us ready for the day  
 when this world is transfigured, transformed, made new –  
 when all things will shine in the dazzling light of your glory  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH**

**\*Closing Hymn:**     *'Be Thou My Vision'*                             **#642 VU**

**Commissioning:**                             (in unison)  
**Hear our prayers, God of grace.**  
**Help us to live full lives;**  
**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. Amen.**

**Blessing:**  
 May the road rise to meet you,  
 may the wind be always at your back,  
 may the sun shine warm upon your face,  
 may the rains fall soft upon your fields,  
 and until we meet again,  
 may God hold you in the palm of his hand.  
*Gaelic*

**\*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:**

# Church News

## This Week at First United –Feb. 12- Feb. 17

Monday	9am	Ways & Means – Eddy Rm
	9-11am	Badminton
	6:15pm	Beavers – Rms 1,2 & 3
Tuesday	2pm	Bible Study – Eddy Rm
	6:15pm	Scouts - DEMH Gym
Wednesday	9am	TAB – Rms 1,2 &3
	9 -11am	Badminton
	6:30pm	Choir Practice

A donation has been made to the South Tetagouche Cemetery ***in loving memory of Gordon & Ethel Vance*** by the family.

The azaleas in the sanctuary today have been placed ***in loving memory of our brother, Art Gosnell*** who passed away on Feb. 13, 2015 by the family.

### Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2018 **900**

Total to Date **95**

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect 16-17 jars of peanut butter per week.

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



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

**Confirmation Classes:** If anyone is interested in attending confirmation classes, please contact the church office at 546-3532.

**Miller Bursary Guidelines:** The recipient of the Miller Bursary must be a student from BHS or ESN, a member of First United Church and have achieved the highest overall average of those eligible.



***Sunrise Breakfast***  
 (pancakes, sausages, baked beans, scrambled eggs, hash browns, toast, juice, coffee & tea)  
**Sunday, February 18, 2018**  
 8:30 a.m. to noon  
 Donald Eddy Memorial Hall  
 \$10.00 adults - \$3.00 children

**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.

**Notice from Nominations Team**

The Nominations Team would like to take this opportunity to invite all who support the life and work of Christ’s Church in the world to serve on a working team of our faith community.

**The following positions remain vacant:**  
 Property Management - Chairperson  
 Community Outreach - Team Member

Anyone wishing to volunteer is encouraged to call Rick Watling 548-9361

*Who, being loved, is poor?*  
 ~Oscar Wilde ~

## Community Events

### **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**

Saint George's Anglican Church 432 King Avenue

Tuesday, February 13, 2018 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Tickets – \$ 7.00 for Adults, \$ 4.00 for Children and  
\$ 15.00 for Family

Tickets available at the door Take-outs available

The **Evangel Mission Team** will be travelling to the Dominican Republic in April. They will be taking items for Servant's Heart Ministries for their Pregnancy Resource Centre, Girls Program (I am Different), School Hugs for Kids program, art supplies for the Loma Art Program, and medical supplies. If you would like to support them, a complete list of items they are looking for can be found on the bulletin board in the Narthex or by contacting Glen & Joyce Daley at 546-3764. Monetary donations are also welcome.

Items/donations will be received until March 18<sup>th</sup> and can be dropped off at the First United Church office.

**St. Luke's Presbyterian Church** will be hosting a "Dinner and a Movie" night featuring the movie The Case for Christ on Friday February 16. Dinner is at 5:30 followed by the movie. RSVP please to [gsampson3@gmail.com](mailto:gsampson3@gmail.com). There is no charge but free will offerings will be gratefully received.

**St. Luke's Presbyterian Church** We have received approval for a refugee family of 5 from Syria to come to Bathurst. This is a family of five (5) adults and it is a Christian family. We need accommodation for them so if anyone can help with accommodation that would be greatly appreciated. There will be other needs as well and continued financial support is always appreciated. To obtain more information, contact Rev. Glen Sampson at [gsampson3@gmail.com](mailto:gsampson3@gmail.com) or call the Presbyterian Church at 506-546-4645.

## **The Bathurst Heritage Museum**

Heritage Week. February 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The volunteers of The Bathurst Heritage Museum would like to invite everyone to share in New Brunswick Heritage Week by visiting the museum at 360 Douglas Avenue in Bathurst. There are many events planned and it promises to be an exciting week. The Bathurst Heritage Museum contains: community artefacts, photos and documents; a boutique; an art gallery; the genealogy department; and so much more...the DNA of our region!! Come explore and be entertained.

Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 – 9:00 pm Open House: Concert with Tom Kyte & Friends in Song Theme: Old songs of the past. Light refreshments served.

Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 3:00 pm Grade 9 Curriculum – Tour & Activities Theme: Canadian Identity

Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 – 9:00 pm René Doucet, Speaker Theme: Social Networks & Heritage. Light refreshments served.

Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 4:30 pm Celine Robichaud, Artist

Theme: Art Workshop including all supplies - \$30. Please call ahead to book a spot: 546-9449 Light refreshments served. Happy Valentine's Day!!

Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 – 4:00 pm Ladies Afternoon Tea Theme: Desserts & Beverages. Antique Hats and accessories available for modeling and photos.

Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 – 9:00 pm Leon de Almeida, Digital Artist

The Bathurst Art Society and the Bathurst Heritage Museum will co-host an Exhibition Light refreshments served.

Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 3:00 pm Curriculum de 9e année - Tour et activités Thème: Identité canadienne

Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 – 9:00 pm Gilbert Sewell, Elder & Teacher

The Bathurst Heritage Museum is honoured to have Gilbert Sewell from Pabineau First Nation preside over the closing ceremony of our Heritage week. Light refreshments served.

Closing Ceremony: Ceremonial Cleansing, Stories, Songs and Drumming.

***More information can be found in the Narthex.***

## Suicide Prevention Month

### Why Do People Suicide?

Suicide is a complex issue involving numerous factors and should not be attributed to any one single cause. Not all people who die by suicide have been diagnosed with a mental illness and not all people with a mental illness attempt to end their lives by suicide.

People who experience suicidal thoughts and feelings are suffering with tremendous emotional pain. People who have died by suicide typically had overwhelming feelings of hopelessness, despair, and helplessness. Suicide is not about a moral weakness or a character flaw. People considering suicide feel as though their pain will never end and that suicide is the only way to stop the suffering.

Many factors and circumstances can contribute to someone's decision to end his/her life. Factors such as loss, addictions, childhood trauma or other forms of trauma, depression, serious physical illness, and major life changes can make some people feel overwhelmed and unable to cope. It is important to remember that it isn't necessarily the nature of the loss or stressor that is as important as the individual's experience of these things feeling unbearable.

### Suicide is Complex:

Suicide is the result of actions taken to deal with intolerable mental anguish and pain, fear or despair that overwhelms an individual's value for living and hope in life.

While there is a well-established link between suicide and depression, each suicide occurs in a unique mix of complex interconnected factors, individual, environmental, biological, psychological, social, cultural, historical, political and spiritual, including psychological trauma (both developmental and intergenerational).

## Miramichi Presbytery 'Church in Action' Report: Syrian Family - 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Up-date

On Feb 11<sup>th</sup> 2016 the Albboud family (Marwan, Wafaa, Murad & Hamoudi) arrived in Canada. One day later they arrived in Moncton. By that evening they were settled into their new home. The ladies still talk of the tears in Wafaa's eyes upon seeing the decorated and well-stocked apartment, dining room and all.

Since that time we have welcomed their daughter Alisar (Oct. 19 '16). Though it's a different era, their transition has given us a glimpse into what it must have been like for our ancestors. Like them, they miss family but know Canada is where they will find a better life.

The kids are smart and loveable. Murad recently completed some speech therapy. He begins kindergarten in September. Three-year-old Hamoudi, like his brother, understands Arabic but answers in English. Alisar is walking and babbling, full of energy and spunk.

Dad continues to take language classes in conjunction with a construction skills program. Once mom's reading and writing skills improve, she will enter the two-year Human Services course at NBCC. Wafaa is also working on a Driver's Ed course in advance of the on-road training.

The second phase of the Presbytery's initiative is ongoing. We had to follow the private sponsorship model. Now with an immigration number, our second family joins thousands of others awaiting a call. ETA is sometime later this year.

Our committee has established a target budget of \$45,000 (min). Thanks to fellow presbytery member Irvin Carmichael and Presbytery we now have \$40,000. We discussed this at Presbytery and have agreed **not** to solicit funds from our members and churches. Your support of two years ago was remarkable. Thanks again!

We have left the door open to individuals, businesses or specific groups in congregations, **of their own volition**, to donate to the initiative. Speak to your presbytery rep or clergy for further information.

## *A New Week*

*On Sunday morning I sit in church  
Surrounded by God's peace  
In never-ending wonder  
At a love that does not cease.*

*My soul expands with glory,  
Bathed in unbounded love  
That wraps me like a cloak  
That descends from up above.*

*I'm fortified to start anew—  
The Lord once more my crutch—  
So no matter what may come this week,  
It will not seem too much.*

*I'm renewed to start once more  
The grueling task of living,  
To face the trials of a new week  
Being patient and forgiving.*

*Elizabeth Ruth*

## 2 Kings 2:1-12 New International Version (NIV)

### Elijah Taken Up to Heaven

2 When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.

<sup>2</sup> Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel."

But Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

<sup>3</sup> The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?"

"Yes, I know," Elisha replied, "so be quiet."

<sup>4</sup> Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho."

And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went to Jericho.

<sup>5</sup> The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?"

"Yes, I know," he replied, "so be quiet."

<sup>6</sup> Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan."

And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So the two of them walked on.

<sup>7</sup> Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan.

<sup>8</sup> Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup> When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?"

"Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied.

<sup>10</sup> "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not."

<sup>11</sup> As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

<sup>12</sup> Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

## **Mark 9:2-9 New International Version (NIV)**

### **The Transfiguration**

<sup>2</sup> After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them.

<sup>3</sup> His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.

<sup>4</sup> And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

<sup>5</sup> Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

<sup>6</sup> (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

<sup>7</sup> Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

<sup>8</sup> Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.