

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

May 6, 2018

Minister	Rev. Blair Lewis	Organist	Martha Vickers
Office Adm.	Isabel Clouston	Greeters	Margaret Payne-Chénard
Custodian	Alan Wilcox		Mike Kierstead

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Acts 10:44-48</i>	<i>Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26</i>
<i>Psalm 98</i>	<i>Psalm 1</i>
<i>I John 5:1-6</i>	<i>I John 5:9-13</i>
<i>John 15:9-17</i>	<i>John 17:6-19</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:

'This is the Day That God Has Made' **#175 VU**

This is the day that God has made!
Rejoice! Rejoice, and be exceeding glad!
This is the day that God has made!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Hallelujah!

Welcome: (in unison)

**Let the heavens be glad
and let the Earth rejoice,
and let them say among the nations
the Lord reigns!**

Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:

Announcements:

Lighting the Christ Candle:

One: As we light the Christ Candle
we celebrate that the hour is coming,
and now is, when all who worship
will worship God in spirit and in truth;
in worship God seeks us.

**All: Thanks be to God.
God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit and the love
that has been given to us.
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: O come, let us sing to the Lord;

**All: let us make a joyful noise
to the rock of our salvation.**

One: Let us come into God's presence with Thanksgiving;

**All: let us make a joyful noise to God
with songs of praise!**

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)

**We gather this morning to praise you.
You are always there, never growing weary of us,
fresh as each new day.
You were in Jesus, showing us your love
by his death and by his resurrection;
giving us hope of living with you forever.
You bring life and light to the world by your Holy Spirit,
making every moment your moment,
and every day your day of coming to us
to show us the way.
We pray that all people will give you praise,
today and everyday for ever and ever. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn:** *'Come Let Us Sing'* **#222 VU**

Children of All Ages:

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding:

O God, as we hear the Scripture lessons this morning we pray that the pure light of your divine knowledge will shine forth in our hearts.

May we open our eyes to see and understand, that we may comprehend the precepts of your gospel, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Helen Knowles

New Testament Lesson: I John 5:1-6

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 98 # 818VU

Gospel Readings: John 15 :9-17

*Hymn: *'As Comes the Breath of Spring'* #373 VU

Message: "God is Love"

Anthem: *'As the Deer Pants for the Water'*

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)

Almighty and merciful God,

**of whose generosity we have received
all that we have and all that we are.**

Grant that we may so use

all that you have entrusted to our care,

that we ourselves may become

more and more your children in spirit and in truth,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

Holy God,

in your gracious presence

we confess our sin and the sins of this world.

Although Christ is among us

as liberation and peace,

we are a people divided against ourselves,

as we cling to the values of a broken world.

The profit and pleasures we pursue

lay waste the land and pollute the seas.

The fears and jealousies that we harbour

set neighbour against neighbour,

and nation against nation.

We abuse your gifts

of imagination and freedom,

of intellect and reason,

and have turned them into bonds of oppression.

Heal and forgive us.

Set us free to serve you in the world

as agents of your reconciling love.

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:

Let us receive the promise of grace

and the assurance of pardon

given to all who believe and repent.

This is a faithful saying

and worthy of all acceptance,

that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

Praise be to God.

Silent Prayer:

Reflective Music:

Pastoral Prayer:

We call to mind our concerns and commitments,
and join our prayers for peace and well-being
to the prayers of the whole church
as they are offered this day for the whole world.

Let us pray:

We remember the people we know
who are in trouble,
and pray for healing and happiness for all.

(silence)

We seek God’s encouragement:
for honest trade and just commerce,
for medicine and education,
for the gifts and aptitudes in every person
which serve justice in community living.

(silence)

We pray for peace on earth:
for the generous sharing of the earth’s resources
and the responsible sharing of the earth’s problems;
for understanding of others
and willingness to regard the diversity of human culture
as more stimulating than threatening;
for the turning of swords into ploughshares
and spears into pruning hooks.

(silence)

We pray for the church,
by all its names and in all its places;
for its continuing usefulness as a channel of grace and hope;
for its rescue from bureaucracy and stagnation;
for its witness to unity and justice;
for its commitment to hospitality and compassion.

(silence)

We commend to the Lord our families and friends;
let us ask God to help us in the days of this coming week.

(silence)

All: Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer:

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***Closing Hymn:**

‘Would You Bless Our Homes and Families’ #556 VU

Commissioning: (in unison)

**God is our judge and our friend.
As we plan for our day, we give it over to God.
We let go of our plans and our concerns
and release them to God.
We trust in the care that God
has for each of us
and that we will abide in God’s love.
As we live and have our being,
we breathe in the joy and peace
that God offers us.
We share our gifts and our challenges with God
through the loving power of Christ.**

Blessing:

God the Father bless you and keep you,
God the Son save you and direct you,
God the Spirit teach you and guide you,
this day and ever more.

***Choral Closing:**

***As we go into the future,
As we tell of the Good News,
We will show our love for others,
Just as Christ has told us to.
We will tell the wondrous story,
Of a love that’s made for you,
And it’s all because of Easter –
Sing a joyous Hal-le-lu!***

*See Gathering Lent 2011 pg. 81
“Choral Sending Forth” (Tune Promise VU 703)*

Organ Postlude:

Church News

This Week at First United –May 7 – May 12

Monday	9-11am	Badminton
	1:30pm	UCW – Eddy Rm
	6:15	Beavers – rms 1,2,&3
Tuesday	2pm	Bible Study – Eddy Rm
	6:15	Scouts - DEMH GYM
	7pm	West Ba. Cem. - RMR
Wednesday	9am	TAB – Rms 1,2 &3
	9 -11am	Badminton
	6:30pm	Choir Practice

The bulletin today has been placed
in loving memory of

Parents, June and Eldon Payne & Husband, Roger
by Margaret Payne-Chénard

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2018 **900**
Total to Date **246**

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 May and June are in the Narthex. Please feel
free to take one. A container for donations is located with the
publication.

The Ministry and Personnel committee is looking for individuals who
would be willing to fill in for the Office Administrator and/or the
Custodian during vacation time or when sick. If you are interested
please contact the office at 546-3532.

Calling all Graduates: If you are a potential graduate of the class of
2018 for either BHS or ESN please advise the church office by June 12.
The First United Church service honoring our graduates will be held on
June 17, 2018.

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.

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Chicken Salad Take-Out

Friday, May 25, 2018

Sponsored by Friends of First United

Pick-up times

11:30a.m.-1 p.m. & 4-5:30 p.m.

\$12. Adults \$6. Children (under 12)

Tickets available at:

First United Church office 546-3532

The Ways and Means Sub-Team would like to express our
sincere thanks to the congregation of First United Church for your
continued support for our many meals. We are inviting you to
attend a FREE lunch in the DEM Hall today, following the church
service. We will serve you turkey soup, tea biscuits, cupcakes, and
tea or coffee.

Thank you to Gladys Chamberlain and Shirley Sealy for being the
counters and Mike Kierstead, Margaret Payne-Chénard, Peter &
Edie Gammon and Bob & Beth Sullivan for being the greeters for
the month of April.

There will be a meeting of the **West Bathurst Cemetery**
Committee on Tuesday, May 8, 2018, at 7:00 P.M. in the Ruth
Morrison Room of First United Church. All Committee members
are urged to attend.

Flowers for Mother's Day. If you would like to donate towards
flowers for our sanctuary in honor or in memory of your mother or
another woman who has played an important part in your life,
donations can be dropped in the offering plate on Sunday or
brought to the office. An insert will be included in the bulletin on
Mother's Day, May 13th, with your dedications. Cut off day for
dedications is Monday, May 7th.

Community Events

Family & Community Breakfast

Saturday, May 12, 2018 8:00 – 10:00 am
Saint George's Church Hall 432 King Avenue

The Stonehaven-New Bandon Union Cemetery Inc. ask your cooperation in helping keep floral arrangements at the grave sites the their rightful place; by writing the individual's name somewhere on the arrangement. (arrangements are sometimes blown from the headstones.)

Finding your way Joanne Dempsey and Hanson Miller will be offering a compass reading course in the near future (MAY)
Stay tuned for actual date offered. Cost: \$10.00. bring your compass.

RSVP Ministries invites you to our Lovely to Look at Luncheon at House of Lee – Grand Buffet, 315 Main Street, Bathurst on Wednesday, May 23, 2018 \$17.50 from 11:30am - 1:00pm, doors open at 11:00am. Susan Bannister, Mary Kay director and Peggy Sproul, consultant will demonstrate the importance of self care, and Hazel McMullin of Moncton will deliver her message on "How to find peace in a world full of turmoil". **Reservations and cancellations are necessary before Saturday, May 19.** Please contact Joanne at 542-1118 or ejgodin@rogers.com or contact Connie at 546-2127. Note: for those who have dietary restrictions, please contact Joanne for the alternate meal. ***

St. Luke's Presbyterian Church A fund raising used book sale will be held at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, 395 Murray Avenue, Bathurst at 9:00 am on Saturday May 12. There will be a wide range of genres available, fiction and non-fiction. There will also be a limited number of music related items, yard sale items and crafts. Proceeds to support the mission work of the Atlantic Mission Society.

*Spring:
the music of open windows.
~Terri Guillemets~*

1 John 5:1-6 New International Version (NIV)

Faith in the Incarnate Son of God

⁵ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.

² This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.

³ In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,

⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

⁶ This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

John 15:9-17 New International Version (NIV)

⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.

¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command.

¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.