

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

May 27, 2018

Minister Rev. Blair Lewis **Organist** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Isabel Clouston **Greeters** Edie & Peter Gammon
Custodian Alan Wilcox

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Isaiah 6:1-8</i> <i>Psalm 29</i> <i>Romans 8:12-17</i> <i>John 3:1-17</i>	<i>I Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)</i> <i>Psalm 81</i> <i>II Corinthians 4:5-12</i> <i>Mark 2:23-3-6</i>

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

We welcome Rev. Jean Herman, Linda Knowles-MacPherson and the Men's Choir today and thank them for leading our worship service.

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

Musical Prelude:

Choral Opening: *'Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness* **#375 VU**
Spirit, Spirit of gentleness
Blow thro' the wilderness
Calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
Stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.

Welcome:

How happy are those who live in your Temple,
always singing praise to you.
Ps 84: 4

Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:
Announcements:

Lighting the Christ Candle:

One: We give thanks for the light of hope—
unrelenting and inexplicable.
All: Our hope in Christ shines on.
One: We give thanks for the light of peace—
strong and unafraid.
All: The peace of Christ lights our way.
One: We give thanks for the light of joy—
persistent and unpredictable.
All: The joy of Christ brightens our lives.
One: We give thanks for the light of love
All: The love of Christ comforts and challenges.
**Thank you, God, for your light in this world
through Jesus Christ.**

Call to Worship:

One: Holy are you, Creator of all things;
All: We give you thanks for life.
One: Holy are you, Son and Redeemer of all things;
All: We give you thanks for new life.
One: Holy are you, Spirit of God;
All: We give you thanks for truth.

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)

O God of Mystery,
Within your very self
you model the beloved community.
You are the Wisdom within our hearts,
The Word who dwells among us,
The Spirit who calls us beyond ourselves.
Let us know your presence here today
In a new way,
that we might celebrate your love
and go forth rejoicing
with the Prophet Isaiah, saying:
"Here am I. Send me."

(Isaiah 6:8b)

***Opening Hymn:**

'God, We Praise You for the Morning' **#415 VU**

Children of All Ages:

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding: (in unison)

God of all wisdom,
send your Spirit to open our minds
so that in the words that are spoken,
and in the silence of our hearts,
we can hear your life-giving words
and be transformed to be a blessing in your world.

Scripture Readings: Isabel MacLaggan

Old Testament : Isaiah 6:1-8

New Testament lesson: Romans 8:12-17

Responsive Psalm : Psalm 29 **#756 VU**

Gospel lessons: John 3:1-17

***Hymn:** *'Jesus Calls Us'* **#562 VU**

Message: "The love of God"

Anthem: *'Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty'*

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)

God is the Giver of life,
Christ is the Gift sent to share our life,
and the Holy Spirit the power
that enables us to continue in generosity,
justice and joy.
Let us open our hearts and our lives
to God and one another. Amen.

Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

Holy One,
we acknowledge that too often we try to live
not acknowledging the mystery of your Being.
Even though you have shown us your truth,
we allow ourselves to rest in our own uncertainties.
We find ourselves unable
or unwilling to embrace the love
through which you sent Christ to live among us.
We take for granted the grandeur of you as Creator,
of Christ as Redeemer,
and of the Holy Spirit as ever-present sustainer.
We do not live out the beloved community
you desire for all.
Forgive us, we pray,
and help us give testimony to your 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.

Assurance of Pardon

One: We trust in these promises:
that the Triune God, in each of its persons,
promises us newness of life, a gift of new birth.
The Divine Trinity invites us to testify to its Being
as the foundation for reconciliation
all of God's people and for Creation.
In these truths we trust and give thanks.

All: **Thanks Be to God!**

Silent Prayer:

Reflective Music:

Pastoral Prayer:

One: Lord, our God,
whose power is beyond compare
and glory is beyond understanding;
whose mercy is boundless, and love for us is endless;
look upon us in Your compassion.

For your peace that calms and saves our souls,
and for peace in the whole world,
let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: For the stability of the church,
for the unity of this congregation,
for those who enter this place with faith,
reverence, and the desire to love and follow you,
and for the ministries in The first united Church
let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: For our country, our leaders, for this city,
and for every city and country,
let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: For the sick, the suffering, the captives,
and for our deliverance from all affliction,
wrath, danger, and distress,
let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: To You belongs all glory, honour,
and worship to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

Hear us now as we pray to you
in the words that Jesus taught us:

All: Our Father...

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***Closing Hymn:** *'In Christ There Is No East or West'* #606 VU
(tune St. Peter VU 344)

Benediction:

And the peace of God
which passes all understanding,
will keep your hearts
and minds in Christ Jesus. *(Philippians 4:7, RSV)*
Amen.

***Choral Closing:** *'Take Up His Song'* #213 MV

***Take up his song of hope
And go into the world
Take up his song of hope
in every moment.
In every moment of the journey,
We're laying down our lives;
Lay them down in peace,
Lay them down,
And take up his song.***

Organ Postlude:

*"Too much of anything is dangerous
unless it's God's Love."
— Reign*

Church News

This Week at First United –May 28 – June 2

Monday	9am	Badminton
Tuesday	3:00pm	Office closed
	4pm	Pastoral Council – Eddy rm
	6:15	Scouts – DEMH GYM
Wednesday	9am	TAB – Rms 1,2 &3
	9 -11am	Badminton
Thursday	7pm	Christian Dev.- RMR
Friday	Closed	Summer Hours

The bulletin today has been placed
in loving memory of Karla Young-White
by her family.

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2018 **900**
Total to Date **274**

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.

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.

Community Events

The annual Parish of New Bandon Lobster Supper tickets are now available.

Date: June 2, 2018 Seating times are at 4PM. 5PM or 6PM
Price: \$20.00 for adults; \$10.00 for children under 12.
Please be advised that only 400 tickets will be sold. Get your tickets early. Tickets are available from Norma Ellis 546-9638, Elaine Good 546-2970, Lorna Veneau 546-2948, Kim Scott 546-5012, Kay Addison 350-0960 and Mitzi Whelton 506-4969.
All tickets are to be paid in advance. Thank you

The Ladies Auxiliary to Herman J. Good VC, Branch # 18

Royal Canadian Legion Meal of the Month
BBQ Chicken Dessert – Tea & Coffee included
Sunday, June 10, 2018 5 p.m.
Cost: \$15.00 Take-Outs Available
Tickets can be purchased at the Legion Office.

Family & Community Breakfast

Saturday, June 9, 2018 8:00 – 10:00 am
Saint George's Church Hall 432 King Avenue

Clothing Drive for Lesotho - Once again, Parkwood Heights Elementary School will be collecting bags of clothes in support of ASD – N's "Lesotho Initiative". As you are working on spring cleaning, why not set aside bags of clothes for Parkwood Heights Elementary School. Acceptable items include - men's, women's, and children clothing as well as belts, blankets, linens, purses, shoes, and towels. The bags are then sold to the New Brunswick Association of Community Living. The money raised will be given to the Canadian Agency – "Help Lesotho". For more information, contact Gary Branch (546-9208/egbranch@roger.com) or Parkwood Heights Elementary School at 547-2770. Clothing bags can be dropped off at the school during school hours at 1125 Highland Drive. The deadline for donations is June 15, 2018.

NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a meeting of the congregation of First United Church on Sunday June 17, 2018 following the regular Sunday morning Worship service.

The purpose of this meeting is two-fold:

- To present the report of the JNAC (Joint Needs Assessment Committee) and obtain the approval of the congregation to forward the report to Miramichi Presbytery for their approval.
- To choose individuals to serve on the Search Committee for our new minister. Once chosen these names will also be forwarded to Presbytery for their approval.

Interested members of our congregation are welcome to submit their names as potential members of the Search Committee. Please contact Sandra Boone by phone at 546-5453 or by email at boonies@nb.sympatico.ca if you feel you might like to be a committee member. Once the congregation has chosen the committee members and we have received Presbytery approval, the Search Committee will commence their work.

If you are an adherent of First United Church and wish to be part of the Search Committee, contact the church office at 546-3532 to arrange for confirmation or transfer of membership.

Isaiah 6:1-8 New International Version (NIV)

Isaiah's Commission

6 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple.

² Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.

³ And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴ At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

⁵ "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar.

⁷ With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Romans 8:12-17 New International Version (NIV)

¹² Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it.

¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.^[a] And by him we cry, "*Abba*,^[b] Father."

¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

John 3:1-17 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

3 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council.

2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

3 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.^[a]"

4 "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

5 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit^[b] gives birth to spirit.

7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You^[c] must be born again.'

8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."^[d]

9 "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

10 "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things?"

11 Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony.

12 I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? 13 No one

has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.^[e]

14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,^[f]

15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."^[g]

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.