

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

July 29, 2018

Minister Rev. Blair Lewis **Organist** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Isabel Clouston **Greeters** Beth & Bob Sullivan
Custodian Alan Wilcox

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>II Samuel 11:1-15</i> <i>Psalms 145</i> <i>Ephesians 3:14-21</i> <i>John 6:1-21</i>	<i>II Samuel 11:26-12:13a</i> <i>Psalms 78:23-29</i> <i>Ephesians 4:1-16</i> <i>John 6:24-35</i>

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

We welcome this morning, Helen Knowles leading us in worship and Linda Knowles MacPherson providing the music. Thank you for your contribution to our worship time together.

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.

Welcoming One Another:

Lighting of the Christ Candle and Call to Worship

One: The Christ Candle symbolizes the presence of Christ, the Light of the World,

All: **Alive, in our midst, this day and every day.**
(candle is lit)

One: May the light of Christ be with you!

All: **And also with you!**

One: We are called to be the church, to love God and serve others.

All: **We gather as sisters and brothers in Christ, praising God, embracing each other in God's love, committed to acting out that love in the world.**

One: So we worship God in joy and in hope.

All: **We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)

God, in worship you greet us.

May it be your face we see in creation's beauty, may it be your voice we hear calling us to service and may it be your hand we feel blessing us with love.

And in return, may we be a blessing in this place and beyond these walls. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** *'Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee'* **# 232VU**

Announcements:

Time for all Ages: **'What Talent!'**

***Hymn:** *'Come to My Heart'* **#661 VU**

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding:

Scripture Readings: Pat MacIntosh

Old Testament Lesson: Ecclesiastes 3:9-15

The book of Ecclesiastes contains the thoughts of "the Philosopher", a man who reflected deeply on how short and contradictory human life, with its mysterious injustices and frustrations, is.

Responsive lesson: Psalm 90 **Page 805-806 VU**

New Testament Lesson: Ephesians 5:15-20

Paul appeals to the readers of his letter to live in such a way that their oneness in Christ may become real in their life together.

Meditation: "Making a Difference"

Solo: 'When We Sing to the Lord' Kurt Hadley

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:

Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

Teacher of Truth,
we come acknowledging our closed-mindedness.
You have opened doors of opportunity
and we have chosen to ignore them.
You have challenged us to see new visions
and we have stood by uninspired.
You have offered new insights
and we have closed our ears and minds.
Forgive our contentment
with that which we already know
and open our hearts and minds more fully
to your will for our lives and for our church. Amen.

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:

Silent Prayer / Reflective Music:

Pastoral Prayer:

The Lord's Prayer:

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

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

Commissioning and Blessing:

***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:

*"The purpose of life is not to be happy.
It is to be useful,
to be honorable,
to be compassionate,
to have it make some difference
that you have lived and lived well."
— Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Church News

This Week at First United –July 30 – Aug. 4

Tuesday	3pm	Closed
Friday	Closed	Summer Hours

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2018 **900**

Total to Date **373**

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect 20-21 jars of peanut butter per week.

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



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

Summer Hours: Starting June 1 until the end of August the church office hours will be Monday - Thursday, 8-4. Closed 12-1.

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.

First United Church has received a federal government grant to enable us to hire a student for 6 weeks this summer. The job description includes maintenance help, painting, office help and some outdoor help. Applications will be accepted from students, high school or post secondary, who will be returning to full time studies in the fall. Interested applicants can contact Brenda Parrott at PARMOR3@gmail.com or the office for further information or to apply.

Counters needed for the last three weeks of August.

Sundays offering is usually counted on Monday mornings and takes about 45 min. Experienced or First Time counters welcome. Training provided. Call the office, 546-3532, if interested.

Community Events

St. Luke's Church Belledune (formerly St. Luke's United Church). There are several former members of St Luke's who now attend First United and might be interested in attending. The Church Service is taking place at 10am , Sunday, August 5th in honour of the 50th Anniversary of the Village of Belledune. The Sacrament of Baptism will also take place at this Special Service. The Service is being conducted by Kent Gibbons, Minister of the Dalhousie/New Mills.

St. Lukes Presbyterian Church:

Summer used book sales and yard sales.

Following our VBS, our used book sales and yard sales will resume each Saturday morning at 9:00 am - 1:00 pm at St. Lukes Presbyterian Church, 395 Murray Avenue Bathurst. New books and items arrive each week. Rain or Shine. All proceeds to support the mission work of St. Lukes

*“I have one life and one chance
to make it count for something...
My faith demands that I do
whatever I can,
wherever I am, whenever I can,
for as long as I can
with whatever I have
to try to make a difference.”*

— Jimmy Carter

The Starfish

"Once upon a time, there was a wise man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work.

One day, as he was walking along the shore, he looked down the beach and saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself at the thought of someone who would dance to the day, and so, he walked faster to catch up.

As he got closer, he noticed that the figure was that of a young man, and that what he was doing was not dancing at all. The young man was reaching down to the shore, picking up small objects, and throwing them into the ocean.

He came closer still and called out "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?"

The young man paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean."

"I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" asked the somewhat startled wise man.

To this, the young man replied, "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die."

Upon hearing this, the wise man commented, "But, young man, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!"

At this, the young man bent down, picked up yet another starfish, and threw it into the ocean. As it met the water, he said, "It made a difference for that one."

— Loren Eiseley

Ecclesiastes 3:9-15 New International Version (NIV)

⁹ What do workers gain from their toil?

¹⁰ I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race.

¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet^[a] no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

¹² I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live.

¹³ That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

¹⁴ I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear him.

¹⁵ Whatever is has already been,
and what will be has been before;
and God will call the past to account.^[b]

Ephesians 5:15-20 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,

¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,

¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,

²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.