

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

**September 9 2018**

**Minister** Rev. Blair Lewis      **Organist** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Isabel Clouston      **Greeters** Cheryl & Gordon Murphy  
**Custodian** Alan Wilcox

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Proverbs 22:1-2,8-9,22-23</i> <i>Psalm 45:1-1,6-9</i> <i>James 1:17-27</i> <i>Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23</i>	<i>Proverbs 22:1-2,8-9,22-23</i> <i>Psalm 146</i> <i>James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17</i> <i>Mark 7:24-37</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:**      *'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:**

Friends, scripture teaches us that the Church is the body of Christ, the household of God; Christ being the head and cornerstone. We gather as one in Christ's name to rejoice with the congregations of First United Church,

Central United Church and Miramichi Presbytery, as we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our church building. Twenty years ago it was dedicated for Christ's service. Come, let us worship God, celebrating the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the Church in this place.

**Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:**

**Announcements:**

Welcoming of Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, Region 14, 15 & 16, TheUnited Church of Canada & presentation. Welcoming Rev. Susan White and the congregation of Central United Church  
 Report from the Joint Search Committee

**Lighting of the Christ Candle:**

**One:** As we light the Christ Candle we celebrate life and offer thanks to God.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**  
**One:** We live in an ever changing world; may your light show us the way as we make choice and decisions in our lives.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**  
**One:** God has gathered us into a church family where friendship, support and life- giving empowerment are an important part of daily life.  
**All: Let us worship God with love, thanksgiving and praise.**

**Call to Worship:**

**One:** God's Spirit calls to our spirits,  
**All: inviting us to worship.**  
**One:** God's Spirit calls to our spirits,  
**All: inviting us by love.**  
**One:** God's Spirit calls to our spirits,

**All: calling us by name,  
calling us to grow in faith,  
calling us to be made new.**

One: We come to worship in this season of the Spirit.

**Prayer of Approach: Rev. Susan White**

Giver of all good gifts,  
it is by your power that all things are made holy.  
We give you thanks for your marvellous wonders,  
and for the work of human hands.  
Be with us now as we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
First United Church.  
Our church is a gift that comes from You.  
We ask for your blessing upon this congregation;  
a church family working together in your service.  
May your face shine upon what we do here this day.  
We pray that all might draw nearer to you and praise you.  
Amen.

**\*Opening Hymn:**

'Come In, Come In and Sit Down' #395 VU

### **THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**Prayer for Understanding:**

**Rev. Faith March-MacCuish**

Gracious God, you speak to us through scripture.  
Generation to generation hears your word of judgement  
and liberation, wisdom and compassion.  
May your light and truth shine upon us from these pages,  
as we hear good news proclaimed  
through the reading of this Bible.  
May we encounter your Word made flesh  
by the power of your Spirit at work among us all. Amen.

**Scripture Readings:**

Cheryl Brewster

**Old Testament Lesson:** Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

**New Testament Lesson:** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-16

**Gospel Lesson:** John 6:56-69

**\*Hymn:** 'Sacred Stories' Beach Spring 8787D  
Lyrics: Rev. Catherine MacDonald. 2<sup>nd</sup> verse introduced at  
Maritime Conference, May 25, 2018

Sacred stories, shared with others,  
form a faith that's strong and true  
Sacred places, etched with meaning,  
bringing hope and joy anew.  
Sacred memories, sacred future,  
sacred present, here and now.  
Sacred knowing, sacred being,  
Sacred living be our vow.

Sacred stories, shared with strangers  
Sacred stories, shared with friends.  
Sacred stories, bind us closely  
Shaped by ties that will not end.  
Sacred waters of baptism  
Sacred bread and sacred wine  
Sacred humans, sacred living  
With God's purpose we still shine

**Message: Rev. Faith March-MacCuish**

**Solo:** 'I See The Love of God In Every River'  
Amanda Godin

### **THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS**

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

**Choral Response:**

*Praise God whose joy within us flows.  
Praise to the One whose blessings flow.  
Lift up your voice in songs of praise.  
Let grateful thanks shape all your days.*

**Prayer of Dedication:** (in unison)  
**O God, you sent your son, Jesus Christ, to be with us; his love was full and complete. For our sake he gave everything he had, through his poverty we discovered the richness of his love. Accept this offering as a token of our gratitude for all that you have done for us. 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.***

**Silent Prayer:**

**Reflective Music:**

**Pastoral Prayer:**

O God, designer of creation,  
inspiration of the work of our hands;  
we praise you for the skill of administrators, workers and  
artists who have helped build this house and make it  
beautiful.  
We thank you for the generosity  
of all who have supported Your work by their gifts,  
their service and their prayers.

We thank you especially for Jesus Christ,  
who worked with his hands in a carpenter's shop.  
On the Cross Jesus completed the work you gave him to  
do, and who is with us now making all things new.

Grant to us the gift of your Spirit  
as we thank you for this house that was dedicated for your  
service and has served as a church home  
for the past twenty years.  
Bless all who built it and all who will worship in it.

Empower its people with your truth and love,  
so that all may find life and hope.  
Almighty God,  
you built your Church on the foundation of Jesus Christ.  
Shower your blessing on this congregation,  
and watch over its new life.  
Help its ministry and mission done in your name  
to grow and flourish.  
Sustain your church in this place in the days ahead,  
for the sake and the glory of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

## **THE SERVICE OF THE TABLE:**

**An Invitation to the Table:**

He came as one of us,  
first an infant, then a child,  
later a youth, then an adult.  
He rejoiced with those who rejoiced,  
and wept with those who wept.  
To the despairing, he spoke a word of hope.  
To the sick, he gave healing.  
To the hurting, he was a friend.  
Our communion table is an open communion table;  
all who intend to live your lives as followers of the Good  
Shepherd are invited to draw near and take this holy  
sacrament to your comfort.

**\*Our Communion Hymn:** *'All Who Hunger'* #460 VU

**The Great Thanksgiving Prayer:**

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.  
**All: And also, with you.**  
One: Lift up your hearts.  
**All: We lift them to the Lord.**  
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: Blessed are you, gracious God, Creator of light,  
Giver of all life, source of love.  
We bless you for all your gifts.  
We praise you for this holy day of hope and for the  
wonder of this time of joy.

**All: We praise you, O God.**

**All: We thank you, O God.**

One: For Jesus Christ, in whom you gather the hopes and  
fears of all the years, we bless your Holy Name.  
Joining now with all your people of every time and place  
we share our thoughts and prayers with God our source  
of hope.  
On this our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary service,  
we celebrate our Easter faith;  
your presence is alive through the power of the  
resurrection.

**Choral Response:** (Sanctus and Benedictus # 942VU)  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;**  
**holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**  
**Heav'n and earth are full, full of your glory.**  
**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**  
**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**  
**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

One: **Rev. Susan White**

On the night before Jesus died,  
he had supper with his disciples;  
he took bread; thanked you, as we have thanked you;  
broke the bread; and gave the bread to his friends saying:  
take this, all of you, and eat it.  
This is my body, given for you.  
Each time you do this, remember me.  
After supper he took the wine; thanked you for it,  
and passed a cup of wine to his friends saying:  
this cup is the new promise God has made with you in my  
blood.

Each time you do this and drink from this cup, remember  
me  
Remembering his death and celebrating his resurrection,  
we await with hope his coming again to bring peace and  
justice to the earth.  
And so, we affirm the mystery of our faith.

**All: Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

One: Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us  
and what we do here, that we, and these gifts,  
touched by your Spirit, may be signs of life and love to  
each other, and to all the world.  
Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours,  
God most holy, now and forever.  
We gather these and all our prayers,  
thankful that we may now turn to you in one voice

**All: Our Father, Who art in heaven..... Amen.**

**Breaking of the Bread and the presentation of the Cup:**  
**Sharing of the Bread and Cup:**

**Choral Refrain** 'Bread for the Journey' **#202 MV**  
Bread for the journey,  
Food for the way.  
Cup of God's blessing,  
Tomorrow, today.

### **THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH**

**Prayer: Rev. Faith March-MacCuish** (in unison)  
**Holy God, Dreamer of dreams.**  
**We offer First United Church to you.**  
**We are your people, this is your church.**  
**We come to you seeking your guidance,**  
**your purpose your vision.**  
**Align our will with yours, so that we will be willing**  
**to do whatever it takes to carry our your plan.**

**We ask you to break through in new ways in our church.  
 Show us the great ministry you have in store for us.  
 Help us dream your dreams.  
 Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, giving us the vision,  
 boldness, and confidence to do all that you call us  
 to do. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn:**

'I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry # 644 VU

**Blessing:**

Go out into the world in peace;  
 have courage;  
 hold on to what is good;  
 return no one evil for evil;  
 strengthen the fainthearted;  
 support the weak, and help the suffering;  
 honour all people;  
 love and serve the Lord,  
 rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**\*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:**

# Church News

**This Week at First United –Sept. 10 to Sept. 15**

Monday	1:30 pm	UCW – Eddy Room
Monday	6:15 pm	Beavers Rooms 1,2, & 3
Wednesday	9:00 – 12:00	TAB – Rooms 1, 2 & 3
Thursday	Pres. Exc.	10:00 Eddy Rom
Friday	9:00 – 12:00	TAB – Rooms 1, 2 & 3

The bulletin today has been placed  
**in loving memory of**  
**James Knowles**  
**By Joyce, Bill and Family**

The bulletin today has been placed  
**in loving memory of**  
**Douglas Hinton**  
**By his wife Barbara Hinton**

**Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre**

Commitment December 31, 2018 **900**

Total to Date **456**

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect 23-24 jars of peanut butter per week. The Volunteer Center supplies, on average, 500 households monthly.



**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.

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

## **Community Events**

Beavers at First United is starting a new year Monday Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm in the Donald Eddy Hall, Rooms 1,2, & 3. Children ages 5-7 yrs are invited to attend.

Due to the upcoming retirement of Alan Wilcox, the Property Management Committee is seeking an individual for the position of Custodian starting October 1, 2018. Your resume may be dropped off at the church office addressed to the Property Management Committee.

**A Service of Thanksgiving** for the life of Everett Wishart will be held Friday September 14<sup>th</sup> at 2pm from First United Church.



### **Beef BBQ**

**Sponsored by "the Hatheway Group"**

*Thursday, September 27, 2018*

Donald Eddy Memorial Hall

309 St. Patrick Street

5:00 - 6:30 pm

Takeouts available 4:00 – 5:30 pm

\$15. Adults     \$6. Children (under 12)

*All tickets sold in advance.*

*Tickets available at the office 546-3532  
or from Ways and Means team members.*

### **Meal of the Month** – Roast Beef Supper

Royal Canadian Legion Sunday, September 9, 2018, 5 p.m.

Tickets - \$15.00 Take-Outs Available. Tickets can be purchased at the Legion office.

### **"Help Lesotho" Calendars**

The Anglophone School District – North has been sponsoring "Help Lesotho" since 2006 as part of its global awareness initiative. As a fund raiser where all of the money raised goes to help finance its work with orphans, vulnerable children, and grandmothers in Lesotho, Africa; "Help Lesotho" has 2019 calendars for sale at a cost of fifteen dollars. You are invited to support this initiative with your donation. Gary Branch (546-9208) ([egbranch@rogers.com](mailto:egbranch@rogers.com)) will be taking orders for these calendars until October 9, 2018. Payment can be made in advance by cash or cheque or when the calendars are delivered. Cheques are to be made payable to "Help Lesotho".

### **Anglican Parish of New Bandon Salmon Supper:**

Christ Church Hall, Clifton Saturday, September 22, 2018

Sittings 4pm; 5pm; 6pm Adults \$20.00 Children (under 12) \$10.00

All tickets sold in advance. Kay Addison 350-0960, Elaine Good

546-2970, Mitzi Whelton 546-4969, Lorna Veneau 546-2948.

**RSVP Ministries** invites you to our "Life Adventures" Luncheon at House of Lee – Grand Buffet, 315 Main Street, Bathurst on Wednesday, September 26, 2018 \$17.50 from 11:15am - 1:00pm, doors open at 11:00am. Dianna Roy and Marion Kerr of "Dusty Sneakers" will bring us an adventure in Physical Fitness, Claudette & Eddie Edwards will bring us a musical adventure, and Tandy Balson, an award winning author with several published books, will speak on "Saying Goodbye to Fears". Reservations and cancellations are necessary before Saturday, September 22.

Please contact Joanne at 542-1118 or [ejgodin@rogers.com](mailto:ejgodin@rogers.com) or contact Connie at 546-2127. Note: for those who have dietary restriction

**Central United Church, Clifton is holding its Fall Fair**

Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 12:00 NOON. You will find anything from home baking, garden produce & preserves to sewing, knitting & fall crafts. The take out is homemade brown bread and baked beans. Come and enjoy!!

**"Let It Be Love"** tour by the Canadian Christian band "The Color" will be hosted by The Point Church, 789 O'Neil Ave., Bathurst on September 23 at 7:00 pm. The group have won 12 GMA Covenant Awards and received a 2018 JUNO award. It will be a night of worship, fun and entertainment for all ages and we would like to invite you to join us. Tickets – Advance: \$7 groups of 5+/\$10 single/\$25 family pass/door \$15 Further info available at [info@thepointchurch.ca/506-622-4540](mailto:info@thepointchurch.ca/506-622-4540)

## **Joshua 24:1-2, 14-18 New International Version (NIV)**

### **The Covenant Renewed at Shechem**

24 Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God.

<sup>2</sup> Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods.

### **Joshua 24:14-18 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>14</sup> "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup> But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

<sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, "Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods! <sup>17</sup> It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. <sup>18</sup> And the LORD drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God."

## **1 Thessalonians 5:1-16 New International Version (NIV)**

### **The Day of the Lord**

5 Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, <sup>2</sup> for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

<sup>4</sup> But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup> You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. <sup>6</sup> So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. <sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup> He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

### **Final Instructions**

<sup>12</sup> Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. <sup>13</sup> Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. <sup>14</sup> And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. <sup>15</sup> Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always,

## **John 6:56-69 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>56</sup> Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.

<sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” <sup>59</sup> He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

### **Many Disciples Desert Jesus**

<sup>60</sup> On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”

<sup>61</sup> Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup> Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! <sup>63</sup> The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit<sup>[a]</sup> and life. <sup>64</sup> Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. <sup>65</sup> He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.”

<sup>66</sup> From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

<sup>67</sup> “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.

<sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”