

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

March 24, 2019

Minister	Rev. Neal Palmer	Organist	Martha Vickers
Office Adm.	Isabel Clouston	Greeters	Gayle Ferron
Custodian	Steve White		Adrienne Hazen

All musical selections reprinted under licence #4-606499, Onelicense for Churches

<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Isaiah 55:1-9</i>	<i>Joshua 5:9-12</i>
<i>Psalms 63: 1-8</i>	<i>Psalms 32</i>
<i>I Corinthians 10:1-13</i>	<i>II Corinthians 5:16-21</i>
<i>Luke 13:1-9</i>	<i>Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32</i>

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

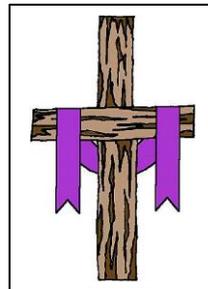
THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

MUSICAL PRELUDE

***CHORAL OPENING:**

"Spirit, Open My Heart" – MV #79

***Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.***



WELCOME (including our friends worshipping by CD)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Isaiah 55:1-9) (responsively)

One: Everyone who thirsts, come to the water.
Even if you have no money, come, buy, and eat!
Come buy wine and milk without any price.

All: **We are parched and come to be refreshed.
We are hungry and come to be fed.
We come, responding to God's call
to feast and be filled with good things,
so that we may live as people renewed.**

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN:** "Seek Ye First the Kingdom" – VU #356

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

CHORAL RESPONSE: "And When You Call for Me" – MV #96

***And when you call for me,
I have already answered.
And when you call for me,
I am already there.***

A LENTEN SPIRITUAL PRACTICE (Lent Challenge 3)

Breanna Lee

CHORAL RESPONSE:

"Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary" – MV #18

***Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy tried and true;
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you.***

***PASSING OF THE PEACE** (responsively)

One: The Peace of Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

SHARING A STORY (with children of all ages)

***SINGING A SONG** – "Teach Me, God, to Wonder" – VU #299

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sherry Mitton

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 55:1-9

***Responsive Psalm:** Psalm 63 (VU #781)

Gospel Lesson: Luke 13:1-9

REFLECTION: "Fed by the Glory"

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

ANTHEM: "O Beautiful Gaia"

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE OFFERING IS GATHERED

(in support of the ministry and mission of the church)

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Give what you can, Take what you need.

For the body of Christ, is enough to feed.

The hungry for Spirit and the thirsty for love.

Give thanks when you can to our God up above.

*OFFERING PRAYER (responsively)

One: Holy One, as we dedicate this offering,
we dedicate our thirst too.

All: Use it to help transform the world.

One: As we dedicate these gifts,
we dedicate our hunger as well.

**All: May it motivate us to act
towards creating new light in the world.**

One: Bless this giving and this worship

**All: toward true renewal
Amen.**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS –

"O God, Hear My Prayer" – VU #948

O God, hear my prayer,

O God, hear my prayer:

when I call answer me.

O God, hear my prayer,

O God, hear my prayer:

come and listen to me.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER – VU #921 (in unison)

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***CLOSING HYMN** – "I Heard the Voice of Jesus" – VU #626

*BLESSING

*CHORAL CLOSING:

"Stay with Us through the Night" – VU #182 (Verse 1)

Stay with us through the night.

Stay with us through the pain.

Stay with us, blessed stranger

till the morning breaks again.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

*The story of Easter
is the story
of God's wonderful window
of divine surprise.
~Carl Knudsen~*

Church News

This Week at First United –March 25 – March 30

Monday	9-11am	Badminton
	9am	Ways & Means – Eddy Rm
	6:15	Beavers – Rms. 1,2 &3
Tuesday	9:30	Community Outreach - RMR
	6:15	Cubs & Scouts – DEMH Gym
Wednesday	9-12am	TAB
	3pm	Office Closed
	6:30	Choir Practice
Thursday		Ham & Scallop Supper

The bulletin today has been placed
in loving memory of

**Andrea Clowater,
Hudson Clowater and Kenneth Bernier**
from Wayne, Colette Clowater and family.

Carl, Thelma, James & Peter Hocquard
by Carolyn and David

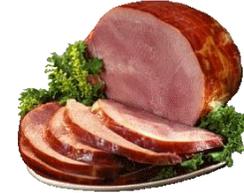
Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2019 **900**
Total Collected **202**
To meet our obligation, we will need to collect
17-18 jars of peanut butter per week.
The Volunteer Center supplies, on average,
500 households monthly.



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

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.



Ham & Scallop Supper

Thursday, March 28, 2019

Adults \$ 15 - Children (12 & under) \$ 6

5:00-6:30pm

Take outs available 4:00 -5:30pm

Advance Tickets Sales only

Tickets available from Ways and Means Team members
and at the church office 546-3532

Sponsored by



R.G. McGROUP LTD.

Community Outreach Update

Our sub-team, on an ongoing basis, coordinates the following in-house projects, with congregational support:

* **A Breakfast Program** is offered to students, enrolled in Adult Learning Center classes at the DEM Hall. Provisions include tea & coffee, milk, juice, cereals, etc.

* **A Pantry** of non-perishable foods is kept in the DEM Hall basement for needs as they arise. Currently, it is well stocked & contents are probably adequate until fall, 2019.

For more information, call Bev Murphy (548-2572) or Helen M Knowles (546-9563)

Community Events

Evangel Bathurst: Presents Leland Klessan's 'More True Comedy Tour' Friday April 12, 2019 – 7pm. Tickets \$15 each . 40\$ Family rate. Available at the church office (506) 546-2172 or online at www.lelandklassen.com.

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace

Holy Family Church, St Peter Ave.

Soup Lunch. Sunday , March 24 12:00 Noon

Homemade Soups, Rolls, Desserts, Tea & Coffee

Cost: \$10 Children \$5 Family \$20 All Welcome

Family & Community Breakfast,

Saturday, April 13, 2019 8:00 – 10:00 am

Saint George's Church Hall 432 King Avenue

*Our Lord has written
the promise of the resurrection,
not in books alone,
but in every leaf in spring-time.
~Martin Luther~*

Highlights from Pastoral Council March, 2019

The Finance Team has completed the financial statement for 2018 and the budget is ready for 2019. Council accepted it for presentation at the Annual General Meeting. It was noted that \$9,000 sponsorship for meals served at First United was secured by Dave Brewster and the Team. This sponsorship by many donors is a big help to our financial success and much appreciated by all.

The Ways and Means Team has had several meetings and the next event is a Ham and Scallop dinner scheduled on Thursday, March 28th. We are hoping for good weather and a great crowd. Thank you to all who work and support the suppers in any way.

The UCW continues to struggle with numbers but still has had one meeting and has catered one funeral since the last report. Anyone wishing to join UCW or would like to help would be more than welcome.

The Nominations Team presented an almost complete slate of officers for presentation at the Annual General Meeting. A chairperson is still required for the Property Management Team and reps are required for the new Regional Council and for Hospitality and Friendship Team.

Several ideas were submitted at the Christian Development Team meeting. It was suggested that Rev. Jean Herman be asked to conduct the occasional children's time. The Passing of the Peace will continue as part of Sunday services. The children's hymn seems to be well received. A spring musical event may be held and Rev. Neal may be able to form a youth group.

At the Pastoral Care Team Meeting it was noted that Rev. Jean Herman was praised for his positive influence, quick wit and sense of humor during his temporary ministerial duties at First United. Rev. Neal was given names of members residing in nursing or special care homes as well as many who are shut-in their own homes.

Plans are underway for the upcoming Irish Tea and Music event scheduled for Thursday, March 21st from 1:00 to 3:30 pm. The Community Outreach sub-team has also been very active.

The Hospitality and Friendship team continues to look after Sunday hospitality hour after church. Thanks, to all who take part. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Ruth Morrison Room for anyone who would like to host or co-host a Sunday.

*The vision
must be followed by the venture.
It is not enough to stare up the steps —
we must step up the stairs.
~Vance Havner~*

Isaiah 55:1-9 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

An Invitation to Abundant Life

55 Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Luke 13:1-9 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Repent or Perish

13 At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

² He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?"

³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.

⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?"

⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

⁶ Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.

⁷ So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?'

⁸ He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it.

⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"