

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

**March 31, 2019**

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

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<b>Lectionary for today</b>	<b>Lectionary for next Sunday</b>
<i>Joshua 5:9-12</i>	<i>Isaiah 43:16-21</i>
<i>Psalm 32</i>	<i>Psalm 126</i>
<i>II Corinthians 5:16-21</i>	<i>Philippians 3:4b-14</i>
<i>Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32</i>	<i>John 12:1-8</i>

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

*We welcome the Men's choir today and thank them for leading our music.*

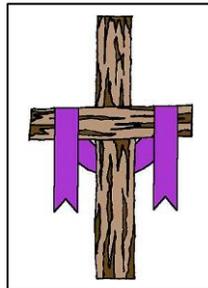
**THE COMMUNITY GATHERS**

**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**

**GATHERING PRAYER**

**\*GATHERING HYMN:**

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" – VU #142

**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 4)

**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 –**

"This Is God's Wondrous World" – VU #296

**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Old Testament Lesson:**

*Joanne Wiseman*

Joshua 5:9-12

**Gospel Lesson:**

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**REFLECTION:** "A Traitor for Grace"

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**ANTHEM:** "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

**THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION** *Bev Murphy*

**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** (in unison)

**Holy One,  
you are always ready to welcome us home,  
and you are always willing to welcome our gifts  
so that the good news may be both shared  
and lived in our time and place.  
This, Holy One, is why we give.  
Please accept our offerings.  
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**

**...Younger Son:** Forgive us, Holy One. Help us come home to the love and grace we've experienced as your children. We are filled with shame and grief. We're bent over in guilt and humility. Help us come home.

**Father:** How we long, Holy One, to be gathered together as one family in your love. How we long to put aside the materialism and power-mongering that divide and diminish us. How we long to be in communion with you and with one another. Please show us the way.

**Older Son:** We've been here all along, Holy One, and although it's hard to accept that your love extends to those who've wasted and squandered, we don't want to be wasteful in our love and thanksgiving. Show us how to be gracious. Show us how to be humble. Bring us into communion again with our brothers and sisters. Make us into the family we were designed to be.

**Invisible Women:** In a world that doesn't even notice us, Holy One, help us to never overlook your children. In a world that tells full stories without mention of the women who keep things going, help us tell our story, and empower others to do so as well.

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

**THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** – "To Show by Touch and Word" – VU #427

**\*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**

# Church News

## **This Week at First United –April 1 – April 6**

Monday	9-11am	Badminton
	9am	Ways & Means – Eddy Rm
	1:30pm	UCW – Eddy Rm
	6:15	Beavers – Rms. 1,2 &3
Tuesday	6:15	Cubs & Scouts – DEMH Gym
Wednesday	9-11am	Badminton
	9-noon	TAB
	3pm	Office Closed
	6:30	Choir Practice

The bulletin today has been placed  
***in loving memory of Emily Wiseman***  
by Irvin and Family.

### **Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre**

Commitment December 31, 2019      **900**

Total Collected      **227**

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.

### **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)

*Let hope be your pulse  
Faith in every heartbeat  
Joy with every breath...  
~Terri Guillemets*

## 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](http://www.lelandklassen.com).

### **Family & Community Breakfast,**

Saturday, April 13, 2019 8:00 – 10:00 am  
Saint George's Church Hall 432 King Avenue

**RSVP Ministries** invites you to our "A Song in Your Heart"

Luncheon at House of Lee – Grand Buffet, 315 Main Street, Bathurst on Wednesday, April 24, 2018, cost \$18.50, from 11:20am - 1:00pm, doors open at 11:00am. Susan Blackmore-Roy, vivacious vocalist and guitarist will provide us with Dazzling Sounds, and June Fillmore, retired Medical Clinic Manager from Moncton, NB will tell us about "Looking for Joy in All the Wrong Places". **Reservations and cancellations are necessary.** Please contact Joanne at 542-1118 or [ejgodin@bellaliant.net](mailto:ejgodin@bellaliant.net) or contact Connie at 546-2127. Note: for those who have dietary restrictions, please contact Joanne for the alternate meal.

*No winter lasts forever;  
no spring skips its turn.  
~Hal Borland~*

## **Joshua 5:9-12 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal<sup>[a]</sup> to this day.

### **The Passover at Gilgal**

<sup>10</sup> While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho.

<sup>11</sup> On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain.

<sup>12</sup> The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

## **Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

### **The Parable of the Lost Sheep**

15 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him.

<sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable:

### **The Parable of the Prodigal and His Brother**

<sup>11</sup> Then Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> said, "There was a man who had two sons.

<sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.

<sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need.

<sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs.

<sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with<sup>[b]</sup> the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger!

<sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you;

<sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'"

<sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'<sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

<sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate;

<sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.

<sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.

<sup>27</sup> He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’

<sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

<sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.

<sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’

<sup>31</sup> Then the father <sup>[d]</sup> said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.

<sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”