

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

June 2, 2019

Minister	Rev. Neal Palmer	Organist	Martha Vickers
Office Adm.	Isabel Clouston	Greeters	Gary Branch
Custodian	Steve White		Nora McLean

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Acts 16:16-34</i>	<i>Acts 2:1-21</i>
<i>Psalm 97</i>	<i>Psalm 104</i>
<i>Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20-21</i>	<i>Romans 8:14-17</i>
<i>John 17:20-26</i>	<i>John 14:8-17, (25-27)</i>

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

GATHERING

MUSICAL PRELUDE

***PROCESSION OF GRADUATES** – “Land of Hope and Glory”

WELCOME (including our friends worshipping by CD)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – “Make a Joyful Noise” – VU #820

PRAYER OF HUMILITY (responsively)

...Within the restrictions of our comforts, we're unable to recognize how those same comforts are denied to others.

Loosen our chains and set us free.

...Confined by the ability to meet our own needs, we fail to recognize the needs of those for whom opportunities are regularly denied.

Loosen our chains and set us free.

...Rather than face uncertainties with courage and trust, we lock ourselves behind walls and closed doors and let our hearts become a prison, not only for ourselves but many others as well.

Loosen our chains and set us free.

...We let our relationships chain us to limited worldviews, experiences, cultures, and we become unable to recognize the potential for new and vital relationships that might be ours.

Loosen our chains and set us free.

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION (responsively)

...Following Christ's way breaks the chains that hold back our compassion, unlocks the doors that keep us from living justly, and gives us the song of freedom.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE – “How Deep the Peace” – MV #95

***How deep the peace, the confidence,
of those whose wrongs are forgiven.
How deep the peace, the confidence,
of those whose hearts are healed.***

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

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

SHARING A STORY (with children of all ages)

***SINGING A SONG** – “Draw the Circle Wide” – MV #145

Refrain

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

*Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.*

God the still-point of the circle,
`round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms.

Refrain

Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call.

Refrain

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.*

Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door.

Refrain

PRESENTING

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 16:16-34

Isabel MacLaggan

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER

Beth Sullivan

MESSAGE (to the Graduates)

Emma Vickers

EXTENDING APPRECIATION

Beth Sullivan

ANTHEM – “Homeward Bound”

BHS Choir

RESPONDING

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 –**

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” – VU #541
***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.***

***OFFERING PRAYER** (in unison)

**Holy One,
may the offerings we bring this day
be a transforming source of good news,
hope, and promise in which the whole world
may rejoice. Amen.**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS –

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” – VU #400
***Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (responsively)

Let us give thanks:

R. we give thanks, blessed Spirit.

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

GOING OUT (as God's people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** – “Wherever You May Go” – MV #216

Refrain

*Wherever you may go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.*

Say the word and I will stay,
I will never go away,
we will travel side by side
and God's love will be our guide.

Refrain

From beginning to the end
I will always be your friend,
when you need me, I'll be there,
you can trust my faithful care.

Refrain

*Wherever you may go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.*

***BLESSING** (responsively)

...Go now in the unity we've been given in the love Christ reveals
for us.

**We will be led by the Spirit
who loosens all our shackles
and gives us the freedom that leads to life.**

Go now knowing God's freedom is at work in us,
opening the prison doors to our liberation.

Amen

***RECESSIONAL** – "Land of Hope and Glory"

ORGAN POSTLUDE

*Time is a precious thing.
Never waste it.
Willy Wonka*

Church News

This Week at First United –June 3-June 8

Monday	June Dinner	UCW
Wednesday	3pm	Office Closed
Friday	Office Closed	Summer Hours

The bulletin today has been placed
in loving memory of Karla Young-White
by Edith and Norman Young and Family
and her daughter, Janna White.

The Canadian flag currently being flown has been donated
in loving memory of
Clinton CL Gammon, a D-Day Veteran,
by Bev & Brian Murphy.

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2019 **900**

Total Collected **382**

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.



Gospel Hymn Sing

TODAY, 2pm

An afternoon of favorite gospel music, hymn sing selections and
special music by First United Choir and Friends
with Special Guests

Emma Vickers, Kurt Hadley, Alysa Collins,
John & Isabel Clouston

Take Note and The Treble Makers ~

Tickets Adults \$10 Youth 5\$

Available at the church office (546-3532) and from choir members.

Reception will follow the Hymn Sing.

Greeting Cards...At this time of the year we often receive packets of greeting cards in the mail or find some as we do spring cleaning. If one does not have use for all of them, the Pastoral Care Team is willing to accept donations of cards as we send out a fair number of all occasion cards to members of our church family during the year. The church office can be notified at 546-3532 and they will be picked up or they can be dropped off at the office. Thank You.

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.

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.

Summer Hours: Starting June 7 until the end of August the church office hours will be Monday - Thursday, 8-4. Closed 12-1.

Thank you to David Cumming, Beth & Bob Sullivan for being the counters and Edie & Peter Gammon, for being the greeters for the month of May.

Thank You : The Highland View committee would like to express their sincere appreciation to all who came out to the work night on Tuesday.

*If you want to view paradise,
simply look around and view it.
Anything you want to, do it.
Want to change the world?
There's nothing to it.
Willy Wonka:*

Community Events

Central United Clifton. The fundraising committee will be having a plant sale on Saturday June 8 from 9-1 in the Central United church hall in Clifton. Plant donations can be brought to the hall on Friday the 7th at 6pm. If you have any questions please contact Pat Scott @ [546-3819](tel:546-3819)

"Spring Cleaning with Meaning" Clothing Drive – Parkwood Height Elementary School is working with the New Brunswick Association for Community Living to help bring awareness of the support provided by this agency for people with intellectual disabilities in our region. As a result, Parkwood Heights Elementary School will collect garbage bags of used clothing and other goods (linens, blankets, shoes, boots, curtains, and coats), and NBACL will provide a monetary contribution for each bag collected. The money received will be donated to "Help Lesotho" in support of ASD-N's "Lesotho Initiative". Items can be dropped off at the school on 1125 Highland Avenue between 8:00 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. on school days until June 7, 2019. For more information contact Gary Branch at 546-9208.

Family & Community Breakfast

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

RSVP Ministries invites you to our "Bathurst – The Place to Be" Luncheon at House of Lee – Grand Buffet, 315 Main Street, Bathurst on Wednesday, June 19, 2019, cost \$18.50, from 11:20am - 1:00pm, doors open at 11:00am. Pauline Armstrong will reveal to us the areas of hidden beauty, the adventurous activities and the down home hospitality that greet all who come to our city, Joanne Dempsey and company will provide a musical adventure, and Hazel Matheson of Salisbury NB will tell us how she found "Freedom in Forgiveness". **Reservations and cancellations are necessary.** Please contact Joanne at 542-1118 or ejgodin@bellaliant.net or contact Connie at 546-2127. Note: for those who have dietary restrictions, please contact Joanne for the alternate meal.

Bathurst Pastoral Council

May 21, 2019

Bathurst Pastoral Council met in the Eddy Room at 4:00p.m. on Tuesday, May 21 with Sandra Boone presiding. Also present were Brenda Parrott, vice-chair; Judy Losier, secretary, Wayne Lord, Ian Oliver, Anne Brooks, Rick Watling, Isabel MacLaggan and Rev. Neal Palmer, who led in prayer.

The financial situation for the first four months of 2019 was encouraging, the net income for the period being \$5,069.26. Local givings were \$1250 over budget. Total operating expenses were below budget by almost \$4,000.

Reporting for the Ways and Means Sub-team, Wayne Lord, said meals will resume in September. Had it not been for sponsorship, he said the net proceeds would have been less than last year since expenses had increased.

Delegates attending Regional Council sessions in Sackville are Rev. Palmer, Martha Vickers and Isabel MacLaggan. Being entitled to another voting delegate, Council named Virginia Palmer to fill that role for this meeting.

Anne Brooks reported that UCW purchased sanctuary flowers for Easter and will continue to do so at other times as needed using money from the Poinsettia Fund. Plastic covers have been purchased for the Voices United hymn books for replacement as needed.

An amount of \$2000 was given to the church's General Fund by UCW and \$1000 will be given to the Mission and Service Fund for 2019 compared to \$500 last year. UCW catered to two funeral receptions recently. The UCW fall rally for the area will be held in Bathurst in September.

Ruth Lewis submitted a written request for three more volunteers on the Hospitality and Friendship Team. Rick Watling will deal with the matter.

The Christian Development team reported attendance of 60 at the Good Friday service and close to 150 on Easter Sunday. The procedures policy for greeters is being updated. As leader of the Sunday School program, Chelsey MacLaggan sees the need to have split classes next fall in order to have an older group for grade 2 and up.

The team discussed ideas of how to encourage families to bring their children to church even when Sunday School isn't being held. Also discussed was better participation in the Prayers of the People. There were two baptisms and four membership transfers in May.

Having received feedback on the communion format, it is suggested that congregants reply by saying "Thanks be to God" or "Amen" when served.

The Pastoral Care Team reported about 90 people attended the St. Patrick's event, a record to date. Among cards sent out were thank yous to the Sunday School teachers, Chelsey MacLaggan, Heather Chamberlain, Krissy McLellan, Courtney Woods, Katherine Scott and Jennifer Oliver Lavigne.

Also acknowledged were Bert Demmings and Dorothy Bond whose 100th birthdays are being celebrated in May and June respectively. Team member Gwen Sturgeon accompanied the minister as he made many get-acquainted visits to shut-in members of our church family.

The Community Outreach Sub-team reported having an interesting discussion on how to help more people.

The Property Management Team continues to handle ongoing matters such as fire alarm and emergency lights inspection, air exchanger replacement, painting of kitchen and shed as well as the purchasing of a vacuum cleaner, a hot water heater, office chair, solar power motion lights and recycling bins.

It was agreed the church office will be closed on Fridays for the summer months beginning on June 7 and ending on the last Friday of August as was the case last year.

The high school graduation service at the church will be held on June 2, earlier than last year.

Rev. Palmer reported on the newly-formed youth group. He said he was impressed with the 10 high school students who attended the first gathering. He said many of their program suggestions had to do with what they could give back to the community.

The next meeting of Council will be held on September 24.

Respectfully submitted

Isabel MacLaggan



A New Beginning

*As you make a new beginning in your life, graduate,
be aware of important things
you didn't learn in school:*

*As you pursue your dreams,
remember to take time to help and serve others
even if doing so slows you down a little.*

*As you explore and develop your unique talents,
remain humble,
realizing that your special abilities
are gifts from God.*

*As life hands you challenges, welcome them
as ways to become smarter and stronger.*

*As you acquire material things,
know that your most important possessions
are honesty, integrity,
and the desire to make a difference.*

Congratulations, graduate.

*May your new path take you where you want to go
and also bring you pleasant surprises!*

By Joanna Fuchs



Graduation

2019

*Michelle Buzas
Jayne Carey
Amanda Godin
Shane Spragg
Jarrett Wood*

*Guest Speaker
Emma Vickers*

Special music provided today by:

*BHS Choir
Trumpeter: Jeff MacQuarrie*

Acts 16:16-34 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Paul and Silas in Prison

¹⁶ One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling.

¹⁷ While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you^[a] a way of salvation."

¹⁸ She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹ But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities.

²⁰ When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews

²¹ and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe."

²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods.

²³ After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely.

²⁴ Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

²⁶ Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.

²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped.

²⁸ But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here."

²⁹ The jailer^[b] called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.

³⁰ Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

³¹ They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

³² They spoke the word of the Lord^[c] to him and to all who were in his house.

³³ At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay.

³⁴ He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.