

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

**November 24, 2019**

**Minister** Rev. Neal Palmer      **Organist** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Isabel Clouston      **Greeters** Beth & Bob Sullivan  
**Custodian** Steve White

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<b>Lectionary for today</b>	<b>Lectionary for next Sunday</b>
<i>Jeremiah 23:1-6</i> <i>Luke 1:68-79</i> <i>Colossians 1:11-20</i> <i>Luke 23:33-43</i>	<i>Isaiah 2:1-5</i> <i>Psalms 122</i> <i>Romans 13:11-14</i> <i>Matthew 24:36-44</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.*

*GATHERING*

**MUSIC AS WE GATHER**

**WELCOME** (including our friends worshipping by CD)

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**CENTRING FOR WORSHIP** - "Gather Us In" – MV #7

*Gather us in, ground us in you.*  
*Gather us in, ground us in you.*  
*Gather us in, gather us in,*  
*ground us, ground us in you.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsively)

Come to this sacred place where neighbours and friends gather.

**We come to worship in community.**

Come to this sacred place where strangers are embraced.

**We come to worship in community.**

Come to this sacred place where those stigmatized, bullied, minimized, ignored, or simply forgotten are now called friends.

**We come to worship in community.**

**GATHERING PRAYER**

**\*GATHERING HYMN** – "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" – VU #375

**PRAYER OF HUMILITY** (responsively)

... divine compassion may fill us, redemption guide our steps, and peace be that which we follow.

**Amen**

**WORDS OF AFFIRMATION** –

"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.*

**\*GREETING ONE ANOTHER** (responsively)

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**SHARING A STORY** (with children of all ages)

**\*SINGING A SONG** – "We Praise You for the Sun" – VU #225

*ENGAGING*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Jeremiah 23:1-6  
[Based on] Colossians 1:11-20

*Catherine Eddy*

**REFLECTION**

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**ANTHEM** – "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

*RESPONDING*

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

*Bev Murphy*

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**THE OFFERING IS GATHERED**

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

**\*OFFERING HYMN**

*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.*

**\*OFFERING PRAYER** (in unison)

**Holy One,  
we believe that everything  
will be made new again  
and that your great work has already begun.  
Let our offerings,  
our generosity,  
and our commitment,  
Holy One, be part of the remaking  
of the world in your image.  
Amen.**

**SHARING OUR CONCERNS –**

“Put Peace into Each Other’s Hands” – MV #173 (Verse 1)  
*Put peace into each other’s hands  
and like a treasure hold it,  
protect it like a candle flame,  
with tenderness enfold it.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil:  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory forever and ever.  
Amen.**

*GOING OUT* (as God’s people)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN –**

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” – VU #264

**\*BLESSING**

**\*GOING FORTH – “May the God of Peace” – MV #224**

*May the God of peace and of all good,  
may the God of peace and of all good  
be always with you. Amen!  
May God’s peace be with you. Amen!*

**POSTLUDE**



# Church News

## This Week at First United –Nov. 24 – Nov.30

Sunday	11am	Children Choir Practice
Monday	9am	Ways & Means – Eddy Rm
	9-11am	Badminton
	6:15pm	Beaver Scouts rms. 1,2&3
Tuesday	6:30	Cub Scouts - DEMH Gym
Wednesday	9 – 11:30	TAB
	9-11am	Badminton
	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Thursday		Turkey Supper

The bulletin today has been placed  
*in loving memory of George Jardine*  
by Bernice.

### Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2019      **900**

Total Collected      **821**

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect  
16-17 jars of peanut butter per week.

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



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

**2020 Envelopes:** The Contribution Envelopes for 2020 are located in  
the Narthex. Please insure that envelopes for the correct year are  
used as individual contribution #'s may have changed.

**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 Hospitality and Friendship Committee** is looking for a  
chairperson and also people to help with coffee time after Sunday's  
services. If you are able to help in either of these positions please  
contact Rick Watling at 548-9361



## Turkey Harvest Supper

*Sponsored by*  
*Kenny's Trucking LTD.*  
*and*  
*Shine House*  
*(A Division of Stothart Automotive)*

Thursday, **November 28, 2019**

Donald Eddy Memorial Hall

Adults \$ 15 – Children (12 and under) \$ 6

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Takeouts available 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

All tickets sold in advance.

For information call 546-3532



### Christmas Luncheon & Bake Sale

Friday, Dec. 6, 2019 Donald Eddy Memorial Hall 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Lunch is assorted sandwiches, fruit salad and small cakes,  
coffee/tea. Bake table with pies, fudge, preserves, cookies and  
cakes, jams/jellies. Anyone wishing to donate baking, homemade  
beans, preserves, tea biscuits etc. for the bake table is asked to bring  
it to the DEMH on Thursday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> between 9 & 1 or Friday  
morning prior to the Luncheon.

Admission \$10, children (12 & under) \$5 Tickets available from the  
First United Church office.

**Silent Auction:** There are a number of items in the Narthex that are being auctioned in a silent auction as a fund raiser sponsored by the Friends of First Team. Next to each item there is a bid sheet. If there is an item that you are interested in, -please feel free to add your bid. Bids are to be increased in no less than \$2.00 increments. The person with the highest bid at 1pm on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> will be awarded the item.



**Poinsettia Fund:** Once again this year we are hoping to have the beauty of our sanctuary enhanced with poinsettias for the Christmas season. Those wishing to contribute to the annual poinsettia fund may place an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Please mark clearly on the face of the envelope – Poinsettia Fund with your name, PAR or envelope number. List the names that you wish to have printed in the Christmas bulletin insert. Donations will also be received in the church office – deadline is December 16, 2019.



**Christmas Hymn Sing Concert  
Joy to the World!**

The annual Christmas Hymn Sing will be held on Sunday, Dec, 15, 2019 at 2pm, First United Church, Bathurst.(Storm Date - Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> 7pm) Come join with us as we celebrate the Christmas season with familiar carols as well as new selections you are sure to enjoy. The choir will be joined by Amanda Godin, Emma Vickers, Take Note, Catalyst, BHS Choir, and our very own Children's Choir! Cost \$10 adults, \$5 youth. Tickets are available from choir members, the church office 546-3532 and at the door.

**Annual Christmas Benevolence Program:** For those interested in supporting this benevolence program, donation envelopes are available on the Christmas tree located at the entrance to the sanctuary. The White gift service will be on Sunday, December 8, and the envelopes can be returned at that time. Any personal cheque may be made payable to First United Church. Donations to this fund will be used to support the volunteer center as well as those people in our congregation who find it difficult, financially, throughout the year.



**Attention all hand quilters:** If you like to hand quilt or would like to learn to hand quilt come and join us at TAB each Wednesday morning at 9am-11:30am. In rooms 1,2 & 3 of the Donald Eddy memorial Hall. Contact Anne Brooks 548-2156, Pat Thibideau 546-2702 or Karen Whelton 546-6273. Tea and Coffee supplied. All new members welcome.

*Better a thousand times careful  
than once dead.*

*~Proverb~*

## Community Events

**"Reflections of Christmases Past"** - a "Spirit of Christmas 2019" Holiday Show will feature performances by local musicians, Anick Turner, Dorothy Roy- Nini, and Rosalind Kennedy – Townsend ; Andre Arseneau, Donald Lagace, and Louis Elliot; Bathurst Youth Singers Alumni; Bernie Beaudoin; Catalyst (Alysa Collins, Claudette Belliveau, Eddie Edwards); Danse Bogeste; Elizabeth Willett-Blanchard; Jeff Long; the Landry School of Dance; Michelle and Stephane Hebert; Movement Workshop; Ragged Haggis (Alistair Tulloch, Craig Caldwell, and Jason Nicol); Stacy Hickey-Buraglia; and Take Note. The concert will take place at the Gwendolyn Kent Auditorium, Bathurst High School, on Saturday, November 30, (7:00 P.M.) and Sunday, December 1, (2:00 P.M.), 2019. The concert is being held in support of the "Spirit of Christmas" Senior Initiative. Tickets are \$15.00 and are available from participating members, committee members, Tower Jewellers (181 Main Street), Kent and White Insurance (280 Main Street), Parkwood Heights Elementary School (1125 Highland Avenue) and at the door.

### **Bathurst Community Orchestra Christmas Concert**

Saturday Dec 14th at 6:30 p.m. at Evangel Church  
150 Basin Road, Bathurst. Tickets \$10 and \$5/child under 12  
Tickets available at the door or in advance at a Few Splinters,  
Main Street or Evangel Church office.  
In Support Of: Evangel Mission Team Construction Project

**Gifts Galore & More** Team Esperanza will be holding a craft sale on Saturday, November 30th at the Home of Marie Oliver, 720A Assumption Ct from 10AM-1PM. Primarily featured will be Marie's creativity on hand- painted glasses, coasters, ornaments, hand bags, etc. along with stocking stuffers. As well, shoppers who want a break can enjoy beverages & finger foods for \$5. Don't forget your shopping bags! All proceeds will be donated to Servant's Heart Ministries, a Canadian charity, that provides loving outreach to the poor of the Dominican Republic & Haiti. For more information, call Marie (548-3493) or Helen Knowles (546-9563).

**Christmas fun auction** in Basement of Holy Family Church, on Sunday November 24th, doors open at 6pm. A Charge of \$5.00 per person to enter. There will be room set up to sell baked goods, breads, preserves, jams, crafts etc. We will have a 50/50. There will be a silent auction as well as a regular auction. There will be some entertainment. Refreshments and sweets available for purchase. Tickets will be sold before and after the 11 o'clock at both entrance of the church. Tickets will be available at the door.

**Saint George's Choir** will be presenting an evening of Christmas Music on Thursday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. A light lunch will follow in the Hall.

### **Family & Community Breakfast**

Saturday, December 14, 2019, 8:00 – 10:00 am  
Saint George's Church Hall, 432 King Avenue

**Mille Cherubini in Coro!** Immerse yourself in the Holiday spirit with the Louisbourg Choir under the direction of **Monique Richard!** For this magnificent Christmas concert, the choir will feature tenor **Éric Thériault**, singing classics of the season, from both classical and traditional repertoires. At First United Church Bathurst, Saturday, December 7, at 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$30, at the door. Free for students.

*We all have our limitations,  
but when we listen to our critics,  
we also have theirs.*

*~Robert Brault~*

## *It Couldn't Be Done*

*Somebody said that it couldn't be done,  
But he with a chuckle replied  
That maybe it couldn't, but he would be one  
Who wouldn't say no till he'd tried.  
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin  
On his face. If he worried he hid it.  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done, and he did it.*

*Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;  
At least no one ever has done it;"  
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,  
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.  
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,  
Without any doubting or quiddit,  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done, and he did it.*

*There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,  
There are thousands to prophesy failure;  
There are thousands to point out to you, one by one,  
The dangers that wait to assail you.  
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,  
Just take off your coat and go to it;  
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing  
That "cannot be done," and you'll do it.*

*By Edgar A. Guest*

**Jeremiah 23:1-6 New International Reader's Version  
(NIRV)**

**The Godly Branch**

23 "How terrible it will be for the shepherds who lead my people astray!" announces the LORD. "They are destroying and scattering the sheep that belong to my flock."

<sup>2</sup> So the LORD, the God of Israel, speaks to the shepherds who take care of my people. He tells them, "You have scattered my sheep. You have driven them away. You have not taken good care of them. So I will punish you for the evil things you have done," announces the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> "I myself will gather together those who are left alive in my flock. I will gather them out of all the countries where I have driven them. And I will bring them back to their own land. There my sheep will have many lambs. There will be many more of them.

<sup>4</sup> I will place shepherds over them who will take good care of them. My sheep will not be afraid or terrified anymore. And none of them will be missing," announces the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> "A new day is coming," announces the LORD.  
"At that time I will raise up for David's royal line  
a godly Branch.  
He will be a King who will rule wisely.  
He will do what is fair and right in the land.

<sup>6</sup> In his days Judah will be saved.  
Israel will live in safety.  
And the Branch will be called  
The LORD Who Makes Us Right With Himself.

**Based on Colossians 1:11-20**

We were a new church, young and still trying to find our place. I was just little when my father took my mother and me to a small gathering of people to talk about the teachings of a man named Jesus. We were mostly a group of Gentiles, but there were a few Jews there, too. Everyone was excited because there was so much to talk about and learn.

Most of the elders spoke of a man named Paul, who had first taught them about Jesus and helped them establish the church, but it had been some time since Paul had been to visit. Sometimes they received letters from Paul and other teachers, though. The letters helped teach us more about living in God's way. I still have one of those letters. I take it out from time to time to read to my grandchildren. May I read it to you?

It said:

*May you all feel strong with the strength that comes from the power of God. May you live each day with patience and joy, giving thanks to God for all your blessings.*

*God has saved us from the depths of fear and sin and brought us into the reign of God's child, Jesus. Jesus gives us an image of the invisible God. It is hard to picture God, who was the first-born of all creation, who made the heavens, the earth, and all the things we see, and even the things we cannot see! But Jesus shows us these things, Jesus is the one who holds it all together. Like the head on a body, Jesus is the head of the church. Through Jesus, God came to reunite all things, whether on heaven or earth, and make peace.*

Did you understand all that? Me neither. I understand it better, now that I am an old woman. As a child, it both puzzled me and comforted me. I liked the idea of being strong through God. I have begun to understand more about the holy mystery, and though I am still puzzled, I am also amazed and filled with wonder, and indeed a strength that comes from God.