

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

March 1, 2020

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

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7</i> <i>Psalm 32</i> <i>Romans 5:12-19</i> <i>Matthew 4:1-11</i>	<i>Genesis 12:1-4a</i> <i>Psalm 121</i> <i>Romans 4:1-5, 13-17</i> <i>John 3:1-17</i>

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

GATHERING



MUSIC AS WE GATHER

WELCOME (including our friends worshipping by CD)

LIGHTING THE LENTEN CANDLES

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP - "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.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – "Let Us Build a House" – MV #1

Let us build a house where love can dwell
And all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
Rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions;

Refrain:

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
And words are strong and true,
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
And as symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

Refrain:

Let us build a house where hands will reach
Beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
And live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
Bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:

Refrain:

Let us build a house where all are named,
Their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed
As words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
Prayers of faith and songs of grace;
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

Refrain:

A LENTEN SPIRITUAL PRACTICE (Doubt)

Let's pray together...

**God of the Lenten journey,
as the smoke from this candle rises to greet you,
may it take with it our doubts.
Offer us this day a stronger faith:
that you are with us
even though we doubt and question;
that you are with us
filling us with the power and ability
to face the challenges of this life;
that you are with us
helping us to learn and grow
through this desert time.**

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.*

***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** –

"The Church Is Wherever God's People" - VU 579

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Matthew 4:1-11

Joanne Wiseman

***HYMN** – "Jesus, Tempted in the Desert" – VU #115

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

-3-

ANTHEM – "Like a Candle"

Like a candle burning wildly,
Raging soft against the night,
Spark that leaps to clear the shadows
Sending warm disturbing light.
We are called to live the passion,
Hope stands strong against all pain,
For it's only in the burning
That the candle shows its flame.

Lake a river running freely,
Rapids swirl beside our feet,
Swiftly flowing from the highland
Comes to rest, still waters meet.
All our journeys rising, falling,
Making turns we least expect,
When the Spirit churns within us,
Know God's power through the test.

Like an angel walking lightly
On this fragile earth of clay,
Touching folk with raw compassion,
Laughing, playing on the way,
Freely living every moment
In the mystery of grace.
Giving, dying, living, rising,
See the beauty of God's face.

See the hope that burns in darkness,
Show compassion, strong and kind,
Bind the hurt and broken - hearted,
Be God's hands and voice and eyes.
Sing a new song every sunrise,
Climb to places out of reach,
Walk in freedom of God's Spirit,
As we die so we shall live.

We are called to live the passion,
Hope stands strong against all pain.
For it's only on the burning
That the candle shows its flame.

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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**

*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 of love.*

***OFFERING PRAYER** (responsively)

We know very little of your plan for us, Holy One, but will pursue it in the mystery of our faith—that you know us, love us, and teach us, about you and ourselves, all at once.

We belong to one another.

We hunger for the stories and conversations that expose us, challenge us, and help us discover the wisdom in your teachings.

We belong to one another.

We bring these gifts, Generous One, to choose life for others, as well as, for ourselves.

Amen.

SHARING OUR CONCERNS – “Hold Us in Your Grace”

*Hold us in your grace, O God,
Hold us in your grace.*

*Hold us in your grace, O God,
Hold us in your grace.*

*Hold us, hold us in your grace.
Hold us, hold us in your grace.*

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (responsively)

When natural disasters displace us, Holy One, we run into the embrace of your unfailing love.

We belong to one another.

When fear and famine drive us from our homes, Holy One, we need food and family.

We belong to one another.

In our search for love and safety, we're tempted to give in to selfish desires and to ignore the needs of others. But—you call us to generosity.

We belong to one another.

Help us, Holy One, to find our true selves in your abundant grace.

We belong to one another.

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** – “Will You Come and Follow Me” – VU #567

***BLESSING** (responsively)

...Go in peace—to learn, serve, and share—in the abundance for which we've been created.

We belong to one another.

Amen

Church News

***GOING FORTH** – “An Old Irish Blessing”

*May the road rise to meet you.
 May the wind be ever at your back.
 May sun shine warm upon your face
 and the rains fall soft upon your fields.
 And until we meet again, and until we meet again,
 May you be held in the hollow of God’s hand.*

POSTLUDE

This Week at First United –March 3 – March 7

Monday	9-11am	Badminton 9-11am
	6:15	Beaver Scouts – Rms 1,2&3
Tuesday	1:30	UCW – Eddy Rm
	6:30	Cub Scouts DEMH Gym
Wednesday	9-11am	Badminton
	9-11:30	TAB – Rms 1,2 &3
	6:30	Choir Practice
Thursday	2pm	Profession of Faith Chats - Eddy Rm.
Friday	1:30	Games Afternoon - DEMH

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2020 **900**

Total Collected **156**

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



*This is how God showed his love among us:
 He sent his one and only Son into the world
 that we might live through him.
 1 John 4:9 NIV*

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.

Lost and Found: There have been a number of items accumulating over the last while. Please check the box in the Narthex if you are missing anything. Keys, glasses, jewelry, umbrella ect. If you are missing something you might be able to find it there.

A new CD titled “Sounds from the Bay” featuring a variety of music has recently been recorded by Linda Knowles MacPherson and Donald Eddy. A copy may be obtained at the church office with a donation to the Ministry of Music at First United Church.

World Day of Prayer... Friday, March 6, 2020. The Holy Family CWL, the WDP local committee including our UCW and the Women of WDP Zimbabwe committee are delighted to invite you to an Ecumenical Worship Service of peace, love and reconciliation at 3:00pm on Friday, March 6, at Holy Family Church. A brief summary of Life in Zimbabwe will be presented by participating women. Following the service refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

A St Patrick's Gathering sponsored by the Pastoral Care Team of First United Church will be held on Tuesday, March 17th, from 1:30-3:30pm. Music will be provided by Linda Knowles-MacPherson and "The Treble Makers". A light lunch will be enjoyed. Donations of non-perishable goods for the Volunteer Center will be collected. Everyone welcome.

Thank You to all who supported the Sunrise Breakfast held on Feb. 23rd \$ 2000.00 was raised. Thanks to all the volunteers who make these events possible. A special thanks to our sponsor for this event, Bayside Automotive Group. Our next Ways and Means event will be the Ham and Scallop supper to be held on March 26, 2020.

Thank you Lois Beaven, Lester Scott and Peter Gammon for being our greeters and to Haines Scott and David Cumming for being the counters for the month of February.

Community Events

Family & Community Breakfast

Saturday, March 14, 2020 8:00 – 10:00 am
Saint George's Church Hall 432 King Avenue

*"Doubt
isn't the opposite of faith;
it is an element of faith."
— Paul Tillich*

Announcements from Council

1. We have regretfully received notification that our office administrator will be retiring effective the end of June this year. If you might be interested in this position or would like further information, please contact Wayne Lord. 548-8411
2. Rev. Roger Janes, Regional Council Minister for Stewardship will be doing a workshop at First United on Saturday, April 25, 2020 for the former Miramichi Presbytery area. Volunteers are needed to assist with the planning and suggestions are welcome as to what the focus of the workshop will be. Some possibilities might be:
 - setting up a congregational stewardship program
 - legacy giving,
 - how to encourage more PAR givers
 - creating a culture of stewardship in our churches
 - talking money from the pulpitIf you would like to attend this workshop, if you have specific areas you would like to see addressed or if you are able to help with the planning of the workshop please contact:
Charlene Maguire MacKnight at 506-773-9932 or chathamstauc@nb.aibn.com
3. **Intermediates at Conference** is looking for facilitators for Conference 2020! This is youth event for grades 7-9, that is only made possible by our incredible volunteers. If you have a passion for youth, and are looking for a way to give back to the youth in our church, we would love for you to join our team! Facilitators need to be at least 18 years old by the start of conference, and be available from May 21-24, 2020. If you might be interested in being a facilitator, please contact the church office for an application form.
4. **Youth Forum is looking for facilitators for 2020!** Youth Forum is a youth event for grades 9 to age 19, that is only made possible by our incredible volunteers. If you have a passion for youth, and are looking for a way to give back to the youth in our church, we would love for you to join our team! Facilitators need to be at least 21 years old and be available April 15th for a training day and from May 21-24, 2020 for the main event! If you might be interested in being a facilitator, please contact the church office for an application form.

ADVICE FROM A

Sunflower:

BE BRIGHT,
SUNNY AND
POSITIVE.

Spread
seeds of
happiness

RISE, SHINE,
AND HOLD YOUR
HEAD HIGH.



Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;

¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

The Fall

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,

³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

⁴ "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman.

⁵ "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Matthew 4:1-11 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted^[a] by the devil.

² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

³ The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'^[b]"

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.

⁶ "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'^[c]"

⁷ Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'^[d]"

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'^[e]"

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.