



Happy Thanksgiving 2021

As I write, the inaugural *National Day for Truth and Reconciliation* is now history. It, having been held, on Thursday, September 30th. That, however, doesn't mean our indigenous friends and the legacy of residential schools will fall off the radar for the next twelve months. We, on the contrary, may hear even more.

Because, well, contrary to what's written (or not) in our history books, our indigenous friends have been more involved in our lives than we might think. Recently, while preparing for this *Greeting*, I became even more aware of that. It's interesting, I find, how new information can influence our way of thinking. And, not just theologically.

First things first, though. Do you know when we, living here in modern day Canada, first celebrated Thanksgiving? It was the pilgrims, right, back in 1621, when they gave thanks for the end of a drought and a bountiful harvest? Well no, that actually happened at Plymouth, Massachusetts. Therefore, not within the confines of our country at all.

The explorer Martin Frobisher, then? As the story goes, he and his crew, in 1587, gave thanks and communion was observed, either on land at Frobisher Bay, in present day Nunavut, or on board a ship anchored there. They dined on salt beef, biscuits, and mushy peas and gave thanks for their safe arrival in what was then known as Newfoundland. Forty-three years, I might add, before the aforementioned first "American" Thanksgiving.

Then, on November 14th, 1606, Samuel de Champlain held huge feasts of thanksgiving between local Mi'kmaq and the French. Although not known by the settlers at the time, cranberries, rich in vitamin C, what they called *petites pommes rouge* (little red apples), are credited with helping them avoid scurvy.

And so, we settlers here were the first to celebrate Thanksgiving, right?

Well, not so fast. Traditions of giving thanks long predate our arrival here in North America. First Nations have had traditions of thanksgiving for surviving winter and receiving crops and game as a reward for their hard work for some time. These traditions include feasting, prayer, dance, potlatch, and other ceremonies, depending on those giving thanks. Geographically, needless to say, the area in question is huge.

And so, guess what? We, nor the Americans, were first. Furthermore, it's likely the neighbouring Mi'kmaq introduced the French to cranberries.

Champlain appears to have recognized this. His feast became more than an annual affair. To prevent the scurvy epidemic that had decimated the settlement at Ile Sainte-Croix in past winters, the *Ordre de Bon Temps* (Order of Good Cheer) was founded, offering festive meals every few weeks—with *medical articles* recommending better nutrition and entertainment to combat the deadly disease. Scurvy, ironically, caused by the lack of vitamin C.

Who, then, in addition to firstly God, and then, family and friends, might we be thankful for this time around?

For me, the answer is clear. Our indigenous friends, hands down.

The question being, how will they know? How can they be shown?

My hope and prayer is that we'll figure that out, and soon, through a working group, that's been set up within our Christian Development Team. If you'd like to be part of the conversation, please let Martha Vickers and/or myself know. We'd love hear from you.

In the meantime, Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Yours in Christ, in friendship, and in justice...

Rev. Neal

Up-Coming Events at First United

October 10th – Thanksgiving / Holy Communion

November 7th – Remembrance Sunday

Late November – Take Out Turkey Supper

Christian Development Team

Your Christian Development Team has continued to meet, virtually, throughout the pandemic. Our most recent meeting was September 16th, via Zoom.

We reviewed services since June. Madison Lee was the guest speaker for our Graduation service in June. She did a wonderful job. It was nice to see the many grads who attended.

Different ways of delivering services were used during Rev. Neal's vacation, with positive feedback. World Wide communion was October 3rd. The Thanksgiving service on October 10th promises to be special with autumn decorations. Anyone with decorations, produce, preserves etc. are asked to bring them to the church by October 7th. Gary Branch has once again volunteered to coordinate the display.

Some congregants are having trouble hearing in the sanctuary. The Finance team has approved the purchase of 5 additional hearing accessories. These can be picked up just prior to the service at the sound station, and then returned immediately afterwards. Reports are that they make a real difference.

Unfortunately Sunday school will not be reconvening in the next few months due to Covid-19.

We thank Don Eddy and Josh Gammon for all they do to make the services available online. Many people are very grateful. In the meantime stay safe and stay hopeful!

Community Outreach Team

The Community Outreach team continues to offer support to those within the community who are in need.

Julie Spence has joined the team! The team are also looking for a new chairperson. Please contact Helen Knowles (546-9563) for additional information.

465 jars of peanut butter have been collected for the Volunteer Center to the end of September. The Volunteer Center supplies approximately 500 households monthly.

This year First United also assisted the Volunteer Center by donating school supplies and monetary assistance collected here at the church.



Thanksgiving Worship Service & Holy Communion

10 AM - October 10, 2021

Anyone wishing to contribute items to decorate the church are encouraged to bring them in by 3 PM Thursday October 7th

Newsletters

To date, there are 105 households receiving the newsletter online. We thank all who have requested to be part of our online distribution. If you wish to have your letters in the future sent directly to your email send your request to firstadmin@nb.aibn.com.

Finance Team

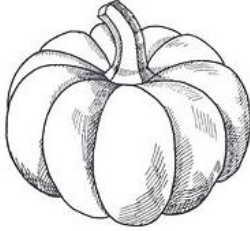
The committee met on September 27, 2021. The church has a loss of \$31,000 to September 30th, with the expenses being in line with the budget. Revenue is \$42,000 below budget due to a lack of fundraising.

Special envelopes for Thanksgiving contributions can be picked up from the church office or found in the Narthex prior to the worship service.

Church envelopes for the coming year will soon be available. If you haven't had contribution envelopes in the past and wish to have them for 2022, please advise the church office. Another way of making contributions is through PAR.

PAR: Pre Authorized Remittance (PAR) is a convenient way to support the ongoing work of your church. Your monthly contributions are taken directly from your bank account or charged to a Major Credit Card. Currently we have 95 households using this method of support. Signing up for PAR takes only a few minutes and can be done for you at the church office. All that is required is a void cheque or your credit card information.

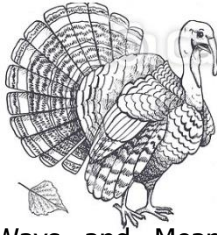
What do you get when you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter?



Pumpkin pi!

Ways & Means Team

The Ways and Means team would like to express a sincere thank you to all who helped in anyway with our Take-Out Beef BBQ. Because of the generous sponsorship of the Hatheway Group, the Ways and Means team realized a profit of approximately \$3,900.00.



The next Ways and Means team event will hopefully take place in late November - a take-out only **TURKEY SUPPER**.

West Bathurst Cemetery Team

The West Bathurst Cemetery Committee is responsible for the upkeep of the West Bathurst Cemetery on St. Anne Street and St. Luke's "Old Scottish" Cemetery on St. Luke's Court. The committee, whose members include: Robert Branch, Chairperson; Heidi Jansson; Byron Mclean; Robert Willis and Gary Branch, Secretary; met on May 5, 2021. The committee agreed to hire Shawn's Lawn and Property Maintenance for the 2021 mowing season. A spring clean-up of both cemeteries was completed. Four burials took place at West Bathurst Cemetery this year to date.

The Public Works Department of the city of Bathurst was contacted about the damage to the gate and fence at St. Luke's Cemetery from snow being piled on both by the city plow. Public Works replaced the fence and moved and repaired the gate to prevent further damage.

On June 5, 2021, our committee was contacted by Bathurst City Police about a car accident that had caused damage to the gate, fence, and a gravestone at West Bathurst Cemetery. An estimate of

\$10,322.40 to replace/repair the gate and fence was obtained from Expert Fence. Also, an estimate of \$517.50 was obtained from Maritime Monument Works to repair and place the gravestone back on its base. A police report was required to proceed, so with help from Hugh Schryer this was obtained on August 5, 2021. Since the driver was not insured, an application to the "Uninsured Automobile Fund" was completed and mailed on August 12, 2021 and, as of now, we still have not received a reply to our request for financial assistance.

A special "thank you" is extended to those who continue to support the West Bathurst Cemetery with their donations or through PAR donations. A total of \$2,425 has been donated so far this year.

Follow-Up to Orange Shirt/Truth and Reconciliation Day

Candy Palmateer, comedian, lawyer, broadcaster and formerly from New Brunswick, is recommending the following books for those who are interested in learning and understanding more about the impacts of the residential schools in Canada:

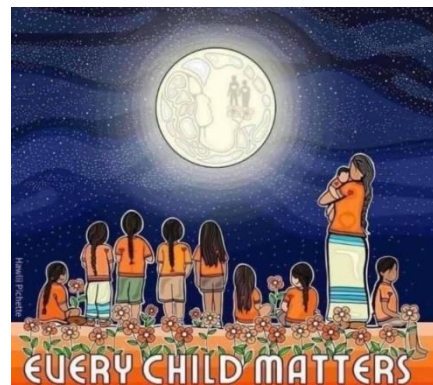
Fiction:

- Five Little Indians by Michelle Good, and
- Indian Horse by Richard Wagamese

Non-Fiction:

- Seven Fallen Feathers by Tanya Talaga
- Inconvenient Indian by Thomas King
- Out of the Depths by Gillian Thomas and Isabelle Knockwood
- My Conversations with Canadians by Lee Maracle

If you are interested in working with a few members of First United to discuss the introduction of a **Land Acknowledgement statement** in our worship services, please let Martha Vickers know. Youth would be most welcome too!



Interested in Regional Church Team?

We need YOU!!

Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council is looking for lay members to be on the **Affirm Committee, and the Archives and Records Committee**. They would like to make use of your wisdom, interest and/or energy! Please consider these opportunities and if you think you may be interested, please contact Rev. Neal, Martha Vickers, or Jini Palmer for further information. The links below will also provide you with additional information.

<https://ucceast.ca/fundy-st-lawrence-dawning-waters-regional-council-14/affirm-committee/>

<https://ucceast.ca/fundy-st-lawrence-dawning-waters-regional-council-14/fslwd-archives-and-records-committee/>

Workshops

1 - Title: To Archive or Not To Archive?

Presented by: Sarah Wallace, Archivist, FSLDW and Region 15

Date: October 20, 2021 Time: 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Format: Zoom

R.S.V.P.: jmandrs@mta.ca by October 18, 2021

2 - Title: Artifacts Unlocked!

Presented by: Julielynn Anderson, Chair, Archives and Records FSLDW and member of the

Denominational Working Group on Artifacts

Date: October 28, 2021 Time: 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Format: Zoom

R.S.V.P.: jmandrs@mta.ca by October 26, 2021

What is a pumpkin's favourite sport?



Squash!

Guaranteed Livable Income

Poverty can happen very quickly to anyone. A guaranteed livable income would help address the persistent inequities within our country.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized our interconnectedness to one another across this country. As a church we seek to care for and uplift human dignity and spirit from birth through death..."

—Moderator Richard Bott

For further information please see:

<https://united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/create-guaranteed-livable-income-program>



Annual Remembrance Service

Each year, on the Sunday immediately prior to Remembrance Day, we honour our war veterans as well as those who lost their lives in war. Our Remembrance Service will be Held, Sunday, November 7th. Those wishing to place memorial crosses in the sanctuary are reminded to contact the Legion office directly.

COVID-19 Response Team

Your Covid Response Team continues to meet as needed to ensure that we are complying with all recommendations and mandates from both our national church and the provincial government. Decisions are always made with the safety and security of all concerned foremost in our minds. We always try to err on the side of caution. We thank each and every one of you for your cooperation in following our directives. If you have any concerns please feel free to contact a team member or email the church office and Margaret will forward your concern to our team. Together we will get through these challenging times.

COVID-19 Update

To do our part in keeping the community and our church family as safe as possible, effective September 22, 2021, anyone 12 years or older will be asked to show proof of being fully vaccinated (two doses) or medically exempt when entering the church building. This practice will continue for Sunday services and those visiting the Church office and buildings during the week, until further notice.

We are also required to wear masks at all times while in the church building. The GOOD NEWS is that we are able to continue congregational singing while wearing our masks! Physical distancing in the seating arrangements will also continue.

Why did the police arrest the turkey?



They suspected fowl play!

Autumn - Word Search

Y Z T T Q P M O C T O B E R F Y A
A T Z E Q U I N O X Z N S R E N S
C H W K M N I K P M U P O K H O P
H A B I Z L N Q E W P S R V V S O
I N C N N R O C H M T U C Z W A R
L K P E H D E O A A T C O L D E C
L S V E O M Y B H N R B L U B S N
Y G W W W F X A M C N V H M N W F
I I D O A E Y P R E S I E I S T A
O V D L H S A U Q S T V N S B T R
U I L L T D U F W S O P Z G T I M
H N G A I I V F A N U W E K M P I
E G C H O D Z E K A R N D S M M N
H K L E P E F Z C Z I X X M Y I G

CANNING

CHILLY

COLD

CROPS

EQUINOX

FALL

FARMING

FEAST

FROST

HALLOWEEN

HARVEST

HAYSTACK

NOVEMBER

OCTOBER

PUMPKIN

RAKE

SCHOOL

SEASON

SEPTEMBER

SQUASH

THANKSGIVING

TURKEY

WINDY