

Happy Thanksgiving

2023



Thanksgiving is a national civic holiday in Canada that is celebrated on the second Monday of October. It was established by a government decree in 1859 and then became an annual event in 1879—with varying dates and themes.

The reason behind celebrating Thanksgiving is to honor life's blessings, to give thanks for a good harvest, and other fortunes, and to follow the traditions of Indigenous and Protestant cultures. The holiday is not *religious* per se, but rather a time for family and food.



Having said that, I respectfully disagree with the non-religious part. It's actually both! The celebration of thanksgiving, after all, can move Communities of Faith (like ours) to share an extra measure of care and compassion with those who struggle to find abundance in their lives. Some may suffer from a lack of food, others—from a lack of hope. The challenge for us being, to truly give from our abundance—from the *Spirit's* abundance—and share what we have with others. By baking bread for a hungry person, for instance, or offering an encouraging word to someone struggling from illness, *we are actually giving thanks*.



And friends, here is the good news. It's through our care for one another that we truly connect with the Divine and bring "*the way*" to the world. Jesus' *way*, that is! What, we as Christians, are *called* to.

Something very familiar to us here. Something—we do well.

Keep up the good work!

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

*Yours in Christ, in friendship, and
in thanksgiving...*

Rev. Neal



Let's have Thankful Hearts.
Happy Canadian Thanksgiving!

Up-Coming Events at First United

October 1st – World Communion Sunday
October 8th – Thanksgiving / Holy Communion
November 5th – Remembrance Sunday
Late November – Take Out Turkey Supper

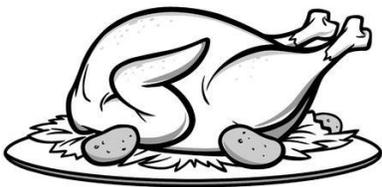
Community Outreach Team

The Community Outreach team continues to offer support to those within the community who are in need. 601 jars of peanut butter have been collected for the Volunteer Center to the middle of September. The Volunteer Center supplies approximately 400+ households monthly. This year First United also assisted Terry Fox School by donating school supplies collected here at the church.

Newsletters

To date, there are 114 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

Who is never hungry on Thanksgiving?



The turkey because he's already stuffed!

Finance Team

Financial Report as of August 31, 2023

Local Givings - Actual	\$123,436.46
Local Givings - Budgeted	<u>\$114,600.00</u>
	<u>\$ 8,836.46</u>
Total Revenue	\$174,981.36
Total Expenses	<u>\$185,564.16</u>
Actual Deficit	<u>\$(10,582.80)</u>
Budgeted Deficit	\$(16,059.44)

Church envelopes for the coming year will be available late this year. If you haven't had contribution envelopes in the past and wish to have them for 2024, please advise the church office. Another way of making contributions is through PAR.

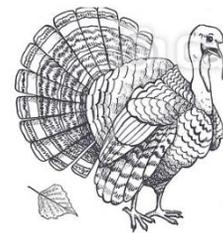
PAR: Pre Authorized Remittance (PAR) is a convenient way to support the ongoing work of your church. Your monthly contributions are taken directly from your bank account or charged to a Major Credit Card. Currently we have 94 households using this method of support. Signing up for PAR takes only a few minutes and can be done for you at the church office. All that is required is a void cheque or your credit card information.

Donation Recognition

The Council of First United Church is pleased to acknowledge a very generous donation that was bequeathed to our general operating fund and a second generous donation bequeathed to the Trinity/United Church Cemetery on Bridge Street.

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 on September 21st. A very special **"thank you"** to Hatheway Group of Companies for their generous sponsorship. The net profit will be announced in the October worship bulletin.



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



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 on **Sunday, November 5th**. Those wishing to place memorial crosses in the sanctuary are reminded to contact the Legion office directly at 506-546-3135.

Choir

The choir has resumed weekly practices – Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM. An appeal goes out for new choir members. Anyone who enjoys singing, please feel free to attend. New members are always welcome!



West Bathurst Cemetery Team

The West Bathurst Cemetery Committee is responsible for the upkeep of Saint Luke's "Old Scottish" Cemetery on St. Luke's Court and the West Bathurst Cemetery on St. Anne Street. The committee met on April 24, 2023. Committee members are Robert Branch (Committee Chair), Heidi Jansson, Robert Willis, Byron Mclean, Lester Scott, and Gary Branch (Secretary).

Lester Scott was hired for the 2023 mowing season. A spring clean-up of the two cemeteries took place in May. A thank you is expressed to Gary Burke for hauling the leaves and to Donald Eddy for hauling tree limbs to the city dumping site for organic waste. A monument was straightened at the West Bathurst Cemetery with help from Donald Eddy. Additional mowing, weeding, and tree trimming were carried out during the summer, and topsoil was spread where needed at the West Bathurst Cemetery.

The cemetery records were updated. There were two burials/committals in 2023 to date.

Work still to be completed with volunteer help includes monument repair and removal of dead trees.

A special thank you is extended to everyone who continues to support the West Bathurst Cemetery Fund with their donations. The donations made up to August 31, 2023 total - \$1,025.

Community Events

Bathurst Community Market holds their weekly market every Saturday morning from 8 AM to 1 PM in the gymnasium of the Donald Eddy Hall. Many different types of vendors selling various types of products – soaps & shampoos – fresh eggs – baking including cookies, pies and bread – wool and knitted items – jams and jellies – maple syrup – wooden crafts – Pampered Chef – sea glass – just to name a few. Breakfast also served! Come for a visit and bring a friend!!

Community Events



Chorale Voidunor is holding a musical concert here in the First United Church sanctuary on Sunday, October 22nd at 2 PM. Tickets will be \$15 per person and will be available at Tower's Jewellers or from members of the choir.

Every Monday and Wednesday from 9 AM to 11 AM there is a **Ladies Fun Badminton Group** who gather and play in the Donald Eddy Memorial Hall gymnasium. Any ladies interested in joining please contact Joyce Daley for information.

Stewardship Program

As part of our Stewardship Program here at First United, information on Planned Giving through Wills and Bequests will be made available to our congregational membership this fall. All members are encouraged to review this information and take the appropriate steps pertaining to your wishes. The information will be available at the Church office and covers all the benefits and methods of making a bequest to your Church.

You will also see some information in the regular Sunday Bulletins with quotes, thoughts and scriptures on planned giving. It is hopeful that our members will see the satisfaction of remembering First United in their estate planning.

Here is a sample quote:

"If you are going to sit under the shade of a tree that someone else planted and drink from a well that someone else dug, you should plant a tree and dig a well. When we are talking about financial stewardship, it's not about the money - it's about our attitude to faith, generosity, and money."

- Author Unknown



Sunday School teachers

needed!! If you feel you can sign up for one or two Sundays a month, let the church office know. We are looking to have enough teachers to set up a rotation schedule.

THE MOD'S BOOK SQUAD

Brew a cup of tea or pour a glass of your favourite drink, and snuggle in with a good book. Oh, and you can discuss the book with at least two friends—the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator of The United Church of Canada, and her guest—in one of Canada's biggest book clubs.

Starting September 21, 2023 and ending in June 2025, these (mostly) monthly book club sessions will feature fiction, non-fiction and poetry written by (mostly) Canadian authors. Through a lens of flourishing, the books explore:

- Dreaming, utopias, and dystopias
- The environment and resource extraction
- Urban/rural difference of experience
- Reconciliation
- Poverty
- The theology of The United Church of Canada

There will be bold ideas. There will be daring connections. There will be content you can dig your teeth into. And guaranteed, there will be laughter. Because the Mod is like that.

Get reading and join the discussion!

1. Visit your local library or purchase the books from [United Church Bookstore \(opens in a new tab\)](#)!
 - Get 15% off your purchase of two or more books featured in The Mod's Book Squad at the United Church Bookstore with the discount code MODSQUAD (applied at checkout). Visit [the collection \(opens in a new tab\)](#) to see all available featured books.
2. Register for the monthly discussions [on ChurchX \(opens in a new tab\)](#) (create or log into your account to register). All sessions run 6:30-8:00 p.m. EST.
3. Read whichever books strike your fancy. **Tune in to one session, some, or all of them.**

The List

- *The Marrow Thieves*: Cheri Dimaline
 - [Discussion: September 21, 2023](#)
 - Guest: John Thatamanil
- *Doughnut Economics*: Kate Raworth
 - [Discussion: October 19, 2023](#)
 - Guest: John Havens
- *The Wall Between*: Raja Khouri & Jeffrey Wilkinson
 - [Discussion: November 30, 2023](#)
 - Guest: Raja Khouri

What did the turkey say to the computer?

Google, google, google!



Thanksgiving Service – October 8th, 2023

Anyone wishing to contribute items to decorate the church is encouraged to bring them in by 3PM Thursday October 5th. Thank you in advance.

Hospitality Time after Worship

The Hospitality & Friendship Team is looking for individuals to assist with the preparation of the Ruth Morrison Room each Sunday prior to the service. This includes covering the tables with tablecloths, setting up the coffee and tea pots, putting out water, juice, napkins and other condiments and clean-up afterward. Please see the weekly volunteer sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Ruth Morrison Room.



Everyone please feel free to join us for fellowship and refreshments after each Sunday worship service!!

What do you call a running turkey?



Fast food!

Thanksgiving Word Search

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

Turkey
Pumpkin
Squash
Cranberries
Thanks
Family
Dinner
Grateful
Traditions
Harvest

Pilgrims
Feast
Holiday
Cornucopia
November
Maize
Yams
Pie
Plymouth
Carve

