

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

May 20, 2018

Minister Rev. Blair Lewis **Organist** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Isabel Clouston **Greeters** Edie & Peter Gammon
Custodian Alan Wilcox

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Acts 2:1-21</i> <i>Psalm 104</i> <i>Romans 8:22-27</i> <i>John 15:26-27;16:4b-15</i>	<i>Isaiah 6:1-8</i> <i>Psalm 29</i> <i>Romans 8:12-17</i> <i>John 3:1-17</i>

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

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

Musical Prelude:

Choral Opening: *'Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness* **#375 VU**
Spirit, Spirit of gentleness
Blow thro' the wilderness
Calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
Stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.

Welcome:

In the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
 who calls us to be the church
 and to celebrate God's presence,
 let us worship.

Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:
Announcements:

Lighting the Christ Candle:

One: As we light the Christ candle we open ourselves to the life-giving power of God.
 Holy Trinity, You are Sacred Three, Blessed One,

All: **God of wonder and hope,**
we pray to you,
creator, that we may give forth new life-giving love
In our daily living.

Christ, that we may be rooted deeply in this life;

Spirit, that we may soar beyond possibilities.
May your wonder- filled and comforting ways
be our ways.

Call to Worship:

One: We have been called the salt of the earth.

All: **Let us remain distinctive and salty.**

One: We have been called the light of the world.

All: **Let us shine brightly**
in the midst of pain or confusion.

One: We have been called a city set on a hill.

All: **Let us, like Jerusalem, lift our gates, lift our hearts,**
lift our voices in the worship of God.

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** *'On Pentecost They Gathered'* **#195 VU**
 (tune VU 331 Aurelia)

Children of All Ages:

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding: (in unison)

**O God,
your Word is a lamp to our feet,
and a light to our path.
Give us grace to receive your truth
in faith and love. Amen.**

Scripture Readings: Pat MacIntosh

New Testament Lesson: Romans 8:22-27

Responsive Psalm:

Psalm 104, **Pages 826 & 827 VU** (Parts 1 & 2 ref. 1)

Gospel Readings: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

***Hymn:** *'Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers'* #385 VU

Message: "The Work of the Spirit"

Anthem: *'Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom'*

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

Presentation of Gifts and Self to God:

Choral Response:

'Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow' #541 VU
**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.**

Prayer of Dedication: (in unison)

**Music and laughter,
hands and minds,
curiosity and compassion;
we thank you for the abundance of gifts we have!
All these gifts are symbolized in our offering.
We commit ourselves in service to you our God,
as we worship You with our offering.**

Call to Confession:

Let us call on the name of the one who invites us
to speak the truth about ourselves and our relationships,
and promises to show us mercy.

Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

**Generous God, you give us the gift of your Spirit,
but we confess that we have not known how to use it.
You send us the Spirit of courage,
but we have been afraid.
You send us the Spirit of truth,
but we cling to our illusions.
You send us the Spirit of healing,
but we cannot let go of our hurts.
Holy Spirit of forgiveness come to us again,
shake our hearts,
set our souls on fire with your love,
send us out into the world
rejoicing in your power.
We hold out to you
all our particular burdens of guilt and sin,
and we ask for your help
to live the way of your justice and love. Amen.**

Choral Response: *'How Deep the Peace'* #95 MV

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

Words of Assurance:

Take comfort in the assurance
that even those things that are hidden from memory,
or are too deep for our words,
are not beyond God's forgiving love.
God, who knows us completely,
bestows pardon and peace.

Silent Prayer:

Reflective Music:

Pastoral Prayer:

One: Creative Spirit, we pray for your world;
a world which longs for the breath of your renewal.
The poor gasp under the burdens of oppression;
the trees of the forest
and the fish of the sea cannot breathe.
Sweep the world with your mighty winds,
blowing away hatred and injustice, disease and hunger,
until the whole creation dances with your grace.
God, in your love,

All: hear our prayer.

One: Spirit of Truth, we pray for your church
and all who call on you as the Spirit of Jesus.
Forgive our self-absorption;
set us afire again with passion for the Good News
and help us to communicate your love for all people
and all of creation,
in terms they can understand.
God, in your love,

All: hear our prayer.

One: Spirit of comfort and challenge,
our guide and companion in life,
we pray for ourselves.
You know where we need stirring up
and where we need soothing;
direct us in the ways of holiness
and help us be Spirit-filled people.
God, in your love,

All: hear our prayer.

One: We offer our prayers for this community of faith;
for those who come to worship every week
and for those who cannot come;
for the youth and the elderly;
for newcomers and long familiar faces;
for those who are seeking to know you,
hear us.

O God, your mercy is great,

All: hear our prayer.

**All: We entrust to you
all those whose needs are known to us today
and those whose needs are only known to you.
Grant peace to all through your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Lord,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God now and forever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer:

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***Closing Hymn:** *'O God of Bethel'* **#650 VU**

Commissioning: (in unison)
**May the blessing of God,
the giver of every good and perfect gift;
and of Christ, who summons us to service;
and of the Holy Spirit,
who inspires generosity and love
be with us all.**

Blessing:

Go into the world in peace.
Love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
with all your strength,
and love your neighbour as yourself.
Mark 12:30-31

***Choral Closing:** *'Take Up His Song'* **#213 MV**
***Take up his song of hope
And go into the world
Take up his song of hope
in every moment.
In every moment of the journey,
We're laying down our lives;
Lay them down in peace,
Lay them down,
And take up his song.***

Organ Postlude:

Church News

This Week at First United –May 21 – May 26

Monday	Office Closed	Victoria Day
Tuesday	3:00pm	Office closed
	6:15	Scouts – DEMH GYM
	7pm	JNAC - RMR
Wednesday	9am	TAB – Rms 1,2 &3
	9 -11am	Badminton
	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Friday	11:30-1pm 4-5:30pm	Chicken Salad Take-out

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2018 **900**

Total to Date **268**

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 May and June are in the Narthex. Please feel free to take one. A container for donations is located with the publication.

Calling all Graduates: If you are a potential graduate of the class of 2018 for either BHS or ESN please advise the church office by June 12. The First United Church service honoring our graduates will be held on June 17, 2018.

Chicken Salad Take-Out

Friday, May 25, 2018

Sponsored by Friends of First United

Pick-up times

11:30a.m.-1 p.m. & 4-5:30 p.m.

\$12. Adults \$6. Children (under 12)

Tickets available at:

First United Church office 546-3532

Community Events

The Stonehaven-New Bandon Union Cemetery Inc. ask your cooperation in helping keep floral arrangements at the grave sites in their rightful place; by writing the individual's name somewhere on the arrangement. (arrangements are sometimes blown from the headstones.)

The annual Parish of New Bandon Lobster Supper tickets are now available.

Date: June 2, 2018 Seating times are at 4PM. 5PM or 6PM
Price: \$20.00 for adults; \$10.00 for children under 12.
Please be advised that only 400 tickets will be sold. Get your tickets early. Tickets are available from Norma Ellis 546-9638, Elaine Good 546-2970, Lorna Veneau 546-2948, Kim Scott 546-5012, Kay Addison 350-0960 and Mitzi Whelton 506-4969.
All tickets are to be paid in advance. Thank you

The Ladies Auxiliary to Herman J. Good VC, Branch # 18

Royal Canadian Legion Meal of the Month
BBQ Chicken Dessert – Tea & Coffee included
Sunday, June 10, 2018 5 p.m.
Cost: \$15.00 Take-Outs Available
Tickets can be purchased at the Legion Office.

Vintage Hat Tartan Tea Reserve Saturday, May 26 for the Vintage Hat Tartan Tea being organized by Bathurst Chapter, N.B. Scottish Cultural Association. The Highland social offering Scottish goodies and more will be held at the Bathurst Heritage Museum 1:30-3:30pm. Due to limited space there will be advanced tickets only at \$10 each. Wear your own hat.... or try ours! All are welcome men included. For tickets call Isabel at 546-5521 or Jean Babin at 546-5758.

Family & Community Breakfast

Saturday, June 9, 2018 8:00 – 10:00 am
Saint George's Church Hall 432 King Avenue

Clothing Drive for Lesotho - Once again, Parkwood Heights Elementary School will be collecting bags of clothes in support of ASD – N's "Lesotho Initiative". As you are working on spring cleaning, why not set aside bags of clothes for Parkwood Heights Elementary School. Acceptable items include - men's, women's, and children clothing as well as belts, blankets, linens, purses, shoes, and towels. The bags are then sold to the New Brunswick Association of Community Living. The money raised will be given to the Canadian Agency – "Help Lesotho". For more information, contact Gary Branch (546-9208/egbranch@roger.com) or Parkwood Heights Elementary School at 547-2770. Clothing bags can be dropped off at the school during school hours at 1125 Highland Drive. The deadline for donations is June 15, 2018.

*A man with one watch
knows what time it is;
a man with two watches
is never quite sure.
~Lee Segall~*

Romans 8:22-27 New International Version (NIV)

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.

²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have?

²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

John 15:26-27, 16:4-15 New International Version (NIV)

The Work of the Holy Spirit

²⁶ "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.

²⁷ And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

⁴ I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you,

⁵ but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, 'Where are you going?'

⁶ Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things.

⁷ But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

⁸ When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment:

⁹ about sin, because people do not believe in me;

¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer;

¹¹ and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

¹² "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.

¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

¹⁴ He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.

¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."