

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

February 9, 2020

Minister	Rev. Neal Palmer	Organist	Martha Vickers
Office Adm.	Isabel Clouston	Greeters	Lois Beaven
Custodian	Steve White		Lester Scott

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Lectionary for today	Lectionary for next Sunday
<i>Isaiah 58:1-12</i>	<i>Deuteronomy 30:15-20</i>
<i>Psalm 112:1-10</i>	<i>Psalm 119:1-8</i>
<i>Corinthians 2:1-16</i>	<i>I Corinthians 3:1-9</i>
<i>Matthew 5:13-20</i>	<i>Matthew 5:21-37</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 CHRIST CANDLE

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP - "This Is the Day" – MV #122

***This is the day that God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad!
This is the day that God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad!
Singing hal-le-lu, singing hal-le-lu,
singing hal-le-lu!
We will rejoice and be glad!
Singing hal-le-lu, singing hal-le-lu,
singing hal-le-lu!
We will rejoice and be glad!***

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

What a joy to be gathered together here as one people in all our diversity,

**in all our strengths and weaknesses,
with all our different perspectives,
with all our different voices.**

We use that diversity to help experience the world as God intended it,

**by empathizing with our neighbours,
by acknowledging the light
that burns brightly within the stranger.**

We come to this place with our humanity, seeking to encounter other human beings, **human beings that share our fears and our hopes, our insecurities and our desires, our passions and our pain.**

Thanks be to God for giving us the ability to experience the world more fully **through the divine spark that connects us all.**

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – "A Light Is Gleaming" – VU #82

PRAYER OF HUMILITY (responsively)

You call us, Holy One, to be the light of the world, **but sometimes—we doubt we are able.**

You ask us to share the light with those in need, **but sometimes—we want to keep it to ourselves. The warmth and the comfort, why give it away?**

At other times, we keep you at such distance that we sink into shadows of our own making, **so dense that we can't even see a glimmer of hope.** We need you, Holy One, and ask for direction.

Come to us now and remind us that Christ's gift of grace is all we need to do the good works to which we're called.

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION –

“Take, O Take Me as I Am” – MV #85

***Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me, in me.***

*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 – “I’m Gonna Shout, Shout” – MV #183

I’m gonna shout, shout out my love for Jesus, for Jesus!

I’m gonna shout, shout out my love for God’s most holy child!

For whatever I might do today,

At home, at school, at work, at play,

I’ve got Jesus’ love deep down inside of me!

I’m gonna raise, raise, raise up my hands for Jesus, for Jesus!

I’m gonna raise , raise , raise up my hands for God’s most holy child!

For whatever I might do today,

At home, at school, at work, at play,

I’ve got Jesus’ love deep down inside of me!

I’m gonna dance, dance, dance all around for Jesus, for Jesus!

I’m gonna dance, dance, dance all around for God’s most holy child.

For whatever I might do today,

At home, at school, at work, at play,

I’ve got Jesus’ love deep down inside of me!

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 58:1-12

Matthew 5:13-20

Wayne Lord

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

ANTHEM –

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 – “For the Gift of Creation” – VU #538

For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,

and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,

we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.

May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

*OFFERING PRAYER (in unison)

**These are but tokens, Holy One,
of the riches we have.**

**Take with these, our time and our talents,
along with—our questions and our hopes.**

Amen.

SHARING OUR CONCERNS –

“Put Peace into Each Other’s Hands” - MV #173 (Verse 5)

Reach out in friendship, stay with faith

in touch with those around you.

Put peace into each other’s hands;

the Peace that sought and found you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER – VU #921 (Ecumenical Version) (in unison)
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

GOING OUT (as God's people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** – “Be Thou My Vision” – VU #642

***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

Prayer is when you talk to God;
meditation is when you listen to God.
~Author Unknown~

Church News

This Week at First United –Feb. 10 – Feb. 15

Monday	9-11am	Badminton
	6:15	Beaver Scouts Rm 1,2 & 3
Tuesday	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.
	7pm	Christian Dev. Team - RMR
Friday	11:30-1pm	Valentine Luncheon
	1:30	Games Afternoon - DEMH

*The flowers in the church today are placed
in loving memory of our brother, Art Gosnell,
 who passed away on Feb. 13, 2015.*

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2020 **900**
 Total Collected **107**
 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 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.

Receipts: The 2019 income tax receipts are in the Narthex.



Sunday School will start for the Spring season on Feb. 16th and will run until April 19th. There will be no Sunday School held on March 1st and March 8th.

Profession of Faith Chats - Starting February 13, 2020, 2PM

Do you have questions about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, the United Church of Canada, etc.? Things you'd like to discuss in a safe setting?

Are you interested in being baptized, confirmed, transferring your membership to First United, reaffirming your faith and/or simply introducing or reintroducing yourself to the United Church of Canada? If so, we can make it happen. Please let the church office and/or Rev. Neal know as soon as possible and we'll look at getting something going in the new year. Sessions like this, generally, run for 6-8 weeks, but please know—that can and will be negotiated within the group itself.

Looking forward to it... :o)



**Valentine Luncheon
&
Bake sale**

Friday, February 14, 2020

11:30 am - 1:00 pm \$12.00/person

Donald Eddy Memorial Hall

Tickets available at the church office (546-3532)

Anyone wishing to volunteer on the day of the Luncheon please call the church office or Brenda Parrott (545-7425). Donations of baking would also be appreciated for the Sale Table.

Sponsored by

Catherine & Company and Elm Tree Resources

Community Outreach: .Due to the increased demand on the grocery supply in our food pantry over the Christmas season we find our shelves are getting bare. Donations of non-perishable items as well as items for personal hygiene would be welcomed.

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.



Sunrise Breakfast

(pancakes, sausages, baked beans, scrambled eggs, hash browns, toast, juice, coffee & tea)

Sunday, February 23, 2020

8:30 a.m. to noon

Donald Eddy Memorial Hall

\$10.00 adults - \$3.00 children

Sponsored by

Bayside Automotive Group

Thank you: The Ways and Means Team would like to thank all who donated their "Time, Talents and Treasures" to make the Roast Pork Supper a success. A net profit of \$4730.00 was realized. The next Ways & Means event is the Sunrise Breakfast to be held on Feb.23 2020. A special thank you to our sponsor for this supper, Kent and White Insurance.

**2020 Schedule for
First United Church Events**

Hosted by Ways and Means Sub-Team

Sunday, February 23 Sunrise Breakfast

Thursday, March 26 Ham and Scallop

Sunday, April 26 Sunrise Breakfast

Thursday, October 1 Beef BBQ

Thursday, November 26 Turkey Supper

All dates and events are subject to change

Announcements from Council

1. Our AGM will be held on Sunday February 16, 2020 following the church service. We hope you will be able to attend.
2. 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
3. Rev. Roger James, 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 pulpit

If 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

4. **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.

5. **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.

Community Events

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 25, 2020 4:30 – 6:00 pm
Saint George's Anglican Church Hall 432 King Avenue
Tickets available at the door - \$ 7.00 (Adults),
\$ 4.00 (children 12 and under) & \$ 15.00 (Family)
Take-outs available

Sun Feb 16 – Sat Feb 22 Heritage Week

at the Bathurst Heritage Museum—a week-long series of events celebrating “Bringing the Past into the Future”—plays, concerts, presentations, and a Vintage Hat Tea Party! Come explore and be entertained—no charge—free-will offering only. It's a perfect time to join or renew your annual membership for just \$10. For program details, check bathurstheritage.ca or the Heritage Museum's Facebook site. The Treble Makers will be playing a variety of music at the Heritage Museum on Thursday evening, Feb 20th, from 7-9 PM.

World Day of Prayer... Friday, March 6, 2020. The Holy Family CWL, the WDP local committee 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 We Have To Do Is Decide What To Do
With The Time That Is Given To Us
-Gandalf-*

Bathurst Pastoral Council January 28, 2020

As Council Chair, Sandra Boone called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. It was the first meeting of the new year. Rev. Neal Palmer led in prayer.

In correspondence, Council received notification from Isabel Clouston, office administrator, of her planned retirement the end of June, 2020. Anyone interested in applying or wanting more information should contact Wayne Lord, chair of Ministry and Personnel.

Also in correspondence, Rev. Roger Janes, Regional Council Minister of Stewardship, said he will be giving a workshop at First United. The workshop, set for Saturday, April 25, is intended for the former Miramichi Presbytery area.

The year-end financial report, submitted by Treasurer Dave Morison, showed that over-budget revenue of \$7,008, combined with fewer expenditures, resulted in a better 2019 picture than expected. Two major reasons for the revenue increase over budget were \$2500 more received in rent (election and new renters) and a larger special offering at Christmas. The Christmas offering of \$7,327 was more than \$4000 above 2018.

The monthly local givings were over budget by \$1,239. The 2019 Mission and Service allocation of \$18,000 was met. Expense savings of \$6,500, compared to what was budgeted, included pension expenses (\$2,100) moving expenses (\$2,000) and \$2,400 in other net costs. Team chair is Ian Oliver.

The UCW set aside \$300 for outreach projects which may arise through the Community Outreach Sub-team. An amount of \$2000 has been included in the 2020 UCW budget for the General Fund and \$1000 for Mission and Service, Anne Brooks reported.

Nominations for the working teams are being accepted with some new people volunteering already according to Rick Watling.

Brenda Parrott, chair of Christian Development, reported that Glen Ferguson, a sound engineer, has been consulted by the Property Management Team concerning an upgrade of the sound system. The CD Team discussed an initiative that would acknowledge treaties and traditional territories of First Nations. More information will be gathered.

The Pastoral Care and Membership Team reported that more than 80 Christmas cards were sent to seniors and shut-ins. A special monetary gift was given in some instances rather than the gift bags that were prepared last Christmas. Team Chair, Pat Brown, said a St. Patrick's concert and singalong will be held March 17.

The Community Outreach Sub-team served a Christmas breakfast to 17 people including the students and teachers downstairs, Church staff and Sub-team volunteers. The event was organized by Helen and Mick Knowles and Marie Oliver contributed Christmas favors for the gift bags.

White Gift donations totalled \$1555 apart from 278 items of various kinds. This was a significant increase over the last few years.

Reporting for the Property Management Team, Peter Gammon said the church and hall structures are in `pretty good shape` but a lot of inhouse work continues to be done on a regular basis.

Wayne Lord said all staff reviews except one have been carried out by the Ministry and Personnel Team.

The annual meeting of First United was set for Sunday, February 16 following the church service. The next Council meeting will be held on March 24.

Isabel MacLaggan

*Those humble, quiet, behind-the-scenes people
are the reason anything ever gets done.
~Terri Guillemets~*

My Mother's Chocolate Valentine
by Jack Prelutsky

I bought a box of chocolate hearts,
a present for my mother,
they looked so good I tasted one,
and then I tried another.

They both were so delicious
that I ate another four,
and then another couple,
and then half a dozen more.

I couldn't seem to stop myself,
I nibbled on and on,
before I knew what happened
all the chocolate hearts were gone.

I felt a little guilty,
I was stuffed down to my socks,
I ate my mother's valentine...
I hope she likes the box.



Isaiah 58:1-12 New International Version (NIV)

True Fasting

58 "Shout it aloud, do not hold back.

Raise your voice like a trumpet.

Declare to my people their rebellion

and to the descendants of Jacob their sins.

² For day after day they seek me out;

they seem eager to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that does what is right

and has not forsaken the commands of its God.

They ask me for just decisions

and seem eager for God to come near them.

³ "Why have we fasted," they say,

'and you have not seen it?

Why have we humbled ourselves,

and you have not noticed?'

"Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please

and exploit all your workers.

⁴ Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife,

and in striking each other with wicked fists.

You cannot fast as you do today

and expect your voice to be heard on high.

⁵ Is this the kind of fast I have chosen,

only a day for people to humble themselves?

Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed

and for lying in sackcloth and ashes?

Is that what you call a fast,

a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶ "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:

to loose the chains of injustice

and untie the cords of the yoke,

to set the oppressed free

and break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your food with the hungry

and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—

when you see the naked, to clothe them,

and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

⁸ Then your light will break forth like the dawn,

and your healing will quickly appear;

then your righteousness^[a] will go before you,

and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.

⁹ Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;

you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

"If you do away with the yoke of oppression,

with the pointing finger and malicious talk,

¹⁰ and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry

and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,

then your light will rise in the darkness,

and your night will become like the noonday.

¹¹ The LORD will guide you always;

he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land

and will strengthen your frame.

You will be like a well-watered garden,

like a spring whose waters never fail.

¹² Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins

and will raise up the age-old foundations;

you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,

Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

Matthew 5:13-20 New International Version (NIV)

Salt and Light

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

The Fulfillment of the Law

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

¹⁹ Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

²⁰ For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.