

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

March 8, 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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Lectionary for today	Lectionary for next Sunday
<i>Genesis 12:1-4a</i> <i>Psalm 121</i> <i>Romans 4:1-5, 13-17</i> <i>John 3:1-17</i>	<i>Exodus 17:1-7</i> <i>Psalm 95</i> <i>Romans 5:1-11</i> <i>John 4:5-42</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 (responsively)

Good teacher God,
we are gathered to bless and to be blessed because we can't have
one without the other. You teach us, in your gentle way, how to
make that happen.



**We offer thanks for our thoughts
and hearts being guided so we, in turn,
may help others discover that same peaceful presence.
Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN** – "We Praise You, O God" – VU #218

A LENTEN SPIRITUAL PRACTICE (Sorrow) (in unison)
**God of the Lenten journey,
as the smoke from this candle rises to greet you,
may it take with it all our sorrows.
Offer us this day a joy
that moves beyond our doubt and within our grief.
Remind us to rejoice in your love and mercy
that your peace may guard our hearts and minds
in 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 12:1-4a
John 3:1-17

Gary Branch

***HYMN** – “Here I Am, Lord” – VU #509

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

MUSICAL OFFERING –

Emma Vickers

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 connect to one another, Holy One, because of grace.

We belong to one another.

Even strangers or enemies are like family to us because we're all part of God's promise.

We belong to one another.

We share with one another because we have everything we need.

We belong to one another.

Use these gifts, Holy One, and this sacrifice of our time and talent to lavish your love on the whole family of God.

We belong to one another.

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)

We gather today, Holy One, to remember the promises made to our ancestors.

We belong to one another.

We're born into earthy families that form our cultural identities.

We belong to one another.

We're born as well into families that form our spiritual identities.

We belong to one another.

We pray for those who don't share our spiritual beliefs and ask for sufficient grace to keep us out of the rivalry.

We belong to one another.

We pray for ourselves and ask for a love that will reveal to us who we are, who we're becoming, and ways in which we may love and be loved when our beliefs are being challenged.

We belong to one another.

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** – “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” – VU #663

***BLESSING** (responsively)

...Knowing—

we belong to one another.

We move together in Spirit, so as to be reminded, we don't go alone.

We belong to one another.

Amen

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

May the road rise to meet you.

May the wind be ever at your back.

May the 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



Church News

This Week at First United –March 9 – March 14

Monday	9-11am	Badminton 9-11am
	6:15	Beaver Scouts – Rms 1,2&3
Tuesday	1:30	Pastoral Care team- RMR
	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 **174**

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



Ham & Scallop Supper

Thursday, March 26, 2020

Adults \$ 15 - Children (12 & under) \$ 6

5:00-6:30pm

Take outs available 4:00 -5:30pm

Advance Tickets Sales only

Tickets available from Ways and Means Team members and at the church office 546-3532

Sponsored by



R.G.McGroup. Ltd

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.

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.

*“Great love, you believe,
carries the seeds of great sorrow.”
— Anne Fortier, Juliet*

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.

Community Events

Family & Community Breakfast

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

Soup Lunch: The annual soup lunch in aid of Development and Peace will be held on Sunday March 15th at 12noon, in Holy Family Church Hall. Four delicious homemade soups, rolls, desserts, tea and coffee will be served.. Tickets \$10.00 for adults \$5.00 for children. \$20.00 for a family of four. Tickets available from Angela Bardeesy and Pauline Hickey 546-4313 and at the door.

The Louisbourg Choir in concert Louisbourg Choir and orchestra under the direction of Monique Richard will be in concert at First United Church in Bathurst, Saturday, March 21, at 7:30 pm. The program will feature two important composers of the baroque era: Dismas Zelenka (1679-1745) and Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767). Tickets are \$30, on sale at the door. Free for students. For more details: www.choeurlouisbourgchoir.ca

St. Patrick's Day Ham Supper Saturday, March 21, 2020 at 5:00 pm
Saint George's Church Hall 432 King Avenue
Tickets: \$ 15.00 for Adults, \$ 7.50 for children 12 and under
Tickets available from Myrna Good-Hollett (546-5955), Glenda Stickles (548-8360) and the Church Office (546-3225)

Spaghetti Supper Saturday, March 28, 2020 4:00 – 6:00 pm
Saint George's Church Hall 432 King Avenue
Tickets: \$ 12.00 for Adults, \$ 5.00 for children under 12
Tickets available by calling Don Goodspeed (546-5387) or Church Office (546-3225). Also available at the door.

*“Worry
does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow,
it empties today of its strength.”
— Corrie ten Boom*

Genesis 12:1-4 New International Version (NIV)

The Call of Abram

12 The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

²"I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.^[a]

³I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."^[b]

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

John 3:1-17 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

3 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council.

²He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

³Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."^[a]

⁴"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit^[b] gives birth to spirit.

⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You^[c] must be born again.'

⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."^[d]

⁹"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things?"

¹¹Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony.

¹²I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?

¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.^[e]

¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,^[f]

¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."^[g]

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.