

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

March 15, 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>Exodus 17:1-7</i> <i>Psalm 95</i> <i>Romans 5:1-11</i> <i>John 4:5-42</i>	<i>I Samuel 16:1-13</i> <i>Psalm 23</i> <i>Ephesians 5:8-14</i> <i>John 9:1-41</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

***GATHERING HYMN –**

"Water Flowing from the Mountains" – MV #87
Water flowing from the mountains.
Water flowing o'er the earth.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water gives us birth.
Refrain
Drink deep this source of life.
Drink deep and know.
For living water sings, and living water brings
the love that makes our spirit grow.

Water rushing down the rivers.
Water rushing to the sea.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water makes us free.
Refrain

Water springing from the dry place.
Water springing in the sun.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water for each one.
Refrain

A LENTEN SPIRITUAL PRACTICE (Helplessness) (in unison)
Breanna Lee

**God of the Lenten journey,
as the smoke from this candle rises to greet you,
may it take with it
our feelings of weakness and helplessness.
There is so much suffering—in our own lives,
in the lives of those we love, and in the world.
And yet, through you,
we find the strength we need to face our struggles,
to find solutions to our problems,
and to be bold in our faith.
For this we are grateful.**

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** – “This Little Light of Mine” # 66 AGCS

This little light of mine
I’m gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine
I’m gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine
I’m gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel (NO!)
I’m gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel (NO!)
I’m gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel (NO!)
I’m gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

This little light of mine
I’m gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine
I’m gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine
I’m gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 17:1-7
John 4:5-42

Cheryl Brewster

***HYMN** – “By the Well, A Thirsty Woman” – MV #117

By the well, a thirsty woman
found the life that you could give,
we, too, thirst like empty vessels –
fill us full that we may live.
Jesus, source of living water,
Well-spring bubbling deep within,
By the waters of our baptism
wisdom purpose life begin.

Plant us firm, like trees by water,
send our roots down deep in you,
quench our parched and thirsty spirits
with your water, pure and true.
Jesus, source of living water,
Nourisher of all on earth,
By the waters of our baptism
quicken growth and give new birth.

May we be your streams of justice,
as the water, may we move
through your people – by your Spirit
showing mercy, sharing love.
Jesus, source of living water,
Ground-swell forcing truth to view,
By the waters of our baptism
set us free to live for you.

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

ANTHEM – “My Peace”

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 many of us 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 prevent us from feeling ill will.

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 (in unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth,
as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory forever and ever.**

Amen.

GOING OUT (as God's people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** –

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" – VU #651

***BLESSING** (responsively)

...We move together in spirit, so as to remember

we don't go alone.

Knowing, all the while,

we belong to one another.

Amen

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

May the road rise up 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

For each petal on the shamrock

This brings a wish your way -

Good health, good luck, and happiness

For today and every day.

~Author Unknown

Church News

This Week at First United –March 16 – March 21

Monday	9-11am	Badminton 9-11am
	6:15	Beaver Scouts – Rms 1,2&3
Tuesday	1:30-3:30	St. Patrick's Event
	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 **194**

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.

Cancelled

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.

A Simple Irish Prayer

*May God give you...
For every storm, a rainbow,
For every tear, a smile,
For every care, a promise,
And a blessing in each trial.
For every problem life sends,
A faithful friend to share,
For every sigh, a sweet song,
And an answer for each prayer.*

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

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.

*May joy and peace surround you,
contentment latch your door,
and happiness be with you now
and bless you evermore!*

Exodus 17:1-7 New International Version (NIV)

Water From the Rock

17 The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

² So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?"

³ But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

⁴ Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

⁵ The LORD answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.

⁶ I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel.

⁷ And he called the place Massah^[a] and Meribah^[b] because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

John 4:5-42 New International Version (NIV)

⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.^[a])

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?"

¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,

¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

¹⁷ "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband.

¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

¹⁹ “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet.

²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

²¹ “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.

²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

²⁵ The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

²⁶ Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

The Disciples Rejoin Jesus

²⁷ Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people,

²⁹ “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?”

³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

³¹ Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.”

³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

³³ Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?”

³⁴ “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

³⁵ Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

³⁶ Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.

³⁷ Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true.

³⁸ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

Many Samaritans Believe

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.”

⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers.

⁴² They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”