

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

January 10, 2016
Baptism of the Lord

Clergy Rev. Blair Lewis **Organist** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Isabel Clouston **Greeters** Cheryl & Dave Brewster
Custodian Alan Wilcox

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Isiah 43:1-7</i> <i>Psalm 29</i> <i>Acts 8:14-17</i> <i>Luke 3:15-17, 21-22</i>	<i>Isaiah 62:1-5</i> <i>Psalm 36</i> <i>I Corinthians 12:1-11</i> <i>John 2:1-11</i>

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

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

Organ Prelude:

***Choral Opening:** *'Gentle Mary Laid Her Child'* #46VU vs2
Angels sang about his birth.
Wise men sought and found him,
Heaven's star shone brightly forth,
Glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing,
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were ringing.

Welcoming

One: O come let us sing to God;

All: let us shout with joy to the rock of our salvation.

One: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

All: let us joyously shout to God with songs of praise.

Psalm 95:1, 2

Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:

Announcements:

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

One: God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit You are with us,

**All: Like Light spilling through snow covered trees,
You are with us.**

One: Like wind blowing through a snow white back yard
You are with us.

**All: Like ice filled water
splashing against a sandy beach,
You are with us.**

One: We are embraced by your presence,

All: We open our hearts to you.

One: As we light the Christ candle
we are encouraged by your love.

**All: We release our thoughts to you,
and we are intrigued by your mysteries,
As we search for your way for our lives
you are with us.**

Call To Worship:

One: God of the poor and unprotected,
whose love is fierce,

**All: whose righteousness burns brighter
than the brightest fire:
fill our hearts with holy indignation
when peace by way of justice is denied.
Grant us the courage to follow Christ,
wherever that may lead;**

One: for yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
in time and for eternity. Amen.

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)

**Glorious God, we come together as your people.
We come as a praising people, singing your goodness;
we come as a praying people,
bringing our needs, our joys;
we come as a listening people, opening to your Word.
Fill us with your love
and empower us for faithful living, we pray.**

***Opening Hymn:** *'Arise, Your Light is Come'* **#79 VU**

Children of all Ages:

***The Lord's Prayer:**

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding:

As we hear the reading from scripture
may the sweep of this day be steadied
by the power of your presence.
Infectious grace, persistent love, outrageous vision;
may your Spirit guide us,
Until an iridescence grows within
marking our course with peaceful certainty.

Amen

Scripture Readings:

Sherry Mitton

Old Testament Lesson:

Isaiah 43:1-7

Responsive Psalm:

Psalm 29 **#756 VU**

Gospel Lesson:

Luke 3 :15-17, 21-22

***Hymn:** *'When Jesus Comes to be Baptized'* **#100 VU**

Meditation: **"Travelling on or over Water"**

Anthem: *'Will You Come and See the Light'*

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

Presentation of Gifts and Self to God:

Choral Response:

*Praise God with songs that never cease,
Praise God who fills the earth with peace.
Praise God for love and joy within,
The Holy Child is born again*

***Prayer of Dedication:**

One: Remember the words of Jesus who said:
"Freely you have received, freely give."
Matthew 10:8b

-3-

**All: With joy, we present our offering of commitment
and support for the work of Christ's church.**

One: Let us give, as we are able,
according to the blessings God has given each of us.

Prayer Of Confession:

One: Compassionate One, hear our prayer:
stretch out your hand in healing love.

**All: Create in us a clean heart, O God,
and renew your Spirit within us.**

Gracious God,

**We offer up to you the words we've said in anger
or when feeling spiteful or hurt,
lies we've told that we thought didn't matter
or that we could "get away with."
We offer up the sins of our minds.**

Holy God,

**we offer up to you thoughts we've had
that "cut down" others
or show a lack of respect for ourselves.
We search for freedom to offer up
the sins of our hearts.**

Merciful God,

**we offer up to you the times our hearts were bitter
and we refused to forgive,
or when we were sad and refused to be comforted,
or when we were hardened to others
and didn't share love.
We offer up the sins of our hands.**

Loving God,

**we offer up to you the times we used our hands
to do things that brought harm to others,
to the earth or to ourselves,
the times we were not kind.
We take the sins of our mouths and our minds,
our hearts and our hands
and release them to the heart of God.**

-4-

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.*

Assurance of Pardon:

God through faith we know that You will transform us,
pure and clean as the dove of the Holy Spirit,
for we are beloved.
This is the Good News of the Gospel.
Thanks be to God.

Reflective Music / Silent Prayer:

Pastoral Prayer:

One: Rejoice in the Lord always; again will I say rejoice.
Let your gentleness be known to everyone.
The Lord is near.
Do not worry about anything,
but in everything by prayer
and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.
Philippians 4:4-6

We call to mind our concerns and commitments,
and join our prayers for peace and well-being
to the prayers of the whole church
as they are offered this day for the whole world.
Let us pray:

**All: We remember the people we know
who are in trouble,
and pray for healing and happiness for all.**

**We seek God's encouragement:
for honest trade and just commerce;
for medicine and education;
for the gifts and aptitudes in every person
which serve justice in community living.**

**We pray for peace on earth:
for the generous sharing of the earth's resources
and the responsible sharing of the earth's problems;
for understanding of others
and willingness to regard
the diversity of human culture
as more stimulating than threatening;
for the turning of swords into ploughshares
and spears into pruning hooks.**

One: We pray for the church,
by all its names and in all its places:
for its continuing usefulness
as a channel of grace and hope;
for its rescue from bureaucracy and stagnation;
for its witness to unity and justice;
for its commitment to hospitality and compassion.
We commend to the Lord our families and friends;
and let us ask God to help us
in the days of this coming week.

All: Amen.

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***Closing Hymn:** `I Am the Light of the World' **#87VU**

***Commissioning:** (in unison)
**As we prepare to leave our service of worship
we pray that with gentle hands
you will receive our prayers.
With patient eyes you will search our spirits.
Through the power of your Spirit you will offer us peace.**

***Blessing:**
May mercy be our path
And peace fill all our days.
May love heal every heart
And God's grace light our way.

Church News

* **Choral Closing:** *I am Walking a Path of Peace'* (#221 MV)

*I am walking a path with heart
I am walking a path with heart
I am walking a path with heart
lead me home, lead me home.*

Organ Postlude:

*When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said,
"I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life."
John 8:12 NIV*

This Week at First United –Jan. 11 –Jan. 16

Monday	1:30	UCW – Eddy Room
	6:15	Beavers – Rms. 1,2&3 DEMH
Tuesday	2pm	Bible Study – Eddy Rm
	4pm	Pastoral Council – Eddy Rm
	6:15	Cubs & Scouts – DEMH GYM
	7pm	Christian Dev. Team - RMR
Wednesday	9-12pm	TAB – Rms. 1,2&3
	6:30	Choir Practice

The bulletin today has been placed in loving memory of

Robert Carmichael Sr. and Robert Carmichael Jr

by Joyce and Family

Fay Faulds

by John and family

Stella McLean

By Byron & Marion McLean

The flowers in the sanctuary today

have been placed in loving memory of

Robert Carmichael Sr. & Jr.

from Dale & Leonard McGrath, Linda & Bill Young,
Donna & Gerald Pettigrew, Donna Carmichael,
Carol & David Branch and families.

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2016

900

Total to Date

25

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect
17-18 jars of peanut butter per week.

The Volunteer Center supplies, on average, 430 households monthly
with that amount growing to over 530 during the Christmas season.





Roast Pork Dinner

Thursday, January 28, 2016

Donald Eddy Memorial Hall

309 St. Patrick Street

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Takeouts available 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

\$15. Adults \$6. Children (under 12)

All tickets sold in advance

Tickets available from Ways and Means team members
and at the church office

Notice: Sound system units for hearing impaired individuals are available. Please ask the soundboard operator for assistance.

2016 Envelopes: The Givings Envelopes for 2016 are located in the narthex. Please insure that envelopes for the correct year are used as individual contribution #'s may have changed.

The Upper Room for Jan. and Feb. are in the Narthex. Please feel free to take one. A container for donations is located with the publication.

Thank You to Audrey and George McGillivray for being the counters and to Nancy & Allen Jagoe for being our counters for the month of December. Thanks also to the Mullin & Eddy Families for being our greeters on Christmas Eve.

SPECIAL REQUEST As the liaison between the Bathurst area congregations & the Miramichi Refugee Sponsorship Committee, I am informing you that Phase #1 of the project, the *gathering of gifts in kind*, has begun. If you have something, in good condition & considered suitable for helping to furnish a 3-bedroom apartment or if you may be able to assist in the transportation of these donations to Miramichi, please contact me (Helen Knowles) at 546-9563.

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.

Community Events

Bathurst Christian Women invite you to our Fitting into the New Year Luncheon Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at Danny's Inn and Conference Center \$15 from 11:30am - 1:00pm. Gail Kaye, Bathurst resident and leader of Dusty Sneakers will demonstrate ways to keep fit guest speaker Diane Sealy, Salmon Beach resident will bring her message "Fitness for the Heart", an inspirational message of faith and love. Reservations are necessary. Please contact Joanne at 542-1118 or ejgodin@rogers.com or contact Connie at 546-2127

Retirement Dinner: On Saturday, January 23, 2016, you are invited to a dinner celebration in honor of Rev. John Fraser as he prepares to retire from the ministry. A meet and greet will begin at 5:30 P.M at the Lions Club Newcastle and dinner will be served at 6:00 P.M. Tickets are \$20 each and are available at the church office and Brookdale Flower Shop. The menu consists of a chicken breast dinner and dessert. Tickets will be on sale until Monday, January 18.

*A smile
is the light in the window of your face
that tells people you're at home.
~Author Unknown~*

REFUGEE BULLETIN UPDATE No. #4 – For January 10, 2016

Our efforts are ramping up with the goal to have the apartment for the first family ready asap. The selection committee will identify a family within the next two weeks. This notice details ‘gifts in kind’ requirements and deadlines.

Our Facebook site is under construction. Monitor for more details @ https://www.facebook.com/UCCMP-Refugee-family-1321839454653594/publishing_tools/

Needed items (general guide) at this stage for two dwellings include:

- kitchen items (ex. table/chairs for 6, small cooking appliances, food staples (spices, etc.),
- kitchen appliances (microwave, coffee maker, radio etc.),
- bedroom items (bed frames/box spring ... including two double or queens, dressers, lamps, night tables, bookshelves, etc.),
- living room items (coffee tables/end tables, lamps, TV stand)
- bathroom and all personal care items
- household supplies (cleaning supplies/laundry)
- winter cleanup items (shovels/scoop, sand, etc.)
- electronic items (telephone (land-line), DVD player)
- gift cards

Details for ‘gifts in kind’ initiative:

If you are in the **Tide Head** to **New Mills** region contact Gail Levesque, 826-3156 with inquiries and arrangements. Deadline is Friday, Jan. 15.

If you are in the **Bathurst** region contact Rev. Lewis/church office 546-3532 or Helen Knowles 546-9563. Deadline is Saturday 11am.

If you are in the **Miramichi** region please drop off items at St. Andrew’s United on Saturday, Jan. 16 from 11am-3pm or contact church office 773-9932 or Wayne Mullin 778-8292 (for inquires and help).

*Thanks in advance for your generosity,
Wayne Mullin (behalf of Mir. Presbytery)*

Isaiah 43:1-7 New International Version (NIV)

Israel's Only Savior

43 But now, this is what the LORD says—
he who created you, Jacob,
he who formed you, Israel:
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
2 When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.
3 For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;
I give Egypt for your ransom,
Cush^[a] and Seba in your stead.
4 Since you are precious and honored in my sight,
and because I love you,
I will give people in exchange for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
5 Do not be afraid, for I am with you;
I will bring your children from the east
and gather you from the west.
6 I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’
and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’
Bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the ends of the earth—
7 everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.”

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah.
¹⁶ John answered them all, “I baptize you with^[a] water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with^[b] the Holy Spirit and fire.
¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

The Baptism and Genealogy of Jesus

²¹ When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened
²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”