

*The United Church of Canada*  
*Bathurst Pastoral Charge*  
**First United Church, Bathurst**  
[www.firstunited-bathurst.ca](http://www.firstunited-bathurst.ca)

**October 22, 2023**

**Minister** Rev. Neal Palmer    **Music Director** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Margaret Daniels    **Custodian** Lester Scott  
**Greeters** Harvey & Julie Spence  
**Audio & Visual Technicians** Shirley Allain & Donald Eddy

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<b><u>Lectionary for today</u></b>	<b><u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u></b>
Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 99 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22	Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-46

*The asterisk \* identifies those times in the service where you are invited to present yourselves, body, mind, and spirit, as is comfortable for you today...*

*GATHERING*

**MUSIC AS WE GATHER**

**WELCOME & TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** *(responsively)*

*...Please join me in our Territory Acknowledgement...*

***Ancient and modern people have inhabited and continue to inhabit this land on which we worship. This is the traditional land of the Mi'kmaq people, and we are deeply grateful to be here and to ground ourselves in the land which has been a place where people have lived for thousands of years.***

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE** *(responsively)*

We live in a time of turmoil.

**Sometimes, it is hard to find peace in the world or in our hearts.**

In these anxious times, we turn to the light of Christ to ground us, to guide us, to comfort us.

**May this light be our peace,**

now and always.

**Amen**

*The Christ Candle is lit...*

**CENTERING FOR WORSHIP** - "Praise to the Lord" – VU #835

***Praise to the Lord, all of you, God's servants.***

***Blessed be the name of our God now and ever.***

***From the rising up of the sun***

***may the Lord be praised, praise to the name of the Lord!***

***There is none like our God in the heavens or on earth,***

***who lifts the poor from the dust seating them***

***with the mighty,***

***who stoops to raise the weak and low:***

***may the Lord be praised, praise to the name of the Lord!***

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(responsively)*

Here we are, Holy One, with our love and our longing.

**Here we are, Holy One, standing firm and still searching.**

Come, Holy One, to talk, dance, listen, sing, and pray.

**Turn toward us. Take hold of us and comfort us.**

Here we are, Holy One, ready for wonder.

**Ready to encounter you. Ready to share the rhythm of your love.**

*(Introduce a gentle drumbeat like a heartbeat and allow it to continue into the Gathering Prayer.)*

## **GATHERING PRAYER**

### **\*GATHERING HYMN – “Draw the Circle Wide”**

MV #145

#### *Refrain*

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.*

God the still-point of the circle,  
'round whom all creation turns;  
nothing lost, but held forever,  
in God's gracious arms.

#### *Refrain*

Let our hearts touch far horizons,  
so encompass great and small;  
let our loving know no borders,  
faithful to God's call.

#### *Refrain*

Let the dreams we dream be larger,  
than we've ever dreamed before;  
let the dream of Christ be in us,  
open every door.

#### *Refrain*

### **PRAYER OF HUMILITY** *(responsively)*

... We seek to imitate your love and justice, but make so many mistakes.

### **Stick with us, we pray.** *(Moment of Silence)*

### **CHORAL RESPONSE – “Don't Be Afraid”**

MV #90

***Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,  
my love is stronger than your fear.  
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger  
and I have promised, promised to be always near.***

### **\*GREETING ONE ANOTHER** *(responsively)*

...The Spirit of Peace be with you all.

### **And also with you.**

### **SHARING A STORY** *(with those of all ages)*

*Mya Brewster, Weston Brewster & Brooke Knowles*

*Matthew 22:15-22*

### **\*SINGING A SONG – “Come into God's Presence”**

Come into God's presence singing  
“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.”

#### *ENGAGING*

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

*Stephen Maisey*

Exodus 33:12-23

## **REFLECTION**

## **MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

### **GIFT OF MUSIC – “What More Could We Ask?”**

#### *RESPONDING*

### **YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS** *(formerly Minute for Mission)*

*Martha Vickers*

## **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

## **THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD**

### **\*OFFERING HYMN – “These Gifts We Bring”**

***These gifts we bring with grateful hearts,  
to reconcile, make new.  
Gather us in grace, show us the way,  
to live our lives in Truth  
to share Your love in all we do.***

**\*OFFERING PRAYER** *(responsively)*

All living things imitate God.  
As flowers bloom, as trees bear fruit,  
as dancers leap high in air,  
**they imitate creativity.**

As we struggle for justice,  
as we resolve conflict through peace,  
as we extend our hand to our neighbour,  
**we imitate love.**

As we stand firm in our faith,  
as we teach and nurture our children,  
as we pray for the world,  
**we imitate love.**

And so, Holy One,  
we give thanks, for the goodness  
**that's in our hearts and minds,  
in our strength and soul,  
in our life and love.**  
**Amen**

**SHARING OUR CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**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 Spirit people)*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** – “We Are Pilgrims”

VU #595

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
fellow travellers on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

Sister, let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

I will hold the Christ light for you  
in the night time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping,  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow,  
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too

**\*BLESSING** (*responsively*)

... Knowing...

You are the message.

**Be the message.**

Do the message.

**Live the message.**

Knowing...

as we go, the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit go with us—now and always.

**Amen**

**\*CHORAL CLOSING** – “Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light”  
MV #211 (2x)

***Go now in peace,  
guided by the light of Christ,  
so you may be  
nourished by the Word of Life.***

*The Christ Candle is extinguished.*

**POSTLUDE**



# Church News

## This Week at First United – October 23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>

Monday	9:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH Gym
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>
Wednesday	9:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH Gym
Saturday	8 AM to 1 PM	Bathurst Community Market - DEMH

**Church Office Hours** - Monday to Friday – 9 AM to 3 PM.

**TAKE OUT Turkey Supper** will be held on Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$6 for children. As there are a limited number of tickets they will be sold on a first come-first served basis. Please contact a member of the *Ways & Means Committee* or drop by the church office from 9 AM to 3 PM Monday to Friday.

*Sponsored by  
Kenny’s Trucking Ltd. & Shine House  
(A Division of Stothart Automotive)*

As part of our **Stewardship Program** here at First United, information on Planned Giving through Wills and Bequests will be made available to our congregational membership this fall. All members are encouraged to review this information and take the appropriate steps pertaining to your wishes. The information will be available later this year from the church office. Below you will find a stewardship scripture verse and quote relating to the same.

“But strive first for the kingdom of God and God’s righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

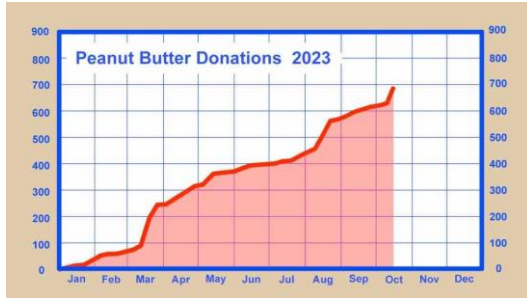
*Matthew 6:33*

***We make a living by what we get.***

***We make a life by what we give.***

*Author unknown*

# Church News



**Peanut Butter** – Our pledge this year to the Bathurst Volunteer Center is **900 jars**. As of October 19<sup>th</sup> **701** jars have been donated.

## Welcome to Gifts with Vision for 2023–2024!



[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]

[Gifts with Vision](#) are opportunities for you to make a difference in someone's life—during Advent and Christmas, or at any time of year—by giving gifts from the comfort of home, with no packaging or wrapping needed.

This year's new gifts include [solar power](#) for the United Theological College in Zimbabwe, [backpacks full of school supplies](#) for children who live under the poverty line, a [biofuel pilot project](#) run by women in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and making the United Church camp experience possible for children in underserved communities in the Maritimes—along with many others. You'll also recognize lots of returning gifts, like [Operation Backpack](#), [Return of the Buffalo](#), and [A Kindergarten in a Refugee Camp](#).

See all the Gifts available and find out more by visiting the [Gifts with Vision website](#), and pick up a catalogue in the narthex.

# Church News



**Annual Remembrance Service** - Each year, on the Sunday immediately prior to Remembrance Day, we honour our war veterans as well as those who lost their lives in war. Our Remembrance Service will be held Sunday, **November 5<sup>th</sup>**. Those wishing to place memorial crosses in the sanctuary are reminded to contact the Legion office no later than **November 1<sup>st</sup>** either by telephone [506-546-3135](tel:506-546-3135) or drop by the Legion located at [1220 Bridge Street](#) between 8:00 AM and 12:00 Noon Monday to Friday or during regular legion hours on the weekends.

***Thank you for supporting our veterans and the Legion.***



The crosses will be placed in the church on Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **Community Outreach Updates**

- Peanut Butter – donations are always welcome, as we work towards our annual commitment of 900 jars per year to the Volunteer Center.
- School Supplies – generous donations were received & delivered to Terry Fox School.
- Pantry – as winter approaches, needs of the homeless, etc will continue, so food items will help restock the pantry.
- Coupons – McDonald's has supplied coffee & breakfast coupons to be given to the needy, so more have been requested.
- Breakfast Programs – cheques for current year will be forwarded to local schools.
- Purses Plus – in recent past, donations to Passage House were not required but when transition concludes, contact for update will be made.

All of the listed projects are only feasible due to the generous support of the congregation. Thanks for your ongoing efforts.

# Community News

**Shriners Children's Hospital** has been providing hope and healing to children for more than 100 years. The Shriners compassionate, prestigious doctors and care teams are committed to excellence in pediatric care. While some patients need basic care, others face for complex conditions that require care over months, even years. **The North Shore Shrine Club** is raising funds to help sick children by the sale of calendars and fruit cakes. The funds are used to pay for the transportation of sick children to the hospital in Montreal. The calendars are \$20 each and you have the chance to win a prize each day of the year. The fruit cakes - 3 cakes per box - are \$23 per box. To order a calendar or cakes please contact Harvey Spence at 506-546-2742. Thank you!

**Holy Family Church**, 430 St. Peter Avenue is hosting a **Beef Supper** on *Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM* in the Church basement. We will be selling 225 dinner tickets at \$20.00 each with all proceeds to cover oil costs. Take out dinners will be available. Please contact Cletus Boucher at 506-544-1368 for supper tickets.

**Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**, the "Treble Makers" will play a variety of music starting at **2 PM** at the **Bathurst Heritage Museum**. Selections will include songs such as "Sentimental Journey", "Let Me Call You Sweetheart", "Blueberry Hill", "Partons La Mer est Belle", "Yellow Bird", "Viens Voir L'Acadie", some instrumental music, toe tapping jigs, reels and many more.

*There is no admission fee - however, a good will donation towards the museum is always appreciated.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

### EXODUS 33:12-23

12 Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.'

13 Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people."

14 He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

15 And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here.

16 For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

17 The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name."

18 Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray."

19 And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.

20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live."

21 And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock;

22 and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by;

23 then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

*May the Spirit bless to our understanding these significant parts of our Christian story...*