

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

February 4, 2024

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers

Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott

Greeters Margaret Payne-Chénard & Mike Kierstead

Audio & Visual Technicians Brenda Parrott & Donald Eddy

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Isaiah 40:21-31	2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalms 147:1-11, 20c	Psalms 50:1-6
1 Corinthians 9:16-23	2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 1:29-39	Mark 9:2-9

*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 AND TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT *(in unison)*

...Since time immemorial, Indigenous peoples have occupied and cared for this land, the country many call Canada, from coast to coast to coast. In naming this land mass, even more specifically, Bathurst, and its surrounding communities, as *Settlers*, we acknowledge this area as the traditional home of the Mi'kmaq people. As a Community of Faith, we seek to rebuild right relations with the First Nation, Metis and Inuit peoples, to learn from them, and to live on this land, *their* land, with gratitude and respect—for its creation and Creator. This is our commitment.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Each Sunday morning, we gather around this candle, a symbol of Christ.

This ritual brings focus to our time together, a time when we pause to renew our faith and spiritual life with Creator.

May the light shine, gathering us in and bringing us to a place of peace and calm.

The Christ candle is lit...

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP

VU #82 (*Refrain Only*)

"A Light is Gleaming"

***A light is gleaming,
 spreading its arms throughout the night,
 living in the light.
 Come share its gladness,
 God's radiant love is burning bright,
 living in the light.***

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN –**

VU #220

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation!
 O my soul, praise Him, all times your health and salvation.
 Come, all who hear: brothers and sisters draw near,
 joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily reigning,
 keeping us safe at his side, and so gently sustaining.
 Have you not seen how all you needed has been met by God's gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy will daily attend us.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
Who out of love will befriend us.

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen sound from God's people again;
Gladly with praise we adore Him.

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

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.

***SINGING A SONG** – "Friend to Friend"

(Seasons of the Spirit Vol. 7)

Let us now as God's own people,
give the sign of peace,
proclaiming our love for one another,
binding friend to friend.

(Chorus)

*Christ Jesus calls us to love one another,
to be one in him,
friend to friend, in love to each other,
we shall give our hands.*

In our care for one another,
by each kindly word,
by ev'ry loving deed,
we make known the love of Jesus Christ.

(Chorus)

We feed the hungry, clothe the naked,
give drink to those who thirst,
for Jesus came in love as a servant
and we follow him.

(Chorus)

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ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Judy Losier

Mark 1:29-39

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC - "I Have Called You by Your Name"

RESPONDING

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS (*Minute for Mission*)

Martha Vickers

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

THE OFFERING IS GATHERED

***OFFERING RESPONSE** *(Tune Old 100th)*

Hope in our God so filled with love.

Peace in the symbol of a dove.

Joy in the coming of the Son.

Love fills us up and makes us one.

Catherine MacDonald 2007

***OFFERING PRAYER** *(in unison)*

**Holy One,
we offer ourselves and our resources
to the care of community
in this space and around the world,
in the way the apostle Paul taught—
as chameleons, as servants—
adapting our hearts
to show love to those
who are unfamiliar to us.
Amen**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(responsively)*

Who among us has need of support and encouragement?

We name those people in the presence of loving community...

Each person quietly speaks a name or names.

Who are the strangers, orphans, and widows who have yet to be folded into our embrace?

We name the places or situations we can't engage personally, knowing the Spirit will bring us toward them, when or if, we can be of service...

*Each person quietly speaks global concerns for people
and places we don't know personally.*

Holy One, we commend ourselves and all Creation to your care and your use.

Please restore us to our full selves and purpose.

THE LORD'S PRAYER – VU #916 (A Paraphrase) *(in unison)*

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name
echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever.
Amen**

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN –**

“I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry”

VU #644

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the word,
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young.
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

***BLESSING** *(in unison)*

(The Blessing for the Season of Epiphany is a common thread from week to week. Rather than one leader issuing the blessing to the Community of Faith, the blessing comes from each person to the congregation.)

... We may fail; the Spirit does not.

We may stop; the Spirit does not.

Bless and be blessed.

And always.

Amen

***CHORAL SENDING FORTH –**

MV #211

“Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light”

***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 – Feb 5 th to Feb 10 th		
Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Thursday	4:15 PM	Choir Practice
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market

Church office hours - Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Peanut Butter – Once again this year we are setting a goal of **900 jars** of peanut butter to donate to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. Up to February 1st, 2024 we have collected XX jars.

Sunrise Breakfast will be held on **Sunday, February 25th, 2024** from 8:30 AM to 12 Noon in the Donald Eddy Memorial Hall. The meal will consist of pancakes, sausages, baked beans, scrambled eggs, hash browns, toast, juice, coffee & tea. Tickets will be available from members of the Ways & Means Team or from the church office.

\$12 for adults and \$5 for children

Sponsored by
Jean Coutu (Beresford) & Websolutions.ca

Thank you to our volunteers in January:

Counters –Gayle Ferron and Wilma Dempsey; **Greeters** –Peter & Edie Gammon; **Your Generosity Matters** – Martha Vickers, Sally Ronalds, and Judy Losier; **Scripture Readers** – Stephen Maisey, Isabel MacLaggan and Anne Wilson; **Sound System** – Brenda Parrott, Shirley Allain and Ralph Jamieson and **Videographer** – Don Eddy as well as to Josh Gammon for uploading our services to the website and Facebook.

Team Committee Reports will be required in order to prepare **2023 Annual Report**. Would the individuals responsible for preparing each report please email them to the church office. **The deadline for reports is February 15th. Thank You**

Church News

Broadview Renewal is due in March. If you receive this publication and have not yet renewed your subscription at the church office please do so by Wednesday, February 21, 2024. If you would like to start to receive this United Church of Canada publication please contact the church office by telephone 506-546-3532 or by email firstadmin@nb.aibn.com. The annual subscription rate is \$30 (tax included).

SIMPLY SOCKS - Besides giving the homeless/needy, items of clothing along with pantry products or grocery cards to purchase essentials, giving them a fresh pair of socks is one of the nicest gestures we could do. New socks are one of the most needed items of required clothing but usually, the least donated..... they help spread warmth & comfort!

Research reveals that sock projects exist throughout Canada to help the needy with new, clean socks. Thus, the Community Outreach Sub-Team is initiating a project to accept donated socks to protect the needy from the elements & keep feet warm, clean & dry. Cotton socks are best but all donations will be accepted. *For more information please contact Helen Knowles at 506-546-9563 - **Thank you***

As part of our **Stewardship Program** here at First United, information on Planned Giving through Wills and Bequests is available to our congregational membership. All members are encouraged to review this information and take the appropriate steps pertaining to your wishes. The information is available from the church office.

Below you will find a stewardship quote relating to the same.

"The worst sin against stewardship is to waste your life."
~ R. C. Sproul

Confirmation Classes: If anyone is interested in attending confirmation classes, please contact Rev. Neal or the church office at 506-546-3532.

Church News

Pastoral Care: If you, or anyone you know, is in need of a pastoral visit, please contact Rev. Neal Palmer or any member of the Pastoral Care Team. Please help his ministry by keeping us informed. Thank you!

Annual Tax Receipts for 2023 are prepared and are in the narthex for pick up. They can also be picked up from the church office during the week between 9 AM to 3 PM.

Weekly Bulletin Announcement Deadline is Thursday morning at 9 AM. If an announcement request is received after that time it will not be included in the upcoming Sunday's bulletin.

Community News

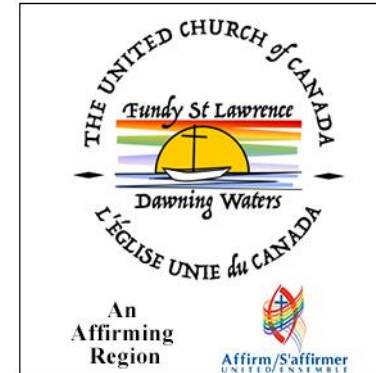
A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on **Saturday, February 10th from 8:00 – 10:00 am.** Come and enjoy fellowship and great food.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER will be held at Saint George's Church Hall, 432 King Avenue on **Tuesday, February 13th from 4:30 – 6:00 pm.** Tickets are \$ 10.00 each and take-outs are available. Tickets are available in advance from the Church Office (506-546-3225) or at the door.

Dusty Sneakers will return to *Central United, Clifton* on Tuesday, February 6th at 9:30 AM and will continue each Tuesday thereafter (weather permitting)

Central United, Clifton is hosting a **Seniors' card game afternoon** on Tuesday, February 13th at 1:00 pm. All seniors are welcome. (weather permitting)

Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional News



Christ in the Rubble Webinar: A Prophetic Call to Justice for the Global Church

Sunday, February 4th, 2024, 7 PM Atlantic

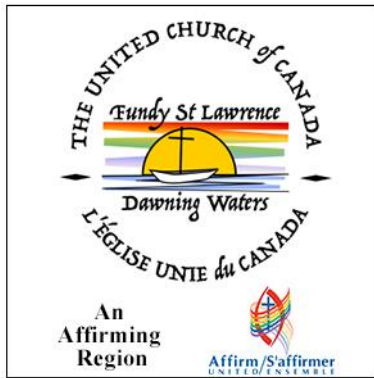
Please join us online February 4th for a screening of Palestinian pastor Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac's "Christ in the Rubble" sermon. We will hear from a Palestinian-Canadian Christian speaker, followed by a report from Chris Ferguson, Canadian member of the recent international Christian delegation to Palestine.

This webinar is hosted by UNJPPI (United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel) and is free and open to all. You will need to pre-register in order to receive the Zoom link for the webinar.

[Register Here](#)

(<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApfu2uqj0rH9cUvdMUbeb6OLDPIV-bPGm2#/registration>)

**Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning
Waters Regional News**



The United Church Bookstore: Join the Lenten Study Group!

Every Tuesday starting February 20, join the Rev. Stephen Fetter and others in a six-week [Lenten study series](#)

(https://united-church.ca/search/all?search_api_fulltext=Actfast)

to deepen your connection to God and Creation while exploring devotional readings from Act/Fast: Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis.

Bonus: Those who enroll in the course will also receive a coupon for 15% off the cost of the softcover book from the United Church Bookstore.



SCRIPTURE READING

MARK 1:29-39

29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once.

31 He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

32 That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons.

33 And the whole city was gathered around the door.

34 And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

35 In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.

36 And Simon and his companions hunted for him.

37 When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you."

38 He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do."

39 And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

May the Spirit bless to our understanding this significant part of our faith story...