

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

February 11, 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 Shirley Allain & Donald Eddy

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
2 Kings 2:1-12	Genesis 9:8-17
Psalms 50:1-6	Psalms 25:1-10
2 Corinthians 4:3-6	1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 9:2-9	Mark 1:9-15
<i>Today's bulletin is placed in loving memory of Gordon & Ethel Vance by the family</i>	

*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 the 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 *(Based on Psalm 50:1-6)*

***GATHERING HYMN** – "Joyful, Joyful We Adore You" VU #232

Joyful, joyful we adore you,
 God of glory, life and love;
 hearts unfold like flowers before you,
 opening to the sun above.
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
 drive the gloom of doubt away;
 giver of immortal gladness,
 fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
sound their praise eternally.

You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing,
let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

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.

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

Mark 9:2-9

***SINGING A SONG** – "This Is God's Wondrous World" VU #296

This is God's wondrous world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.

This is God's wondrous world:
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world:
God shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.

This is God's wondrous world:
O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world:
why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:
God reigns, let earth be glad!

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Kings 2:1-12

Mark 9:2-9

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC - "Three Things I Promise"

RESPONDING

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS (*Minute for Mission*) Ronalds family

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*)

**Generous One,
transform what we offer this morning
for your work in the world.**

**Transfigure us in our giving
that we might know your joyful Spirit
through the spiritual practice
of committed offerings.**

**Inspire us to live into your abundance
in Jesus' strong name.**

Amen

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*responsively*)

In the shadows of this world, working for a politic of justice; in the hunger of people, speaking out for trade rules that are fair.

May we be people of the transfiguration.

In the conflict of the world, living lives of peace; in the prejudice of our traditions, speaking words of inclusion and acceptance.

May we be people of the transfiguration.

In the grieving of people, being the presence of hope; in the propaganda of the nations, being the way of truth.

May we be people of the transfiguration.

In the living of the faith, being the community of love; in the needs of people, being the hands of heaven.

May we be people of the transfiguration.

In the bad news of the media, being the good news of God; in the ordinariness of the world, being the presence of your glory.

May we be people of the transfiguration.

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** – “In Christ There Is No East or West”
VU #606 (*tune St. Peter VU 344*)

In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great family of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

In him shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.

Join hands, then people of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
all children of the living God
are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
All Christ-like souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

***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 12 th to Feb 17 th		
Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
	9:00 AM	Ways & Means - RMR
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. Please note the **church office will be closed** on the following Monday, **February 19th** in observance of Family Day.

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 8th, 2024 we have collected 94 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



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*

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

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. ***Please note that most socks will be distributed by the Volunteer Center, while others will be retained at the church for donation here.*** 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.

"We must strive to become good ancestors."

~ Ralph Nader

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 this ministry by keeping us informed. Thank you!

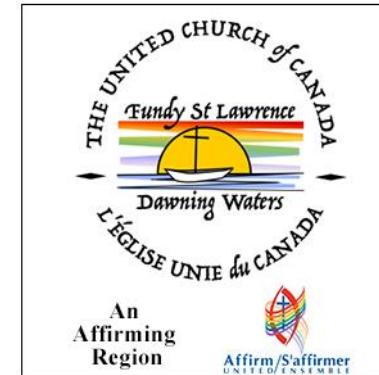
Annual Tax Receipts for 2023 are prepared and are in the narthex for pick up. They can also be picked up from the church office during the week between 9 AM to 3 PM.

Community News

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.

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



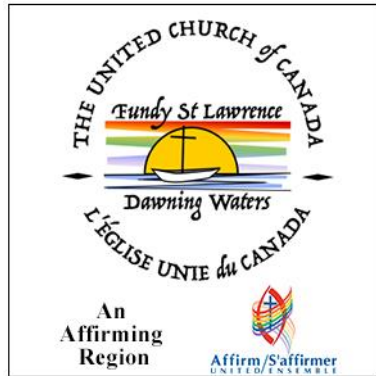
The United Church Bookstore: Join the Lenten Study Group!

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) (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.

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



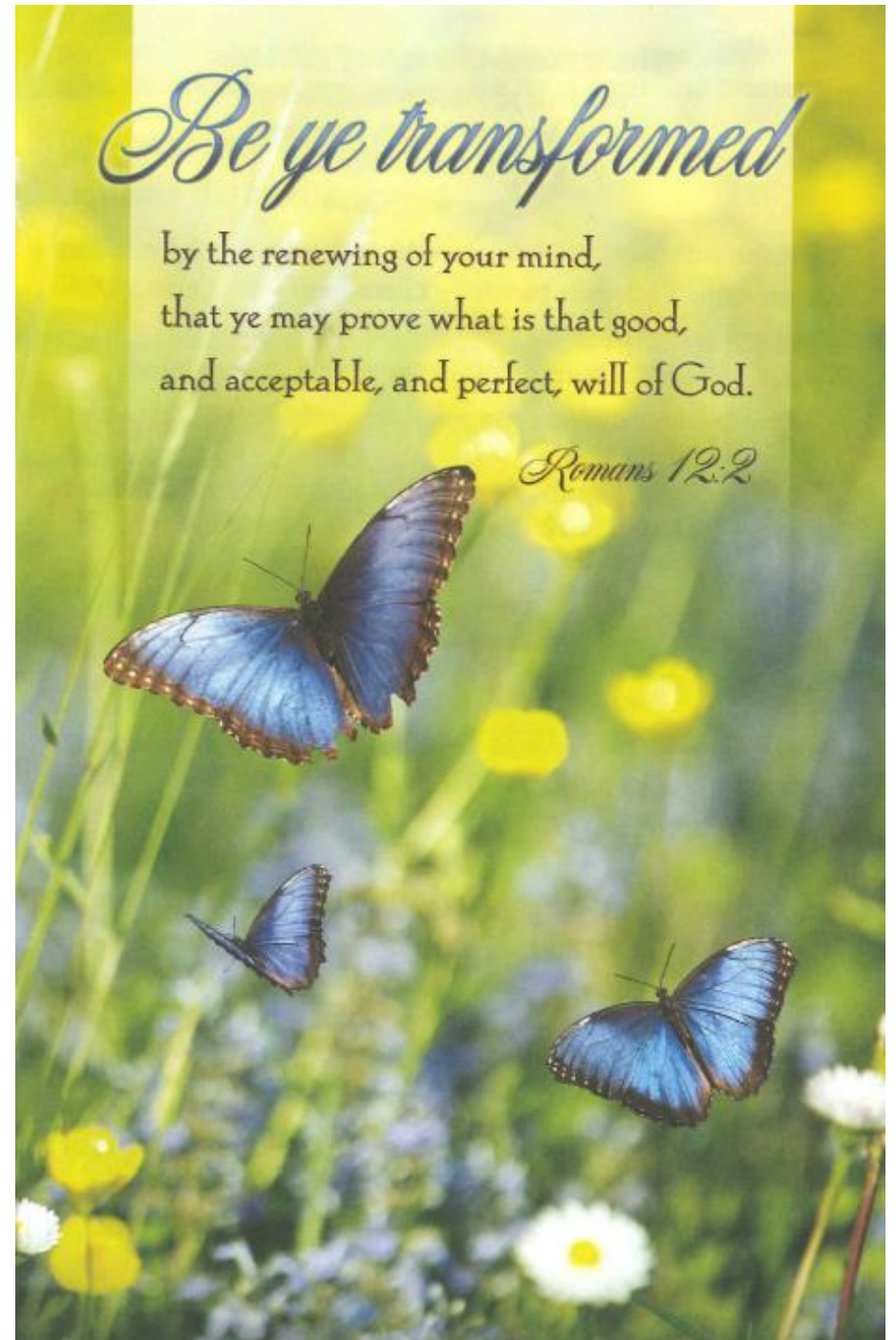
**Communities of Faith: Singing Songs of Hope to
Support Mental Health – Feb 21 7:00PM**

This webinar will be an opportunity to dive deeper into our understanding of spirituality, mental health and the impact a community of faith can have on providing support.

When life is out of balance a person's mental well-being can become compromised. They might change behaviors, forget who they are, who cares for them and maybe they even feel disconnected from God.

Our Presenter is Kelly Hudson-Lewis, Manager of Spiritual Care for the Saint John Area of Horizon Health. Kelly is a United Church minister who, in 25 years of ministry, has served in congregations, community advocacy agencies as well as mental health outreach.

For registration please click on this [link](https://ucceast.ca/82881-fsldw-affirm-webinar-mental-health-and-spirituality).
(<https://ucceast.ca/82881-fsldw-affirm-webinar-mental-health-and-spirituality>)



SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 KINGS 2:1-12

Elijah Ascends to Heaven

1 Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.

2 Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

3 The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

4 Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho.

5 The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

6 Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on.

7 Fifty men of the company of prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan.

8 Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and the two of them crossed on dry ground.

9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit."

10 He responded, "You have asked a hard thing, yet if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not."

11 As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven.

12 Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

MARK 9:2-9

The Transfiguration & The Coming of Elijah

2 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them,

3 and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them.

4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

5 Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

6 He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

8 Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

9 As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

May God bless to our understanding these significant parts of our faith story...