

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

February 18, 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 Ralph Jamieson & Donald Eddy

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Genesis 9:8-17	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalms 25:1-10	Psalms 22:23-31
1 Peter 3:18-22	Romans 4:13-25
Mark 1:9-15	Mark 8:31-38

*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 *(in unison)*

...As we gather to worship, let's respectfully pause to remember we live and work and worship on lands that are, by law, the unceded territory of the original peoples, the Mi'kmaq. May we live with respect on this land, and live in peace and in friendship with its people.

LENTEN CANDLE-LIGHTING PRAYER *(responsively)*

...Today, we take one step on our Lenten journey, travelling in the shadow of our teacher, hoping to follow faithfully in his *Way*.

We keep our senses attuned, attentive to God's Child, the Beloved. Even when what we experience makes us uncomfortable or afraid, we don't turn away.

The Lenten Candle is lit.

Water is poured into the Baptismal font.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP –

MV #115

"Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New"

***Behold, behold,
I make all things new,
beginning with you and starting from today.***

***Behold, behold,
I make all things new,
my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.***

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsively)*

Through healing waters, through troubled waters, through still waters, through dangerous waters, through welcoming waters,

God is with us.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN –**

MV #87

"Water Flowing from the Mountains"

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

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

Refrain

LENTEN TENEBRAE (*responsively*)

Brooke Knowles & Helen Knowles

...Six Candles are lit, as well as the Christ Candle...

One: We suffer when we do not know who we are.

Two: We are constantly tempted by the seduction of power, the glamour of wealth, and ego-gratifying attention.

One: We are drawn into these temptations because we forget who we are and whose we are.

Two: When we forget we are created in God's image,

One: we lose our connection to our soul and to our God.

Two: Like fish out of water, we lose our connection to that which gives us life.

One: We then live with consequences, which are hard to bear, for ourselves, for our society, and for our world.

The first candle is extinguished...

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.***

Two: Let us pray.

**Holy One,
we really don't live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from you.
Feed us with your wisdom and your truth.
Quench our deepest thirst
to find the peace you offer.
In this journey of Lent, travel with us
as we seek to find our true self,
the self we've been created to be.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen**

***GREETING ONE ANOTHER** (*responsively*)

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

And also with you.

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

***SINGING A SONG** – "Come, Dare to Be"

Come dare to be all that you are in Christ;
be what his loving, be what his thinking
see in your person: you are eternal light.

All that you have, he gave to you at first;
challenge and courage, will and commitment,
spring from one fountain: so you will never thirst.

From yoke or bond his love has set you free;
free to love others, praising and serving
Christ who is present in human lives we see.

Even today you are what you will be;
judged and forgiven, from death arisen,
take up life's fullness, for Christ has made you free!

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Helen Knowles

Genesis 9:8-17

Mark 1:9-15

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC – "Loving God, Lead Us On"

RESPONDING

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

THE OFFERING IS GATHERED

***OFFERING RESPONSE** –

VU #541

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.***

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

**Creator and Creating One,
in all we do, in all we say, and in all we give,
may we live out your covenant
to care for *all* creation.
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** –

VU #108

"Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights"

Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter Day.

The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,
who found in weakness greater power,
embraces us, though lost and flawed,
and leads us to his Rising Hour.

Church News

We bear the silence, cross and pain
of human burdens, human strife,
while sisters, brothers help sustain
our courage till the Feast of Life.

And though the road is hard and steep,
the Spirit ever calls us on through
Calvary's dying, dark and deep,
until we see the coming Dawn.

So let us choose the path of One
who wore, for us, the crown of thorn,
and slept in death that we might wake
to life on Resurrection Morn!

Rejoice, O sons and daughters! Sing
and shout hosannas! Raise the strain!
For Christ, whose death Good Friday brings
on Easter Day will rise again!

*BLESSING

***CHORAL CLOSING** – "Stay with Us through the Night"
VU #182 (Verse 1)

***Stay with us through the night.
Stay with us through the pain.
Stay with us, blessed stranger
till the morning breaks again.***

*(The Christ Candle, Lenten Tenebrae & Lenten candles are
extinguished.)*

POSTLUDE

This Week at First United – Feb 19th to Feb 24th

Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
<i>Family Day – Church Office Closed</i>		
Tuesday	6:00 PM	Council Meeting - 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 **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 15th, 2024 we have collected 124 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

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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 fristadmin@nb.aibn.com. The annual subscription rate is \$30 (tax included).

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!

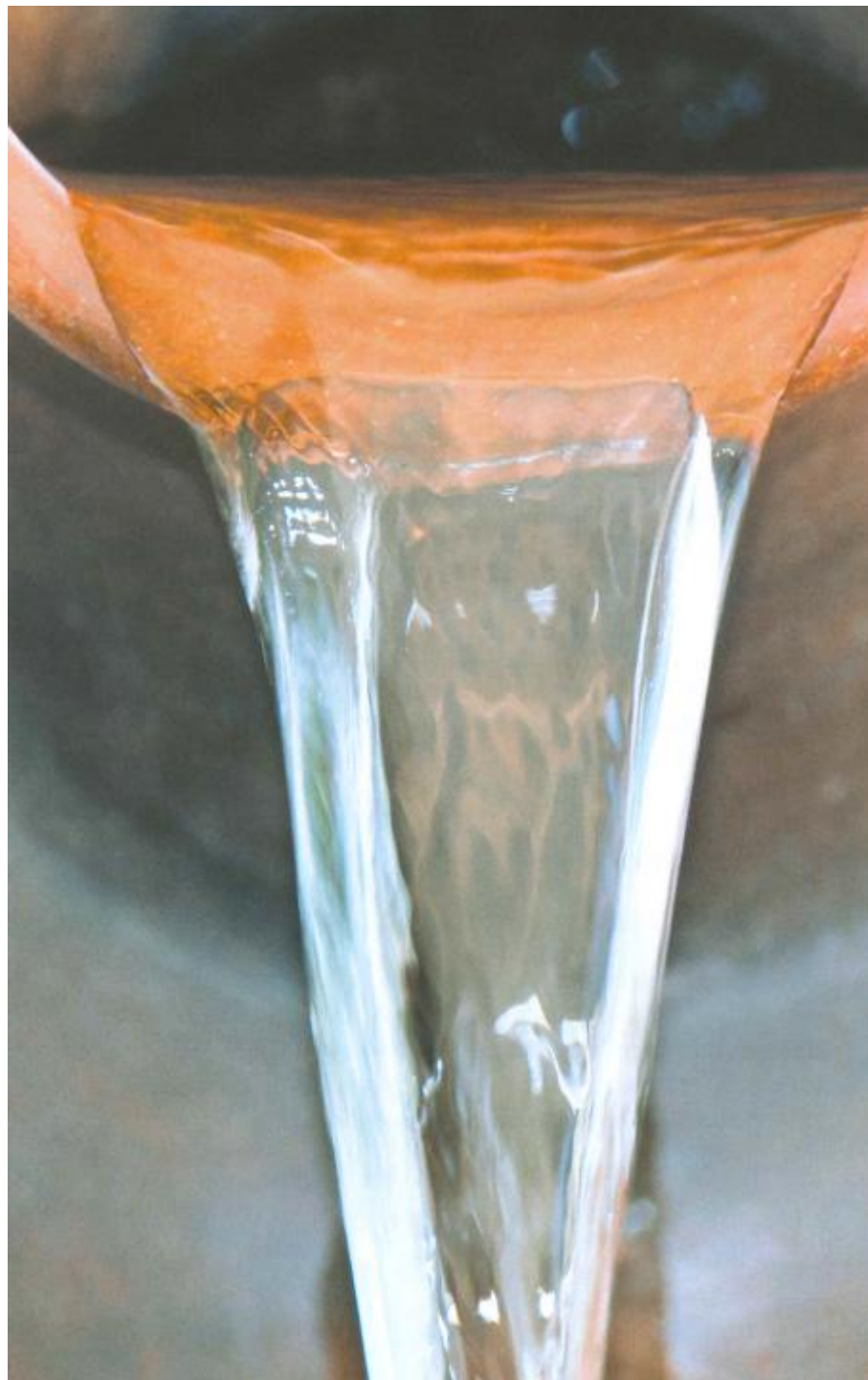
As part of our **Stewardship Program** here at First United, information on Planned Giving through Wills and Bequests is available to our congregational membership. All members are encouraged to review this information and take the appropriate steps pertaining to your wishes. The information is available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

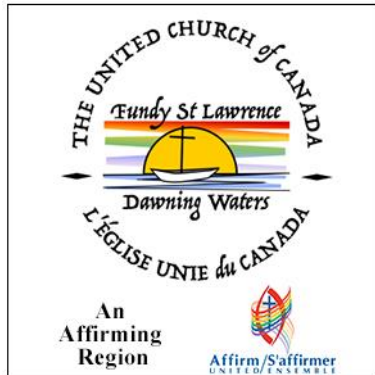
Below you will find a stewardship quote relating to the same.

"The one principle that surrounds everything else is that of stewardship; that we are the managers of everything that God has given us"
~ Larry Burkett

Community News

The Treble Makers will be playing a variety of music at the **Bathurst Heritage Museum**, 360 Douglas Ave, on *Thursday, February 22nd starting at 2 PM*. There is no admission fee. A voluntary donation towards the museum is always appreciated.





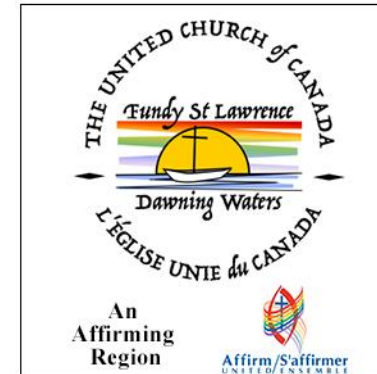
Communities of Faith: Singing Songs of Hope to Support Mental Health – Feb 21 7:00PM

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-fsl-dw-affirm-webinar-mental-health-and-spirituality).
(<https://ucceast.ca/82881-fsl-dw-affirm-webinar-mental-health-and-spirituality>)



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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

GENESIS 9:8-17

8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him,

9 "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you

10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.

11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

12 God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations:

13 I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds,

15 I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

17 God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

MARK 1:9-15

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him.

11 And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

12 And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

13 He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God

15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

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