

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

**April 14, 2024**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Easter**

**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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<b><u>Lectionary for today</u></b>	<b><u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u></b>
Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48	Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18
<i>The bulletins today are placed in loving memory of</i> <b>Stephen McLean</b> by the family	

*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.**

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

*The Christ candle is lit...*

**CENTERING FOR WORSHIP** – VU #175 *(Refrain only)*  
"This Is the Day That God Has Made"

***This is the day that God has made!***  
***Rejoice! Rejoice, and be exceeding glad!***  
***This is the day that God has made!***  
***Rejoice! Rejoice! Hallelujah!***

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

In the Easter newness and resurrection of this season,  
**there is hope.**

In the Easter freedom and joy of this season,  
**there is liberation.**

In the Easter alleluias and amens of this season,  
**there is grace.**

Christ is risen.

**Alleluia!**

**GATHERING PRAYER**

**\*GATHERING HYMN** – "All Things Bright and Beautiful" VU #291

*Refrain*  
*All things bright and beautiful,*  
*all creatures great and small,*  
*all things wise and wonderful:*  
*in love, God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens,  
each little bird that sings,  
God made their glowing colours,  
God made their tiny wings.

*Refrain*  
*All things bright and beautiful,*  
*all creatures great and small,*  
*all things wise and wonderful:*  
*in love, God made them all.*

The purple headed mountains,  
the river running by,  
the sunset and the morning  
that brightens up the sky;

*Refrain*

The cold wind in the winter,  
the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden:  
God made them every one.

*Refrain*

The rocky mountain splendour,  
the lone wolf's haunting call,  
the great lakes and the prairies,  
the forest in the fall;

*Refrain*

God gave us eyes to see them,  
and lips that we might tell  
how great is God our maker,  
who has made all things well.

*Refrain*

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

Holy One, you shed light into our darkened world.

**Yet sometimes, we choose to walk in the shadows of  
indifference and fear.**

From the cool, refreshing waters of a deep well, you offer a drink of  
life-giving water.

**Yet sometimes, we choose to drink from wells of bitterness  
and anger.**

As life emerges from fertile soil, we're invited to newness and growth.

**Yet sometimes, we choose the parched soil of hatred,  
materialism, and greed.**

With songs of celebration, we're invited to join the Spirit's dance.

**Yet sometimes, we choose to sit, ignoring the music.**

*(Moment of Silent Confession)*

Take our hands, we pray, and lead us

**in the dance of your tomorrow.** *(Moment of silence)*

**CHORAL RESPONSE** – "Kyrie Eleison (Guarani)"

MV #68

***Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son,***  
***ky-ri-e e-le-i-son,***  
***ky-ri-e e-le-i-son,***  
***ky-ri-e e-le-i-son.***

***O God have mercy,***  
***O God have mercy,***  
***O God, have mercy,***  
***have mercy on us.***

***Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son,***  
***ky-ri-e e-le-i-son,***  
***ky-ri-e e-le-i-son,***  
***ky-ri-e e-le-i-son.***

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

...Peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

*1 John 3:2*

**\*SINGING A SONG** – “Here in this Ordinary Place”  
(*Seasons of the Spirit vol. 4. Words and music; Bret Hesla.*)

May we awake, awaken  
To the presence of God  
The presence of God  
The presence of God  
May we awake, awaken  
To the presence of God  
Here in this ordinary place.

(*Chorus*)  
*Here, here in this ordinary place.*  
*Here, here in this ordinary place.*

May we awake, awaken  
To the power of love ...

(*Chorus*)

And may we build a community  
of justice for all ...

(*Chorus*)

*ENGAGING*

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

*Anne Wilson*

*Luke 24:36b-48*

### **REFLECTION**

### **MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

### **GIFT OF MUSIC** – “The Spring Has Come”

*RESPONDING*

### **YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS**

*Ronalds family*

## **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*)

**Generous One,  
we give thanks for all we have and all we are.  
May the tithes, gifts, and offerings we bring  
be of healing service to a sometimes hurting world.  
May our collective offering  
be an expression of our love and healing  
through the risen Christ.  
Amen**

## **SHARING OUR CONCERNS**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** – VU #916 (A Translation) (*in unison*)

**Our Father-Mother, who is in the heavens,  
may your name be made holy,  
may your dominion come,  
may your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today the bread we need;  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we have forgiven our debtors;  
and do not put us to the test,  
but rescue us from evil.  
For yours is the dominion, and the power,  
and the glory forever.  
Amen**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*CLOSING HYMN** – “To Show by Touch and Word” VU #427

To show by touch and word devotion to the earth,  
to hold in full regard all life that comes to birth,  
we need, O God, the will to find  
the good you had of old in mind.

Renew our minds to choose the things that matter most,  
our hearts to long for truth till pride of self is lost.  
For every challenge that we face  
we need your guidance and your grace.

Let love from day to day be yardstick, rule, and norm,  
and let our lives portray your word in human form.  
Now come with us that we may have  
your wits about us where we live.

## \*BLESSING

**\*CHORAL SENDING FORTH** (*Tune Promise VU 703*)

***As we go into the future,  
As we tell of the Good News,  
We will show our love for others,  
Just as Christ has told us to.  
We will tell the wondrous story,  
Of a love that's made for you,  
And it's all because of Easter—  
Sing a joyous Hal-le-lu!***

*(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)*

## POSTLUDE

## SCRIPTURE READING

### LUKE 24:36-48

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

36 While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

37 They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost.

38 He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?”

39 Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

41 Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?”

42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish,

43 and he took it and ate in their presence.

44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”

45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,

46 and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day

47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

48 You are witnesses of these things.

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

# Church News

This Week at First United Church		
Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Tuesday	6:00-7:30 PM	Youth Confirmation Class
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Thursday	1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Games Afternoon - DEMH
	4:15 PM	Choir
	7:15-8:45 PM	Youth Confirmation Class
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market
Sunday	3:00-4:30 PM	Adult Confirmation Class

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

**Sunday School Class** will be continuing each Sunday up to and including May 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Youth Confirmation sessions** will commence this coming Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 7:30 PM and on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> from 7:15 to 8:45 PM. Following that, there will be sessions on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> (7:00 - 8:30 PM), Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> (7:15 - 8:45 PM), and Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> (7:00 - 8:30 PM).

**Adult Confirmation sessions** begin next Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> (3:00 - 4:30 PM).

**Peanut Butter** – Once again this year we have set a goal of 900 jars of peanut butter to donate to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. Up to April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 we have collected 221 jars. We will be purchasing an additional 90+ jars soon.

**Let's Play Games** has returned and is being held on Thursday afternoon from 1:00 to 3:00 PM in the Donald Eddy Memorial Hall. Several types of games are available – no partners are needed. Tea and coffee provided but please bring your own mug.

**Sincerest thanks** from Hendrika to everyone who has reached out to her with thoughts, prayers, telephone calls, emails and visits during the past few weeks. Words cannot express how grateful she is during this trying time and the passing of her mother.



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

### **REGISTRATION FOR YOUTH@REGION IS NOW LIVE!**

Y@R is a place of community and a place of faith where United Church youth, between grade 6 and 12, meet from across New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Gaspé, Quebec. It takes place during the Annual Meeting of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council (FSLDW), May 31 - June 2, 2024. As some delegates are coming to the meeting Thursday evening, youth are welcome to come as well. Please indicate on your registration your arrival date.

Please make [this link](#) available to the youth, grades 6-12 in your community of faith.

If you have any questions, please email Catherine Stuart, Regional Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults at [cstuart@united-church.ca](mailto:cstuart@united-church.ca), or Lisa Folkins, Director, at [lisa.folkins@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.folkins@gmail.com).

### **BECOMING AN AFFIRMING CONGREGATION - FIRST STEPS**

Our FSLDW Affirm Committee offers something on first steps every year. If you've begun the conversation "officially" or if you are one person wanting to get the conversation started, this is a good place to join others who have questions and experiences to offer.

This Zoom gathering will be on April 18th 7:00-8:30, with guest Kim Curlett, United Church minister and our Atlantic representative for Affirm United. Click [here](#) for the registration link for the meeting or enter <https://ucceast.ca/84049-2024-becoming-an-affirming-congregation-first-steps-webinar-hosted-by-fsldw-affirm>.

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

**Results of the Vote on Remit 1: Establishing an  
Autonomous National Indigenous Organization.**

**April 9, 2024**

Remit 1 has passed.

All 16 regional councils, the National Indigenous Council, and 80% of pastoral charges in The United Church of Canada participated in the vote on Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization.

The voting process engaged many across the church in deep and sometimes challenging conversations about right relations with Indigenous Peoples. Throughout this process, it became particularly clear that there is a need for deeper and ongoing work to address the issues of systemic racism which persist in the church, despite our continued commitment to reconciliation. We will re-engage this important work this year.

Meanwhile, there is one final phase in the remit process. The 44<sup>th</sup> General Council Annual Meeting will be asked to enact the remit when it meets on October 19, 2024. This is the same process for all Category 3 remits.

In anticipation of the General Council enacting the remit in October, the National Indigenous Council, the National Indigenous Elders Council, and the Executive of the General Council will continue to work together to identify and lay out a framework for the autonomous Indigenous organization within the United Church.

## ***Community News***

**Central United Church** in Clifton is holding their annual take-out Lobster Supper on ***Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>***. For tickets, please contact Lois Archibald (506-548-8927). The cost is \$30 per person. You have your choice of the lobster being in the shell or shelled for you. Also, there is the choice of lemon meringue or cherry cheesecake for dessert.

