

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

April 21, 2024
4th 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 Ralph Jamieson & Donald Eddy

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18	Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25-31 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8
<p><i>The bulletins today are placed by Helene Brown with a wish for</i> "Peace in the World"</p> <p><i>The flowers in the sanctuary and the bulletins are placed</i> <i>"in loving memory of Betty (Branch) Lavigne"</i> <i>from Judy, Macky and Jennifer</i></p>	

*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 our Easter joy, we find the Spirit

of new starts and fresh growth.

In our Easter grace, we find the Spirit

of renewal and transformation.

In our Easter faith, we find the Spirit

to carry us from shadows and despair.

In our Easter peace, we find the Spirit

to nurture us in hope and in love.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – "Are You a Shepherd?"

MV #126

Are you a shepherd, good shepherd who leads us safely through danger, while calming our fears?

Are you a father who shelters and feeds us, shares in our laughter and wipes away tears?

Refrain

*Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,
but you are greater than all that we know.
Holy and living, loving and giving,
God, you are with us wherever we go.*

Are you a mother, good mother who bears us,
comforts, protects us and helps us to rest?
Are you a teacher who daily prepares us,
challenging students to offer their best?

Refrain

Great, gentle shepherd, forever beside us,
lead all your children in paths that are right.
Great, loving parent, wise teacher, you guide us.
We want to love you and bring you delight.

Refrain

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

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 (*1 John 3:16-18*) (*with those of all ages*)

The Story of Ruby Bridges

***SINGING A SONG** – “Here In This Ordinary Place”

Seasons of the Spirit Volume 4 – Words & 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 READINGS

Cheryl Brewster

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

John 10:11-18

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC – “The Earth is the Lord’s”

The earth is the Lord’s and its fullness
is granted to us as a trust
to cherish, protect and to care for,
and give the respect that we must.
For all of our world then is sacred,
the source of the life that it feeds.
Each forest and marsh has a purpose,
there’s breath of divine in each seed.

God lends us the sun and the water and soil
to give bountiful yields,
but much is reserved for the wealthy,
and hunger cannot be concealed.
Why are we at odds with our planet,
consuming far more than we need?
But greed or indifference blinds us,
and nature continues to bleed.

What’s left for the next generation,
when finite resources are drained;
when earth is defiled by its people
and wide spread extinctions profane?
Our garbage pollutes distant oceans,
our tail pipes promote climate harm.
Must remedies wait on our neighbours;
will we remain deaf to alarms?

For progress to have lasting value,
our actions must be what sustains
the health and the balance of nature;
as stewards, we tend God domain.
So use this inheritance wisely
and learn to live amply with less.
Then keep this eighth day of Creation
a covenant bond we can bless.

RESPONDING

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Pat MacIntosh

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 (*responsively*)

To the one who’s commanded us to love one another,
we give thanks for the love we’ve received.

**Hugs, prayers, gifts, words of encouragement, forgiveness,
and grace.**

In recognition of all we are given
let’s now commit to doing love.

**Sharing, caring and sacrificing, being patient, generous,
selfless, risking judgment, loss, disappointment.**

Let’s offer all the love we have in all the ways we can
until our doing becomes our being.

Let’s do love, let’s be love,

in the name of the one who is love.

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**

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CLOSING HYMN – “The Servant Song”

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

*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

Church News

This Week at First United Church		
Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Tuesday	6:00 PM	Pastoral Council - RMR
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Thursday	4:15 PM	Choir
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market

Jennifer Oliver Lavigne will be leading our service next Sunday

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 12th.

With the warmer spring temperatures we are now experiencing it was decided that **Let's Play Games** will return in the fall.

Youth Confirmation sessions - there will be sessions on Wednesday, May 1st (7:00 - 8:30 PM), Tuesday, May 14th (7:15 - 8:45 PM), and Wednesday, May 15th (7:00 - 8:30 PM).

Adult Confirmation sessions begin today, Sunday, April 21st (3:00 - 4:30 PM).

Bathurst Pastoral Council will be meeting April 23rd at 6 PM in the Ruth Morrison Room.

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 18th, 2024 we have collected 233 jars. We will be purchasing an additional 96 jars on Monday.

Flowers for Mother's Day - We will be having flowers placed in our sanctuary in honour of Mother's day. Those wishing to contribute to the Mother's Day flower fundraiser may place an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday morning or drop it in at the office during the week between 9 AM and 3 PM. Please mark clearly on the face of the envelope – **Mother's Day Flower Fundraiser** with your **name, PAR or envelope number** and **to whom the dedication is in memory of**. An insert will be included in the bulletin on Mother's Day, May 12th with your dedications. **Please have your dedications in the office by Wednesday, May 8th.**

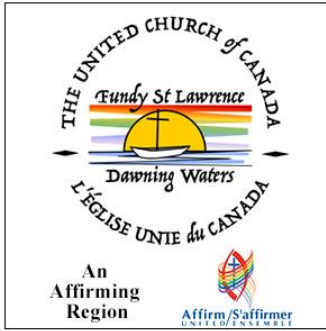
Community News

Central United Church in Clifton is holding their annual take-out Lobster Supper on **Saturday, May 11th**. 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.

A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on **Saturday, May 11th from 8:00 – 10:00 am**. As this community event serves to fund our local mission projects, we rely on donations and ask that you consider a minimum donation of \$ 8.00 to help defray costs. We appreciate your kindness and support. Come and enjoy fellowship and great food.

The Bathurst Foster Family Association presents "**Together at the Table**". An evening of entertainment by well-known local artists, taking place on **Saturday, May 4, 2024** at **BHS Gwendolyn Kent Auditorium** at 7:00 pm. Proceeds will go to activities for our children and youth in care. Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased from Catherine and Company and Jean Coutu in Beresford.

(A reminder to please have cash for ticket purchase)



Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional News

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING A GENERAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONER?

The 45th General Council of The United Church of Canada will meet in-person **August 7 to 12, 2025 in Calgary, AB.**

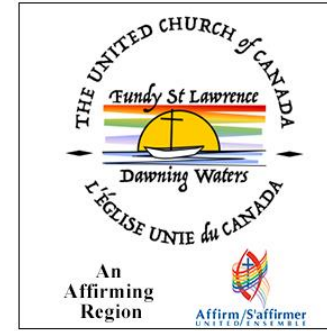
The Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council is eligible to elect six (6) lay commissioners and six (6) ministry personnel, and their alternates, and **one (1) Youth (15-18) and one (1) Young Adult (19-30) commissioners.**

Lay people who are full members of a United Church congregation, and ministry personnel who are interested in helping the church prepare and plan for its next 100 years are encouraged to consider letting their name stand as a nominee for General Council Commissioner.

Nominations will close on May 10, 2024. If you are interested, please let Rev. Neal know.

FSLDW AGM Facilitators Needed

We are looking for facilitators for Y@R (Youth @ Region). If you are looking for a fun weekend (May 30 to June 2) and love spending time with our youth, message Lisa Folkins for more information at lisa.folkins@gmail.com



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, or Lisa Folkins, Director, at lisa.folkins@gmail.com.

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SCRIPTURE READINGS

ACTS 4:5-12

5 The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem,

6 with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.

7 When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders,

9 if we are being questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are being asked how this man has been healed,

10 let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.

11 This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'

12 "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

PSALM 23 *(in unison)*

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

JOHN 10:11-18

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

12 The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.

13 The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.

14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me,

15 just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

16 I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.

18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

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