

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

April 28, 2024
5th 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 Shirley Allain & Donald Eddy

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We welcome and thank **Jennifer Oliver Lavigne**
for leading us in our worship service today!
The focus scripture today is Acts 8:26-40

*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

From ordinary things become extraordinary things. From people who gather, community is built. From words, a story emerges. And from a candle, god's presence becomes visible. This is the light of Christ.

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)*

Beloved, let us love one another –

for love is from God.

Everyone who loves is born of and knows God –

for love is from God.

God's love was revealed in love –

for love is from God.

God's love is revealed in us –

for love is from God,

for God is love.

Thanks be to God!

Let us worship.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – "We Praise You O God"

VU #218

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,
through trial and tempest, companion and guide.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.

With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever we praise!

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION

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*)

***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 READING

Gary Branch

Acts 8:26-40

REFLECTION – “Together We Worship” - Rev. Greg Powell

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC – “Like a Healing Stream”

RESPONDING

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Martha Vickers

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**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Our Father/Mother/Creator

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,

and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN – “We Are The Singers”**

Refrain:

We are God’s people, hopeful and joyful

One open circle round Jesus Christ!

We are the singers who celebrate Jesus,
We are the cast of a play to unfold,
We have a part at the heart of the Gospel,
Action that speaks as the Story is told,

Refrain:

We are God’s people, hopeful and joyful

One open circle round Jesus Christ!

This is the wonder, that we should be chosen!
We, like the earthenware vessels we are,
Clay in the mold to enfold the great treasure:
Light of more power than planet or star,

Refrain:

We are the travelers set out on a voyage,
Ship that will sail with whoever will board,
We who can dream a regime of acceptance,
Seeking a country of loving accord,

Refrain:

We have a life that is greening and growing,
Centered on Jesus, the root and the vine,
We are a place for each race and each rainbow,
Household of faith with a pledge of new wine,

Refrain:

***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
	7:00 PM	Profile/Search Team - RMR
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
	7:15-8:45 PM	Youth Confirmation - RMR
Thursday	4:15 PM	Choir
	7:00 PM	CD Team - RMR
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market

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).

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 25th, 2024 we have collected 334 jars.

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.**

Church News

SPRING CLEANING? - The **Community Outreach Sub Team** urges you to keep in mind if you're spring cleaning or it's time to organize closets/drawers, please keep in mind the current needs of Second Chance, the second-hand shop on King Avenue. Their staff are experiencing an influx of needy families, whose homes have little or no furnishings, the greatest need being for sheets, towels & curtains. Of course, all other donations will be accepted & received with gratitude.

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 / adherents 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.

All shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that God has given you.

Deuteronomy 16:17

"People give not because an organization has needs but because it meets needs."

~Michael J. Worth

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.

Mother's Day Tea and Bake Sale will be held on **Saturday, May 11th at 12 Noon** at Holy Family Church, 430 St. Peter Avenue. Tickets will be \$12.00.

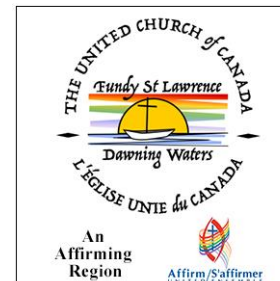
Community News

YARD SALE at St. George's Anglican Church Hall, 432 King Avenue
Saturday May 4th from 8:00 am. – 12:00 pm.

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.

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)



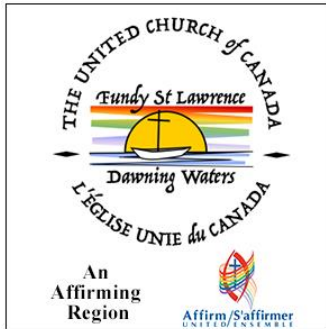
Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional News

BERWICK CAMP 2024

Berwick Camp will be holding its 152nd encampment this summer from July 26 to August 4. This year we will be welcoming our United Church Moderator, the Right Rev Dr Carmen Lansdowne, as Minister in Residence. She will be conducting the service on Sundays at 10am, and Monday to Friday evenings at 7pm. We'd love to welcome members of congregations from all over the Maritimes and beyond to spend some time with us this year. If your church is in the Berwick area, we would love to have the whole congregation celebrate Sunday services under the hemlocks with us. Have further to travel? We are hoping that churches from outside of the area will pool for transportation for a day visit, and stay for the evening service. Or, come and experience the whole week! Registration is now open. More information can be found on our website (<https://www.berwickcamp.org>), including the link for registration and the daily schedule (with more details on events to come as we get closer). So come check it out!

We are sending along here a promotional video giving a bit of a snapshot of what Berwick is all about. If you are able to show this at your churches on camping Sunday (or any time!), please do! Many churches have campers that attend that would be happy to answer questions about the camp experience. Link to video: <https://youtu.be/aDoCbTSbSK8>

Hope to see you there!



Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional News

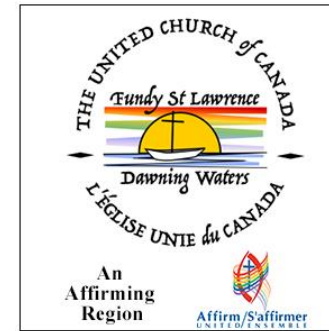
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING A GENERAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONER?

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.



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.

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

Scripture Reading (New Revised Standard Version)

Acts 8:26-40

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.)

27 So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship

28 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.'

30 So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?'

31 He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

32 Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

*'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.*

33 *In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.'*

34 The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?'

35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

36 As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' (*There is no verse 37 in this version*)

38 He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.