

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

May 5, 2024

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter

**Minister** Rev. Neal Palmer    **Music Director** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Margaret Daniels    **Custodian** Lester Scott  
**Greeters** Edie & Peter Gammon  
**Audio & Visual Technicians** Brenda Parrott & Donald Eddy

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Acts 10:44-48	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalms 98	Psalms 1
1 John 5:1-6	1 John 5:9-13
John 15:9-17	John 17:6-19

*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** – “Wind is Moving”

*Seasons of the Spirit vol. 1 pg. 39*

***Wind is moving over water,  
patterns shifting out across the bay.  
Grass is bending on the hillside;  
clouds are drifting right across the sky.  
O Holy Spirit, move over all our lives.  
O Holy Spirit, move over all our lives.***

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

We gather to worship.

**We gather as God's people. We abide in the Spirit's love.**

We enter with glad hearts, eager to love and serve.

**Christ has loved us completely. We abide in Christ's love.**

We praise the Maker, whose love spreads through all of creation.

**Creation is a gift to all, and we're entrusted to care for the good earth. Creation abides in our love.**

We honour the light, the dark, and the hues between. The Holy One makes all things beautiful.

**Life in its fullness holds great joy and great pain.**

We are witnesses to the depth of love that fills our days.

**We abide in the joy of love.**

**GATHERING PRAYER**

**\*GATHERING HYMN** – “Come, Let Us Sing”

VU #222

Come, let us sing to the Lord our song,  
we have stood silently too long;  
surely the Lord deserves our praise,  
so joyfully thank God for our days.

O thirsty soul, come drink at the well;  
God's living waters will never fail.  
Surely the Lord will help you to stand,  
strengthened and comforted by God's hand.

You dwell among us and cause us to pray,  
and walk with each other following your way;  
our precious brothers and sisters will grow  
in the fulfilling love they know.

Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing  
to the desire of all living things.  
Come, all you creatures, high and low,  
let your praises endlessly flow.

### **PRAYER OF HUMILITY**

**CHORAL RESPONSE** – “And When You Call for Me” MV #96

***And when you call for me,  
I have already answered.  
And when you call for me,  
I am already there.***

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

...Peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

*Red Dress Day*

**\*SINGING A SONG** – “Sweetgrass and Candle”  
(*Words by John Oldham/Music by Ron Klusmeier*)

Sweetgrass and candle, the peace pipe and bible,  
the stories of elders and beat of the drum;  
these are the symbols of hope, faith and justice.  
We gather in circle affirming we’re one.

Welcome the stranger for he is our brother  
and she is our sister of mother earth.  
Care for creation for all life is sacred  
and we are united by vision’s rebirth.

Join in the circle that will have no ending,  
for we are all equal and loved in God’s sight.  
Praise the Great Spirit! We gather as family  
to sing of Love’s freedom and dance with delight!

Welcome the stranger for he is our brother  
and she is our sister of mother earth.  
Care for creation for all life is sacred  
and we are united by vision’s rebirth.

Sweetgrass and candle, the peace pipe and bible,  
the stories of elders and beat of the drum;  
these are the symbols of hope, faith and justice.  
We gather in circle affirming we’re one.

*ENGAGING*

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

#### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*Anne Brooks*

Acts 10:44-48

John 15:9-17

#### **REFLECTION**

#### **MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**GIFT OF MUSIC** – “Wake O My Soul”

*RESPONDING*

#### **YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS**

*Martha Vickers*

#### **INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING**

#### **THE OFFERING IS GATHERED**

**\*OFFERING RESPONSE –**

VU #541

*GOING OUT (as Spirit people)*

“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)*

**Holy One,  
we love with our whole hearts.  
We believe with our whole lives.  
We dedicate all we are in service.  
Take us, use us, mold us, make us.  
Take all we are, all we offer, and use our gifts  
to the service of 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**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN – “In the Bulb There Is a Flower” – VU #703**

**\*BLESSING**

**\*CHORAL SENDING FORTH – “May the God of Peace” – MV #224**

***May the God of peace and of all good,  
may the God of peace and of all good  
be always with you. Amen!  
May God’s peace be with you. Amen!***

*(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	West Bathurst Cem. - RMR
Tuesday	7:00 PM	Property Mgmt. - 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

**Helen Knowles** will be leading our service next Sunday

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

**Sunday School Class** will have its final session on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Youth Confirmation sessions** - there will be sessions on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> (7:15 - 8:45 PM), and Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> (7:00 - 8:30 PM).

**West Bathurst Cemetery Team** will be meeting Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the Ruth Morrison Room.

**Property Management Team** will be meeting Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 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 May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 we have collected 341 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 12<sup>th</sup> with your dedications. **Please have your dedications in the office by Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.**

# Church News

**Thank you to our volunteers in April:**

**Greeters & Counters** – Margaret Payne Chenard and Mike Kierstead; **Your Generosity Matters** – Anne Wilson, Sally Ronalds, Pat MacIntosh and Martha Vickers; **Scripture Readers** – Wayne Lord, Anne Wilson, Cheryl Brewster and Gary Branch; **Sound System** – Brenda Parrott, Ralph Jamieson and Shirley Allain **Hospitality & Friendship** – Gayle Ferron, Shirley Sealy & Wilma Dempsey and Gini Palmer; and **Videographer** – Don Eddy as well as to Josh Gammon for uploading our services to the website and Facebook.

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.

Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth." But remember the Lord your God, for it is God who gives you power to get wealth, so that God may confirm God's covenant that God swore to your ancestors, as God is doing today.

*Deuteronomy 8:17-18*

"When someone dies, the obituary often tells us more about what they died from than what they lived for."

*~ Author unknown*

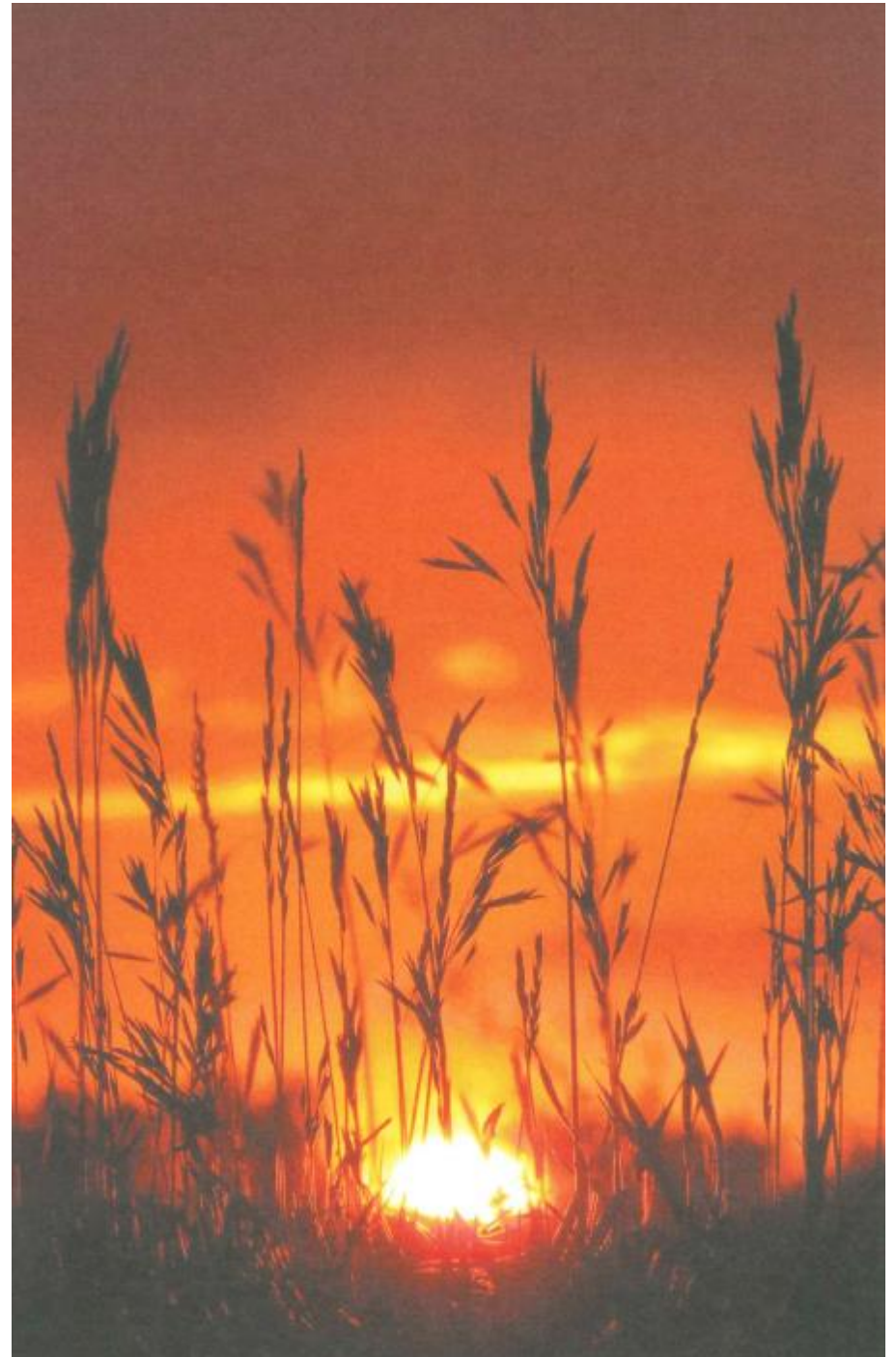
**Eat in or Take out Ham & Scallop Potato Supper** will be held on **Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>**. Tickets are available starting Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. \$18 for adults and \$6 for children. Please contact a member of the *Ways & Means Committee* or drop by or call (506-546-3532) the church office for tickets.

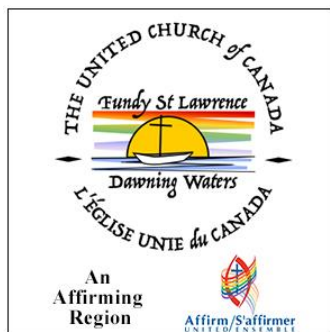
# Community News

**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.

**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.

**Annual Mother's Day Luncheon & Bake Sale** will be held at Holy Family Parish Hall, 430 St. Peter Avenue, Bathurst on Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon. Tickets \$12 per person.





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

#### **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING A GENERAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONER?**

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

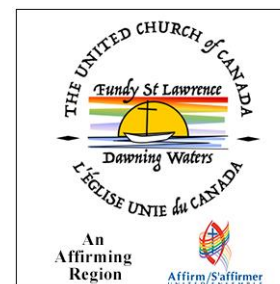
The Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council is eligible to elect six (6) lay commissioners and six (6) ministry personnel, and their alternates, and **one (1) Youth (15-18) and one (1) Young Adult (19-30) commissioners.**

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](mailto:lisa.folkins@gmail.com)



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

#### **BERWICK CAMP 2024**

Berwick Camp will be holding its 152<sup>nd</sup> 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!



## **Bathurst Pastoral Council Highlights**

The Bathurst Pastoral Council met on April 23, 2024. Chaired by Sandra Boone, the meeting was attended by Brenda Parrott, Bill Stack, Ian Oliver, Martha Vickers, Lester Scott, Isabel MacLaggan, Dave Morison, church treasurer, and Rev. Neal Palmer.

The meeting opened with the Land Acknowledgement and prayer.

The Ways & Means Team reported "healthy sales" for the February 25<sup>th</sup> breakfast with 200 or more attending. Printing 250 tickets for the next breakfast, perhaps in the fall, is being considered, a figure used pre-Covid times.

The busy team followed up with a successful pork dinner in late March. Both sit-down and take-out meals were served to 254 people. Such a dinner required up to 28 volunteers to help with cooking, serving and clean up.

Commenting on the self-insurance plan, initiated by national church to share the risk, Dave Morison said the saving was about \$2,000 going back to 2022.

Bill Stack recognized the lady volunteers who have been handling Hospitality and Friendship following Sunday services.

Martha Vickers and Rev. Neal gave an update on the annual meeting of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region, formerly embraced by Maritime Conference. It will be held in Charlottetown May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Included in the weekend meeting is an exciting program for youth of grades 6 – 12.

Again, the Pastoral Care Team encouraged members of the church family to visit the shut-ins. It was stated that only in doing so do you realize how meaningful it is.

Among topics of discussion, the Christian Development Team dealt with Red Dress Sunday on May 5<sup>th</sup>, Confirmation Sunday, Graduation Sunday and Rev. Neal's last Sunday on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Lester Scott of the Property Management Team spoke about a major expenditure, that being a new automatic dishwasher to replace the 25-year-old machine which cannot be repaired. Other financial outlays listed were two heat pumps for the office section of the church and camera installation for protection purposes. The total cost is more than \$23,000 but the dishwasher and heat pump items, being of an energy efficient nature, have a 66 percent rebate available through the national church's Faithful Footprints Program.

Council was told that the cross country vote to establish an Autonomous Indigenous Church within the United Church of Canada favoured the proposal.

The March concert by the Treble Makers was well attended as was the two-day Music Festival in April. Both events were held in our First United Sanctuary, the first one organized by the Pastoral Care Team.

With the retirement of Peter Watling and Hayden Hatheway from the Board of Trustees, the two replacements named were Dave Brewster and Wayne Cormier.

Respectfully submitted,

Isabel MacLaggan

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **ACTS 10:44-48**

44 While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.

45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the gentiles,

46 for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said,

47 "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"

48 So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

### **JOHN 15:9-17**

9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

14 You are my friends if you do what I command you.

15 I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

16 You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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