

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

**February 23, 2025**

**Supervising Clergy** Rev. Blair Lewis    **Music Director** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Margaret Daniels    **Custodian** Lester Scott  
**Greeters** Julie & Harvey Spence  
**Audio & Visual Technicians** Shirley Allain & Donald Eddy

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<b><u>Lectionary for today</u></b>	<b><u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u></b>
Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38	Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3:12--4:20 Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)
We welcome and thank <b>Rev. Catherine Stuart</b> for leading us in worship this morning	

*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 & CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: As we light the Christ Candle we are reminded of the important role of the Light of Christ in our lives.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

One: Jesus Christ is indeed the light of the world.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

*The Christ candle is lit...*

One: Jesus once told his followers:

**All: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you."**

One: Jesus never said this way was easy, he only said that it was good.

**All: We come today to put our hearts and lives back on this path of radical love.**

One: With good intentions on our hearts and minds, let us now worship God.

**CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "I Am Becoming Peace"**

*I am becoming peace.*

*I am becoming peace.*

*A well of patience, well of grace,  
make my soul a holy place.*

*I am becoming peace. (x 2)*

*I am becoming, I am becoming, I am becoming peace.*

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## GATHERING PRAYER

### \*GATHERING HYMN – “Come, Children, Join to Sing” VU #345

Come, children, join to sing: Hallelujah!  
Praise to our Servant King: Hallelujah!  
Let all with heart and voice,  
saved by God’s gracious choice,  
now in this place rejoice: Hallelujah!

Come, lift your hearts on high: Hallelujah!  
Let praises fill the sky; Hallelujah!  
Christ calls his people friends,  
the helpless he defends,  
a love never ends: Hallelujah!

Praise yet our Christ again: Hallelujah!  
Raise high the joyous strain: Hallelujah!  
The whole creation o’er  
Let all God’s love adore,  
singing for evermore: Hallelujah!

### PRAYER FOR HUMILITY *(by Rev. Penny Nelson, in unison)*

**Gracious God, give us mercy to forgive others, just as you forgive us. Give us joy to spark laughter and song as we follow in the footsteps of your Son, Jesus, who has taught us to live and trust in your good ways. In his name, we offer this prayer. AMEN.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### 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.***

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

.....The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

#### \*SINGING A SONG -

MV #138

“My Love Colours Outside the Lines”

My love colours outside the lines,  
exploring paths that few could ever find;  
and takes me into places  
where I’ve never been before,  
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

My Lord colours outside the lines,  
turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;  
and takes me into places  
where I’ve never been before,  
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines

*We’ll never walk on water  
if we’re not prepared to drown,  
body and soul need a soaking from time to time.  
And we’ll never move the gravestones  
If we’re not prepared to die, and realize  
there are worlds outside the lines.*

My sole longs to color outside the lines,  
tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;  
I want to walk beyond the boundaries  
where I’ve never been before,  
throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

*We’ll never walk on water  
if we’re not prepared to drown,  
body and soul need a soaking from time to time.  
And we’ll never move the gravestones  
If we’re not prepared to die, and realize  
there are worlds outside the lines.*

My sole longs to color outside the lines,  
tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;  
I want to walk beyond the boundaries  
where I've never been before,  
throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

*ENGAGING*

## **PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*Gary Branch*

Psalm 37 *Do not fret; trust in God. (Responsively)* VU #763

Luke 6: 27-38 *Love your enemies, be merciful.*

**REFLECTION** – “Love and Mercy. Period.”

### **MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**GIFT OF MUSIC** – “Put Peace Into Each Other’s Hands”

*RESPONDING*

### **YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS**

*Bev Murphy*

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

### **THE OFFERING IS GATHERED**

**\*OFFERING HYMN** – “These Gifts We Bring”

***These gifts we bring with grateful hearts,  
to reconcile, make new.***

***Gather us in grace, show us the way,  
to live our lives in Truth  
to share Your love in all we do.***

*Words & Music: Pat Mayberry ©2016  
Arrangement: David Kai ©2016*

### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER:**

**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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*GOING OUT*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** – “May the God of Hope Go with Us” VU #424

May the God of hope go with us every day,  
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

*Refrain:*

*Praying, let us work for peace,  
singing, share our joy with all,  
working for a world that’s new,  
faithful when we hear Christ’s call.*

May the God of healing free the earth from fear,  
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.  
May the God of love keep our commitment clear  
to a world restored, to human life renewed.

*Refrain*

## **\*COMMISSIONING**

**\*BLESSING**

**\*CHORAL SENDING FORTH –**

“Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light”

MV #211

***Go now in peace,  
guided by the light of Christ,  
so you may be  
nourished by the Word of Life.***

*(The Christ Candle is extinguished)*

**POSTLUDE**



# Church News

## This Week at First United Church

Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday to Friday		
Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
	9:00 AM	Ways & Means - RMR
Tuesday	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Knitters - 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
	10:30 – 12 Noon	Sunday School Workshop - RMR

***Upcoming Services at First United:***

March 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Rev. David Allan and his wife, Phyllis Davidson Allan, begins their lives with First United Church.

If you are aware of **anyone in the hospital or needing a visit**, please let the office know (506-546-3532) and the message will be forwarded to the Pastoral Care Team.

**Ways & Means Team** would like to thank everyone who assisted, either by working in the kitchen, baking, serving the food, buying and/or selling tickets, with the recent Roast Pork Supper. Thanks to McDonald’s for their generous sponsorship. The final numbers will be available for next week’s bulletin. The next event is tentatively planned for late March, a ***Sunrise Breakfast!***

**Peanut Butter** – We have increased our quota for 2025 to collect 1,000 jars of peanut butter. Up to February 20<sup>th</sup> we have received 151 jars and have funds on hand to purchase another 90 jars.

**Please Note** – In an effort to assist the Bathurst Volunteer Center, should you wish to make a monetary donation you may now do so by **issuing your cheque to First United Church**, indicating it is to be used for the purchase of Peanut Butter. Your donation will be marked as such and will be included on your annual tax receipt. Your cheques can be dropped off at the church office, put in the offering plate or mailed. Periodically the office will purchase the peanut butter while on sale and have it delivered directly to the Volunteer Center

## Church News

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.

Too often we get stuck in the muck of human things—  
doomscrolling, worrying about possessions,  
fretting over appearances.  
Jesus tells those who listen to set our mind on the Divine—  
generosity and prayer, loving service and worship—  
and spend our time and resources making the world  
better for all.

**A Saint Patrick's Gathering** sponsored by the Pastoral Care Team will be held at First United Church, 309 Saint Patrick Street, Bathurst, on **Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 1 PM to 3 PM.** (Snow date Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>)

Music will be provided by The Treble Makers. There is no admission fee. A voluntary donation towards the life and work of First United Church or a non-perishable item for the church pantry would be appreciated. Everyone is welcome!

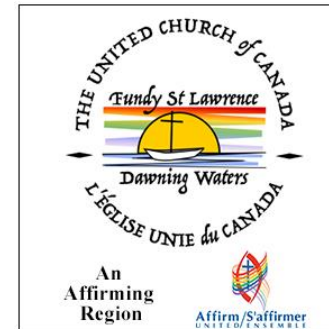
Members of the group include: Linda Knowles MacPherson - Piano; Donald Eddy- Clarinet & Guitar; Ann Marie Hocquard - Voice & Percussion; Julia Henry - Trumpet & Voice; Charles Ramsey - Voice; Karen McCrea - Violin & Voice; Hazen McCrea - Bass Guitar

## Community News

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER** will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$10.00 each and can be purchased in advance from the Church Office or they are available at the door. Take-outs will also be available.

**A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST** will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional News



### Workshop: *Microaggressions*

The Affirm committee is hosting a webinar on **February 25, 2025 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm (Atlantic)**

**Microaggressions:** *Subtle, often unintentional comments, actions, or behaviors that convey stereotypes, biases, or derogatory assumptions about a marginalized group. These can include remarks like "You're so articulate" or "Where are you really from?". While seemingly minor, microaggressions cumulatively reinforce systemic inequalities and can have a significant impact on individuals' mental and emotional well-being.*

**Register Now!** [Click HERE to Register - https://united-church.zoom.us/meeting/register/TgqD7vZQRoeYwAfbuuw\\_Dg#/registration](https://united-church.zoom.us/meeting/register/TgqD7vZQRoeYwAfbuuw_Dg#/registration)

*After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.*

### The Facilitator for the webinar is **Emo Yango:**

Emo Yango is the Growth Coordinator in which he recruits church plant leads, supervises and coordinates all new emerging migrant, diasporic and Racialized communities of faith in The United Church of Canada. He also coordinates the Anti-Racism courses for UCCan ministers and lay leaders. He had previously worked in international development within interfaith contexts in southeast Asia. He also taught in Protestant and Catholic seminaries/universities, focusing on doing local theologizing and decolonizing mission structures.

Psalm 37 VU # 763

Psalm 37 PSALTER 763

Refrain *New Harmony of Zion 1764*

Com-mit your way to God and trust the One who takes your part.

Do not fret because of the wicked, or envy those who do evil.  
For they soon wither like grass and fade away like the green leaf.  
Trust in God and do good;  
dwell in the land and there find safe pasture.  
Find your delight in God,  
who will grant the desires of your heart. R

God will make your vindication shine like the light,  
the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.  
Be still before God and wait patiently,  
do not fret because some prosper in evil schemes.  
Let go of anger and abandon wrath.  
Do not fret — it can only do harm. R

Those who do evil shall be cut off,  
but those who look to God shall inherit the earth.  
In a little while the wicked will be no more,  
you will look where they were and their place will be empty.  
But the meek shall inherit the earth,  
they shall enjoy fullness of peace.  
Salvation for the righteous comes from God, their refuge in time of trouble.  
God helps and delivers,  
and rescues from the wicked those who seek shelter. R

Luke 6:27-38

Love for Enemies

- 27** 'But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,
- 28** bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.
- 29** If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt.
- 30** Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again.
- 31** Do to others as you would have them do to you.
- 32** 'If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.
- 33** If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.
- 34** If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.
- 35** But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.
- 36** Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.
- Judging Others**
- 37** 'Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven;
- 38** give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.'