

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Season of Creation  
September 14, 2025

**Clergy** Rev. David Allan     **Music Director** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Margaret Daniels     **Custodian** Lester Scott  
**Greeters** Cheryl & Dave Brewster  
**Audio & Visual Technicians** Shirley Allain & Lester Scott

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28	Amos 8:4-7
Psalm 14	Psalm 79:1-9
1 Timothy 1:12-17	1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 15:1-10	Luke 16:1-13

*The asterisk \* identifies those times in the service where you are invited to stand as you are able.*

**MUSIC FOR GATHERING**

**WELCOME**

**TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** *(in unison)*

**...As we gather to worship, let's respectfully pause to remember we live and love, 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.**

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

We are not just called to come to this place for worship;  
**our loving God seeks us out, with faithful yearning.**  
We are not only called to love;  
**Love searches our hearts with passion.**

We are not simply expected to live lives that are heart-felt and good;

**we are invited to live lives of expectation, hope and loving action. We are invited to live with creative imagination.**

And so, we gather for worship lifted and filled by the Breath of Life,

**together we gather where we belong.**

We gather in the growing joy of the Beloved;

**we worship in gratitude and in grace.**

**CENTERING FOR WORSHIP:** "Gather Us In" MV #7

***Gather us in, ground us in you.***  
***Gather us in, ground us in you.***  
***Gather us in, gather us in,***  
***ground us, ground us in you.***

**GATHERING PRAYER:**

God who searches us, who knows us, bless us in this time of worship that we be attentive to your presence, strengthened and comforted in your love and preserved in your peace. Bless us that together we be your people, seeking truth, wisdom, justice and lives with meaning. Bless us all as with you we seek the togetherness that brings healing and hope. In worship we bless your holy name. **Amen**

**\*GATHERING HYMN:** "For Beauty of Prairies" VU #303  
*(tune St. Denio VU #223)*

For beauty of prairies, for grandeur of trees,  
for flowers of woodlands, for creatures of seas,  
for all you created and gave us to share,  
we praise you, Creator, extolling your care.

As stewards of beauty received at your hand,  
as creatures who hear your most urgent command,  
we turn from our wasteful destruction of life,  
confessing our failures, confessing our strife.

Teach us once again to be gardeners in peace;  
all nature around us is ours but on lease;  
your name we would hallow in all that we do,  
fulfilling our calling, creating with you.

#### **LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:** *(The Christ Candle is lit)*

We light this candle as a symbol and a reminder of the presence of Christ, the light of the world, the first light of Creation. It is the lovelight shared with all, that shines within and from us all, that draws us ever closer to the Source of All. The light calls us forward as the family of God, to see with new eyes, to love with shimmering hearts, to live in the brightness of hope.

**\*PSALM 14:** The foolish say, "There is no God".

##### ***Refrain:***

***Dear God, who loves all humankind,  
forgive our foolish ways.***

The hearts of fools say, "There is no power in Love."

**They live in illusion; they torture themselves and others;**

**they walk alone in utter darkness calling it light.**

Love looks into the heart of every person,

**to see if any act with wisdom, if any seek to walk with Love.**

Many there are who have gone astray, who are ruled by greed and power.

**Is there one who is wise and kind?**

##### ***Refrain:***

***Dear God, who loves all humankind,  
forgive our foolish ways.***

Have they no knowledge, all the ignorant,  
**who devour people and nations as if they were bread,  
and never call upon Love?**

One day terror will reign in their hearts;

**for Love's friend is truth**

**and in Truth will those who seek Love's way be set free.**

O that the hearts of all Love's children might call upon their angels!

**O that all people, all nations might know that harmony  
and beauty reside in diversity, that we are all One in  
Love Consciousness!**

O that we may rejoice in Life,

**in the abundance of Love's gifts created and given to all!**

##### ***Refrain:***

***Dear God, who loves all humankind,  
forgive our foolish ways.***

##### **Acknowledgement:**

Paraphrase of Psalm 14 from *Psalms for Praying*,  
by Nan. C. Merrill (Bloomsbury: New York, 2013), p. 18-19.

#### **OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED:**

The line between sinner and saint is blurry at the best of times. And yet, still our God seeks us out, calling all of us together, to be faithful as the Spirit is faithful, to serve as Jesus served, and to love as God loves. In unconditional love God appoints and anoints you to love the world together, and so know hope and healing, the grace of your belonging. So fear not, because God's love never ends, God never gives up on you. You are always God's new creation. We reflect God's love, we echo God's song:

#### **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.***

*A moment for silent reflection and contemplation,  
a time for listening...*

**SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST:** *(responsively)*

...The peace of the risen Christ be with you all!

**And also with you!**

*Please share with one another words and signs of peace.*

**SHARING OUR STORIES**

You are above us, O God,  
you are within.  
You are in all things  
yet contained by no thing.  
Teach us to seek you in all that has life  
that we may see you as the Light of life.  
Teach us to search for you in our own depths  
that we may find you in every living soul. Amen

**Acknowledgement:**

Prayer from *Sounds of the Eternal:*  
*a Celtic Psalter*, by John Philip Newell  
(New Beginnings: San Antonio, 2012), p.2.

**\*HYMN:** "God of the Sparrow"

VU #229

God of the sparrow God of the whale  
God of the swirling stars  
How does the creature say Awe  
How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake God of the storm  
God of the trumpet blast  
How does the creature cry Woe  
How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow God of the cross  
God of the empty grave  
How does the creature say Grace  
How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry God of the sick  
God of the prodigal  
How does the creature say Care  
How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbour God of the foe  
God of the pruning hook  
How does the creature say Love  
How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages God near at hand  
God of the loving heart  
How do your children say Joy  
How do your children say Home

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:** *(in unison)*

**As seekers of the light, we now prepare our hearts for listening. May our hopes be illumined, our understanding renewed, and our lives blessed with newfound grace. May we receive God's word with joy. Amen**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

*Wayne Lord*

Jeremiah 1:11-12, 22-28

The land shall be desolation, the earth shall mourn

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Christ came to save sinners; I am the foremost

Luke 15:1-10

The parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin

**SERMON:** God's joy

**GIFT OF MUSIC** - "As the Wind Song Through the Trees"

**YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS**

*Ronalds Family*

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

As Christ reaches out to bring life to all, so we too reach out with our offerings, we share our gifts of money, body and spirit. We give in a humble expression of the glory of God, the glory that is unconditional love. Our offerings will now be gathered.

## **OUR 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.*

### **OFFERING PRAYER: (in unison)**

**We are called to be the church. Here and always we celebrate your presence, God of faithful promise and abundant providence. Living out our humble vocation, we share all that we have and are, created in the image of Love, and committed to the way of Jesus. May all who are touched by these gifts come to better know you, and so know your grace and your joy. Amen**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **PRAYER OF JESUS**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\*CLOSING HYMN – “As a Fire Is Meant for Burning”** VU #578 (tune Beach Spring)

As a fire is meant for burning  
with a bright and warming flame,  
so the church is meant for mission,  
giving glory to God’s name.

Not to preach our creeds or customs,  
but to build a bridge of care,  
we join hands across the nations,  
finding neighbours everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers;  
we are pilgrims on the way.  
We are seekers; we are givers;  
we are vessels made of clay.  
By our gentle, loving actions,  
we would show that Christ is light.  
In a humble, listening Spirit,  
we would live to God’s delight.

As a green bud in the springtime  
is a sign of life renewed,  
so may we be signs of oneness  
mid earth’s peoples, many-hued.  
As a rainbow lights the heavens  
when a storm is past and gone,  
may our lives reflect the radiance  
of God’s new and glorious dawn.

### **\*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

### **\*CHORAL SENDING FORTH “Lift Us Up, Send Us Out”**

*Lift us up, send us out  
as we now go in peace  
and our worship and living entwine.  
May God’s presence be near  
and may concord increase  
when our hope and our actions combine.*

***Be the salt, be the light  
and let each be a sign  
that our caring will highlight the way.  
Share a meal, plant a tree,  
let our faith underline  
that by giving, our love is conveyed.***

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### **\*SHARING THE LIGHT**

*(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)*

### **POSTLUDE**

## *Church News*

<b>This Week at First United Church</b>		
<b>Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday to Friday</b>		
Monday	9:00 AM	Ways & Means – Eddy Room
Tuesday	9:30 AM-11:30 AM	Quilters – DEMH Downstairs office
	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Knitting Group – Eddy Room
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Thursday	<b>BBQ Beef Supper – Eat In or Take Out</b>	
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market - GYM

**Peanut Butter** –Our quota for 2025 is to collect 1,000 jars of peanut butter for the Volunteer Center. Up to September 11, 2025 we have received 665 jars.

As part of our **Stewardship Program** here at First United, information on Planned Giving through Wills and Bequests is available to our congregational membership. The information is available from the church office. Below you will find a stewardship quote relating to the same.

When you give generously, no gift is too small.  
Small gifts are often the most heartfelt.

**BBQ BEEF SUPPER** will be held on Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.

Take out will be from 4:00 PM to 5 :30 PM

Eat in will be from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM.

Tickets are now available - **\$18** for adults and **\$6** for children. As there are a limited number of tickets they will be sold on a first come-first served basis. Please contact a member of the *Ways & Means Committee* or drop by the church office from 9 AM to 3 PM.

***Sponsored by Hatheway Auto Group***

**Choir Practice** is held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM. All are welcome to join!

**The Knitting Group** meets on Tuesday afternoons at 1 PM in the Eddy Room of the Donald Eddy Hall.

# Church News

**Quilters** have started to meet each Tuesday morning at 9:30 AM. If you like to quilt or would like to learn to quilt, come and join us at each Tuesday morning from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM downstairs in the old office in the DEMH. Contact Anne Brooks 506-548-2156 or Pat Thibideau 506-546-2702. Tea and Coffee supplied.

**All new members welcome.**

## Community News

**A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST** will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 8 AM to 10 AM. As this community event helps 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.

### **"HELP LESOTHO" CALENDARS**

The Anglophone School District – North has been sponsoring "Help Lesotho" since 2006 as part of its global awareness initiative. As a fundraiser where all of the money raised goes to help finance its work with orphans, vulnerable children, and grandmothers in Lesotho, Africa; "Help Lesotho" has 2026 calendars for sale at a cost of \$15.00. You are invited to support this initiative with your donation. Gary Branch (506-546-9208) ([egbranch@rogers.com](mailto:egbranch@rogers.com)) will be taking orders for these calendars until October 14, 2025. Payment can be made in advance by cash, cheque, or e-transfer, or when the calendars are delivered in November. Cheques are to be made payable to "Help Lesotho". Thank you to the congregation of First United Church for your continued support of this initiative.

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

### **Ukulele Church's 6th Season!!**

Ukulele Church invites you to be part of our 6th season, starting September 14! Whether you've been with us before and had to take a break, strummed with us in the summer, have been a regular attendee, or have never even touched a Uke in your life, WELCOME!! If you're looking for a weekly worshipping online community from across Canada and around the world, this is for you. Visit us at [ukulelechurch.com](http://ukulelechurch.com) to register or email [cstuart@united-church.ca](mailto:cstuart@united-church.ca) for more info. See UKE soon!! 😊

A promotional graphic for Ukulele Church. It features a brown ukulele on the left side. The background is white with scattered autumn leaves in shades of orange, red, and yellow. The text is arranged as follows: 'Join Us Online!' in red, 'UKULELE CHURCH' in large orange letters, '\*Say It\* Play It\* Pray It\*' in brown, 'with Linnea Good Catherine Stuart Nancy Callbeck' in green, 'Sundays at 12:30pm ADT 1pm NDT' in orange, and 'UkuleleChurch.com to sign up!' in black.

**Join Us Online!**  
**UKULELE CHURCH**  
**\*Say It\* Play It\* Pray It\***  
**with**  
**Linnea Good**  
**Catherine Stuart**  
**Nancy Callbeck**  
**Sundays at**  
**12:30pm ADT**  
**1pm NDT**  
**UkuleleChurch.com**  
**to sign up!**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

NIV

<sup>11</sup> At that time this people and Jerusalem will be told, "A scorching wind from the barren heights in the desert blows toward my people, but not to winnow or cleanse; <sup>12</sup> a wind too strong for that comes from me. Now I pronounce my judgments against them."

<sup>22</sup> "My people are fools; they do not know me. They are senseless children; they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil; they know not how to do good."

<sup>23</sup> I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone.

<sup>24</sup> I looked at the mountains, and they were quaking; all the hills were swaying.

<sup>25</sup> I looked, and there were no people; every bird in the sky had flown away.

<sup>26</sup> I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert; all its towns lay in ruins before the Lord, before his fierce anger.

<sup>27</sup> This is what the Lord says:

"The whole land will be ruined, though I will not destroy it completely.

<sup>28</sup> Therefore the earth will mourn and the heavens above grow dark, because I have spoken and will not relent, I have decided and will not turn back."

### 1 Timothy 1:12-17

NIV

<sup>12</sup> I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. <sup>13</sup> Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. <sup>14</sup> The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners - of whom I am the worst. <sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. <sup>17</sup> Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

### Luke 15:1-10

NIV

<sup>15</sup> Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. <sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup> Then Jesus told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders <sup>6</sup> and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' <sup>7</sup> I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

<sup>8</sup> "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' <sup>10</sup> In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

*For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us,  
for the word of God within us all, thanks be to God.*