

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

6th Sunday of the Season of Creation
Thanksgiving Sunday
October 12, 2025

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

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7	Jeremiah 31:27-34
Psalms 111	Psalms 119:97-104
Philippians 4:4-9	2 Timothy 3:14--4:5
Luke 17:11-19	Luke 18:1-8

The bulletins and the hydrangeas at the front of the sanctuary have been placed in loving memory of <i>Edna & Huntly, David, Peter & John Ferguson</i> by Linda and family	
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*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)*

The mornings are cooler now, and at times frost glistens with the dawning light.

Yet still God's loving presence warms our hearts and souls, our gaze.

The colours of the leaves change and delight the eye, we are lifted,

and we rejoice in our re-creation and transformation.

The red squirrel chirps as we approach, the geese take formation and flight,

and in our wonder and gratitude we find ourselves ever nearer to God.

We come to worship thankful, yearning with faith,

blessed by the One who calls, who creates and who keeps us close.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "Where Two or Three Are Gathered"
 MV #14

***Where two or three are gathered
 in my name,
 I am there,
 I am there.***

GATHERING PRAYER:

In this place of divine presence, in this time of Spirit's brooding, may we be witnesses to Creation's unfolding, to the change and growth in our lives for the sake of a revealed and restorative love. May our thankfulness be embodied in the ways of love, may our gratitude be worshipful now and all of our days together. **Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN –** VU #516
 "Come, You Thankful People, Come"

Come, you thankful people, come,
 raise the song of the harvest home!
 All is safely gathered in,
 safe before the storms begin;

God, our maker, does provide
for our needs to be supplied:
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of the harvest home!

All the world is God's own field,
harvests for God's praise to yield;
wheat and weeds together sown,
here for joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear:
Harvest giver, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

For our God, one day, shall come,
and shall take his harvest home;
from the field shall in that day
all offenses purge away;
giving angels charge at last
in the fire the weeds to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store
in the garner evermore.

Even so, God, quickly come
to your final harvest home!
Gather all your people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin;
there for ever purified,
in your presence to abide:
come, with all your angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home.

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

As a grateful, gathered people, we light this flame as a sign of the Christ light that shines within and among us all, the light that beckons and attracts, the light through which we see the beauty and the need of the world, and the light by which we respond in love. The light of the world, which no darkness can overcome.

Thanks be to God!

***WE OPEN OUR HEARTS:**

Psalm 111 I will thank you God, with my whole heart VU #833

Refrain:

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

I will thank you, God, with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in their assembly.

**Great are your works, O God,
studied by all who delight in them.**

Honour and majesty are your work;
Your righteousness endures forever.

**You have renown for your wonders;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

Refrain:

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

You give food to those who fear you;
you keep your covenant always in mind.

**You have shown your power in action,
giving your people the heritage of nations.**

The works of your hands are faithful and just;
all your precepts trustworthy.

**They stand fast forever and ever;
grounded in justice and truth.**

You sent redemption to your people;
**you decreed your covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is your name.**

Refrain:

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom;
**Those who practise it have good understanding.
May your praise endure forever.**

Refrain:

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED:

The Psalmist writes that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. A more modern way of phrasing that is to say that to hold God in awe and in reverence, to live in Creation with faithful wonder and our very human questions, is the beginning of wisdom. God, who is Love, is not to be feared of course. We return God's embrace, and in thankfulness and grace we find the seed of our spirituality, of our growth into the beauty and mystery of our being, of all being, and what our love can birth into the world that God so loves. This is Love's holy harvest.

CHORAL RESPONSE – "Jesus, You Fill Our Hearts" MV #101

***Jesus, you fill our hearts with your love,
our minds with your peace,
and our lives
with your joy.***

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

With you is the source of life, O God.
You are the beginning of all that is.
From your life the fire of the rising sun streams forth.
You are the life-flow of creation's rivers,
the sap of blood in our veins,
earth's fecundity,
the fruiting of trees,
creature's birthing,
the conception of new thought,
desire's origin.
All these are of you, O God, and we are of you.
You are the morning's freshness. Amen

Acknowledgement:

Prayer from *Sounds of the Eternal:*
a Celtic Psalter, by John Philip Newell
(New Beginnings: San Antonio, 2012), p.50.

*HYMN: "We Will Bring You Peace"

(Seasons of the Spirit, volume 3)

Refrain:

We will bring your peace into the world.

We will bring your peace into the world.

With a loving hand, do the best we can,

we will bring your peace to the world.

Jesus, you ask us to be gentle.

Jesus, you ask us to be kind,

to take good care of each other,

then your peace will be here for all to find.

Refrain:

Jesus, you ask us to be friendly.

Jesus, you ask us to be fair,

to take good care of each other,

then your peace will be here for all to share.

Refrain:

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

We have sung of the harvest of loving kindness, of the bounty that is peace. We now ready our hearts to listen for wisdom and the ways of love that the world needs. We ready our hearts for the ways of faith. Open us, God of all, that we may hear your word with all that we are. In gratitude, we pray. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Cheryl Brewster

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

Seek the peace and prosperity of the city, even in exile

Philippians 4:4-9

With thanksgiving put what is right into practice

Luke 17:11-19

Your faith has made you well

MESSAGE:

GIFT OF MUSIC - "Simple Thanks"

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Ronalds Family

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING:

Jesus shows us how to give of ourselves, how to be ourselves, and as followers of the word and the way, as a thankful, faithful people, we offer our gifts to God. With gladness and gratitude, we give. Our offerings will now be gathered.

OUR OFFERING IS GATHERED

***OFFERING RESPONSE:** "What Can I Do?"

MV #191
(2 times)

*What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.*

OFFERING PRAYER: (in unison)

As a people who yearn for new opportunities to put our faith into action, we give thanks for God's creative presence in the world. As a church that seeks to build community and to serve with a common purpose, we give thanks for the Spirit's uplifting presence in this place. As individuals who seek to follow the teachings of Jesus and to make a difference in our community and in the world, we give thanks for Christ's healing presence in our lives. We seek to share both hope and love through our mission, our service and our offerings; with heart and hands and voices we share ourselves. Bless all that we offer, gracious God. Thanks be to you. Amen

Acknowledgement:

Offertory Prayer adapted from one by Bill Steadman,
then at Goulais River UC, Goulais River, ON.
Gathering, Pentecost 2, 2022, p.44
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** – "Praise God for the Harvest"

VU #517

Praise god for the harvest of the orchard and field,
praise God for the people who gather their yield,
the long hours of labour, the skills of a team,
the patience of science, the power of machine.

Praise God for the harvest that comes from afar,
from market and harbour, the sea and the shore:
foods packed and transported, and gathered and grown
by God-given neighbours, unseen and unknown.

Praise God for the harvest that's quarried and mined,
then sifted, and smelted, and shaped, and refined;
for oil and for iron, for copper and coal,
praise God, who in love has provided them all.

Praise God for the harvest of science and skill,
the urge to discover, create, and fulfil:
for dreams and inventions that promise to gain
a future more hopeful, a world more humane.

Praise God for the harvest of mercy and love
from leaders and peoples, who struggle and serve
for fairness and kindness, that all may be led
in freedom and safety, and all may be fed.

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

***CHORAL SENDING FORTH** "When You Walk from Here" VU #298

*When you walk from here,
when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy,
and with God's humble care.*

*SHARING THE LIGHT

(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	Office Closed for Thanksgiving Day	
Tuesday	9:30 AM-11:30 AM	Quilters – DEMH Downstairs office
	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Knitting Group – Eddy Room
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 October 9, 2025 we have received 816 jars with funds on hand to purchase 60 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.

Gratitude and thanksgiving are fundamental to our life as Christians. Remember to give, and to give thanks.

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

Quilters meet each Tuesday morning at 9:30 AM. If you like to quilt or would like to learn to quilt, come and join us each Tuesday morning from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM downstairs in the old office in the DEMH. Tea and Coffee supplied.

All new members welcome.

Men's Choir – We are hoping to have a Men's Choir again at First United! October 26th will be their first Sunday to sign together since 2020! If you enjoy singing, please join us in the choir loft at 9:30 AM on Sunday, October 26th 🎵 🎵

Church News

Rev. David will be on vacation after Thanksgiving from **October 13th until Monday October 27th**. Rev. Blair Lewis (506-252-0305) will be available for any pastoral care emergencies from October 13th to 20th and Rev. Jean Herman (506-252-5150) from October 21st to 27th. **Thank you** to our Sunday worship leaders in Rev. David's absence:

October 19: Rev. Blair Lewis

October 26: Helen Knowles

Thank you to our volunteers in September - Counters – Margaret Payne-Chenard and Mike Kierstead; **Greeters** – Cheryl & Dave Brewster, Sharon McKinnon and Charlene Roy; **Your Generosity Matters** – Martha Vickers, Ronalds family, Anne Wilson and Judy Losier; **Scripture Readers** – Isabel MacLaggan, Wayne Lord, Anne Wilson, and Judy Losier; **Hospitality & Friendship** – Nancy Jagoe and Pam Smith; **Sound System** –Brenda Parrott, Shirley Allain, and Ralph Jamieson; **Audio Specialist** – Don Eddy for preparing audio for CDs; **Videographer** – Lester Scott and to Josh Gammon and his staff at WebSolutions.ca for uploading the YouTube link to the website and Facebook.

Rev. Shepherd Munikwa, our UCC East Minister for Mission, Justice and Outreach will be presenting a seminar at First United Church in **Campbellton** on Nov 1, 2025 from 1 PM to 4 PM entitled:
DIVERSITY: HOW CAN OUR CHURCHES BE RADICAL, INTENTIONAL, WELCOMING & INCLUSIVE IN TODAY'S GLOBAL VILLAGE

All interested individuals are welcome. Please indicate your intention to attend this unique educational event by contacting either Heather Ross (shross@nbnet.nb.ca) or Hugh Ellis (hughgellis57@gmail.com). There is no registration fee for this event. Blessings and hope to see you there!

Community News

"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) 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.

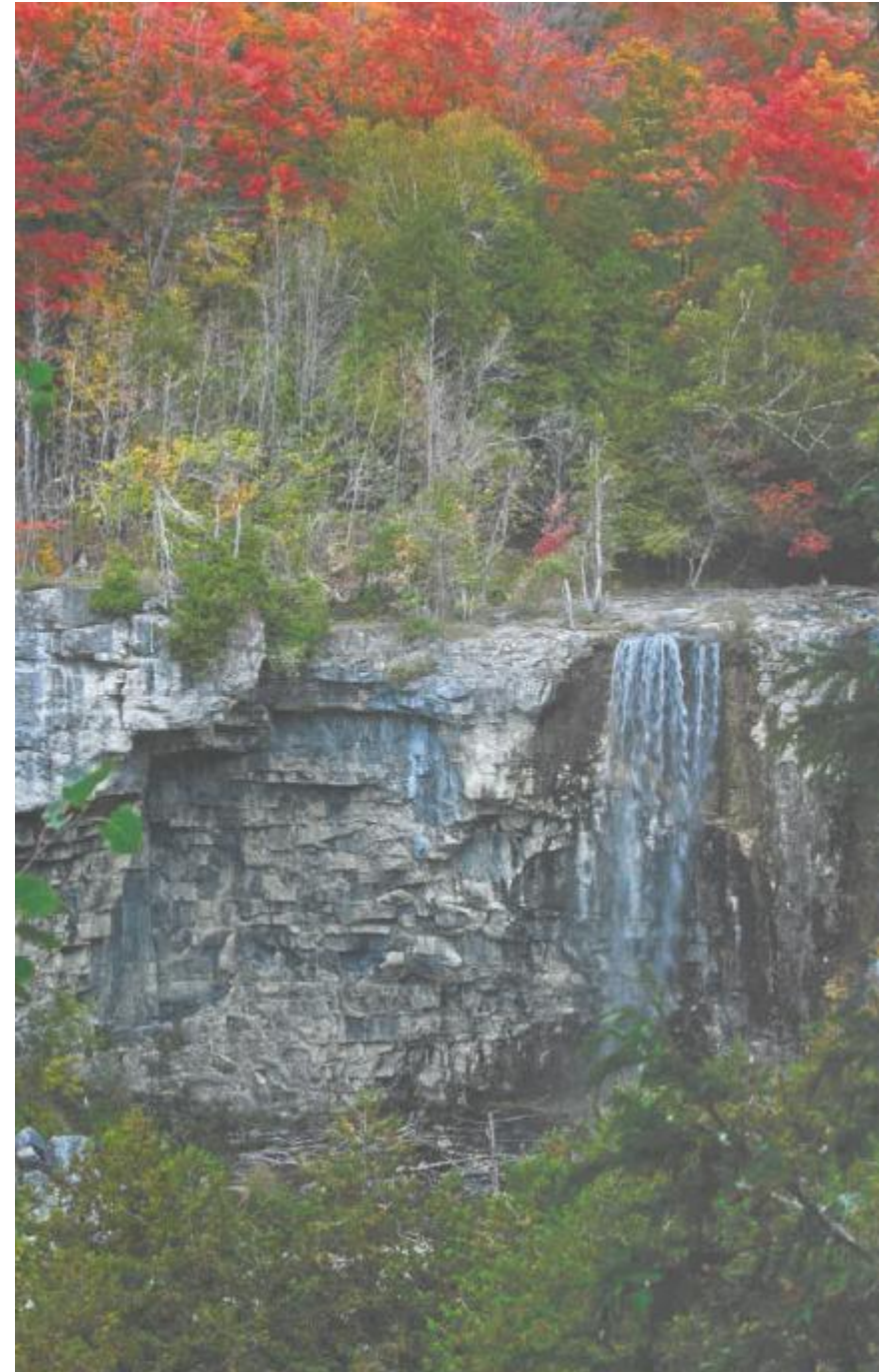
The **Chœur Louisbourg** invites you on a journey through time for its concert *"Italian Secret Gardens"*, featuring Renaissance Italian madrigals about love, passion, and betrayal. The performance on **Saturday, October 25th at 3 PM** at First United Church in Bathurst, will feature the choir accompanied by seven musicians playing period instruments like the harpsichord, theorbo, baroque guitar, douçaine, violins, and percussion. Tickets (\$30.00) are available on the [Chœur Louisbourg website](#) and at the door, with free admission for students.

Annual Remembrance Service - Each year, on the Sunday immediately prior to Remembrance Day, we honour our war veterans as well as those who lost their lives in war. Our Remembrance Service will be held Sunday, **November 9th**. Those wishing to place memorial crosses in the sanctuary are reminded to contact the Legion office no later than **November 5th** by telephone [506-546-3135](tel:506-546-3135) or drop by the Legion located at [1220 Bridge Street](#) between 8:00 AM and 12:00 Noon Monday to Friday or during regular legion hours on the weekends.

Thank you for supporting our veterans and the Legion.



The crosses will be placed in the church on Thursday, November 6th.



SCRIPTURE READINGS – New International Version

JEREMIAH 29:1, 4-7

1 This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

4 This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:

5 "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce.

6 Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease.

7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.

9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

LUKE 17:11-19

11 Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee.

12 As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance

13 and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

14 When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

15 One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice.

16 He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him - and he was a Samaritan.

17 Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?"

18 Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?"

19 Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

*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.*