

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

April 5, 2026

Easter Sunday

Minister Rev. David Allan **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Julie & Harvey Spence
Audio & Visual Technician Brenda Parrott & Margaret Payne Chenard

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Acts 10:34-43	Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	Psalms 16
Colossians 3:1-4	1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:1-18	John 20:19-31

The bulletins today are placed in loving memory of our daughter
Teri Ann McLean Disney (August 3, 1971 – April 9, 2003)
by Mom and Dad ~Nora & Eldie McLean

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

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

EARLY ONE MORNING Grieving women approach the tomb
Brooke Knowles & Grace Ronalds
drawn from Mark's Gospel, the first account

INTERLUDE: "Stay with Us through the Night" (*choir*) VU 182

DISCOVERY DAWNS Christ is Risen!



LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"
(verses 1 & 2) VU #157

Christ the Lord is risen today, Hallelujah!
All creation join to say; Hallelujah!
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Hallelujah!
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply: Hallelujah!

Love's redeeming work is done, Hallelujah!
Fought the fight, the battle won. Hallelujah!
Lo, our sun's eclipse is o'er! Hallelujah!
Lo! He dwells in death no more! Hallelujah!

TERRITORY 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.

OPENING PRAYER: (*in unison*)

O God of the universe, yours is the glory. Your heartbeat echoes in our heartbeat. Your breath is our breath. Your vitality pulsates in us and throughout this vast universe. In you, we live and love and rejoice in the gifts of life. We thank you and praise you for the gift of Easter resurrection, that we may put our ultimate trust in your goodness and gracious love. We thank you that in grace you see your ongoing creation as good. In the indomitable spirit of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen

CHORAL PRAISE: "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"
(verse 4) VU #157

Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven, Hallelujah!
Praise to you by both be given! Hallelujah!
Every knee to you shall bow, Hallelujah!
Risen Christ, triumphant now. Hallelujah!

WELCOME

*THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*PSALM 118

Selected verses of Psalm 118 paraphrase by Nan C. Merrill,
Psalms for Praying: An invitation to wholeness.
(New York: Bloomsbury) pp 236-8.

Refrain: Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

We give thanks to You, O Beloved, for You are kind; your steadfast love endures forever!

**Let every nation proclaim,
"Your steadfast love endures forever."**

Refrain: Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

You are my strength and my song;

You are my Counselor and my Friend.

Harken to songs of victory, to the music of my soul:

**"You, O Loving Presence, have been my strength,
You have stood beside me in the darkness,
You have walked with me into the light!"**

I shall not give in to fear, but I shall live in peace and give witness to your saving grace.

**You turned your face from my weaknesses, and You
opened the door leading to new life.**

Refrain: Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Yes, You opened to me the gates of truth and justice that I might enter through them.

Praise be to You, O Merciful One!

This is the Door to Life;

those who know Love shall enter through It.

I give thanks to You, O Beloved, who answer our prayers and invite us to new Life.

**The stone which the builders rejected has become the
foundation of our lives.**

This, O Eternal Listener, is your Work; it is marvelous in our eyes.
**This is the day which You have made; let us rejoice and
be glad in it!**

"FEEDING MY LAMBS"

HYMN: "Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah" (verses 1, 2 & 5) MV 121

Refrain:

***Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
Hey now! The morning has come!
Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
The tomb was empty at the rising sun.***

Jesus loved people and he made them friends.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
He called to the children and the women and men.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.

Refrain:

Jesus healed people and he helped them be well.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
He taught about God in the stories he'd tell.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.

Refrain:

Jesus loves people and he lives again!
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
Calls us disciples and he calls us his friends.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.

Refrain:

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: (in unison)

**Just as a new day has dawned, in the reading of the sacred
story may we encounter new understanding. May all that
blocks hope and wonder and a renewed spirit be rolled
away. May hearts and minds be raised by the eternal story
of never-ending love. Amen**

GOSPEL READING:

Isabel MacLaggan

John 20:1-18

SERMON: A resurrected life

GIFT OF MUSIC: "Sweet the Morning

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Martha Vickers

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

Today is a gift, and we too are a gift to the world. Created in the image of God and raised by Love, we now work for God's new creation, for the kingdom of heaven, sharing the light. Our offerings will now be gathered.

***OFFERING RESPONSE:** "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** *(in unison)*

Holy God, we offer to you wholly of ourselves. Receive our humble offerings and these simple elements of bread and juice. May they be transformed into sacred gifts. Transform us; give us new life that resurrection may come to all of creation. We pray in the name of the risen Christ, who gave his all. Amen

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Today our horror has been overcome with hope.

Today our Hosannas are met with Hallelujahs!

Our cries of "save us now!" are joined with shouts of "praise to you, our God!"

**The pain of the world is heard,
and we are given the promise of peace.**

The stone has been rolled away; the promise of life could not be contained.

**The Light of the World shines on,
and the darkness could not overcome it.**

Today, tomorrow and always we offer our thanksgiving, and we offer our praise, singing...

*Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might;
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest!

*Blessed is the One who comes in the name,
comes in the name of our God.*

*Blessed is the One who comes in the name,
comes in the name of our God.*

Hosanna in the highest; hosanna in the highest!

Here this morning we do what Jesus did with his friends the night before he died.

We do what he always did, sharing a meal with all who might be hungry and thirsty for communion with God.

He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said,

"This is my body. Take, eat, and remember me."

Then he took the cup and likewise said,

"This is the cup of the new covenant. Take, drink, and remember me."

We remember Jesus by living as he did, with love, with generosity and grace. Remembering your abundant, eternal and unstoppable love that lived in Jesus Christ and lives in us, God we offer our praise and proclaim the mystery of faith, singing:

***Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

Holy God we pray for your Spirit.

Make us, while many, one.

Make us, while broken, whole.

Make us, despite death, alive!

And so, we pray:

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

COMMUNION HYMN: "I Am the Bread of Life" (sing 3x) MV 201

I am the bread of life broken for the world,

I am the cup poured out for all.

Those who believe in me will never die.

I am the life of the world.

PRAYER OF INTIMACY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Singing:

Amen, amen, amen.

Amen, amen, amen.

We take bread and break it:

**breaking open the tomb, breaking the grip of death,
breaking the darkness with morning light.**

We take wine and pour it:

**mixing into it the covenant of eternity,
mixing into it the words of promise,
mixing into it with love the light of this new day.**

Risen Christ, be our guest as we are yours in this newest of mornings, and share with us the food for life, that we might too taste eternity as your Body, as the one who said,

"My body, my lifeblood, my all."

"My promise, my friends, I will see you again."

Amen

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

POST COMMUNION PRAYER (*in unison*)

**Life-giving, life-sustaining God, may we, who share
Christ's body, live his risen life; we, who drink his cup,
bring new life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, with
love and with hope give light to the world. Amen**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN:** "The Spring Has Come"

VU 187

The spring has come
let all the church be part of it!
The world has changed,
and God is at the heart of it!
New light, new day,
new colour after winter grey.
New light, new day,
the spring has come,
let all the church be part of it!

The sun is warm,
let all God's children play in it!
The world expands,
let's spread the Gospel way in it!
New leaf, new thrust,
new greening for the love of Christ.
New leaf, new thrust,
the sun is warm,
let all God's children play in it!

The spring has come,
new people are the flowers of it.
Through wind and rain,
new life is in the showers of it.
New bud, new shoot,
new hope will bear the Spirit's fruit.
New bud, new shoot,
the spring has come,
new people are the flowers of it!

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL CLOSING – “As We Go Into The Future”**

(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!*

SHARING THE LIGHT

POSTLUDE

Church News

This Week at First United Church		
Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday to Friday		
Monday	Office Closed – Easter Monday	
	9:00 - 11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Tuesday	9:30 -11:30 AM	Quilters – DEMH Downstairs Office
	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Knitting Group – RMR
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Thursday	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Rug Hooking Group – RMR
	4:15 PM	Choir Practice
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market – GYM

Please note **the church office will be closed** on *Easter Monday, April 6th*. The office will re-open on Tuesday, April 7th at 9 AM.

Peanut Butter – Once again this year our goal is to collect 1,000 jars of peanut butter to donate to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. Up to April 2nd we have received 144 jars with funds on hand to purchase another 55.

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.

The stone has been rolled away!
Hope is unleashed in the world! Share with abandon!

Due to an oversight at the Annual Meeting held on March 29th, the 2026 budget was not voted on for approval. Therefore, a follow up meeting must be held. **This meeting has been scheduled for after worship on April 26th**. This will be a very short meeting as there are only a couple of items on the agenda. Please bring your Annual Report with you to this meeting.

Thank you – Bathurst Pastoral Council

Church News

Rev. David will be away from the church on vacation from April 7th to April 20th, returning to the office on April 21st. During his absence Rev. Blair Lewis will provide pastoral care coverage.

Guest Presiders at First United

April 12th – Guest presider - Rev. Ivan Gregan – 10 AM

April 19th – Guest presider - Randy Breckenridge – 10 AM

Thank you to our volunteers in March - Counters – Edie

Gammon and Gary Branch; **Greeters** – Wilma Dempsey, Shirley Sealy and Gayle Ferron; **Your Generosity Matters** – Martha Vickers, Ronalds family, Helen Knowles, Anne Wilson and Judy Losier;

Scripture Readers – Phyllis Davidson Allan, Jennifer Oliver and Stephen Maisey; **Lenton Candle Readers** - Anne Brooks, Helen Knowles, Randy Breckenridge, Jennifer Oliver and Anne Wilson;

Hospitality & Friendship – Gayle Ferron and Judy Smith; **Sound System** – Shirley Allain, Brenda Parrott 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.

Community News

A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on **Saturday, April 11th from 8:00 – 10:00 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.

St. Lukes Presbyterian Church, 395 Murray Ave., will be hosting a group from **Teen Challenge Atlantic** at the 11 AM service on **Sunday April 12th.** All are welcome to attend. Teen Challenge Canada is a 12-month, faith-based, in-residence drug and alcohol rehabilitation program, for adults 18+, that is part of a network of over 19 Teen Challenge Centres across Canada and more than 1,400 worldwide. The program has a strong faith-based approach and offers spiritual, academic and vocational training that helps equip individuals to return to society as responsible citizens.

Community News

How to teach faith to our children and grandchildren.

Join us on **Saturday, April 18th, 2026** at **St. Andrew's United Church, Miramichi** from 10:00-12:00 with the Rev. Catherine Stuart, Regional Minister for Youth and Young Adults who will discuss on-line curriculums, purchased programs, and events to which we can bring our children. This is open for all interested people including parents, grandparents, as well as present, pondering and potential Sunday School Teachers and or Youth Group Leaders.

*If we have no peace,
it is because we have forgotten
that we belong to each other.*

~Mother Teresa~

President's Easter Message

If there ever is a week to be celebrated in our Christian calendar, it must be Easter! As we enter Holy Week, we recall all the twists and turns of the week that is to come. The triumphant entry into Jerusalem, the teachings of Jesus, the rising tensions, scheming and backdoor politics of the religious leadership and the Roman oversight, the fervent prayers in Gethsemane, the betrayal, the agony and humiliation of the Crucifixion and finally the ultimate triumph of Easter Sunday. As we relive and commemorate all the ups and downs which are crammed into this short period of time we are reminded of the highs and lows of our own life journey.

My personal and special relationship to Easter dates to the early 1970's when a small but hearty group of believers would gather to celebrate the annual 7 am Easter Sunrise Service at Wesley United Church in Stonehaven, N.B. Wesley *(now a privately owned community chapel) sits on the brow of a hill overlooking the Bay of Chaleur and the beautiful blue-grey mountains of the Gaspé Peninsula in the distance. Regardless of the weather, we would gather. I remember the warmth of the wood fire set by a devoted volunteer about an hour earlier and the organ being coaxed out of its winter slumber to the opening chords of Jesus Christ Is Risen Today. In some small way it was like sharing a portion of the mystery, discovery and astonishment of Mary and Mary Magdalene on that first Easter morn.

2000+ years later we find ourselves still gathering at Holy Week services, sunrise services, breakfasts, Easter Worship and Communion. We gather as community to proclaim with certainty that "Christ has risen! Christ has risen indeed!". Life, hope and love have overcome sin and death.

To each of you I send wishes for a joyous and meaningful Easter season. My hope is that, at least for a few moments in the coming days, we will be able to reflect on the promise and renewal that is Easter and that Christ has indeed risen in our minds, our hearts and in our communities of faith. Let us all be brought to life again just as Jesus was on that day.

Easter Blessings and Peace

Hugh

*Picture on other side of sheet

YOUTH@REGION 2026!

Calling all Youth, between grades 6-12!

Registration is now open for [Youth@Region!](#)

Y@R is a place of community and a place of faith where United Church youth, between grades 6 and 12, meet from across Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council. Y@R will meet in-person at the same time as Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council (FSLDW) meets online, June 5-7, 2026. The theme for this year's event is "Rooted".

The group creates an inclusive, diverse and safe community for youth in the name of Christ. We provide a place for youth to explore their faith and to learn more about the United Church of Canada while sharing in music, worship and fun in a spirit-filled community.

As the annual meeting is online this year there is a question on the Y@R registration form regarding carpooling. We will use this information to do our best to connect youth with drives.

We hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, please email [Catherine Stuart](#).

Wesley United Church in Stonehaven, N.B.



GOSPEL READINGS – New International Version

JOHN 20:1-18

- 1** Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.
- 2** So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"
- 3** So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb.
- 4** Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.
- 5** He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in.
- 6** Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there,
- 7** as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen.
- 8** Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.
- 9** (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)
- 10** Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.
- 11** Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb
- 12** and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.
- 13** They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"
"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him."
- 14** At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

15 He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.