

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

April 12, 2026

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

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

*All musical selections reprinted under license #4-606499, One License for Churches*

<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 16	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:3-9	1 Peter 1:17-23
John 20:19-31	Luke 24:13-35
We welcome <b>Rev. Ivan Gregan</b> this morning and thank him for leading us in our worship service.	

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

**MUSIC AS WE GATHER**

**WELCOME**

**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.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

Christ is risen from the dead.

**Christ is risen indeed. Hallelujah!**

Together as Christ's living Presence

**Let us worship God.**

**CENTERING FOR WORSHIP:** "Jesus Shall Reign"

*(Verses 1 & 4) VU #330*

***Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does its successive journeys run;  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.***

***Let every creature rise and bring  
peculiar honours to our King,  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud Amen!***

**GATHERING PRAYER:** *(in unison)*

**Eternal God, who brings life out of death  
and calls us rise from the graves of this world  
to the fullness of life in Christ,  
gather us together as one Body in your Presence  
until we rise to the full potential You envision for us.  
Empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
may we live for your Glory through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Amen.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN:** "This Joyful Eastertide"

VU #177

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:** *(responsively)*

In the beginning was the Word,  
**and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
Christ is the Word of God incarnated.**

In Christ is life and that life is the light of all humanity.

**The Light of God shines in the darkness of the world  
and all the darkness of existence cannot extinguish it!**

Eternal God, with indefatigable hope,

**we light this Easter Candle! Christ is risen!  
This is the dawn of the new Creation.**

Christ is our light!

**Thanks be to God!**

Let the everlasting song of the redeemed echo:

Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

**Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!**

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

May the peace of Christ be with you all!

**And also with you!**

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

***REMAIN STANDING FOR HYMN***

**\*HYMN:** "How Deep the Peace"

MV #95

How deep the peace, the confidence,  
of those whose wrongs are forgiven.

How deep the peace, the confidence,  
of those whose hearts are healed.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:**

God the Holy Spirit, open us to perceive the Word, breathing  
through Scripture into our presence. May we receive your Word,  
embody your Word, and proclaim your Word in all we say, think  
and do, for the Glory of God through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS:**

*Wayne Lord*

**First Reading:** Acts 2:14a, 22-32

**Psalm 16**

Voices United - Page 738

**Second Reading:** 1 Peter 1:3-9

**Gospel Reading:** John 20:19-31

**SERMON:**

**GIFT OF MUSIC:** "Spirit of Life"

**YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS**

*Ronalds Family*

**INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING**

God of all giving, You gave yourself to us as an example of living  
for others. May we give of our time, talent, treasure, tissue, and  
terrain for your glory and the good of others, in Jesus' Name,  
Amen. 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:**

God of Mystery, present in all places,  
receive the gifts we present before You,  
both seen and unseen,  
that they may be used for your glory and the good of others,  
in Jesus' Name, Amen.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER OF JESUS**

\*CLOSING HYMN: "Thine is the Glory"

VU #173

\*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL CLOSING: "May God's Sheltering Wings"

MV #214

*May God's sheltering wings,  
her gathering wings protect you.  
May God's nurturing arms,  
her cradling arms sustain you,  
and hold you in her love,  
and hold you in her love.*

\*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	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
	4:00 PM	Finance Team - RMR
	4:15 PM	Choir Practice
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market – GYM

**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 9<sup>nd</sup> we have received 144 jars with funds on hand to purchase another 60. At our current donation rate, we will need to collect 100 jars per month to meet our goal.

**A reminder** that should you wish to make a monetary donation to the peanut butter fund you may now do so by **dropping off cash or 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.

***Thank you to all who assist with this meaningful project!***

Due to an oversight at the Annual Meeting held on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 26<sup>th</sup>**. 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

**The Financial Management Team** will meet this Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM in the Ruth Morrison Room.

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.

Generous people live expectantly, freeing their gifts for resurrection miracles that bring hope into the world.

**Rev. David will be away from the church on vacation** from April 7<sup>th</sup> to April 20<sup>th</sup>, returning to the office on April 21<sup>st</sup>. During his absence Rev. Blair Lewis will provide pastoral care coverage and he can be reached by calling 506-252-0305.

Next Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> our guest presider will be Randy Breckenridge.

**Weekly Bible Study** is resuming on Tuesday, **April 28<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM** with Rev. David Allen. The lectionary will be listed in the April 26<sup>th</sup> bulletin.

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

**Sponsored by Bayside Auto Group**



# Community News

**How to teach faith to our children and grandchildren.**

Join us on **Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 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.

The Anglican Parish of New Bandon will hold its **Annual Fishermen's Service** on **Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM** at the **Christ Church in Clifton**. You are invited to come out join in the blessing of the 2026 fisheries.

## "The Springtime"

*It won't be long until the springtime, when  
we may open the windows and breathe God's  
fresh air... Soon will the birds come back...*

*How cheerfully Nature greets them.  
She puts out her leaves to hide their homes,  
and  
kisses them with the wind, the warm wind...*

*Ah, Spring, we wait for you;  
for as the sap mounts the limbs of the tree  
so hope rises and we become bright again.*

*~Charles F. Raymond,  
Just Be Glad, 1907*

## *Flowers for Christian Family Sunday*

We will be placing flowers in our sanctuary on **May 10, 2026** in honour of **Christian Family Sunday**. The United Church of Canada traditionally celebrates this day on the second Sunday in May, aligning with Mother's Day, to honour families and the spirit of "mothering" within our community. It is a time to recognize all types of families and celebrate our place in God's family.

Those wishing to contribute to this fundraiser may place an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday morning or drop it off at the church office during the week (Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–3:00 PM).

Please clearly mark on the front of the envelope:

- *Christian Family Sunday Fundraiser*
- Your name and PAR or envelope number
- The name(s) of those being remembered or honoured

All funds raised will support the life and work of our faith community.

An insert listing your dedications will be included in the bulletin on May 10.

**Please submit all dedications to the office by Wednesday, May 6.**

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS – New International Version

### ACTS 2:14a, 22-32

#### Peter Addresses the Crowd

**14a** Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

**22** “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

**23** This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

**24** But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

**25** David said about him:

“I saw the Lord always before me.  
Because he is at my right hand,  
I will not be shaken.

**26** Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;  
my body also will rest in hope,

**27** because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,  
you will not let your holy one see decay.

**28** You have made known to me the paths of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

**29** “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day.

**30** But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne.

**31** Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay.

**32** God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

### PSALM 16

#### 1 PETER 1:3-9

#### Praise to God for a Living Hope

**3** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

**4** and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

**5** who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

**6** In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

**7** These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

**8** Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

**9** for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

#### JOHN 20:19-31

#### Jesus Appears to His Disciples

**19** On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”

**20** After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

**21** Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

**22** And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

**23** If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

### **Jesus Appears to Thomas**

**24** Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.

**25** So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

**26** A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

**27** Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

**28** Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

**29** Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

### **The Purpose of John's Gospel**

**30** Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

**31** But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.