

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

April 19, 2026

3rd 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 Ralph Jamieson & Lester Scott

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Acts 2:42-47
Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19	Psalms 23
1 Peter 1:17-23	1 Peter 2:19-25
Luke 24:13-35	John 10:1-10

We welcome **Randy Breckenridge** and **friends** this morning and thank them 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.*

MUSICAL WELCOME: "In Need" *In Harmony*

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: *(in unison)*

Come all who seek the way of love,
To praise and worship the God of extravagant welcome,
Come all who seek vitality,
To praise and worship the God of abundant life,
Come all who seek connection,
To praise and worship the God of all Creation.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "For the Beauty of the Earth"
(Verses 1 & 2) VU #226

*For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,*

(Refrain)

*God of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,*

(Refrain)

GATHERING PRAYER: *(in unison)*

Creating God, You have called us to be in loving relations with all the Earth, living with respect in creation, choosing love and seeking justice at all times.

Help to reawaken our love for Creation, that is so magnificent that we, with all our creativity and knowledge, could never articulate it; and so passionate that we, with the personal price and communal cost, would still fight for it.

(continued on page 3)

Help to deepen our relationships and love for each other and grow our community of allies, so that we can create a sustainable and faithful response to the imminent climate crisis.

For the sake of your majestic creation, and for the love of all our relations. Help us to fight for a better future.

Amen.

Edited from A prayer for the Fridays for Future Climate Strike movement by Alydia Smith

***GATHERING HYMN:** "It's a Song of Praise to the Maker" MV #30

It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the gray whale sings in the sea.

Refrain:

*And by the Spirit you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
And sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.*

It's a call of life to the Giver
when waves and waterfalls roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver
when high tides break on the shore,

Refrain:

It's a hymn of love to the Lover,
the bumble-bees hum along.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
the summer breeze joins the song,

Refrain:

It's the chorus of all creation;
it's sung by all living things.
It's the chorus of all creation;
a song the universe sings,

Refrain:

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE: *(responsively)*

Spirit that lives within each and every one of us,
Let us always be your light in what can sometimes seem
like a very dark world.

**Open our eyes to see the opportunities that you
present to us.**

To be that light even to a perfect stranger.

Guide us daily as we strive to show your love in an often
loveless world

**As we feel your love for us each and every day
let us share your love and your light with those who
need it most.**

Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Cindy Doucet

Heavenly God, as we gather in our sanctuary today, we are
reminded of the many times during the past week when we have
grumbled over petty things that may have occurred in our day.

Please help us to be reminded of those who have greater
concerns; concerns regarding health, loss of loved ones or those
affected by homelessness.

May you provide us with the insight necessary to reflect on what
truly matters.

Forgive us for our lack of tolerance during times of inconvenience,
and bestow upon us the empathy towards those who are
undoubtedly suffering.

We humbly come before you and pray that you will guide us to
walk in your way.

Amen

***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.

***HYMN:** "Open our Hearts"

MV #21

Open our hearts, open our minds
Open our lives to you O loving God.
Open our hearts, open our minds
Open our lives to you O loving God,
Open our hearts.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

Almighty God, through the resurrection of Jesus, you have made a way for new beginnings. As we listen to your Word today, awaken in us a faith that conquers death, a hope that does not fade, and a love that never dies. Let your Spirit guide us in living boldly as people transformed by grace, ready to proclaim the victory of Easter in word and deed. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Hugh Ellis

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23

Third Reading: Luke 24:13-35

SERMON: "The bread of sight...Thanks be to God!"

GIFT OF MUSIC: "The Play of the Godhead"

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Cindy Doucet

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

As we reflect on our many blessings and gifts you have given us, may we return a portion in our words, our works and our offerings so that we as a church can continue to bring the bread of sight to our fellow believers and the greater community. Our offerings will now be received.

***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 the beauty of creation who abides in all that we see, bless these our humble gifts that they may be a means of blessing others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF JESUS

***CLOSING HYMN:** "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

VU #288

Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

(Refrain)

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided—
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

(Refrain)

Church News

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
 thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
 strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—
 wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.

(Refrain)

GIFT OF MUSIC: "The Old Rugged Cross"

In Harmony

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL CLOSING:** "Wherever You May Go"

MV #216

*Wherever you may go, I will follow,
 and your people shall be my people too.
 Wherever you may go, I will follow,
 for I would be faithful, loyal and true.*

***SHARING THE LIGHT**

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

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
	4:00 PM	Bathurst Pastoral Council - 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

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 16nd we have received 223 jars with funds on hand to purchase another 24.

Thank you to all who assist with this meaningful project!

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

Bathurst Pastoral Council will meet this Tuesday, April 21st at 4 PM in the Ruth Morrison Room.

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 and he can be reached by calling 506-252-0305.

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

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.

With peace rooted in our own spirits, we can bloom and share ourselves with others.

Eat in or Take out Ham & Scallop Potato Supper will be held on **Thursday, April 30th**. \$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

The Anglican Parish of New Bandon will hold its **Annual Fishermen's Service** on **Sunday, April 26th at 2:00 PM** at the **Christ Church in Clifton**. We encourage members of the greater community to come and join us in the blessing of the fisheries and pray for a productive safe season for all employed in the fisheries. Offering will be donated to Janeville Elementary School

A TAKE-OUT LOBSTER SUPPER fundraiser is being held at **Central United Church in Clifton** on Saturday, May 9th. For tickets, please contact: Nisha Ellis-Silver (506-544-1577), Brenda Peters (506-545-7983), Cathy Chapman (506-546-5837) or Debbie Henry (506-543-8420). The cost is \$30 per person.

Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional News

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".

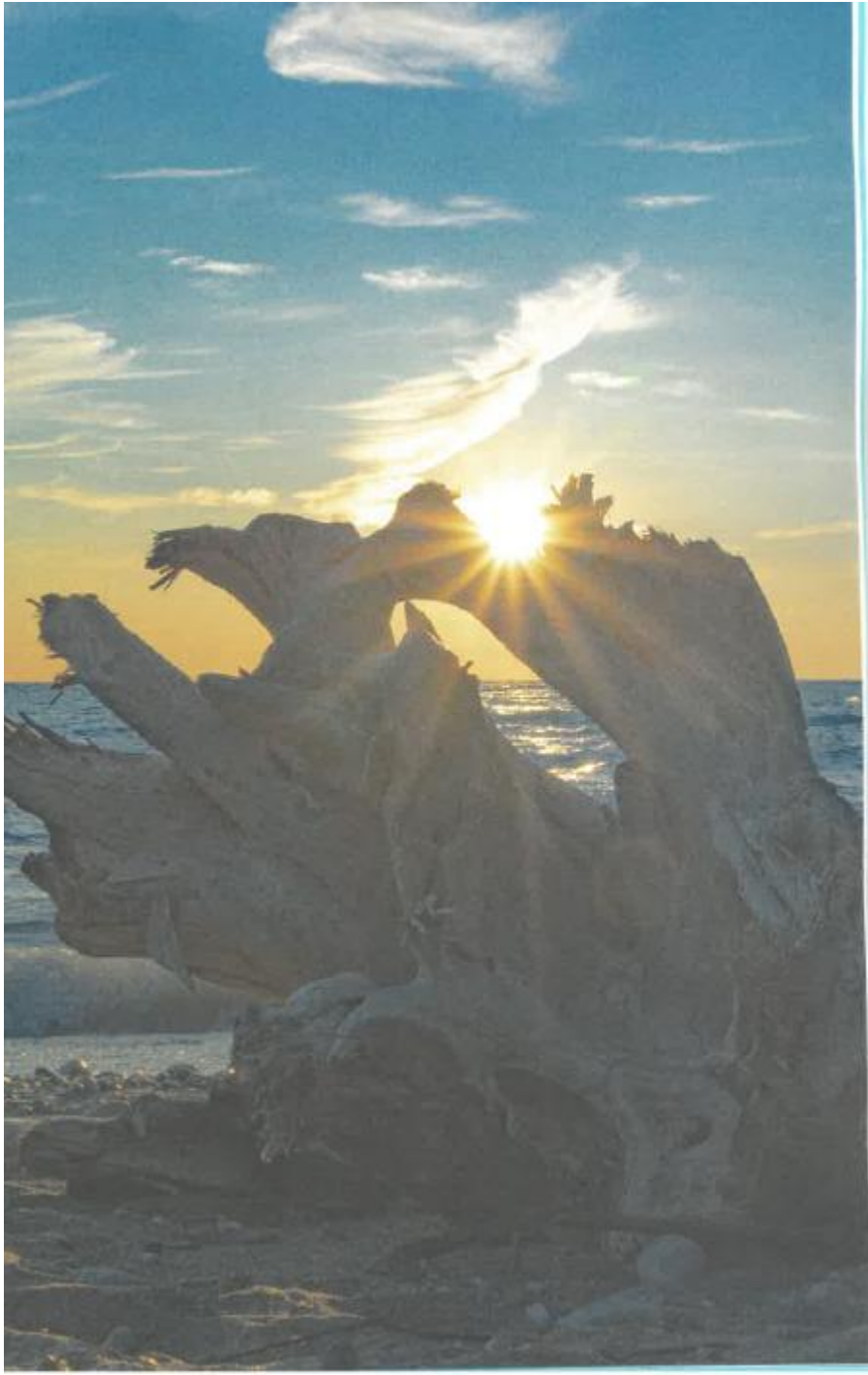
The group creates an inclusive, diverse and safe community for youth in the name of Christ. We provide a place for youth to explore their faith and to learn more about the United Church of Canada while sharing in music, worship and fun in a spirit-filled community.

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.**

Deadline to register is May 8, 2026.



SCRIPTURE LESSONS – New International Version

ACTS 2:14A, 36-41

Peter Addresses the Crowd

14 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.

36 “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”

41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

1 PETER 1:17-23

17 Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.

18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors,

19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.

23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

LUKE 24:13-35

On the Road to Emmaus

13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem.

14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.

15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them;

16 but they were kept from recognizing him.

17 He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast.

18 One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

19 "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.

20 The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him;

21 but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.

22 In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning

23 but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive.

24 Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken!

26 Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"

27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther.

29 But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them.

31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.

32 They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

33 They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together

34 and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon."

35 Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.