

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

**April 26, 2026**

**4<sup>th</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*

<b><u>Lectionary for today</u></b>	<b><u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u></b>
Acts 2:42-47	Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 23	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:19-25	1 Peter 2:2-10
John 10:1-10	John 14:1-14
The bulletins today are placed in loving memory of <b><i>Fran &amp; Elmer Daley</i></b> by Glen, Joyce and family	

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

**MUSIC FOR GATHERING**

**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:** *(responsively)*

Today we return to the fold, together to this place surrounded by the love of God.

**We come listening for God's voice,  
listening for our name and call.**

We come to worship and to be fed,  
**we come together as one flock, open to one another,  
sharing all that we are, and daring to dream.**

We come as people of God's promise and passionate embrace;  
**we come that we may have life,  
entering into our abundance in Christ.**

**CENTERING FOR WORSHIP:** "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.***

**GATHERING PRAYER:**

Enter into us now, O God, still our hearts that we may receive you openly, wholly and without fear. Lead us, shepherd us in the ways of your love, the Easter way of restoration and hope, even as you follow us with grace. In this time of worship may we come to better know your dwelling place - our hearts, our souls, our very lives, the goodness of your creation, O God - even as we dwell in you. **Amen**

**\*GATHERING HYMN:** "Let Us Build a House"     MV #1

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

*(Refrain:)*

*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
All are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

*(Refrain:)*

Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground,  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

*(Refrain:)*

Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

*(Refrain:)*

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

*(Refrain:)*

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

We again light this flame as a reminder and a sign of the light of Christ, the light that rises and which nothing can overshadow. The light that beckons and attracts and welcomes all, the light through which we see the beauty of creation and the need of the world, and the light in and through which we respond, in love and with a shining hope.

### **CHORAL RESPONSE:** "Love Us into Fullness" MV #81

***Love us into fullness,  
touch us with your grace;  
Jesus, in your mercy,  
draw us to your face.***

***Love us into fullness,  
hold us in your care,  
cheer us with your presence  
here and everywhere.***

***Love us into fullness,  
and we will be strong;  
Jesus, walk beside us,  
fill our hearts with song.***

### **OUR HEARTS ARE OPENED AND FILLED:**

It is Easter, and although in the light we see with new eyes, we can also find ourselves at times averting our gaze. We can take paths that seem easier, yet which only lead us to being confronted with closed gates, frustrated hopes and stagnant, shallow refrains. Let us move forward with love on right paths for the sake of creation, justice and peace.

**Let us follow in God's Way.**

Let us travel together as God's people:

**the people of God journeying together.**

*(continued on page 5)*

Through the pastures of life and by still waters,  
**in the depths of the valley of shadows,**  
in a world where there are still forces that would deny us life,  
**we know that we are not alone.**

We travel together in created goodness  
and the blessings of mercy.

**We travel in the fullness of God's love.**  
**Thanks be to God!**

**\*PSALM 23** "God is my shepherd" *2<sup>nd</sup> Refrain* VU Page 749

*Refrain 2*

*The God of love my shepherd is;  
what can I want or need.*

God is my shepherd,

**there is nothing I shall lack.**

You, God make me lie down in green pastures,

**you lead me beside peaceful waters;**

You revive my spirit,

**you guide me in right pathways for your name's sake.**

*Refrain*

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you are  
with me,

**your rod and your staff are my comfort.**

You spread a table for me in the sight of my enemies;

**you anoint my head with oil; my cup is overflowing.**

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the day of my  
life,

**and I will dwell in God's house my whole life long.**

*Refrain*

**\*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.***

## **A TIME OF SHARING FOR ALL AGES**

**\*HYMN:** "Are You a Shepherd?"

MV #126

Are you a shepherd, good shepherd who leads us  
Safely through danger, while calming our fears?  
Are you a father who shelters and feeds us,  
Shares in our laughter and wipes away tears?

*Refrain:*

*Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,  
But you are greater than all that we know.  
Holy and living, loving and giving,  
God, you are with us wherever we go.*

Are you a mother, good mother who bears us,  
Comforts, protects us and helps us to rest?  
Are you a teacher who daily prepares us,  
Challenging students to offer their best?

*Refrain:*

Great, gentle shepherd, forever beside us,  
Lead all your children in paths that are right.  
Great, loving parent, wise teacher, you guide us.  
We want to love you and bring you delight.

*Refrain:*

*Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,  
But you are greater than all that we know.  
Holy and living, loving and giving,  
God, you are with us wherever we go.*

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

**God of light, prepare us to listen to ancient yet timeless  
human words. Brighten the sharing of our lives with your  
ever new and eternal word, woven through our words, so  
that in you our lives are abundant and lit with both awe  
and understanding. Amen**

**SCRIPTURES:**

*Judy Losier*

Acts 2:42-47 of gladness and goodwill

John 10:1-10 the gate of grace

**SERMON:** A gateway love

**GIFT OF MUSIC:** "Touch the Earth Lightly"

**YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS**

*Judy Losier*

**INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING**

The tomb has long been opened; the gate is opened too. And so, we open our hearts and hands in hope and in gratitude, offering all that we have and are for this newly created day. 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)*

**Loving Shepherd, you are the one who calls us into life and lifted hope through Jesus Christ. In response we offer these gifts, that others might come to know the voice of the shepherd and follow where you lead. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER OF JESUS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN:** "How Great Thou Art"

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,  
consider all the worlds thy hands have made.  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*Refrain:*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour, God, to thee.  
How great thou art, how great thou art.  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour, God, to thee.  
How great thou art, how great thou art.*

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,  
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

*Refrain:*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour, God, to thee.  
How great thou art, how great thou art.  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour, God, to thee.  
How great thou art, how great thou art.*

And when I think of Jesus' life of giving;  
A love so wide that no one is left out.  
No cross or tomb can stop the Word from living,  
and so, inspired, I raise my voice and shout.

*Refrain*

In life, in death, in life beyond our ending,  
in God's great love, is where we find our rest.  
With joyful hearts and thankful voices blending,  
the whole creation knows itself as blest.

*Refrain*

*Verses 1&2 by Carl Gustav Boberg (1885)  
Verses 3&4 by Juanita L. Austin (Oct. 2009)  
registered with One License by Juanita L. Austin, and Raven Spirit Press.*

**\*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL CLOSING:** "May the God of Peace" – MV #224

*May the God of peace and of all good,  
may the God of peace and of all good  
be always with you. Amen!  
May God's peace be with you. Amen!*

**\*SHARING THE LIGHT**

*(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)*

**POSTLUDE**

**Acknowledgement:**

*Our Hearts Opened and Filled is drawn from Words of Assurance by Frances Flook,  
Emo/Devlin PC, Emo, ON, as well as the Offertory Prayer:  
Gathering, L/E 2023, pp. 49 & 50. Used with permission.*

# 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
	9:00 AM	Ways & Means Team
Tuesday	9:30 -11:30 AM	Quilters – DEMH Downstairs Office
	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Knitting Group – RMR
Wednesday	<i>Ham &amp; Scallop Supper Preparation</i>	
	3:00 PM	Bible Study
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>4:15 PM</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Ham &amp; Scallop Potato Supper Take Out – 4:00 to 5:30 PM Eat In – 4:30 to 6:00 PM</b>	
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 23<sup>nd</sup> we have received 241 jars with funds on hand to purchase another 36.

***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 will be held after the service this morning. This will be a very short meeting as there are only a couple of items on the agenda.

***Thank you – Bathurst Pastoral Council***

**Weekly Bible Study** is resuming on Tuesday, **April 28<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM** with Rev. David Allan. The lectionary is listed in today's 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***

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.

Stewards live God's dream of a community of people who truly look after one another.

# Community News

The Anglican Parish of New Bandon will hold its **Annual Fishermen's Service** on *this afternoon* 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 9<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**Mother's Day Tea will be held at Holy Family Church** on May 9, 2026 at 12:00 noon. Door prizes and bake sale. The entrance price is \$15.00. Tickets are available from Carmel (506-546-6279) and Joan (506-548-2742).

**A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST** will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on **Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Please note the change to the 3rd Saturday for this month.**

## **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**.  
[cstuart@united-church.ca](mailto:cstuart@united-church.ca)

Deadline to register is May 8, 2026.

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS** – New International Version

**ACTS 2:42-47**                      **New International Version**

**42** They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

**43** Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

**44** All the believers were together and had everything in common.

**45** They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

**46** Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

**47** praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

**JOHN 10:1-10**                      **New International Version**

**1** "Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber.

**2** The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

**3** The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

**4** When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

**5** But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."

**6** Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

**7** Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.

**8** All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them.

**9** I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be kept safe. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.

**10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.