

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

**June 7, 2026**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Minister** Rev. David Allan      **Music Director** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Margaret Daniels      **Custodian** Lester Scott  
**Greeters** Lola Nelson & Gary Branch  
**Audio & Visual Technician** Brenda Parrott & Lester Scott  
**Minister Emeritus** Rev. Blair Lewis

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<b><u>Lectionary for today</u></b>	<b><u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u></b>
Psalm 126 Matthew 13:31-32	Genesis 18:1-15; (21:1-7) Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19 Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35—10:8, (9-23)
We welcome and thank <b>Wayne Lord</b> for leading us in our worship service this morning.  We also welcome and thank <b>Linda Knowles MacPherson</b> for providing us with her amazing gift of music.	

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

**MUSIC FOR GATHERING**

**WELCOME & MODERATOR'S MESSAGE**

**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.**

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:**

As we light this Christ candle, we celebrate the light that guides us. This flame reminds us of Christ's presence, may this light shine through us as we step into the future with hope and love.

*(The Christ Candle is lit...)*

**LIGHTING THE AFFIRMING CANDLE:**

The Christ Light shines for all, it shines in the midst of all of Creation, it shines within our very being. It is the luminosity of Love, of blessing and belonging. We lament that the Light has not and is not always seen that way. Too often the Christ Light is thought to be eclipsed within and through certain people simply because of who they are, casting shadows upon Creation, as though there is in fact a darkness that can overcome it. And so, from the flame of the Christ Candle we light this Affirming Candle, to make it clear, so that all can clearly see, that through the prism of Love, the Christ Light refracts to display the colours and beauty of the diversity of God's beloved Creation. We do not put a bushel basket over the light. We join with our God in singing "Let there be light." Because it is good. Because God sees all of God's Creation as good. Because our God is good.

*(The Affirming Candle is lit...)*

**CHORAL RESPONSE** – "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.***

**\*GATHERING HYMN:** "This Is the Day"

VU #412

This is the day, this is the day  
that our God has made, that our God has made;  
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,  
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day that our God has made,  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is the day, this is the day  
that our God has made.

Open to us, open to us  
your gates, O God, your gates, O God;  
we will go in, we will go in,  
to your holy place, to your holy place.  
Open to us your gates, O God,  
we will go in to your holy place.  
Open to us, open to us  
Your gates, O God.

You are our God, you are our God,  
we will praise your name, we will praise your name;  
we will give thanks, we will give thanks,  
for your faithfulness, for your faithfulness,  
You are our God, we will praise your name,  
we will give thanks for your faithfulness.  
You are our God, you are our God,  
We will praise your name.

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** *(responsively)*

We gather as people who have been planted by God,  
**Rooted in faith, nourished by grace.**

We come carrying seeds, seeds of hope for the future, seeds of  
justice, compassion and peace.

**We come trusting that God is at work, even when  
growth is slow or hidden.**

The Spirit calls us to tend what has been planted, to loosen the soil  
of our hearts, to welcome new life and new ways.

**We worship the God who brings growth, who deepens  
our roots, and who makes all things new. Let us worship  
God together.**

**CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "Wind is Moving" (X2)**

*Season of the Spirit Volume 1*

***Wind is moving over water,  
patterns shifting out across the bay.  
Grass is bending on the hillside;  
clouds are drifting right across the sky.  
O Holy Spirit, move over all our lives.  
O Holy Spirit, move over all our lives.  
O Holy Spirit, move over all our lives.***

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

**Loving and life-giving God, we gather today with grateful  
hearts, drawn together by your Spirit. In this time of  
worship, we pause to remember why we are here, to praise  
you, to seek your guidance, and to listen for your voice.**

**You are the One who plants seeds of hope in our hearts and  
in our communities. Even when the ground feels uncertain,  
you continue to sow possibilities for new life. Open our eyes  
today to see the seeds you are planting among us.**

**You are also the One who nurtures the roots of change.  
Deepen our faith, strengthen our courage, and ground us in  
your love so that we may grow as a church that reflects your  
justice, your compassion and your grace.**

**Let this time of worship renew us, unite us, and remind us  
that your Spirit is already at work, growing hope, and  
bringing transformation in ways we may not yet see. Unite  
us in your love, O God, trusting that the work you have  
begun in us will continue, In the name of Christ, we pray.  
Amen.**

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

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:** "Soil of God, You and I"

MV #174

Soil of God, you and I, stand ready to bear  
seeds of faith nourished by God's tender care.  
Growing in everyone for here God is found.  
All stand together, we are Holy ground.

Soil of God, you and I now ready to be  
part of God's promise, for others to see.  
Open to everyone for here God is found.  
All stand together, we are Holy ground.

Soil of God, you and I, now called to rebirth,  
joining as partners with all of the earth.  
Living in harmony for here God is found.  
All stand together, this is Holy ground.

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

**O God, your Word is a lamp to our feet,  
and a light to our path.  
Give us grace to receive your truth  
in faith and love. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURES:**

*Stephen Maisey*

Psalms 126

Matthew 13:31-32

**SERMON:** Seeds of Hope, Roots of Change

*Wayne Lord, Brooke Knowles, Margaret Payne Chenard & Joan McMillan*

**GIFT OF MUSIC:** "Bringing in the Sheaves"

**YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS**

*Anne Wilson*

**INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING**

Let us continue to grow as we offer our gifts to the work of the  
church. Let us join together in our morning offering.  
Our offerings will now be gathered.

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

MV #191

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

**\*OFFERING PRAYER:**

Generous and Loving God, we ask you receive these gifts, and the  
gifts offered by PAR and e-transfer, gifts of our hearts and hands.  
May these gifts be used for ministry in your name. Amen.

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER OF JESUS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN:**

VU #424

"May The God of Hope Go with Us"

May the God of hope go with us every day,  
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

*Refrain:*

*Praying, let us work for peace,  
singing, share our joy with all,  
working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

May the God of healing free the earth from fear,  
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.  
May the God of love keep our commitment clear  
to a world restored, to human life renewed.

*Refrain*

## \*COMMISSIONING

\*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

Please note the summer office hours are now in effect. The office is open Monday to Thursday 9 AM to 3 PM and closed on Friday.

**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 June 4<sup>th</sup> we have received 304 jars with funds on hand to purchase another 205+.

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.

When we empty ourselves, we create a space for God's love to fill. What do you need to give away?

# Church News

## **Food Pantry Update**

Many thanks go out to the congregation for the wonderful response last Sunday to the Food Pantry fundraiser. Because of your overwhelming generosity we were able to raise \$860.00 to help support our church food pantry.

Thanks also to the volunteers who helped us make this happen: Charlene Roy and Beth Sullivan, Joyce and Glen Daley, and Lester Scott.

Your support is very much appreciated

~ **Sandra & Ed Boone** ~

This week's service has been provided by Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Councils. Prepared by Worship Planning Team of the Regional Meeting Planning Committee - Alicia Walls & Christopher Lane.

**Thank you to our volunteers in May – Counters** – Margaret Payne Chénard & Mike Kierstead; **Greeters** – Edie & Peter Gammon; **Your Generosity Matters** – Martha Vickers, Ronalds family, Anne Wilson, Judy Losier and Bev Murphy; **Scripture Readers** – Gary Branch, Cheryl Brewster, Anne Brooks, Helen Knowles and Wayne Lord; **Hospitality & Friendship** – Dorothy Ann McCullum, Jini Palmer, Shirley Sealy, Wilma Dempsey, Beth Sullivan and Charlene Roy; **Sound System** – Brenda Parrott, Shirley Allain, and Ralph Jamieson; **Audio Specialist** – Don Eddy for preparing audio for CDs; **Videographer** – Lester Scott and Margaret Payne Chénard and to Josh Gammon and his staff at WebSolutions.ca for uploading the YouTube link to the website and Facebook.

# Community News

Please join us at **Central United Church in Clifton** on Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM for ***an evening of music***. If there are any individuals or groups interested in performing, please contact Pat Scott (506-546-3819) by June 1<sup>st</sup>. As it is a fundraiser for Central United, a Free-will offering is appreciated.

**YARD SALE** – St. George's Anglican Church Hall, located at 432 King Avenue on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> from 8 AM – 12 Noon.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

### **PSALM 126**

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.  
Then our mouth was filled with laughter  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then it was said among the nations,  
"The Lord has done great things for them."  
The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we rejoiced.  
Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses in the Negeb.  
May those who sow in tears  
reap with shouts of joy  
Those who go out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
carrying their sheaves.

### **MATTHEW 13:31-32**

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

*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.*