

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

June 28, 2026

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Genesis 22:1-14	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Psalm 13	Psalm 45:10-17
Romans 6:12-23	Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 10:40-42	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The potted flowers at the front and back entrance of the church are in loving memory of Fran, John & Nancy Barbery from Bob & Beth Sullivan
(Special thank you to Gary Branch for setting up the outdoor planters)

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

*Today's bulletins are placed in loving memory of our grandson, **Hugo Bertin**, sister, **Lois Hachey** and brother, **Terrance Spence**
by Julie & Harvey Spence*

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.

***NATIONAL ANTHEM:** "O Canada" – VU #524

***O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all of us command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
the True North strong and free!
From far and wide, O Canada,
we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.***



PRAYER RESPONSE: You Embrace All Peoples

VU #525

Eternal God,
whose image lies in the hearts of all people,
we live among peoples
whose faiths are foreign to us,
whose ways we fail to understand.
Help us to remember
that you embrace all people with your love,
that all religion is a response to you,
that the yearnings of other hearts
are much like our own, and are known to you.
Help us to recognize you
in words of truth, things of beauty
and actions of love about us.
We pray in the name of the One who calls us
to be neighbour and friend. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(responsively)*

As the sun climbs into the sky, may our spirits rise for worship.

**As we reach for meaning and understanding,
may our imaginations soar.**

As we step into another new day, may we be lifted by hope and carried by love.

**As we pause for worship, may we be open to God's
new and eternal song, the winds of change,
and the light of peace.**

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "Wind is Moving"

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:

Yes, it's another new day, creation continues, and we take time for Sabbath rest. We pause in our eagerness, take a breath, and open ourselves to you, our God. In this time of worship may our faith be enlivened as we seek to love you with all that we are, with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Together as one may we always trust in Love's power and truth. May the glory of Love's presence gladden this and all our days. **Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN:** "In God's Presence, Let Us Worship"

(tune Beach Spring VU #374)

In God's presence, let us worship
with a faith that's grounded deep.
Giving thanks for those before us,
faith to follow, faith to keep.

Built upon a firm foundation,
working in community,
deep in faith, your vision guides us
with God's love for all to see.

Faith and mission come together
in the daily acts we live.
Love and serve your neighbour gladly,
there is always much to give.
God has called us, let us follow.
Holy Spirit, set us free,
to live out our common purpose.
Bold and daring, let us be.

Seeking justice, love in action,
let us answer your great call.
Hope for peace and transformation,
making change for one and all.
God of vision show us wisdom,
seeking ways for us to be
deep, bold, daring as we journey
in the world with unity.

Words by Alicia Walls & Christopher Lane

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

We light this candle to remind us of the shining presence of our risen Christ and the Divine delight in our re-creation. It is the light that is never eclipsed, that rises over every heart and every new horizon. May the Lovelight always shine in our eyes, that together we see more clearly the beauty and the need of the world. In its light may we envision and see ourselves anew. And together, may we respond with a faithful and unconditional love that helps to overcome the shadows of fear with grace, hope, justice and peace.

(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 some of us simply because of who we are, as though shadows are cast upon Creation by our very creation, as though there is in fact a darkness that can indeed overcome the Light.

(The Affirming Candle is lit)

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. As the youth at our Regional Council Annual Meeting recently proclaimed, "the light is colourful!" 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.

CHORAL RESPONSE: "Know That God Is Good" MV #104

***Know that God is good,
know that God is good,
know that God is good,
God is good, God is good.***

***C'est vrai: Dieu est bon!
C'est vrai: Dieu est bon!
C'est vrai: Dieu est bon!
Dieu est bon! Dieu est bon!***

***Know that God is good,
know that God is good,
know that God is good,
God is good, God is good.***

WE OPEN OUR HEARTS:

We come to worship with many questions; our lives are never as simple and as straightforward as we think we would like. On our many journeys there is joy and hope of course, and there are times when we come across bends in the road where we wonder what's next. We struggle, climbing the slopes of the soul asking why and when, and descend asking how it is that our hearts have arrived in a place such as this. The world goes on, seemingly indifferent. Is anybody listening? Have we or those whose questions seem to go unanswered been forgotten? We turn to God with our spirits' song...

***PSALM 13:** How long will you forget me, God?

VU Page 734

***Refrain:
Be still my soul,
For God is on your side.***

How long, O God, will you utterly forget me?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I suffer anguish in my soul,
and be so grieved in my heart day and night?

How long shall my enemy triumph over me?

Refrain:

Look at me, and answer me, O God my God;

give light to my eyes, lest I fall asleep in death,

lest my enemies claim to have prevailed against me,

lest my foes rejoice at my downfall.

But my trust is in your mercy.

Let my heart be joyful in your salvation.

I will sing to you, O God,

because you have dealt so lovingly with me.

I will praise your name, O God most high.

Refrain:

OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED:

We turn to God and we remember our blessings. We turn to God and we find our trust has not been misplaced, that the promise of love that opens and resonates in our hearts and stills our restless souls is a song to which we are invited to add our voices. We join creation's chorus, so that all the world may sing in the journeys that we share, the harmony of earth as in heaven, and the promise of peace.

*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.

HYMN: "Spirit, Open My Heart"

MV #79

Refrain:

*Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.*

God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender.

Refrain:

Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word and deed,
may my living bring you glory.

Refrain:

May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

God, we are seekers who live in hope and in faith. May the words that we read and the words that we hear prompt questions as much as understanding, and may our faith so be blessed with both challenge and assurance.

Amen

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 22:1-14

Wayne Lord

SERMON: Our questions, God's quest: needing to know

GIFT OF MUSIC:

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Judy Losier

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

Jesus reminds us and his questioners of the greatest commandment, of where our true allegiance lies. We love our God with all that we have and are, and we love our neighbour, because our neighbours are ourselves. And so, in such devotion, we give in gratitude and in grace. As the incarnated image of God and the body of Christ, we share our love. 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 say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.***

***OFFERING PRAYER:** *(in unison)*

God of all, we affirm our hope that a new day is dawning upon us. We affirm our vision of a new heaven and a new earth. We affirm our belief that your love, which is greater than all understanding, has the power to unite us to participate in the creation of a new world. We affirm the hope that turns suffering into a creative process. We affirm the hope that enables us to act. Bless all that we offer here, O God. We live in hope: help us to hope together! Amen

Adapted from a prayer by the Student Christian Movement, Australia

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF JESUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CLOSING HYMN:

VU #684

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your healing power,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:

(Refrain:)

*O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

(Refrain:)

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

(Refrain:)

*“GOD SAVE THE KING”

***God save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King:
Send him victorious, Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us;
God save the King.***

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 and Affirming Candle are extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

Church News

Summer hours are now in effect – The office will be closed on Fridays until the Labour Day Weekend.

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 24th we have received 429 jars with funds on hand to purchase another 135+.

Thank you to all who assist with this meaningful project!

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 gift that seems insignificant to one person
can mean the world to another.

Community News

The annual Stonehaven New Bandon Cemetery Service will be held this afternoon **at 2 PM** in the Chapel in Stonehaven. Father Paul Gwese will be leading the service. Donations can be made to any of the three funds: Chapel Fund, Cemetery Fund or Perpetual Care Fund. All donations will be receipted, just be sure to include your mailing information.

The Annual Meeting for the Stonehaven New Bandon Union Cemetery Inc will be held on **Monday evening, July 6, 2026**, at the chapel beginning at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

This afternoon, Sunday, June 28th at 2 PM the Pokeshaw & Black Rock Community Center will hold a ribbon-cutting and plaque unveiling ceremony to celebrate their recent kitchen and hall renovations. The ceremony will be followed by a complimentary picnic at Pokeshaw Park. All are welcome!

On **July 4, 2026 from 2 PM to 4 PM** there will be an open house on the occasion of **Eleanor Scott's 90th birthday**. The celebration will be held at the New Bandon Salmon Beach Fire Hall located at 184 NB-340, Janeville. Best wishes only.

The Royal Canadian Legion 1220 Bridge St, is hosting a community yard sale, **Saturday July 4th 8 AM to 1 PM**. You can rent a table for \$10. Contact Flora at 506 543 3960.

Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional News



Thank You from Your President

Dear Members of The Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council,

I am writing today to offer you my sincere thanks for putting your faith and trust in me as your new President. The June 7th Celebration of Ministries service was absolutely a blessing from beginning to end. The Affirmation of Faith shared by the Youth@Region as part of the service allowed us all to witness again the amazing gifts of our church... past, present, and the future. Thank you!

Starting in July I plan to add my voice to the already well established "letters from the president", in order to keep you in the loop. I will include the link to the "letters from the president" (found on the Regions webpage). My first post again will be in July.

I am also hoping to offer you a little behind the scenes glimpse of the fantastic committees and the wonderful disciples living into the life, work, and ministry of our region throughout my year as your President (more to come on that).

Oh and one other thing... "Pop Up President" will be something you might want to look for on the Facebook Page for Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region (so be sure to follow us on Facebook). You just never know when and where I might "pop up".

Holding you all in my prayers as we continue this faith filled journey together.

Blessings,

The Rev. Rachel Campbell
President of The Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council

SCRIPTURE READING – New International Version

Genesis 22:1-14 NIV

- 1** Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied.
- 2** Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love – Isaac – and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."
- 3** Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about.
- 4** On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.
- 5** He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."
- 6** Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together,
- 7** Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"
- 8** Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.
- 9** When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.
- 10** Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.
- 11** But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied.
- 12** "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

13 Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.

14 So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

*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.*