

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

September 6, 2026
15th Sunday after Pentecost

Minister Rev. David Allan **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Dave & Cheryl Brewster
Audio & Visual Technician Shirley Allain & Margaret Payne-Chénard
Minister Emeritus Rev. Blair Lewis

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

<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Exodus 12:1-14	Ezekiel 47:1-12
Psalms 149	Psalms 65
Romans 13:8-14	Revelation 22:1-7
Matthew 18:15-20	John 7:37-39(a)

*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.

***GATHERING HYMN:** VU #245
"Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet"

Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet,
praise the Lord with the harp and lute,

praise the Lord with the gentle-sounding flute.
Praise the Lord in the field and forest,
praise the Lord in the city square,
praise the Lord anytime and anywhere.
Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine,
praise the Lord in the dark of night,
praise the Lord in the rain or
snow or in the morning light,
Praise the Lord in the deepest valley,
praise the Lord on the highest hill,
praise the Lord, never let your voice be still.

Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbal,
praise the Lord with the pipe and string,
praise the Lord with the joyful songs you sing.
Praise the Lord on a weekday morning,
praise the Lord on a Sunday noon,
praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon.
Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow,
praise the Lord in the time of joy,
praise the Lord every moment,
nothing let your praise destroy.
Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet,
praise the Lord in your work or play,
praise the Lord everywhere in every way!

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

This candle that we light, reminds us of the shining presence of Christ, the luminous stream of divine love that flows through and among us all. It brightens our path; it shows us, and indeed is, our way. It is the Lovelight, the light of justice and peace, the light of hope and of faith. It is the light of the world.

(The Christ Candle is lit...)

LIGHTING THE AFFIRMING CANDLE:

From the Christ Candle we light our Affirming Candle, as a further illumination for us all that the divine light, the Lovelight, shines in all of God's colourful, beloved and good Creation. The rainbow is a sign of God's eternal covenant with all that God sings into being and brings into belonging, through love making the waters of chaos recede and new life to rise up and appear. We are all created in the image of God, we all grow ever more into the likeness of Love. And so, we affirm that all can find belonging here. Not only regardless of your background, culture or where or how you find yourself today, not only regardless of your understanding or your questions or your circumstances, not only regardless of your sexual orientation or gender identity, your piety or your politics. *You belong simply and precisely because of who you are, a beloved child of God.* We are all, together through Christ and the affirmation of Jesus, the light of the world. God affirms your life. We shine with the light.

(The Affirming Candle is lit...)

CHORAL RESPONSE – "And When You Call for Me" MV #96

***And when you call for me,
I have already answered.
And when you call for me,
I am already there.***

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(responsively)*

God is always with us,
but even in the light, we don't always notice.
Whether we're busy, or worried or comfortable,
we don't always notice the nearness of the Holy One.
On this new day we are called to gather together for worship,
**to revel in the revealed Presence,
to unravel the tangles that keep us apart.**
Notice the living water refreshing our lives like a summer rain,

**notice the breath of the Spirit in the sea air or the wind
in the trees,**

notice the glory and beauty of creation
in birdsong and turning leaf,

**notice the great variety of life as we gather in
community:**

the Body of Christ, gathered by God's love.

**We are called and we come, to notice God's loving
presence.**

Come, let us worship.

Acknowledgement:

Call to Worship drawn from one by Robert Cosbey, Trinity UC, Thunder Bay, ON.
Gathering, Pentecost 1, 2023, p. 26. Used with permission.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP:

MV #14

"Where Two or Three Are Gathered"

***Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there.***

***PSALM 149**

Refrain:

Sing a new song to God! Hallelujah!

Praise the Beloved!

**Sing a joy-filled song praising the Blessed One among
the people!**

Be glad in the Creator, rejoice in Love Divine!

Refrain:

Sing a new song to God! Hallelujah!

Praise the Divine Lover with dancing, with melodies and voice!

**For the Beloved dwells within, journeying with us
through all our lives,
leading us in truth and love.**

The humble are adorned with honour;

**the faithful exult in glory, singing for You
with thankful hearts!**

Refrain:

With truth on our tongues,
with gratitude as our friend,
we are in harmony with the universe,
as we hold hands with all the people.

The chains of oppression are broken,
the fetters of injustice unbound.
The realm of Peace and Love shall reign!
Glory abides with those who are faith-filled,
God's people, God's saints.
Praise the Beloved!

Refrain:

Acknowledgement: Psalm 149 paraphrase drawn from
Psalms for Praying: an invitation to wholeness by Nan C. Merrill.
(Bloomsbury: New York, 2007), pp. 295-296.
Refrain by Rev. David Allan 2026

ASSURANCE:

Yes, God takes delight in all people, and in the good creation of which we are a part, the newness that God sings into being. The faithful and the followers of love, the hopeful and the humble walkers of the Way, in all these and in you is seen the glory of God's saints. So be not proud, but know a deep peace; love one another as Christ first loved you. For your Christ is here, and you are invited into the presence of love.

OPENING PRAYER:

As we gather, as we settle in, open us to your heart, O God. Open our hearts, minds and spirits to your presence, your purposes and the pathways of love. May we always see the light shine among and ahead of us, and in the hearts of one another. May we always sing your song, Creator God, a new song, a song of hope. As gathered followers of the one who lives with us now, 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.

***HYMN:** "Small Things Count"

VU #361

Small things count, so Jesus said:
cups of water, crumbs of bread,
small things done because we're kind
count as big things in God's mind.

Small things make the big things grow:
grains of yeast inside the dough,
puffs that fill a big balloon,
notes that make a happy tune.

Every hair that's on our head,
every sparrow, Jesus said,
God takes care of, counts and knows,
God loves us from top to toes!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

Into our gathered hearts we pray for illumination. Eternal Light, may we notice, hear and delight in your word of love. May this holy word guide our lives together and be on our lips forever, your loving invitation. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Isabel MacLaggan

Exodus 12:1-14	The first Passover
Romans 13:8-14	Owe no one anything but love
Matthew 18:10-20	Where two or three are gathered

SERMON: Instructions and invitations

GIFT OF MUSIC

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Anne Wilson

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

"Love is the fulfillment of the law," Paul writes to the church. Live, he urges us, such that love is all that we owe to one another and to all of creation. We live for one another as Christ lives in us; we give our lives. 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: (responsively)

Gracious God, you come with love to bless our gathering and our lives together. Bless too these gifts and our giving, that all might know your loving presence, your promise and your peace. Bless the world as it rejoices in love revealed and abundance received. Amen

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF JESUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CLOSING HYMN: "I Have Called You By Your Name" MV #161

I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.

I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

COMMISSIONING and BENEDICTION

*CHORAL SENDING FORTH: "We Wish You the Blessing"

***We wish you the blessing of faith to sustain you,
friends to support you, challenge to stir you,
song to empower you, peace to refresh you,
tears to release you, laughter to heal you,
love to nurture your soul.***

MUSIKLUS
Box 678 Parksville BC V9P 2G7 Canada
WEBSITE: www.musiklus.com EMAIL: staff@musiklus.com
Words Copyright © 2015 by John Oldham.
Music Copyright © 2015 by Ron Klusmeier.

SHARING THE LIGHT

(The Christ Candle and Affirming Candle are extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

Church News

This Week at First United Church

Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday to Friday

Monday	Office Closed for Labour Day	
Tuesday	9:00 AM	Ways & Means - RMR
Thursday	7:00 PM	Christian Development - RMR
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market – GYM

The **Sacrament of Baptism** will be celebrated next Sunday, September 13th.

Congregational Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, September 20th. The meeting is to receive approval for upgrades to the back doors, the ramp and steps as well as replacement of lights that are no longer available.

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 September 3rd we have received 638 jars with funds on hand to purchase another 75.

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.

When you listen to God with your heart—
prayerfully considering the abundance in your life—
what are you called to give?

The Knitting and Rug Hooking groups will resume on Tuesday, September 15th at 1 PM in the Ruth Morrison Room.

Choir Practice will resume on Wednesday evening, September 16th at 6:30 PM. **All are welcome to join!**

Church News

The Ways & Means Team are pleased to announce the **BBQ BEEF SUPPER** will be held on **Thursday, September 17th**.

Take out will be from 4:00 PM to 5 :30 PM

Eat in will be from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM

Tickets are now available - **\$18** for adults and **\$6** for children. As there are a limited number of tickets they will be sold on a first come-first served basis. Please contact a member of the *Ways & Means Committee* or drop by the church office from 9 AM to 3 PM.

Sponsored by Hatheway Auto Group

Community News

A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on **Saturday, September 12th 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.

"Help Lesotho" Calendars - The Anglophone School District – North has been sponsoring "Help Lesotho" since 2006 as part of its global awareness initiative. As a fundraiser where all of the money raised goes to help finance its work with orphans, vulnerable children, and grandmothers in Lesotho, Africa; "Help Lesotho" has 2027 calendars for sale at a cost of \$15.00. You are invited to support this initiative with your donation. Gary Branch (546-9208) (egbranch@rogers.com) will be taking orders for these calendars until October 13, 2026. Payment can be made in advance by cash, cheque, or eTransfer, or when the calendars are delivered in November. Cheques are to be made payable to "Help Lesotho". Thank you to the congregation of First United Church for your continued support of this initiative.

Communion Servers Needed — Many Hands, One Holy Meal

World Communion Sunday is October 4, 2026, however as Rev. David Allan will be out of town, First United Church will celebrate communion on Thanksgiving Sunday, October 11, 2026 with Rev. Ivan Gregan presiding over the service.

Sharing Communion is one of the most meaningful moments in our worship life — and it runs best when there are a few extra pairs of willing hands (and steady trays!).

We are inviting **members of The United Church** to volunteer as **Communion Servers** at First United Church, throughout the year.

What does serving involve?

- Helping prepare the bread and juice (no baking required!).
- Assisting the Minister during the Communion service.
- Helping with tidy-up afterward —
because miracles aside, dishes don't wash themselves.

Who can serve?

- Full Members of The United Church of Canada.
- Training is provided — no previous experience needed, just a calm presence and a welcoming spirit.

How to sign up:

Four (4) people are needed to serve at each Communion. Please call the Church Office at (506) 546-3532, to let Margaret know the dates you are available to help.

_____ October 11th - Thanksgiving Sunday

_____ November 22nd – Anniversary of First United Church

Serving Communion is a quiet but meaningful way to support worship and care for one another as a congregation. If you've ever thought, **"I could do that,"** — this is your nudge!

Thank you for helping us share the table with grace, generosity, and maybe even a smile.

Rev. Carolyn Marguerite Palmer March 6, 1941 ~ August 25, 2026 (age 85)



With heavy hearts, the family of Carolyn Marguerite Palmer announces her passing on August 25, 2026, at the Parkland Shannex Tucker Hall. Born in Auburn, Kings County NS, on March 6, 1941, Carolyn was the beloved daughter of the late Lorris & Edith Palmer and wife of the late Rev. James Forbes.

During Carolyn's childhood she lived in Auburn, Mahone Bay, Venezuela, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. After high school she attained a BA from Acadia University. During her time at Acadia, she felt a calling to ministry and attended Acadia Divinity College

graduating with a Bachelor of Divinity degree, the first woman to graduate with that degree from Acadia. She later attended Yale University where she obtained her Masters of Systematic Theology degree. She was a Jubilarian with the United Church of Canada for 50 years, serving many congregations in the Maritimes and Ontario.

Carolyn also had a passion for painting, gardening and especially shared a love of traveling with Jim.

Carolyn leaves behind her sister Patricia Spence, nephew Steaphan Spence (Nadine), stepson Doug Forbes (Janet), stepdaughter Lorraine (Jon); and grandchildren Ryan Forbes, Kyles Forbes, Duncan Forbes, and Alexander Abrahams and their families. Aside from her parents and her husband she was predeceased by her brother-in-law Spurgeon Spence.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Fundy Funeral Home, 230 Westmorland Road (506-646- 2424). In keeping with Carolyn's wishes, there will be no visitation or service at this time.

For those who wish, donations in Carolyn's memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Society of Canada or The Canadian Cancer Society

Exodus 12:1-14

1 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, **2** “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. **3** Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. **4** If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. **5** The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. **6** Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. **7** Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. **8** That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. **9** Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire – with the head, legs and internal organs. **10** Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. **11** This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD’s Passover.

12 “On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. **13** The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

14 “This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD – a lasting ordinance.

8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. **9** The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” **10** Love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.

11 And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. **12** The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. **13** Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. **14** Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

Our Gospel reading commences just after the disciples have asked Jesus who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. He places a little child among them, and tells them that to enter the kingdom one must become like a humble child, and that in welcoming one such as this, one too, therefore, welcomes him.

Matthew 18: (10-14) 15-20

10 “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. ^[11]

12 “What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? **13** And if he finds it, truly I

tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. ¹⁴ In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸ "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

*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.*