

The United Church of Canada
Bathurst Pastoral Charge
First United Church, Bathurst
www.firstunited-bathurst.ca
September 13, 2026 Baptism Sunday
16th Sunday after Pentecost
Season of Creation: Living Water

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

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Ezekiel 47:1-12	Exodus 16:2-15
Psalms 65	Psalms 105
Revelation 22:1-7	Philippians 1:21-30
John 7:37-39(a)	Matthew 20:1-16

*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 among its waters, and live in peace and in friendship with its people.

***GATHERING HYMN:** verses 1-5 VU #415
 "God We Praise You for the Morning"

God, we praise you for the morning;
 hope springs forth with each new day,
 new beginning, prayer, and promise,
 joy in work and in play.

God, we praise you for creation,
 mountains, seas, and prairie land.
 Waking souls find joy and healing
 in your bountiful hand.

God, we praise you for compassion,
 all the loving that you show;
 human touching, tears, and laughter,
 help your children to grow.

God, we praise you for your Spirit,
 Comforter and daily friend,
 restless searcher, gentle teacher,
 strength and courage you send.

God, we praise you for the Saviour,
 come that we may know your ways.
 In his loving, drying, rising,
 Christ is Lord of our days.

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. As at our baptism, we are immersed in the Lovelight. 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 us, in all of God's beloved and good Creation. On this baptism Sunday, we affirm that all are equally created in the image of God. It doesn't matter how old you are or how much you know or who you know. It doesn't matter how many questions you have, how much is in your pocket or how often you go to church. It doesn't matter who has your heart; here, we seek to let our love shine, flowing from our hearts widely and deeply. We are all, together through Christ and the affirmation of Jesus, the light of the world. God affirms your life and immerses you in love. We shine with the light, the light that changes the world.

(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)*

In the beginning, the Spirit of God hovered over the waters. And God called them good.

Come Holy Spirit, and cleanse the waters.

A prophet saw a river flowing from the Temple, and wherever the river flowed, everything lived.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

Jesus cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me... Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."

Come Holy Spirit, enter into this new day, and make your people whole.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "This Is the Day" MV #122

This is the day that God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad!
This is the day that God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad!
Singing hal-le-lu, singing hal-le-lu,
singing hal-le-lu!
We will rejoice and be glad!
Singing hal-le-lu, singing hal-le-lu,
singing hal-le-lu!
We will rejoice and be glad!

OPENING PRAYER:

Creating God, we thank you for your love in all Creation, and especially for your gift of water to sustain and cleanse all life. We give thanks for the living water that makes all things new. We offer our thanks for the waters that bring beauty to all that we enjoy, the wild places, the bush, the mountains, coast and sea. We give thanks for the rain and all good lands, for forests and pastures, for our plentiful crops. We give you thanks for the living water that quenches all. **Amen**

Adapted from Anglican Aotearoa New Zealand Prayer Book

***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.

STORY SHARING

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

This morning we **welcome into the Christian family by baptism Tucker Douglas Shaw**, son of Meagan & Zachary Shaw and **Della Beatrice Selig** and **Morgan Rose Brewer**, daughters of Jessica Shaw & Matthew Selig.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:9-11

*Baptism Hymn: Out of Deep, Unordered Water VU #453
(amended version)

Out of deep, unordered water
God created land and life;
world of bird and beast, and later,
two-some people, joined in love.

Refrain

*There is water in the river
bringing life to tree and plant.
Let creation praise its giver:
there is water in the font.*

Water on the human forehead,
birthmark of the love of God,
is the sign of death and rising;
through the sea there runs a road.

Refrain

Standing round the font reminds us
of the Hebrews' climb ashore.
Life is hallowed by the knowledge:
God has been this way before.

Refrain

Invitation to the Families
Introduction to the Sacrament
Presentation of the Candidates
Profession of Faith and Promises

*Congregational Commitment:

As a baptised and baptising community, we commit ourselves to the Christian life of justice, mercy and kindness. On behalf of the world-wide Church, we commit ourselves to sharing these values with all of God's children as with one another, and to learning to live them out, both here and in the world. We will love you all, and commit ourselves to growing with you,

showing and discovering with you and each other the wisdom, beauty and diversity of all that our faith tradition holds for you and for our world, for all that God so loves.

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

God of this watered world, we give thanks for your love poured out upon us. Bless what we do here together, that all, both elder and child, seeker and witness, all disciples of your desire, experience the love that makes us whole, that makes us one in you. Amen

Rite of Baptism

Declaration and Presentation of Symbols and Gifts

Blessing

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

As we are illumined by grace and bathed in love, may we experience your creative word in the words we are about to hear, O God. May our need for understanding, our hope to be people of vision, and our desire to respond to the call of love be quenched, this and each new day. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Jennifer Oliver

Ezekiel 47:1-12

Living water from God's dwelling place

John 7:37-39(a)

Living water from within us

REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC: "As the Wind Song Through the Trees"

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Ronalds Family

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

We are baptised into community, into a lifetime of belonging, learning and loving service. We are blessed with the gifts of time, talent, and treasure, all meant for sharing. We are the church. 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)*

God of Life, your Spirit moved over the deep at creation; it continues to move over and through our re-creation. Life evolved from water, we were born out of water, we live and flourish because of your gift of water. And so, in gratitude we offer our gifts. May they too help life and love to grow and to flourish, in your Spirit's presence, and in your saving peace. Amen

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF JESUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN:** "Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"
VU #563

Jesus, you have come to the Lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.

Refrain:

*O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.*

You know so well my possessions;
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
--- you will find there my nets and labor.

Refrain:

You need my hands, full of caring
through my labours to give others rest,
and constant love that keeps on loving.

Refrain:

You, who have fished other oceans,
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
my loving friend, as thus you call me.

Refrain:

COMMISSIONING and BENEDICTION

May the God who sprung water from a rock, quenching the thirst of those who wandered in fear, spare us from the drought of a senseless life. May the God who flows from the wells of wholeness, and who is Living Water to the foreigner, the stranger, and the unknown, keep us in peace. May the God who rolls on like a river, changing the course of the world with streams of righteousness that guide the Church's vessel in this time, empower us to work for transformation. And may the blessings of our merciful Creator God, the compassionate change-making Christ, and the companioning Holy Spirit, keep us and preserve us in eternal life.

Amen

Adapted from the Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil

Go in peace, remember your baptism! You belong to God! You belong to one another!

***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.***

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Box 678 Parksville BC V9P 2G7 Canada
WEBSITE: www.musiklus.com EMAIL: staff@musiklus.com
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SHARING THE LIGHT

(The Christ Candle and Affirming Candle are extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

Today, our Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, suggested Scripture Readings, Pastoral Prayer, and Commissioning and Benediction are drawn and adapted from the Celebration Guide for this year's Season of Creation. With the theme of Living Water, this resource was developed and shared by an international and ecumenical group of church leaders and groups dedicated to the care of Creation.

Church News

This Week at First United Church		
Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday to Friday		
Tuesday	1:00 PM	Knitters & Rug Hookers
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
	4:00 PM	Finance & Trustee Meeting (RMR)
Thursday	4:00 PM – 5:30 PM	Take Out Beef BBQ Supper
	4:30 PM – 6:00 PM	Eat In Beef BBQ Supper
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market – GYM

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 10th we have received 648 jars with funds on hand to purchase another 75.

Thank you to all who assist with this meaningful project!

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

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.

Faithful in small things, faithful in all things.

*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

"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!

*You've been a special blessing,
since the day that you
arrived,
bringing so much happiness,
and filling hearts with pride.
And now that it's your
Baptism Day,
this brings a special prayer,
that God will always keep
you in the shelter
of Love's care.*

Author unknown

SCRIPTURE READINGS - New International Version

Ezekiel 47:1-12 NIV

47 The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. ²He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side.

³As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. ⁴He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. ⁵He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in - a river that no one could cross. ⁶He asked me, "Son of man, do you see this?"

Then he led me back to the bank of the river. ⁷When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. ⁸He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah [that is, the Jordan Valley], where it enters the Dead Sea. When it empties into the sea, the salty water there becomes fresh. ⁹Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. ¹⁰Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds - like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea. ¹¹But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. ¹²Fruit trees of all kinds will

grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing."

John 7:37-39(a) NIV

³⁷On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." ³⁹By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.

*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.*