The United Church of Canada
Bathurst Pastoral Charge

First United Church, Bathurst

www.firstunited-bathurst.ca

November 15, 2026

25th 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	Ralph Jamieson & Lester Scott		
Minister Emeritus	Rev. Blair Lewis		

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Lectionary today	**Lectionary for next Sunday**
Judges 4:1-7	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 123	Psalm 100
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:14-30	Matthew 25:31-46

Today's bulletins have been placed by Brenda in loving memory of ***Dave Morison****, and our parents,* ***Laura Parrott*** *(RCAF),* ***Hugh Parrott*** *(Army),* ***Elizabeth Morison*** *(RCAF) and* ***Bill Morison*** *(Distinguished Flying Cross) all of whom served in World War II*

*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__: "God of the Bible" MV #28

God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,
Hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,
You are our centre, daylight or darkness,
Freedom or prison, you are our home.

Refrain:
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, You do not change,
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.

God in our struggles, God in our hunger,
Suffering with us, taking our part,
Still you empow'r us, mothering Spirit
Feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.

Refrain:

Those without status, those who are nothing,
You have made royal, gifted with rights,
Chosen as partners, midwives of justice,
Birthing new systems, lighting new lights.

Refrain:

Not by your finger, not by your anger
Will our world order change in a day.
But by your people, fearless and faithful,
Small paper lanterns, lighting the way.

Refrain:

Hope we must carry, shining and certain
Through all our turmoil, terror and loss,
Bonding us gladly one to the other,
Till our world changes facing the Cross.

Refrain:

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

We are seekers of the light. We are bearers of the light. We are, Jesus said, salt and light, in and with Christ bringing new and abundant life into the world. Where shadows fall, the light rises, and here, in this sacred place, in this sacred time of memory and of hope, in this sacred moment, we light the Christ Candle as a reminder and a sign of the presence of the light, of Christ among and within us all. We light this candle in the presence of Love.

(The Christ Candle is lit…)

LIGHTING THE AFFIRMING CANDLE:

From the Christ Candle we light our Affirming Candle. Here we affirm the wondrous diversity of God's good and beloved Creation, created all in the divine image, created all as a blessing and a gift. Created all to be as one, in the One who lights us with grace and unconditional love. May God's countenance shine upon you, you who are God's glory.

(The Affirming Candle is lit…)

CHORAL RESPONSE: "Jesus, You Fill Our Hearts" MV #101

Jesus, you fill our hearts with love,
our minds with your peace,
and our lives with your joy.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(responsively)*

Called by light, blessed in peace,
we gather in the sacredness of our being.
We come with our enduring faith and our hidden fears.
We come with our cherished convictions
and the questions that linger.
We come from a world of disparity and despair,
and we come from a world with a hope that is holy.
We come to worship our God of all,
our God whose name is Love.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

Refrain only

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, Wind, Wind on the sea.

OPENING PRAYER:

We who have been raised in faith, who have been lifted by love, now turn, O God, our spirit's gaze to you. We turn with beating hearts; we turn with active minds that we might more deeply be at one with your presence. Bless us in our worship and bless us with wisdom for the sake of your desire, the healing of your world. We raise our soul's song to you. **Amen**

PSALM 123 To you, O God, our eyes we raise VU Page 847

Refrain:
To you, O God, our eyes we raise
until your mercy we may praise.

To you I life up my eyes,
to you who are enthroned in the heavens.
As the servants look to their master's hands,
As we wait till you show us your favour.

Refrain:
To you, O God, our eyes we raise
until your mercy we may praise.

We have had more than enough of contempt.
Too long we have suffered the scorn of the wealthy,
and the contempt of the arrogant.

Refrain:
To you, O God, our eyes we raise
until your mercy we may praise.

ASSURANCE:

God holds you with compassion and understanding, never contempt. God holds you up and gives you life. You are loved no matter what, and you matter because your love makes a difference. You are gifted for a reason and chosen for a time such as this, to shine your light and to brighten each new day. So, open your hearts and sing! Sing of joy, sing 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:** "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)*

The light shines and yet we still find ourselves squinting at times, seeking wisdom and understanding.
God of the Word and of the world, in this time of listening and reflecting, may we better envision the Way even as we walk it. And may we better live out your love, which we know so well. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS: *Anne Wilson*

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 therefore encourage one another

Matthew 25:14-30 the parable of the talents

SERMON: Fearful or faithful

GIFT OF MUSIC: "My Peace"

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS *Anne Wilson*

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

We have, we know, been not only gifted with so much, but entrusted with so much. Just as our receiving is for remembering who we are, our share is for sharing, our gifts are for giving so that all might know their God whose holy name is Love. With thanks for the gift of grace, 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)*

We have not buried our treasure or hidden our hearts. We give out of compassion, mercy and love. We faithfully give in hope. So, bless what we do here, gracious God, and bless all that grows from the love you have planted in us. Amen

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF JESUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*__CLOSING HYMN__: "Like a Healing Stream" MV #144

Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth…
like a healing stream.

Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation,
yearning for an end to want and need…
like a gentle rain.

Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel in a new direction,
Calling for an end to hate and war…
like a river strong.

Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow;
God will always challenge and provide!

Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,
like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

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 and Affirming Candle are extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

FIVE GOALS OF FIRST UNITED CHURCH

1. To undertake a review of our current provision of Pastoral Care with the objective of the training and development of an enhanced Pastoral Care Team guided by and as a support to ministry personnel.
2. To complete a comprehensive review of our finances to plan and prepare the community for the future. It is important to undertake this work now while the community is financially stable. This work would focus equally on growth as well as prudent management.
3. To create a focus on faith formation and spiritual development with particular emphasis on a younger age demographic ranging in age from newborn to 50.
4. To investigate current needs within the wider community so that we can maximize the impact of our community engagement with existing and potentially new partners.
5. To embark on a learning journey with the goal of potentially becoming an Affirming congregation. It is interesting to note that there existed complete support for this initiative in the focus groups.

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
Tuesday	9:30 AM-11:30 AM	Quilters – DEMH Downstairs office
	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Knitters & Rug Hookers – RMR
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
	3:30 PM	Affirming Team - RMR
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Thursday	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Golden Knitters – Eddy Room
Thursday	6:00 – 8:00 PM	North Shore Girl Guides – GYM
Friday	7:30 PM	Louisbourg Choir
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 November 12th we have received and/or purchased 854 jars.

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.

> How can I make a difference? How can I change the world?
> How can I fulfill God's vision?
> I can give: time, resources, money, ability.

"Share in the Joy of Christmas" by adding light and meaning to our Christmas Services. Sign up in groups of two or more (grandparent/grandchild, parent/child, Duos, etc.) While one person lights the Advent Candle, the other(s) reads a few lines.

Available dates include the following:
November 29th, December 6th, 13th, 20th and 24th at 4 PM & 7 PM

Please sign up on the flip-chart in Narthex"

Church News

Turkey Supper will be held on Thursday, November 26th

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 $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 Team* or drop by the church office from 9 AM to 3 PM Monday to Friday.

Sponsored by
Kenny's Trucking Ltd. & Shine House
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Community News

St. George's Anglican Church Outreach Program is having a ***"Winter Coat Drive"***. You can drop them off at the church or call Cathy Gallagher at 506-543-1401.

A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on **Saturday, November 21st from 8:00 to 10:00 AM. Please note the change to the 3rd Saturday for the month of November**. As this community event helps to fund our local mission projects, we rely on donations and ask that you consider a minimum donation of 10.00 to help defray costs. We appreciate your kindness and support. Come and enjoy fellowship and great food.

St. Lukes Presbyterian Church, 395 Murray Ave. will be hosting the following events:

- Saturday November 21st and November 28th from 9 am to 1 pm book and yard sales
- Saturday December 5th from 9 am to 1:30 pm Everything Christmas Bazaar with soup and tea biscuit luncheon. A variety of baked goods, etc. will be available for purchase.
- Saturday December 12th from 9 am to 1 pm Christmas Bazaar
- Sunday December 13th from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm Christmas Concert with members of the Bathurst Community Band flute, clarinet, and woodwind ensembles.

Upcoming Special Events at First United Church

Tonight, November 15th at 7 PM - Handel's Messiah will be performed here in the sanctuary of First United Church.

Featuring an orchestra and choir made up entirely of musicians from Northern New Brunswick, under the direction of Maestro Steven Rojas, this concert is an opportunity to share in the beauty, joy, and spirit of the season — right here at home. Admission by donation — suggested contribution of $20 per person or $50 per family.

Friday, November 20th at 7:30 PM - *Choeur Louisbourg Choir*

The Louisbourg Choir will perform several major works from the sacred repertoire. These pieces will offer the audience a sonic palette ranging from meditative softness to expressive power. The program will also include two significant works by Marcel Dupré and Louis Vierne that will showcase the grandeur of the pipe organ. These pieces will highlight the virtuosity of the guest organist and the rich sonorities of the instruments found in the three concert venues.

The Louisbourg Choir will welcome Jean Willy Kunz, organist-in-residence of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, renowned for his expressive playing, versatility, and ability to make the organ shine in a wide variety of musical contexts.

Tickets: 30$ at the door or on line Free for students

Sunday, November 29th at 3:00 PM – *Elm City String Quartet*

2026-27 is the Elm City String Quartet's 5th season, and to celebrate, each member of the ensemble has selected their favourite pieces from the past five years. This concert features the ECSQ's cellist, Emily Kennedy's favourite quartets: Benjamin Britten's String Quartet No. 2 in C major, and Bryce Dessner's "Impermanence." Written in the wake of the Australian brush fires, "Impermanence" grapples with the fragility of seemingly eternal things, and the juxtaposition of beauty and destruction. The program closes with Benjamin Britten's monumental Quartet No. 2 – an intricate work dedicated to English composer Henry Purcell.

Christmas Hymn Sing – Sunday, December 6th



Celebrate the joy and spirit of the Christmas season with us at **First United Church, 309 St. Patrick Street on Sunday, December 6th at 2:00 p.m.** for our annual Christmas Hymn Sing!

Once again, we are delighted to welcome the combined choirs of First United Church, Bathurst, and Central United Church, Clifton. Special guests this year include **The Treblemakers** and local musical group **Catalyst**.

And there's more! Everyone is invited to join in singing their favourite Christmas carols as we share the music and traditions that make this season so special.

Tickets are $10.00 each and are available from choir members or through the First United Church office. A limited number of tickets will also be available at the door.

A portion of this year's proceeds will support the **First United Church Pantry**. A reception will follow the concert.

Come and enjoy an afternoon of music, singing, fellowship, and Christmas cheer. **All are warmly welcome!**

SCRIPTURE READINGS – New International Version

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 New International Version

1 Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you,

2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

3 While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.

5 You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.

6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober.

7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night.

8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.

11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Matthew 25:14-30 NIV

The parable of the talents, here translated as "bags of gold."

14 "Again, [the kingdom of heaven] will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them.

15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.

16 The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more.

17 So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more.

18 But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.

20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

22 "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

24 "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.

25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?

27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

28 "'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags.

29 For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.

30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'