



# Christ is Risen!!!

## ***Easter Greeting 2025 from Rev. David***

Happy Easter everyone!

This my first letter to you, the people of First United Church. We're in the midst of the season of Lent as I write this, and for we who live on this side of the first Easter long ago, it's a time of not only introspection, but of anticipation too. With humble honesty we look at our hearts and our lives and the state of the world as though for the first time, not simply focussing on old worries and failures, but attentively with hopeful new eyes as we are renewed in wonder and faith, committed to God's loving and creative vision of renewal and restoration. We anticipate Easter as though for the first time, not only remembering celebrations of years past, but how we might again be surprised and delighted and lifted in body and spirit by the timeless truth that the light always rises, that life always overcomes death, and that love never ends. God is always doing something new, singing, "Let there be," right here! The Spirit is always winging its way into our lives unexpectedly! Bringing love, Jesus still says, "Follow me! Come, and see!" It's a time, my new friends, for firsts!

One of the things that first attracted me to this congregation, is your commitment to visioning. Honouring the past and tradition is important. Taking time to pause in the sacredness of the present moment, to being attentive to the beauty and need of the present is vital. And looking ahead, to what this people and place can be and do and look like and mean to so many is the work of faith and the living of hope. All of these touch upon your identity, which is, first and foremost, a people who love, a people continually created in the likeness of Love, a people through whom the community and even the world can know that the lovelight shines bright in this place and beyond, and that here, all are blessed, in a place where all belong. I know I am blessed to be here, with all of you. Let's see where the risen Christ leads us next!

*Always, wherever you go, whatever you do my friends, **first do it for love.***

*Rev. David*



## Up-Coming Events at First United

April 13<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday – 10 AM  
April 18<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday Service – 10 AM  
April 20<sup>th</sup> – Easter / Holy Communion – 10 AM  
May 1<sup>st</sup> – Ham & Scallop Potato Supper  
May 4<sup>th</sup> – Worship service with Hugh Ellis

**Covenanting Service:** The special worship service celebrating the new covenant between First United Church, the Rev. David Allan, Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council and our loving God will take place at 2:30 on Sunday May 25, 2025, at the church. Our guest preacher will be our friend the Rev. Ivan Gregan. A time of fellowship will follow in the Ruth Morrison Room. All are welcome to this important celebration of ministry and pastoral relationship in the life of our congregation and in our community.

## First United Email Addresses

Please update your contact email address for the church office as it is changing. The new address is [admin@firstunited-bathurst.ca](mailto:admin@firstunited-bathurst.ca)

The email address for Rev. David is [rev.david@firstunited-bathurst.ca](mailto:rev.david@firstunited-bathurst.ca)

## Newsletters

To date, there are 142 households receiving the newsletter online. We thank all who have requested to be part of our online distribution. If you wish to have your letters in the future sent directly to your email, please send your request to [admin@firstunited-bathurst.ca](mailto:admin@firstunited-bathurst.ca)

## Community Outreach Sub-Team

The sub-team coordinates ongoing projects:

- peanut butter for the Volunteer Center;
- a pantry, from which the needy are supported;
- support the school breakfast program at 5 individual schools; and
- encouraging folks via *Your Generosity Matters* stories each week.

The above is only feasible due to the generosity of members, so all contributions are greatly appreciated.



## Finance Team

Special envelopes for Easter contributions can be picked up from the church office or found in the Narthex prior to the worship service.

**Church Envelopes** - If you haven't had contribution envelopes in the past and wish to have them for 2025, please advise the church office. Another way of making contributions is through PAR.

**PAR** - Pre Authorized Remittance (PAR) is a convenient way to support the ongoing work of your church. Your monthly contributions are taken directly from your bank account or charged to a Major Credit Card. Currently we have 94 households using this method of support. Signing up for PAR takes only a few minutes and can be done for you at the church office. All that is required is a void cheque or your credit card information.

## Ways & Means Team

The Ways and Means team would like to express a sincere thank you to all who helped in anyway with our Sunrise breakfast as well as the suppers in 2024. The generous sponsorship of Jean Coutu (Beresford), Websolutions.ca, the Hatheway Group of Companies, Bayside Automotive, Kenny's Trucking, The Shine House (Division of Stothart Automotive) and McDonald's Restaurant (Bathurst) allowed the Ways & Means Team to generate just over \$23,000 overall last year.

The team is always looking for people to join their preparation, serving and clean-up crews. Even if you are available to only work a couple of functions, it would be a great help to the team. Call the church office to volunteer – 506-546-3532.

The next Ways and Means team event will be held on **Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>** - a sit down or take out **Ham & Scallop Potato Supper**.

**Calling all Graduates:** If you are a potential graduate of the class of 2025, for either BHS, ESN or a college/university, please advise the church office. The First United Church service honoring our graduates will be held in June, 2025.



## Irish Music Afternoon



**The Treble Makers**, under the direction of Linda Knowles MacPherson, once again provided an afternoon of **Irish** musical entertainment at First United Church on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 3 PM.

There was no admission fee however we received generous donations to the life and work of First United Church as well as many pantry items to assist the homeless and other individuals in need. Thank you to one and all!

### The Treble Makers



Hazen, Linda, Ann Marie, Karen, Julia, Charles and Don

## Council Highlights from February 10<sup>th</sup>

Council met on February 10<sup>th</sup> with all members except one present. Sandra opened the meeting and Rev. Blair led in prayer.

A thank you letter was received from Atlantic School of Theology for our donation to the "Education for Everyone" program.

Dave Morison, who has now stepped down as Church Treasurer, presented the Income Statement and Balance Sheet to December 31, 2024. He also presented the 2025 budget which was approved by Council.

Local Givings came in at \$224,029 compared to a budgeted figure of \$176,500, a difference of \$47,529. Overall total revenue reached \$318,427. Expenses for 2024 went over budget by \$1,678. We received two substantial bequests in December leading to the Local Givings being higher than anticipated.

Among other reasons for a positive financial picture was the revenue from the Bathurst Community Market, other rentals and the hard work of the Ways & Means Sub-Team preparing for and serving several eat-in/take-out suppers.

The Ways & Means Sub-Team, co-chaired by Wayne Lord, reported 300 tickets were printed for the Roast Pork Supper being held on February 20<sup>th</sup> and due to hygiene concerns, there will be servers at the sit-down meal versus people serving themselves.

Martha Vickers, our Regional Representative advised there were possible events being discussed for the Church 100-year celebration on June 10, 2025.

Isabel MacLaggan reported on behalf of the Pastoral Care team advising they are always in need of new members and Gwen Sturgeon continues to send out cards when needed from the church.

Rick Watling's Nominations report advised that Dorothy McCallum resigned her position on the Ways & Means team. We are still looking for persons to fill two vacancies on the Regional Council Team and chairperson for the Christian Development Team.

*(Note – at the annual meeting Phyllis Davidson Allan has agreed to be one of our Regional Representatives and Martha Vickers and Anne Wilson will co-chair the Christian Development team. Joanne Wiseman has agreed to be secretary of this team as well. Julie and Harvey Spence have agreed to join the Pastoral Care team.)*

The Christian Development Team reported very positive feedback was received from Rev. Gregan on his time spent with First United. The Chaleur Music Festival will be renting the sanctuary for a portion of their recitals.

Wayne Lord, on behalf of the Ministry and Personnel team, advised our new minister will be here on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

It was noted our Mission & Service Givings were down by \$1,000 from the budgeted amount.

The date for the Annual General Meeting of Bathurst Pastoral Charge will be set upon the arrival of Rev. David Allan.

The next council meeting will be held after the Annual General Meeting.

## **West Bathurst Cemetery Team**

The West Bathurst Cemetery Committee is responsible for the upkeep of Saint Luke's "Old Scottish" Cemetery on St. Luke's Court which was established in the 1820's, and the West Bathurst Cemetery on St. Anne Street which dates back to the 1890's. Committee members are Robert Branch (Committee Chair), Heidi Jansson, Robert Willis, Byron Mclean, Lester Scott, and Gary Branch (Secretary).

The Financial Report for 2024 showed donations of \$1,387.95 were received from PAR donations and individual donations. Investment income totaled \$3,290.36 for a total revenue of \$4,678.31. Mowing and maintenance expenses totaled \$4,044.41 leaving a net income for the year of \$633.90. The committee extends a "thank you" to Dave Morison for his years as treasurer looking after our finances and wish him well as he retires. We also extend a warm welcome to Alberta Buttimer who has taken on the role of treasurer.

The West Bathurst Cemetery Committee will be meeting soon to plan for the upcoming mowing and maintenance season. In addition to "Spring Clean – up," priorities for St. Luke's include gravestone and fence repair. The "to do" list for West Bathurst Cemetery may include further tree removal of trees damaged by the fire at Eddy's last May as well as some gravestone repair.

The West Bathurst Cemetery Committee extends a special "thank you" to Margaret "Bonnie" Scott for her recent generous donation to the West Bathurst Cemetery and another to First United Church in memory of her mother, Jean Farquharson; her sister – in law, Anna Liisa Farquharson; and her brother, Graham Farquharson who are buried in West Bathurst Cemetery. Her brother, Graham, who died in 2022, was a Member of the Order of Canada and a generous benefactor of the West Bathurst Cemetery. Appreciation is also expressed to everyone who continues to support the West Bathurst Cemetery though PAR donations or by dropping off a donation at the church office.

*Gary Branch, Secretary*

## **Why did the jelly bean go to school?**



***Because he really wanted to be a Smartie!***

## **Livestream Update**

We are now live-streaming our services through YouTube. Please have patience with the sound issues as we become comfortable with the program. Each weekly bulletin that is uploaded to our website will have the link you can click to access the Sunday Morning Service (*hopefully*). Many thanks to Lester Scott and Donald Eddy for their hard work bringing the livestream to fruition.

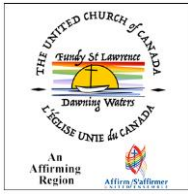


Our next Newsletter will be circulated in the fall, for Thanksgiving. Have something that you would like to be included that would be of interest to our church family? Send it to the office at [admin@firstunited-bathurst.ca](mailto:admin@firstunited-bathurst.ca). The cut-off time for submission is September 25<sup>th</sup> at noon.

## **Community Events**



***Bathurst Community Market*** holds their weekly market every Saturday morning from 8 AM to 1 PM in the gymnasium of the Donald Eddy Hall. Many different types of vendors selling various types of products – soaps & shampoos – fresh eggs – baking including cookies, pies and bread – wool and knitted items – jams and jellies – maple syrup – wooden crafts – Pampered Chef – sea glass – just to name a few. Breakfast also served! Come for a visit and bring a friend!!



## ***Greetings from the Regional President***

Hello/Bonjour,

Happy spring!

Here in PEI we are starting to see signs of spring: our snow is virtually gone, we saw our first robin, bird song is everywhere as the spring migration progresses, there are a few hard buds on the lilac bushes, and the odd green shoots are showing through the beds on the sunny side of the house. What a blessing it is to enjoy these simple signs of God's wonders!

I recently came across an interesting BBC explanation of the origins of our "Easter egg" tradition:

"A lot of us may chomp on chocolate eggs at Easter, but originally eating eggs was not allowed by church leaders in the week before Easter. So, any eggs laid that week were saved and decorated to make them Holy Week eggs, that were then given to children as gifts."

The emergence of life from an egg is yet another sign of new life and new hope. And in these times, we can all use these encouraging reminders that God's wonders are with us always.

In faith/Avec foi,

Sue LeMaistre  
[susalemaistre@gmail.com](mailto:susalemaistre@gmail.com)



## **Orange Cookies**

### **Batter Ingredients**

- 2 ½ Cups Flour
- 1 Tsp. Baking Powder
- ¼ Tsp. Salt
- 1 Cup Granulated Sugar
- 2 Tbsps. Orange Zest
- 1 Cup Unsalted Butter
- 2 Tbsps. Fresh Orange Juice
- 1 Egg

### **Glaze Ingredients**

- 1 ½ Cups Powdered Sugar
- 1 Tbsps. Orange Zest
- Fresh Orange Juice

1. Preheat oven to 350°. Line 2 cookie sheets with parchment paper or silicone mats

### **Make the cookies –**

2. In a medium bowl whisk together flour, baking powder and salt. Set aside.
3. In a small bowl combine sugar and orange zest rubbing them together with fingers until zest is completely incorporated into the sugar.
4. Using an electric mixer on medium speed cream butter and orange infused sugar until light and fluffy – about 3 minutes. Add the egg and orange/sugar mixture until combined, scraping the sides of the bowl as needed. Reduce speed to low and gradually add the dry ingredients mixing until just combined. *If the dough is a bit soft refrigerate for up to 30 minutes.*
5. Using medium cookie scoop (2 tbsps.) scoop out dough and roll into balls placing 2" apart. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes or until lightly brown at edges.

Let cool 5 to 10 minutes before moving to the rack.

### **Make the glaze –**

6. Whisk together powdered sugar and orange zest and orange juice to desired consistency. Spread over the cookies and set at room temperature for at least 30 minutes.