

Happy Thanksgiving

2025



What, you may be wondering, am I thankful for in this season of gratitude?

Well, for starters, you! I am so grateful for how you have welcomed me and Phyllis, and I am grateful for the church that you are. I'm thankful for my family, both in Ontario and beyond, and my newer family here in NB and beyond as well. Especially our always happy little grandson, Kane. I'm grateful for longtime mentors and friends.

I'm thankful for Martha and the choir, for Margaret in the office and Margaret and Isabel when they pitch in, and for Lester too. I'm thankful for everyone who shares their time, their gifts, their wisdom, hopes and dreams, who share their stories and their very lives in this place where we heed the call to love one another. I'm thankful for all who join together for worship, whether in the sanctuary or online or at home with a CD. And I'm thankful for my predecessors in this place who have greeted me with such grace.

I'm grateful for all of the opportunities I have to discover and learn, to grow in wisdom and faith, and to experience the wonders of Creation and the presence of the Holy Mystery, who is Wholly Love. I'm grateful to do this with you, and for all of the new relationships that have begun, both here and in the wider community, for the finding of friends. A place where I can share who I am, in my being and in my becoming.

I'm thankful for this, my favourite season of the year. For cooling, crisp air, for the beauty of the autumn leaves and the spiritual lessons found in this time of transition and expectation. For wonderful meals shared with loved ones. And yes, for the return of hockey season!

To be thankful is a spiritual practice. It grounds us in a way that shapes our approach to our days and our lives together. It enables us to walk humbly with our God, and generously and lovingly with the world. It empowers us to live in hope, and to spread our light as the daylight begins to shorten. To paraphrase the lovely Taizé hymn:

*In our God I'll be ever thankful, in our God I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid; lift up your voices, your God is near,
lift up your voices, our God is near.*

Rev. David



Let's have Thankful Hearts.

Happy Canadian Thanksgiving!

Up-Coming Events at First United

October 5th – World Communion Sunday

October 12th – Thanksgiving

November 9th – Remembrance Sunday

November 27th –Turkey Supper

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

The email address for Rev. David is rev.david@firstunited-bathurst.ca

Newsletters

To date, there are 114 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, send your request to admin@firstunited-bathurst.ca

Finance Team

Financial Report as of August 31, 2025

Local Givings - Actual	\$ 98,531.00
Local Givings - Budgeted	<u>\$113,750.00</u>
	<u>\$(15,219.00)</u>
 Total Revenue	 \$150,396.70
Total Expenses	<u>\$186,362.31</u>
Actual Deficit	<u>\$(35,965.61)</u>
 Budgeted Deficit	 \$(16,149.00)

Finance Team

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

What is a pumpkin's favourite sport?



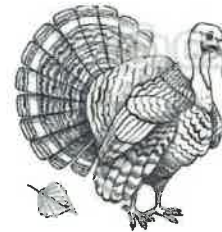
Squash!

Church envelopes for the coming year will be available late this year. If you haven't had contribution envelopes in the past and wish to have them for 2026, 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 Beef BBQ Supper on September 18th. A very special **"thank you"** to Hatheway Group of Companies for their generous sponsorship. The net profit was \$4,860.05.



The next Ways and Means team event – **THE TURKEY SUPPER** will take place on Thursday, November 27th. Once again it will be an *Eat in or a Takeout supper*.

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.



Annual Remembrance Service

Each year, on the Sunday immediately prior to Remembrance Day, we honour our war veterans as well as those who lost their lives in war. Our Remembrance Service will be held on **Sunday, November 9th**. Those wishing to place memorial crosses in the sanctuary are reminded to contact the Legion office directly at 506-546-3135.

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 committee met on May 13, 2025, to prepare for the maintenance of the cemeteries for 2025. Lester Scott was hired to mow the two cemeteries for the same fees that he charged in 2024. A "spring clean-up" of both cemeteries was completed in May. Appreciation was expressed to Gary Bourque who hauled several loads of leaves and fallen tree branches to the city compost site in the Industrial Park. A "to do" list was compiled of repair work needing to be done for both cemeteries.

There were two committal services held at West Bathurst Cemetery in June. The cemetery records were updated following each service.

Access to West Bathurst Cemetery has been difficult this past summer because of the construction work on Saint Anne Street which is scheduled to be completed in November. Landscape work will need to be completed by the city between the cemetery fence and the street which will probably not happen until next spring.

Appreciation is expressed to everyone who continues to support the West Bathurst Cemetery though PAR donations or by dropping off a donation at the church office. Donations so far this year total \$4,425.



Thanksgiving Service – October 12th, 2025



Anyone wishing to contribute items to decorate the church is encouraged to bring them in by 3PM Thursday October 9th. Thank you in advance.

What's the best way to fix a broken pumpkín?



Use a pumpkín patch.

Choir

The choir has resumed weekly practices – Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM. An appeal goes out for new choir members. Anyone who enjoys singing, please feel free to attend. New members are always welcome!



Why did the cranberry blush?



It saw the turkey dressing.

**100th Anniversary of
United Church of Canada
*Christmas Memorial Hymn Sing***

Plans are well underway for a **Christmas Memorial Hymn Sing** as part of our 100th Anniversary celebrations.

Enclosed in your newsletter, you will find a selection of favorite Christmas carols. You are invited to choose from these and dedicate a hymn in memory of a loved one.

How to Participate:

Please complete the dedication form and submit it to the church office by **November 26, 2025**. You may return it by:

- E-mail / e-transfer
- Placing it in the offering plate
- Dropping it off at the church office
- Mail

Join with us on **Sunday,
December 7, 2025 at 2 PM**
to sing Christmas Carols that
mean so much to us as we
remember our loved ones.

A reception will follow.



Community Outreach Team

The Community Outreach team continues to offer support to those within the community who are in need. 789 jars of peanut butter have been collected for the Volunteer Center to the 25th of September. The Volunteer Center supplies approximately 400+ households monthly.

Our pantry has been a great lifesaver to many individuals who are experiencing hardship and/or homelessness. We have 8 to 10 who visit on regular basis. During the hot summer months, they are guaranteed a bottle or 2 of water and a bag of food items that hopefully will help their needs.

Again, this year the Team supported the breakfast programs at 5 schools in the City of Bathurst. Bathurst High School, Superior Middle School, Terry Fox Elementary School, Parkwood Heights Elementary School and Ecole City-De-L'Amitie each receiving a \$125 donation

Council Highlights from September 23rd

Bathurst Pastoral Council meet at 4 PM on September 23, 2025. The financial report submitted by church treasurer, Alberta Buttmer, showed a \$35,965 deficit at the end of August. The drop in local givings, including loose collections, was \$13,600 under budget. Ian Oliver, chair of the Financial Management Team, was hopeful the financial picture would improve by the end of the year.

Regarding the insurance claim, Lester said the contractor for the Ruth Morrison Room repairs was First General of Miramichi. The work has begun. As chair of Property Management, Lester said repairs to the doors and ramp adjacent to the parking lot are in the planning stage. Application for an accessibility grant will be made when the forms become available.

In preparation for the 2026 budget an inspection of the church and hall will be completed to develop a list of needed repairs. Lester painted the lower section of the walls in the gym and will paint the utility rooms with what is left.

A motion was approved to purchase a water cooler for the narthex at a cost of \$350.

At the September 12th meeting of the Board of Trustees, chair Dave Brewster said he contacted the architect to have drawings made of these proposed repairs and changes.

The Ways & Means team report stated that any leftovers from the Roast Beef supper was donated to the Christian Fellowship Church towards hot meals prepared for the homeless and/or those experiencing hardship. The supper was sold out netted \$4,860 including sponsorship by Hatheway Auto Group.

The Christian Development co-chair announced a Memorial Hymn Sing will be held on Sunday afternoon, December 7th. The last such event was held in 2022. Regarding "Faith Formation", the CD team suggested forming a sub-team to look at it broadly to include youth programming, not just Sunday School, and Bible Study as examples. Anne Wilson is the other co-chair of the team.

On the same subject, Rev. David is planning to hold a weekly Bible Study beginning the last week of October. Interested persons are asked to let him know by Thanksgiving Sunday.

Persons wishing to learn more about an affirming congregation at First United should contact the minister. A committee of eight people is the objective. At least 2 volunteers have shown interest in service.

Reporting on Pastoral Care, Isabel MacLaggan said a meeting with Rev. David was held in June to discuss the work of the team. The minister has been visiting hospital patients and shut-ins. Requests for visits by the minister or a team member should be forwarded to the church office. Julie and Harvey Spence are new members on our team. Gwen Sturgeon continues to send out greetings cards as usual.

Reporting for the Communications Sub-team, Isabel drew attention to an item on the bulletin board concerning an honour bestowed on Daryl Stothart by the Shriners.

Executive meeting minutes were received from Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council. Rev. Neal Palmer has been named to its Pastoral Relations Committee for a 3-year term. Hugh Ellis was installed as Regional President in May. Regional representatives from Bathurst Pastoral Charge are Rev. David Allan and Martha Vickers, who just completed a three-year term on the Regional Executive. There are two local vacancies.

Respectfully submitted by
Isabel MacLaggan

Property Management Report

Hopefully by the time you read this report in the newsletter the repairs to our building will be well underway. It has been a lengthy process due to an unfortunate accident. I want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding through the past several months.

Over the summer we have completed our final compliance to the Faithful Footprints Program. We submitted our power consumption for the past year, and we received our final report from them showing the results of our efforts from the purchases we made. The fridge, dishwasher and 2

heat pumps for the offices. Our usage has decreased year over year with just the 4 items.

We are currently looking at the cost to replace the steps at the rear entrance as they pose a safety hazard. If we cannot do the work this fall it will be a top priority in the spring.

We are still looking to improve the sound quality and welcome all input from everyone. God or bad, it is the only way we know if we are going in the right direction.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer with family and friends and are looking forward to the beauty of the fall colours.

Respectfully submitted by
Lester Scott

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 – 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!!

After Thanksgiving, every Monday and Wednesday from 9 AM to 11 AM there is a ***Ladies Fun Badminton Group*** who gather, and play in the Donald Eddy Memorial Hall gymnasium. Any ladies interested in joining please contact Joyce Daley for information.

Community Events



Chorale Voidunor is holding a musical concert here in the First United Church sanctuary on Sunday, November 2nd at 2 PM. Tickets will be \$15 per person, free for children under 18. Tickets available at Tower's Jewellers, Épicerie Frenette, Beresford or Dépaneur DR, Petit-Rocher.

**100th Anniversary of the
United Church of Canada**
Christmas Memorial Hymn Sing

Dear friends,

On **Sunday, December 7, 2025** we are planning a **Memorial Hymn Sing** for the Bathurst Pastoral Charge. The Christmas season is a time to remember our loved ones who contributed so much to our lives in past years and who, today, live in our hearts and memories. This year, we are planning to gather on Sunday, December 7th at 2pm for an afternoon of Christmas music together.

We invite you to select one or more of the Christmas hymns, **from the list attached**, in memory of your loved one(s). Please complete the information on the accompanying form and return to the office by **November 26, 2025** to:

First United Church
c/o Martha Vickers
309 St. Patrick Street
Bathurst, NB
E2A 1E2

Donations in memory of your loved ones are gratefully accepted and will support the ongoing work of the First United Church and the Bathurst Pastoral Charge. **Income tax receipts will be issued.**

You may also choose to respond by email at admin@firstunited-bathurst.ca and submit your donation via **Interac e-transfer** through your bank's secure website.

To ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate, please feel free to forward this invitation to others. You may also send the church office the contact information of any friends or family members who may not be on our mailing list, and we will make sure they receive all the necessary details.

A special "**Remembrance Bulletin**" will be prepared, listing the names of those being remembered and those who are remembering them. A copy of this bulletin will be included with receipts for out-of-town donations.

We look forward to gathering in music, memory, and community on **Sunday, December 7, 2025, at 2:00 PM.**

May God bless you and your loved ones this Christmas season.

Warm regards,

Martha Vickers
Music Director
First United Church, Bathurst

**100th Anniversary of the
United Church of Canada
Christmas Memorial Hymn Sing 2025**

Hymn Sing Selection

O Come, all Ye Faithful
What Child is This
Go, Tell it on the Mountain
Joy to the World
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night

Mary's Boy Child
O Holy Night
Silent Night
O Little Town of Bethlehem
Away in a Manger
Angels We Have Heard on High

Enclosed is my donation for \$ _____

Hymn selection: _____

In Memory of _____

Hymn selection: _____

In Memory of _____

Hymn selection: _____

In Memory of: _____

Name of donor _____

My envelope number is (where applicable) _____

Address of donor _____

Please reply by mail, cheque or money order payable to the First United Church.
If you wish to respond electronically, attach the completed form, and submit an Interac
e-transfers to admin@firstunited-bathurst.ca.
Reply requested by **November 26, 2025**