

Easter Greeting 2026

*The sun is warm, let all God's children play in it!
The world expands, let's spread the Gospel way in it!
New leaf, new thrust, new greening for the love of Christ.
New leaf, new thrust, the sun is warm, let all God's children play in it!*

Happy Easter everyone!

If God is the foundation and Christ is the cornerstone of the church, of the people and our lives of faith together as one, then the Spirit is the mortar, that which binds us together with the strength of love. To build upon our metaphor even further, Easter, my friends, is the open window that lets the light in and the fresh air of the Gospel, of the good news. The shadows, sting and smell of death is overcome with the fragrance of God's faithfulness, and love's luminous rising.

We see, we envision, we seek and we imagine through wide open Easter eyes. New life is not only possible, it's here! New creation is not only a promise; it's happening right now! New hope is made real because we who have been anointed with love are alive and here, and the light has risen over the horizons of broken hearts. New hope is made real because we are co-creators, light bearers and love pourers with God in every new tomorrow. We are the risen body of Christ.

The wounds of yesterday may still be evident. But so are our memories of God's loving and gracious presence, of healing and being nourished, of growing in spirit and delighting in each new life and life renewed. We remember so that we may tell the story, a story that continues because love never ends. We remember so that in faith, together we can help to write the ongoing story, with God, and with a living hope, an abiding assurance, and the wisdom that we are not alone. With the potential, the power and indeed the promise of peace.

So together let us flower and flourish for the sake of the world that God so loves. Let us blossom and bless the world in its beauty, in the eternal light that shines among and within. Let us play and rejoice, for our Creator God is well pleased, and it is good. It is Easter, Christ is risen! Hallelujah, and amen!

Rev. David

¹ The Spring Has Come, verse 2, Voices United 187
Words by Shirley Erena Murray and Music by Colin Gibson, 1990

Up-Coming Events at First United

March 29th Palm Sunday – 10 AM

Annual Meeting after worship

April 3rd – Good Friday Service – 10 AM

April 5th – Easter / Holy Communion – 10 AM

April 30th – Ham & Scallop Potato Supper

First United Email Addresses

Please update your contact email address for the church office – It changed in May 2025 and many are still using the old email address. The new address is admin@firstunited-bathurst.ca

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

Please be cautious when receiving emails ensure the address is in fact a church email address. If you receive one indicating a g-mail address it probably is a fake email. The church would never ask for any financial information from you.

Newsletters

To date, there are 152 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

Community Outreach Sub-Team

The sub-team coordinates ongoing projects:

- peanut butter for the Volunteer Center;
- a pantry, from which the needy are supported;
- 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.

Why was the Easter egg hiding?



Because it was a little chicken!

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 2026, or require a new box of envelopes 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 the recent Roast Pork supper where the net profit for was \$4,405.25 thanks in part to the generous sponsorship of McDonald's, Bathurst.

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 team is also hosting a ***Sunrise Breakfast*** on March 22nd. However, by the time most of you read this newsletter, the event will be past.

The next Ways and Means supper will be held on ***Thursday, April 30th*** a sit down or take out ***Ham & Scallop Potato Supper***.

Calling all Graduates: If you are a potential graduate of the class of 2026, 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, 2026.



Council Highlights from February 10th

Council met on February 10th with the following members present: Sandra Boone, chairperson; Brenda Parrott, vice-chair; Debrah Watling, secretary; Wayne Lord, Rick Watling, Ian Oliver, Alberta Buttimer, treasurer; and Rev. David Allan. Regrets: Lester Scott, Bill Stack, Isabel MacLaggan.

Business arising from the minutes:

- Sign off is completed on the insurance claim regarding damages to the Ruth Morrison Room.
- First United administers the East Bathurst Cemetery account pending reimbursement of invoices.
- The church's website will be updated. It was suggested that information on church events be placed on the home page.
- Church service cancellations due to weather will be available by contacting the church office for a recorded update.

New business:

- The financial report, as presented by the Church Treasurer Alberta Buttimer, showed a general fund deficit of \$4,126 for the year 2025. Revenue totalled \$281,791 while operating expenditures were \$285,918. Local givings were recorded at \$181,664 including just over \$20,000 in bequests. Ian Oliver is chair of the Financial Management Team.
- Martha Vickers reported on the Regional Council that embraces pastoral charges/congregations in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and the Gaspé Coast. Martha is a regional representative from First United and a member of the Regional Executive. She said First United is entitled to two other representatives apart from Rev. Allan. The meetings this year will be held virtually as a cost-saving measure.
- It is interesting to note that Maritime United Church Women is an active organization. Its annual general meeting is April 24-26th in Nashwaaksis and the National UCW 65th anniversary is slated for Ottawa in July.

- Reporting for Ways and Means, Wayne Lord said new team members are always welcome. A Sunrise Breakfast is tentatively planned for Sunday, March 22nd.
- Rick Watling said the Nominations Team will be suggesting a shorter commitment when seeking volunteers for the teams that carry on the work of the church. He said Judy Smith is a new member on the Hospitality and Friendship Team but spares are needed.
- As Christian Development Co-chair, Martha Vickers reported that \$1,245 in rentals was received from musical groups in 2025.
- Rev. David Allan submitted a detailed report on his work activities since the last Council meeting.
- In his submitted report to Council, Lester Scott indicated needed repairs to the church and hall will be determined when the inspection is completed.
- Council was reminded of the Affirm Committee questionnaire to be found on the table in the narthex. The survey will conclude on Sunday, March 15th.

The next Council meeting will be held on April 21, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Isabel MacLaggan



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. The cut-off time for submission is September 18th 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 – baking including cookies, pies and bread – wool and knitted items – jams and jellies – maple syrup – wooden crafts – sea glass – jewellery - just to name a few. Come for a visit and bring a friend!!