



Praise God, from whom all goodness flows...

As I write this letter I am thinking about the Miramichi Presbyterial Fall Rally that I attended earlier today. The theme speaker for the rally was Julie Spence and she spoke about mental health awareness and the important role that awareness plays in all of our lives.

There are so many important things that happen every day in our lives that we can easily overlook. Unless we consciously focus on recognizing them and offering Thanksgiving we will miss an opportunity for valuable reflection.

People and life events play a significant role in our personal well-being. As we offer thanks for what we value in life we are able to build upon the valuable assets that we have as we live and have our being. In life we have the opportunity to offer thanks for the accomplishments of the past and we look forward to what is yet to be in the future. The reality is that life is lived in the present. The present moment that we experience in our lives is indeed a gift from God.

When we celebrate Thanksgiving we celebrate the fact that we have food to eat, places to live and important people to share our lives with. Living a life that is grounded in Thanksgiving has the power to change the quality of the experience that we have in daily living.

I remember one of the surprises I had when I first moved away from life on the farm to go to university in Charlottetown. I was in the city for a couple of weeks at this time of the year before I went home for a weekend visit. I remember all of the changes that were taking place in the farmers' fields; the crops were maturing and the harvest was beginning. When you live on the farm everything happens gradually right before your eyes; when you are away from daily contact with the world of nature a lot happens in a very short period of time. We are reminded that:

"Without the sunshine and the rain
we could not have the golden grain;
without God's love we'd not be fed, we thank God for our daily bread."

Please join us in worship on Thanksgiving Sunday on October 8th as our church family gathers to offer thanks to God for the life that we live and all of the blessings that we have received.

Have a happy Thanksgiving,

Rev. Blair Lewis

Highlights from Pastoral Council **September Meeting**

A thank you note was received from Kaitlin Oliver for the John and Elizabeth Miller Memorial Scholarship of \$ 400.00.

Ian Oliver reported on a favourable financial statement. It was noted that we are as close to budget as we can get at this time of year with local givings also on budget.

Plans are under way for the Beef BBQ to be held this week. There are still tickets available at the office.

Rev. Lewis reported on the upcoming changes to the United Church of Canada. Presbytery and Conference levels will be eliminated and replaced by a new regional form of government . These changes will come into effect on January 1st, 2019. Rev. Lewis also reported that the first block of Sunday School will take place from mid October until White Gift Sunday. He noted that Jennifer Oliver Lavigne deserved thanks for all the work she has put into the Sunday School over the last several years.

He also reported that the art project under way by Marie Oliver and Adrienne Hazen for the Donald Eddy Memorial Hall is nearing completion.

The breakfast program for the GED students in the Hall which was started last year is under way again. The students are taking advantage of the program.

Ruth Lewis has accepted the role of chairperson for the Hospitality and Friendship Team. Things appear to be going well.

Don Nelson reported for the Property Management Team. North Coast Roofing replaced the church roof over the summer at a cost of \$23,097.35. The finance Team of First United will be making an appeal for donations to help pay for this expense in order that church funds which are held in reserve are not depleted.

A manhole cover needed to be replaced and Gloucester Sealer and Asphalt replaced it free of charge as a donation to the church instead of charging the \$350 which had been quoted. A big thank you goes out to this company for its generosity.

A new snow blower was needed and purchased over the summer.



Up-Coming Events at First United

- Oct. 8 - Thanksgiving
- Nov. 5 – Remembrance Sunday
- Nov. 30 – Turkey Supper

Observer

Would you like to receive the Observer, a United Church of Canada publication? For a new subscription, please contact the church office at 546-3532 before Monday, Oct 19, 2017. The annual subscription rate is \$25 (Tax included) Renewals are also payable at the office.



Thanksgiving Service

10am - October. 8, 2017

Anyone wishing to contribute items to decorate the church are encouraged to bring them in by 4pm Wednesday Oct. 4th.

Bible study has started for the fall season. New members are always welcome. It is held on Tuesdays at 2pm in the Eddy Room. Bible Study meets weekly and will continue until the last week of November.

Newsletters: To date, there are 89 households receiving the newsletter online. This is an increase of 16 households from this time last year. 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 firstadmin@nb.aibn.com. Special envelopes for Thanksgiving contributions can be found in the Narthex.



Christmas Concert 2017

The choir of First United will be hosting its annual Christmas concert in December. Plan to join us for a peaceful evening of music of the season.. Announcement will follow with the date of the event and the participants.



Do you enjoy singing? Play an instrument?
Looking for people who enjoy music- old favorites as well as new contemporary selections.
Please consider joining us:

- ~ Senior Choir. Practice Wednesday evenings
- ~ Men's Choir. Practice Sunday Morning last Sunday of the month.
- ~ Instrumentalists- youth and adults

Please contact Martha for further details: 548-3282
martha.vickers@rogers.com.



Church School will be beginning for the fall season on October 15th This semester will run for 8 weeks. The White Gift service will be held on Dec. 10th. We are looking forward to having the children and youth back with us.

Church envelopes for the coming year will soon be available. If you haven't had contribution envelopes in the past and wish to have them for 2018, 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 91 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 number.

Interested in Playing Badminton?

Badminton in the Donald Eddy Memorial Hall gymnasium has resumed for the fall. Mondays and Wednesdays each week from 9:00-11:00 am. It is a 'pay as you play' arrangement. For more information contact Joyce Daley 546-3764.

Take A Break (TAB) meets every Wednesday morning from 9am-12 in Rms 1,2&3 of the Donald Eddy Hall. A group of over 20 women come together to share their talents of knitting, crocheting, cross stitch and quilting. A morning of laughter and storytelling is enjoyed by all who attend. We are always looking for new people to come and join us.

*The impersonal hand
of government can never replace
the helping hand of a neighbor.
~Hubert H. Humphrey~*

Summer Pot Luck



A pot luck garden/carport luncheon was held after church on August 20th at the home of Bob and Judy Losier. The threat of rain kept numbers down but didn't dampen anyone's spirits.

The rain held off and the food was wonderful.

We hope that next year's event will be blessed with sunshine.

West Bathurst Cemetery Committee Report - 2017

The West Bathurst Cemetery Committee is responsible for the West Bathurst Cemetery on St. Anne Street and the St. Luke's "Old Scottish" Cemetery on St. Luke's Court.

As of September 18, 2017, the "Endowment Fund" balance is \$ 61, 700. We are thankful to everyone who continues to support this fund through PAR and donations.

A number of projects were completed in 2017 in addition to the excellent grounds maintenance of the two cemeteries by Shawn's Lawn's and Property Maintenance. This cost continues to rise each year so the depletion of the general fund is a concern for the committee. The straightening of many gravestones was carried out at St. Luke's "Old Scottish" Cemetery along with a general spring clean up of both cemeteries. Recently the records of the West Bathurst Cemetery were updated to include the names and dates on the headstones that were installed this year.

Community Outreach

The Community Outreach teams continues to offer support to those within the community who are in need. We often receive request for food and would like to thank the congregation for their generous contributions to our Outreach Pantry. Our peanut butter donations for the Volunteer Center are right on target for the year with 768 bottles being delivered so far. A Breakfast Program is in place for the students attending the Adult Learning program which is held in the Donald Eddy Memorial Hall. Hot and cold cereals, milk, juice and fruit is available for the students.

Financial Update

Operating results to August 31, 2017 are on budget. Roof shingles are being replaced at a cost of \$25,000. Payment will be made from the Repair Fund reserve.

*Well done is better than well said.
~Benjamin Franklin~*



Pumpkin Soup

Ingredients

1/2 cup finely chopped onion
 2 tablespoons butter
 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
 2 cans (14-1/2 ounces each) chicken broth
 1 can (15 ounces) solid-pack pumpkin
 1 teaspoon brown sugar
 1/4 teaspoon salt
 1/8 teaspoon pepper
 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
 1 cup heavy whipping cream

Directions

In a large saucepan, sauté onion in butter until tender. Remove from the heat; stir in flour until smooth. Gradually stir in the broth, pumpkin, brown sugar, salt, pepper and nutmeg; bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 5 minutes. Add cream; cook for 2 minutes or until heated through. Yield: 6 servings.

A Prayer for Thanksgiving

*Loving God,
 We turn our hearts to you
 on this day for giving thanks,
 mindful of your many gifts.
 For each one, we are grateful.
 For each one, we are blessed.
 For each one,
 we are opened to the abundance
 of your love.
 May this Thanksgiving Day
 offer a reminder
 to be generous with others,
 as you are with us.
 We praise you.
 We rejoice in you.
 We give you thanks.
 Amen.*



Halloween Layered Fudge Recipe

Ingredients

1 teaspoon butter
 2 cups (12 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips
 1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk, divided
 8 ounces white candy coating
 1/4 teaspoon orange extract
 1/8 teaspoon orange paste food coloring
 Candy corn, optional

Directions

Line an 8-in. square pan with foil; butter foil and set aside.
 In a microwave-safe bowl, heat chocolate chips and 1 cup milk on high for 30 seconds; stir. Repeat until mixture is smooth. Pour into prepared pan. Chill for 10 minutes.
 Meanwhile, in a microwave-safe bowl, melt candy coating with remaining milk; stir until smooth. Stir in extract and food coloring. Spread over chocolate layer. If desired, sprinkle with candy corn.
 Chill for 1 hour or until firm. Using foil, remove fudge from pan. Cut into 1-in. squares. Yield: about 2 pounds.

As we express our gratitude,
 we must never forget that the
 highest appreciation is not to
 utter words, but to live by them.

- John Fitzgerald Kennedy.



Thanksgiving Day Word Search

Thanksgiving is celebrated in October in Canada and in November in the United States.

WORD LIST

BOUNTY
CANADA
CELEBRATE
CEREMONY
CORN
CORNUCOPIA
EUROPEANS
FAMILY
GOD
HARVEST
HORN OF PLENTY
INDIANS
MONDAY
NEWFOUNDLAND
OCTOBER
PLENTY
PUMPKIN PIE
SHARING
STUFFING
THANKSGIVING
TURKEY
YAMS

