

*The United Church of Canada*  
*Bathurst Pastoral Charge*  
**First United Church, Bathurst**  
[www.firstunited-bathurst.ca](http://www.firstunited-bathurst.ca)

**September 15, 2024**

**Supervising Clergy** Rev. Blair Lewis     **Music Director** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Margaret Daniels     **Custodian** Lester Scott  
**Greeters** Brenda Gilliss and Dawn Yao  
**Audio & Visual Technicians** Ralph Jamieson & Donald Eddy

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<b><u>Lectionary for today</u></b>	<b><u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u></b>
Hebrews 11:1-6 1 Corinthians 13: 4-13	Proverbs 31:10-31 Psalm 1 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37
We welcome and thank Hugh Ellis for leading us in worship this morning	

*The asterisk \* identifies those times in the service where you are invited to present yourselves, body, mind, and spirit, as is comfortable for you today...*

*GATHERING*

**MUSIC AS WE GATHER**

**WELCOME & TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** *(in unison)*

**...As we gather to worship, let's respectfully pause to remember we live 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 live in peace and in friendship with its people.**

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE** *(responsively)*

All creation is made of star-stuff. From the basic building blocks of the universe, come fire, air, earth, and water.

**And all creation sings praise to the Creator of all.** Baptized by the waters of the sky, standing firm on the earth, breathing deep the breath of life, warmed by this flame...

**we go where Christ's light shines!**

Alleluia!

**Alleluia, amen!**

*The Christ candle is lit...*

**CENTERING FOR WORSHIP** – "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

VU #835 *(chorus)*

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(responsively)*

Oxygen. Carbon dioxide. Traces of other gases.

**All around us. The air we breathe.**

Deep within us. The ancients believed...

**that the air was divine breath. Holy Spirit.**

And when it moved, we would be "in-Spirited." Inspired.

**Given Life!**

Let us breathe deep into our bodies, filling our lungs with the air that gives life!

**Let us breathe deep into our souls, filling ourselves with the Spirit that gives life!**

Alleluia!

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**GATHERING PRAYER** *(in unison)*

**Holy Spirit, Breath of Life, move in Creation, blow us about, fill the world with new possibilities. New Life! As we share in story and in song, we ask that our words and our breath, might mingle with your Breath, and be healing for the world. Amen.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN** - "Come and Find the Quiet Center"

VU #374

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:  
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see  
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,  
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, face to face,  
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,  
raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,  
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:  
there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,  
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

**\*CREED FOR SEASON OF CREATION** *(in unison)*

**We have faith**

**in one God, one Source of all life,  
one Ground of the whole Earth,  
who created all things good.**

**And we have faith**

**in Christ, in whom we have been shown the  
special role of humanity to bear God's likeness  
in working and caring for Creation,  
in seeking to understand her mysteries and powers,**

**in working with these powers  
for the wellbeing of life on Earth.**

**And we have faith**

**in God's Spirit who leads us to a meek, unselfish and  
compassionate life-style.**

**So that the Earth is inherited in peace,  
her life is transformed for all creatures and her bounty shared  
justly.**

**So be it.**

**Amen.**

*Adapted from India. Source: Sinfonia Oecumenica,  
Gütersloher Verlagshaus, Gütersloh 1998.  
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**\*GREETING ONE ANOTHER** *(responsively)*

... "The peace of Christ be with you"

**And also with you.**

**SHARING A STORY** *(with those of all ages)*

*"Crayon Box that Talked"*

**\*SINGING A SONG** - "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

VU #684

Make me a channel of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me bring your love;  
where there is injury, your healing power,  
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:

*(Refrain:)*

*O Spirit, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace:  
where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;  
where there is darkness, only light;  
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

*(Refrain:)*

*O Spirit, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving to all that we receive,  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

*(Refrain:)*

*ENGAGING*

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Hebrews 11:1-6

1 Corinthians 13: 4-13

**REFLECTION** – *"Exercising Our Faith"*

### **MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

### **GIFT OF MUSIC**

*RESPONDING*

### **YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS**

### **INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING**

### **THE OFFERING IS GATHERED**

*Wayne Lord*

*Anne Wilson*

### **\*OFFERING RESPONSE –**

VU #541

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures high and low;  
give thanks to God in love made known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.***

### **\*OFFERING PRAYER** *(in unison)*

**Holy God.**

**We return for your use but a small part of what  
you have given to us.**

**May it be used mindfully to meet the needs  
of this community and beyond.**

**We pray that it may assist to further your work and the  
continuing establishment of your kingdom here on earth.  
Amen**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** – VU #916 (A Translation) *(in unison)*

**Our Mother/Father/Creator**

**who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.**

**Thy kingdom come.**

**Thy will be done,**

**On earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**As we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**But deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

*GOING OUT (as Spirit people)*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN – “Oh a Song Must Rise”**

MV #142

*Refrain:*

*Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend  
Oh a song must rise once again  
Singing out God’s praises and glory,  
The faithful voices blend,  
Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend.*

From the mountains to the valleys,  
from the desert to the sea,  
a song must rise once again.  
From the voices of our leaders,  
the voice of you and me,  
a song must rise for the spirit to descend.

*Refrain:*

From poverty and riches,  
from the voice of young and old,  
a song must rise once again.  
From the free and imprisoned,  
the timid and the bold,  
a song must rise for the spirit to descend.

*Refrain:*

From every house of worship,  
in every faith and tongue,  
a song must rise once again.  
From the villages and cities  
a new song must be sung,  
a song must rise for the spirit to descend.

*Refrain:*

**\*SENDING FORTH - (*The Christ Candle is extinguished.*)**

This light is not gone. It has been entrusted to you.

**May we continue to be conscious of the Christ light in our lives and may it continue to guide our thoughts and deeds and encourage us the exercise our faith until we meet again.**

**\*CHORAL SENDING FORTH – “Lift Us Up, Send Us Out”**

***Lift us up, send us out  
as we now go in peace  
and our worship and living entwine.  
May God’s presence be near  
and may concord increase  
when our hope and our actions combine.***

***Be the salt, be the light  
and let each be a sign  
that our caring will highlight the way.  
Share a meal, plant a tree,  
let our faith underline  
that by giving, our love is conveyed.***

*Text © Allan Baer, 2014  
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**POSTLUDE**

*\*Note:*

*Parts of today’s liturgy have been written by the Rt. Rev. Richard Bott of Dunbar Heights United Church in Vancouver BC and former Moderator of the United Church of Canada. They are part of worship created for Creation Time 2 in the Season of Pentecost.*

# Church News

This Week at First United Church		
Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday to Friday		
Monday	9:00 AM	Ways & Means Team - RMR
Tuesday	7:00 PM	Property Team – Church Office
	7:00 PM	M & P - RMR
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Thursday	4:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Take out Beef BBQ
	4:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Eat in Beef BBQ
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market

**Peanut Butter** – Once again this year we have set a goal of **900 jars** of peanut butter to donate to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. Up to September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 we have collected 570 jars. And we have funds on hand to purchase an additional 72 jars this coming week.

If you are aware of **anyone in the hospital or needing a visit**, please let the office know (506-546-3532) and the message will be forwarded to the Pastoral Care Team.

### **Guest Speakers for the upcoming services:**

September 22<sup>nd</sup> – Rev. Kendall Harrison

September 29<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Wendell Gregan

The Rev. Ivan Gregan, BA, MDiv (retired) has agreed to lead our services and provide us with 1 day per week of pastoral care beginning in October and concluding after the Christmas Services.

### **BBQ Beef Supper will be held on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>.**

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 now available - \$18.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children. As there are a limited number of tickets they will be sold on a first come basis. Please contact a member of the Ways & Means Committee or drop by the church office from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

**Sponsored by Hatheway Auto Group**

# Community News

## **“Help Lesotho” Calendars**

The Anglophone School District – North has been sponsoring “Help Lesotho” since 2006 as part of its global awareness initiative. As a fundraiser where all of the money raised goes to help finance its work with orphans, vulnerable children, and grandmothers in Lesotho, Africa; “Help Lesotho” has 2025 calendars for sale at a cost of \$15.00. You are invited to support this initiative with your donation. Gary Branch (506-546-9208) ([egbranch@rogers.com](mailto:egbranch@rogers.com)) will be taking orders for these calendars until October 15, 2024. Payment can be made in advance by cash, cheque, or eTransfer, or when the calendars are delivered in November. **Cheques are to be made payable to “Help Lesotho”.** Thank you to the congregation of First United Church for your continued support of this initiative.

Join us for **St. George’s Arts and Crafts Fair and Bake Sale** on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM at St. George’s Hall, 432 King Avenue. Featuring hand knit & crocheted items, quilts, cushions, hangings, placemats, fabric by the bolt, yard and fat quarters, as well as assorted crafting supplies & books and jams, jellies, preserves and baked goods.

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pokeshaw & Black Rock **Cranberry Festival** is scheduled for ***October 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024*** at various locations and times. Activities include Cranberry Bog Tours, Peat Moss Fields Demo, Paramotor Flying; Café & Market, Lobster Boat & Fishing Demo, Drop In Cider Making. They are also teaming with North Tetagouche / Kinsale for the Provincial Biennial Awards & Irish Canadian Cultural Associate N.E., featuring the CALNAN BAND! For more information see the poster on the bulletin boards or visit Pokeshaw & Black Rock Recreation Council Inc. Facebook page,

## SCRIPTURE READING –

**Hebrews 11: 1-6** THE VOICE Version of the Bible

1 Faith is the assurance of things you have hoped for, the absolute conviction that there are realities you've never seen.

2 It was by faith that our forebears were approved.

3 Through faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God; everything we now see was fashion

**Faith begins as hope and indeed is unseen; so many doubt that it is real. What follows is the proof that faith is a reality that can be trusted.**

4 By faith Abel presented to God a sacrifice more acceptable than *his brother* Cain's. *By faith* Abel learned he was righteous, as God Himself testified by approving his offering. And by faith he still speaks, although his voice was silenced by death.

5 By faith Enoch was carried up *into heaven* so that he did not see death; no one could find him because God had taken him. Before he was taken up, it was said of him that he had pleased God.

6 Without faith no one can please God because the one coming to God must believe He exists, and He rewards those who come seeking.

### **1 Corinthians 13: 4-13**

4 Love is patient; love is kind. Love isn't envious, doesn't boast, *brag, or strut about*. There's no arrogance in love;

5 it's never rude, crude, or indecent—it's not self-absorbed. Love isn't easily upset. Love doesn't tally wrongs

6 or celebrate injustice; but truth—*yes, truth*—is love's delight!

7 Love puts up with anything and everything that comes along; it trusts, hopes, and endures no matter what.

8 Love will never become obsolete. Now as for the prophetic gifts, they will not last; unknown languages will become silent, and the gift of knowledge will no longer be needed.

9 Gifts of knowledge and prophecy are partial at best, *at least for now,*

10 but when the perfection *and fullness of God's kingdom* arrive, all the parts will end.

11 When I was a child, I spoke, thought, and reasoned in childlike ways *as we all do*. But when I became a man, I left my childish ways behind.

12 For now, we can only see a dim and blurry picture of things, as when we stare into polished metal. I realize that everything I know is only part of the big picture. But one day, *when Jesus arrives*, we will see clearly, face-to-face. In that day, I will fully know just as I have been wholly known *by God*.

13 But now faith, hope, and love remain; these three *virtues must characterize our lives*. The greatest of these is love.

*May the Spirit bless to our understanding this significant part of our Christian story...*