

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

**September 22, 2024**

Creation Time 3; 18<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost

**Supervising Clergy** Rev. Blair Lewis     **Music Director** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Margaret Daniels     **Custodian** Lester Scott  
**Greeters** Margaret Payne Chénard & Mike Kierstead  
**Audio & Visual Technicians** Shirley Allain & Donald Eddy

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Proverbs 31:10-31	Ester 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
Psalm 1	Psalm 19: 7-14
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a	James 5:13-20
Mark 9:30-37	Mark 9:38-50

We welcome **Rev. Kendall Harrison**  
*Regional Minister, FSLDW Region*  
 and thank him 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**

The light of understanding, the light of compassion, the light of community these are all represented by the light that shines from this candle. Let the light illumne our lives our worship and our way forward as we gather as God's people.

*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)*

**ALL: We bring to this place our differing voices and perspectives.**

ONE: We use that diversity to help us see the world as God intended it. We learn from and attend to our neighbours while acknowledging that God's light burns brightly also in the stranger.

**ALL: We come to this place in our humanity to encounter each other as we share out fears, insecurities, hopes, passions and pain.**

ONE: Thanks be to our God for giving us the ability to see our lives and this world more fully through the divine spark of Spirit and Light that connects us all.

**ALL: Let us worship as one seeking people.**

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

**ALL: God-Light, you come in the vulnerability of a child. In wisdom and in innocence you are among us. You who were here from the beginning, who pulled the world from chaos and established the galaxies, restore to us the mystery of life.**

**God incarnate, flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone, our strength, encourage us to remember to drink from your well. Be close to us in the winters of our discontent. Draw us closer to each other in deep care for each other and the other.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN** – “God We Praise You for the Morning”  
VU #415 (verses 1-5)

God, we praise you for the morning;  
hope springs forth with each new day,  
new beginning, prayer and promise,  
joy in work and in play.

God, we praise you for creation,  
mountains, seas, and prairie land.  
Waking souls find joy and healing  
in your bountiful hand.

God, we praise you for compassion,  
all the loving that you show;  
human touching, tears, and laughter,  
help your children to grow.

God, we praise you for your Spirit,  
Comforter and daily friend,  
restless searcher, gentle teacher,  
strength and courage you send.

God, we praise you for the Savior,  
come that we may know your ways.  
In his loving, dying, rising,  
Christ is Lord of our days.

**\*GREETING ONE ANOTHER** (*responsively*)

“ The peace of Christ be with you”

**And also, with you.**

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

**\*SINGING A SONG** – “I Saw the Rich Ones”

MV #127

I saw the rich ones I saw what they gave  
the widow who offered two pennies she'd saved  
and I saw she was smiling I knew she was glad  
and I wondered because she gave all that she had.

*Refrain:*  
*But with God the world is turned upside down*  
*the poor are embraced and the lost they are found*  
*Let's work for a world where all people are free*  
*where it's good to feel good about God loving you and me.*

I saw Zacheus, a sinner they said  
but to his house I saw Jesus go to break bread  
and I knew something special had happened that day  
when Zacheus gave half of his riches away.

*Refrain:*

The men in the vineyards were grumbling one day  
I knew they weren't happy with what they'd been paid  
for the ones who came later were paid just the same  
as the workers who greeted the dawn when they came.

*Refrain:*

## *ENGAGING*

### **LITANY OF CONFESSION**

ONE: Holy Presence the world is changing so quickly and at times  
we can feel left behind.

**ALL: Forgive us when we loose hope and long for nostalgia.**

ONE: One our senses to your presence in this world.

**ALL: Stop our harsh judgement of ourselves and others.**

ONE: Remind us of our teachers and role models from the past that  
we may be awakened to our teachers of today.

**ALL: Bless us with confidence and ground us in faith.**

**CHORAL RESPONSE** – “Don’t Be Afraid”

MV #90

***Don’t be afraid. My love is stronger,  
my love is stronger than your fear.  
Don’t be afraid. My love is stronger  
and I have promised, promised to be always near.***

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*Judy Losier*

James 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

**REFLECTION**

“The Politics of Compassion = The Kin-dom of the Vulnerable”

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**GIFT OF MUSIC** – “It Moves in Creation”

*RESPONDING*

**YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS**

*Ronalds Family*

**INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING**

**THE OFFERING IS GATHERED**

**\*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**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

A communal created prayer.....

Source of all Being, Open our hearts and mouths to pray for the church, the earth and all those in need...

Now we turn to you as a child turns to her mother, seeking affirmation and comfort, praying the words Jesus taught us, each in the language of our own hearts:

**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** – “In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

VU #703

In the bulb there is a flower,  
in the seed, an apple tree,  
in cocoons, a hidden promise:  
butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter  
there’s a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

There’s a song in every silence,  
seeking word and melody;  
there’s a dawn in every darkness,  
bringing hope to you and me.

From the past will come the future;  
what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning,  
in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing,  
in our life, eternity,  
in our death, a resurrection,  
at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

**\*SENDING FORTH**

ONE: Go into this week offering comfort and care to all you can. Be gentle with your soul and never lose hope.

**ALL: AMEN**

**\*CHORAL CLOSING** – “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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*(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)*

**POSTLUDE**

# Church News

<b>This Week at First United Church</b>		
Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday to Friday		
Monday	9:00 AM	Ways & Means Team - RMR
Tuesday	1:00PM – 3:00 PM	Knitting Group - RMR
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Friday	2:00 PM	Helen Sullivan-Doucet Funeral
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market
Sunday	10 AM Worship	Orange Shirt Day

We will be recognizing “National Day of Truth & Reconciliation” next Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. If possible, please wear an **Orange Shirt** to the service.

**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 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 we have collected 648 jars.

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 Speaker** next Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> will be Wendell Gregan, DLM; Med

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.

**Thanksgiving – October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024** – Anyone wishing to contribute items to decorate the church is encouraged to bring them in by **3PM Thursday October 10<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you in advance.

**Thank You:** The Ways and Means team would like to express a sincere thank you to all who helped in anyway with our Take-Out BBQ Roast Beef Supper. Once everything is tallied-up we will provide everyone with the net profit. Thank you as well to the Hatheway Group of Companies for your generous sponsorship.

**Save the date** – The Ways & Means Team are holding their Turkey Supper on **Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>**.

# Community News

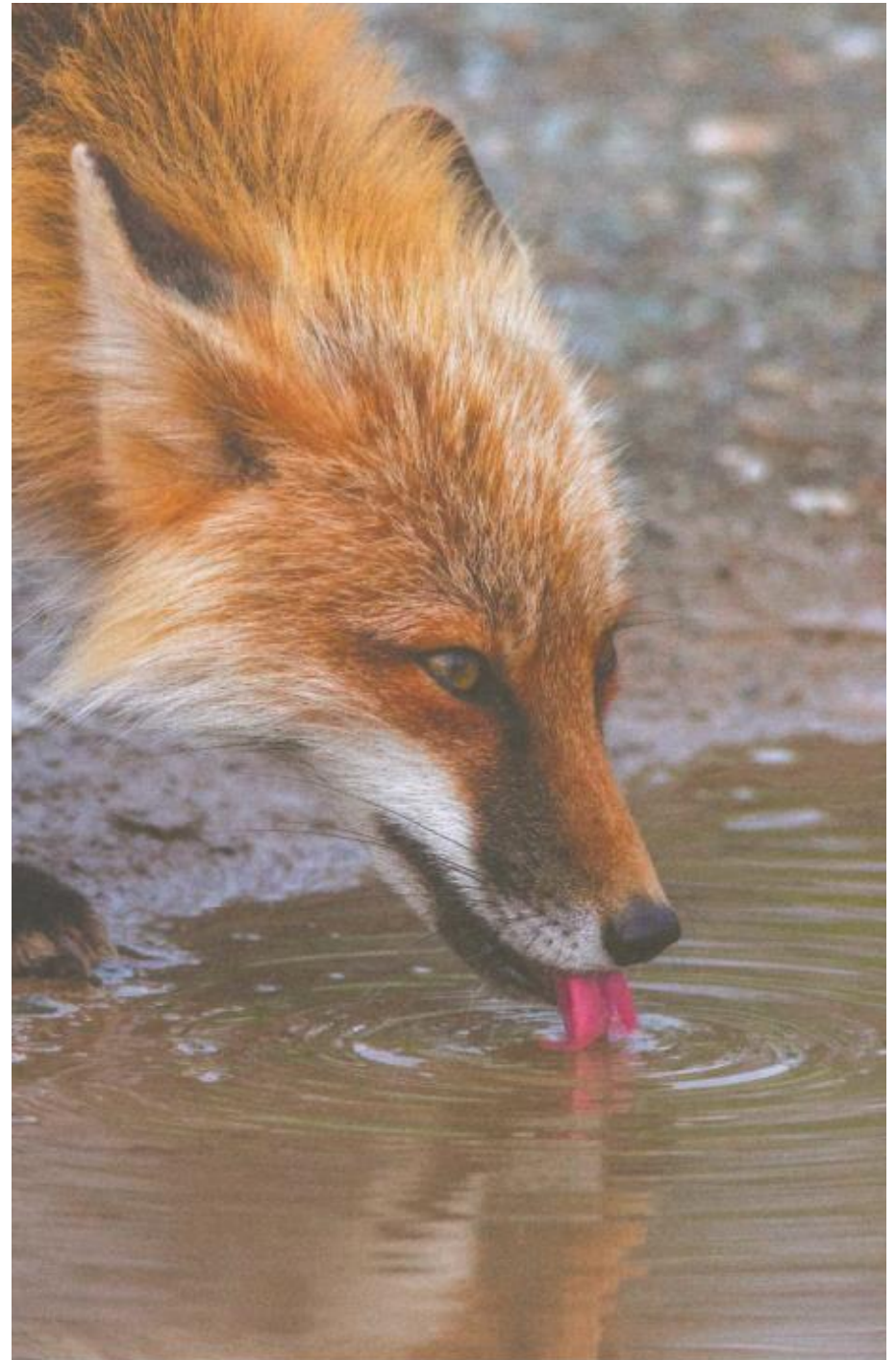
## **"Help Lesotho" Calendars**

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 (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.

**Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1 PM** the **Bathurst Heritage Museum** will host, in collaboration with the **Bathurst Public Library**, a celebration to kick off "**Canadian Library Month**". An exhibit with artifacts will honour the literary works of Mary Jane Losier and Celine Pinet on the Tracadie Leprosy Colony. This will be followed by the wonderful variety of music by the "**Treble Makers**". Selections will include songs such as "Sail Along Silvery Moon", "Blueberry Hill", "Yellow Bird", "Tous les Violons D'Acadie", some instrumental music, toe tapping jigs, reels and me.

*There is no admission fee – however, a good will donation towards the museum is always appreciated.*

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 READINGS**

### **James 3:13 - Chapter 4:1-3, 7-8a**

#### **Two Kinds of Wisdom**

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom.

14 But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth.

15 Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish.

16 For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind.

17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.

18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

#### **Chapter 4 - Friendship with the World**

1 Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you?

2 You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask.

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

### **Mark 9:30-37**

#### **Jesus Again Foretells His Death and Resurrection**

30 They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;

31 for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.'

32 But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

#### **Who Is the Greatest?**

33 Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?'

34 But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest.

35 He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.'

36 Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them,

37 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'