

The United Church of Canada
Bathurst Pastoral Charge
First United Church, Bathurst
www.firstunited-bathurst.ca

November 17, 2024

26th Sunday after Pentecost

Interim Minister Rev. Ivan Gregan **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Margaret Payne-Chenard & Mike Kierstead
Audio & Visual Technicians Ralph Jamieson & Donald Eddy

All musical selections reprinted under license #4-606499, One License for Churches

<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Deuteronomy 11:18-21 Matthew 18:1-5 Matthew 19:13-15	2 Samuel 23:1-7 Psalm 132:1-12 Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37
We welcome Cindy Doucet and thank her for leading our worship service this morning!	
<p><i>Today's bulletins have been placed in loving memory of:</i> Rodney Scott by Elna and family & <i>in loving memory of our parents</i> Laura Parrott (RCAF), Hugh Parrott (Army), Elizabeth Morison (RCAF) and Bill Morrison (Distinguished Flying Cross) <i>all of whom served in World War II from Brenda and Dave</i></p>	

*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)*

The Christ Candle symbolizes the presence of Christ, the Light of the world.

Alive, in our midst, this day & every day.

May the Light of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The Christ Candle is lit.

We have gathered to worship,

giving thanks for the Spirit that draws us together.

Let us worship our loving & generous God.

*** CENTERING FOR WORSHIP** "This is the Day" MV #122

***This is the day that God has made;
 we will rejoice and be glad!***

***This is the day that God has made;
 we will rejoice and be glad!***

***Singing hal-le-lu, singing hal-le-lu,
 singing hal-le-lu!***

We will rejoice and be glad!

***Singing hal-le-lu, singing hal-le-lu,
 singing hal-le-lu!***

We will rejoice and be glad!

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – “Jesus, Friend of Little Children” VU #340

Jesus, friend of little children,
let me be one too;
take my hand, and ever keep me
close to you.

Teach me how to grow in goodness,
daily as I grow.
You have been a child, and surely
you must know.

Never leave me, nor forsake me;
ever be my friend;
for I need you, from life’s dawning
to its end.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION: *(in unison)*

**Creator God, you have made each of us in your image,
and yet we fail to reflect your love and justice.
You have created every child in your image, and yet
we don’t treat every child as a precious reflection of you.
We weep some children as valued treasures, and other not.
We invest our time, money and hope in some children,
while we squander the great potential of others.
Open our eyes, we pray, to see that every child is made in
your image and belongs to you.
Help us to love, protect and nurture all children.
We pray these things in the name of the One who came to us
as a child.**

Amen

CHORAL RESPONSE – “Jesus, You Fill Our Hearts” MV #101

***Jesus, you fill our hearts with your love,
our minds with your peace,
and our lives
with your joy.***

GREETING ONE ANOTHER *(responsively)*

.... Peace be with you.

And also with you.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Deuteronomy 11:18-21

Matthew 18:1-5

Matthew 19:13-15

REFLECTION – Child Poverty: How can we help?

CHILDREN’S PRAYER

***SINGING A SONG** – “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”
VU #400

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace!

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace!

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC – “I Saw the Rich Ones”

RESPONDING

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS *(formerly Minute for Mission)*

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

THE OFFERING IS GATHERED

*OFFERING HYMN – “What Can I Do?”

MV #191

*What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. (I'll sing with joy.)
I'll say a prayer. I'll bring my love.
I'll do my share.*

*OFFERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Gracious and loving God, thank you for giving us the opportunity to share. Thank you for helping us to love and do good deeds. May our gifts and our giving help us to grow in love and care for the world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(in unison)*

VU #921

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CLOSING HYMN - “Long Ago and Far Away”

MV #195

Long ago and far away
Jesus lived and worked and prayed
healed the sick and the fearful and lonely
lived his life to show us God's way.

Refrain

*Stretched his arms out as he said
Fill the cup and share the bread
Remember me in love and joy and blessing.*

Jesus gathered the children around him
spoke of Love and the joy to be found
told them stories of wisdom and wonder
God's creation in all that's around.

Refrain

*Stretched his arms out as he said
Fill the cup and share the bread
Remember me in love and joy and blessing.*

Jesus called all his friends to be with him
share the bread and the cup once again
life to you I will offer it gladly
love will be with you right to the end.

Refrain

* BLESSING

*CHORAL CLOSING – “I Wish You the Blessing”

*We wish you the blessing of faith to sustain you,
friends to support you, challenge to stir you,
songs to empower you, peace to refresh you,
tears to release you, laughter to heal you,
love to nurture your soul.*

The Christ Candle is extinguished.

POSTLUDE

Church News

This Week at First United Church		
Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday to Friday		
Monday	9:00 – 11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH Gym
	9:00 AM	Ways & Means - RMR
Tuesday	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Knitting Group - RMR
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
	7:00 PM	Christmas Choir Practice
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 November 14th, 2024 we have collected 847 jars. We will be purchasing an additional 110+ jars with the next sale.

*Notice is hereby provided of a **Congregational Meeting** which has been called for **Sunday November 17, 2024 immediately following the morning service.** The purpose of this meeting is to receive the final report and recommendations of the First United Search Committee. This meeting will not take very long so if you have plans (Scottish Feast of Saint Andrew) you will not be late for the event.*

Turkey Supper will be held this Thursday, November 21st

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 \$18 for adults and \$6 for children. As there are a limited number of tickets, they will be sold on a first come-first served basis. **Limited Tickets Remaining!!** Please contact a member of the *Ways & Means Team* or drop by the church office from 9 AM to 3 PM Monday to Friday.

*Sponsored by
Kenny's Trucking Ltd. & Shine House
(A Division of Stothart Automotive)*

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.

Church News

Sunday, December 1st at 2 PM - Christmas Hymn Sing



The choirs of First United Church in Bathurst and Central United Church in Clifton will once again be offering an afternoon of Christmas music on the 1st Sunday of Advent! A reception will follow. Tickets now available from choir members or at the church office. \$10 per ticket.

Mark your calendars, tell your friends & family to come and join us for this musical event!

Community News



SHRINERS - Give help and hope for kids

Shriners are a brotherhood of men committed to family, engaged into ongoing personal growth, and dedicated to providing care for children and families in need. Our backgrounds and interests are diverse, but we are bound together by our shared values and a desire to have fun, do good and build relationships that can last a lifetime.

Once again, this year you can help the Shriners with their fundraiser. Purchase a calendar for \$20 and have a chance to win prizes every day of the year. The fruitcakes are delicious and you can get a box of three for \$25. All the money from this fundraiser goes to help the children in our area. Contact Harvey Spence at 506-546-2742 for reservation.

YARD SALE

St. George's Anglican Church Hall
432 King Avenue

Saturday, Nov. 23rd from 8:00 am. – 12:00 pm.

Bathurst Pastoral Council Highlights

October 29, 2024

The first fall meeting of Council was held in the Ruth Morrison Room with Sandra Boone presiding. Council members present were Brenda Parrott, vice-chair; Debrah Watling, secretary; Wayne Lord, Martha Vickers, Lester Scott, Ian Oliver and Isabel MacLaggan. Also attending were Dave Morison, treasurer and Rev. Ivan Gregan, interim minister who opened the meeting with a prayer.

Dave reported that revenue and expenditures were in order and capital expenditures amounted to \$31,000. He also advised that Alberta Buttmer has agreed to succeed him as treasurer in 2025.

Reporting as chair of Property Management Team, Lester Scott said some of the capital expenditures qualified for rebates/grants through the national church. In the Team's September report, it was stated that a 30-page application was submitted to the National "Faithful Footprints" program re energy conservation improvements in the church and hall. The result was a grant of \$18,000.

Among improvements and installations made this year are a new dishwasher, security cameras and two heat pumps in the office. Lester completed the annual inspection of the hall and sanctuary as stated in the Team's October report.

The Ways and Means report stated that between 250 to 330 tickets were made for the ham, pork and beef BBQ dinners. Wayne Lord spoke of the upcoming turkey dinner on November 21st and said more volunteer workers are needed.

Because the church office computer continued to freeze despite corrective measures, it became necessary to purchase a new one a few months ago.

The Christian Development Team reviewed events held since the council's last meeting. Included were Red Dress Sunday, Mother's Day, Graduation, Confirmation/Transfer services and Rev. Neal Palmer's last Sunday prior to his retirement in June. There were three transfers, two baptisms, two adult and nine youth confirmations.

Pulpit coverage was arranged by the Team for the summer and early fall services. Presiding were Rev. Blair Lewis, two visiting clergy and volunteers within the congregation. Orange Shirt Day, World Wide Communion, Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day services were arranged as well.

Martha Vickers, the CD Team's acting chair, reported that Kyle Grant is interested in heading up a youth group. Kyle has worked with youth at Central United Church in the past. It was stated that unfortunately adult commitment for Sunday School leadership remains challenging.

Reporting on Regional Council updates, Martha said two First United representatives are required to replace Rev. Neal and Jini Palmer. A representative and executive member herself, she said Hugh Ellis will become Regional President at next spring's annual meeting.

Martha also spoke about the Christmas Hymn Sing to be held on Sunday, December 1st at 2 PM. It will be presented by a combined choir from First United and Central United Churches.

The Search Committee has been interviewing ministerial applications for our First United Pastoral Charge. Rev. Ivan Gregan will be the supply minister until the end of December.

Other reports were given by Wayne Lord (Ministry and Personnel), Isabel MacLaggan (Pastoral Care and Communications), and Rev. Ivan Gregan (Visitation).

In new business, Council approved the Diabetes Canada request to place a bin receptacle on the parking lot on a 90-day trial basis. Also, a \$100 donation to Atlantic School of Theology was approved.

The next Council meeting will be held in early December.

Respectfully submitted,

Isabel MacLaggan

SCRIPTURE READINGS

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

DEUTERONOMY 11:18-21

18 "You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and fix them as an emblem on your forehead.

19 Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise up.

20 Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates,

21 so that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the Lord swore to your ancestors to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth.

MATTHEW 18:1-5

True Greatness

1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

2 He called a child, whom he put among them,

3 and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

4 Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

5 Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

MATTHEW 19:13-15

Jesus Blesses Little Children

13 Then children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them,

14 but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

15 And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

