

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

January 26, 2025

Supervising Clergy Rev. Blair Lewis **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Beth Sullivan & Charlene Roy
Audio & Visual Technicians Shirley Allain & Donald Eddy

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Lectionary for today	Lectionary for next Sunday
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 ^a Luke 4:14-21	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 2:22-40
Today's bulletin is placed in loving memory of Lynn Vance by Dale and family.	
We thank Wayne Lord & Randy Breckenridge 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

God is with us, Emmanuel. Every step of the journey, encouraging us in our wisdom, compassion, patience, and courage, is the one we call the light. In the darkness of misunderstanding, conflict, sorrow and fear, the light of Christ continues to burn for us. May this flame, therefore, be our comfort and our joy.

The Christ candle is lit...

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP – "A Light is Gleaming"

VU #82 (refrain only)

***A light is gleaming, spreading its arms
throughout the night, living in the light.
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love
is burning bright, living in the light.***

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, all who long to witness God's glory open hearts and minds.
Come, all who yearn for a change.
Come, all who are praying for a miracle.
Come, all who require forgiveness or understanding.
Come, all who feel displaced or forgotten.
Come, all who desire to Praise.
Come, let us worship in this place where God dwells and all are worthy of blessing.

GATHERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

**Holy One, draw us into Your Spirit.
Revive our love for You, and set our souls rejoicing.
Enlighten our eyes,
so we may leave this place as Your witnesses.
Accept the words and meditations we lay out in this place,
O rock and redeemer. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

***GATHERING HYMN – “Spirit Come”**

(Seasons of the Spirit Vol. 8)

(Refrain)

*Spirit come, Spirit come,
open our eyes, open our hearts,
Spirit come.*

Chosen to bring good news
to everyone poor, abused.
We are your hands, we are your voice.
Spirit Come.
To captives we shout, proclaim
freedom in Jesus’ name.
Fill us with love. Fill us with power.
Spirit Come.

(Refrain)

Good news that blind can see.
Oppressed ones can now be free.
We are your hands, we are your voice.
Spirit Come.
Announcing the time’s arrived
when God will save people’s lives.
Fill us with love. Fill us with power.
Spirit Come.

(Refrain)

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION

CHORAL RESPONSE – “And When You Call for Me” MV #96

***And when you call for me,
I have already answered.
And when you call for me,
I am already there.***

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

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

And also with you.

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

Luke 4:17-18

***SINGING A SONG - “I Am the Dream”** MV #106

I am the dream and you the dreamer.
I am the song and you are the rhyme.
You are the tune sung in every silence.
You are the now in the endless stream of time.

I am the bell and you the silence.
You are the yearning I cannot curtail.
I am the blest and you the blessing.
You are the wilds in which I lose my trail.

You are the word and I the echo.
You are the leader and I am the led.
You are the joy and I the laughter.
You are the Rock on which I lay my head.

ENGAGING

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS Wayne Lord

Luke 4:14-21

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

REFLECTION – “Looking for Spare Parts” Randy Breckenridge

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS*Judy Losier***INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING****THE OFFERING IS GATHERED*****OFFERING RESPONSE** (*Tune Old 100th*)*Hope in our God so filled with love.**Peace in the symbol of a dove.**Joy in the coming of the Son.**Love fills us up and makes us one.**Catherine MacDonald 2007****OFFERING PRAYER** (*in unison*)

Gracious God, receive these gifts and bless them. Help them to reach beyond their human capacity and serve the world in ways we might never understand. Make our hearts glad to give. 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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS***CLOSING HYMN** – “We Are One”

VU #402

We are one as we come, as we come, joyful to be here,
in the praise on our lips there's a sense that God is near.
We are one as we sing, as we seek, we are found;
and we come needful of God's grace as we meet,
together in this place.

We are one as we share, as we share brokenness and fear,
in the touch of a hand there's a sense that God is here.
We are one as we care, as we heal, we are healed;
and we share warmth in God's embrace as we pray
together in this place.

We are one as we feast, as we feast, peace becomes the sign;
in the bread and the wine there's a sense of love divine.
We are one as we come, as we feed, we are fed;
and we feel God's refreshing grace as we meet
at table in this place.

We are one as we hear, as we hear, heart and hand unite;
in the word we receive there's a sense that God is light.
We are one as we leave, as we love, we are loved;
and we seek justice in God's ways as we move
together from this place.

***SENDING FORTH**

Friends, go forth from this place proclaiming the goodness of God in all that you do and say. When it feels far-fetched, proclaim proximity. When it feels the most difficult, proclaim it done. When it feels most necessary, proclaim it with power. And do so with the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit with you always. Go in peace.

(The Christ Candle is extinguished)

***CHORAL SENDING FORTH** – “May the God of Peace” – MV #224

*May the God of peace and of all good,
may the God of peace and of all good
be always with you. Amen!
May God’s peace be with you. Amen!*

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	Knitters - RMR
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Thursday	4:15 PM	Choir Practice
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market

Upcoming Services at First United:

- February 2nd ~ Rev. Blair Lewis
- February 9th ~ Hugh Ellis
- February 16 ~ Helen Knowles
- February 23 ~ Rev. Catherine Stuart

Sunday School Workshop is scheduled to be held on Saturday, February 22nd from 10:30 AM to 12 Noon in the Ruth Morrison Room. Rev. Catherine Stuart, Minister for Youth and Young Families will lead the workshop. We will be sending an invitation to other United Churches in the area (Clifton, Dalhousie, Campbellton & Miramichi). Anyone who is interested in engaging with youth and to get something going for our youth are encouraged to attend. Further information will be coming in the next couple of weeks.

Church News

Team Committee Reports will be required in order to prepare ***2024 Annual Report***. Would the individuals responsible for preparing each report please email them to the church office. **The deadline for reports is February 14th**. ***Thank You***

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.

The Upper Room Booklets have finally arrived. They are in the outside the office on the table or can be found outside of the Ruth Morrison Room on the wall.

Eat in or Take out Roast Pork Supper will be held on ***Thursday, February 20th***. Tickets will be available soon - \$18 for adults and \$6 for children. Please contact a member of the *Ways & Means Committee*, drop by the church office or call 506-546-3532.

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE

Benevolence donations increased in 2024, so it was agreed that we would forward \$2000 to the Volunteer Center. – ***Thank You***

Donations for 2024 School Breakfast Programs were overlooked, so \$125 is to be forwarded to 5 schools for 2024, promptly. Then, the same amount (\$125) is to be forwarded to the same schools for 2025, in September.

McDonald’s meal coupons are still being distributed but with discretion, since the behavior of some recipients was unacceptable.

Pantry supplies currently seem adequate but more bottled water should be available.

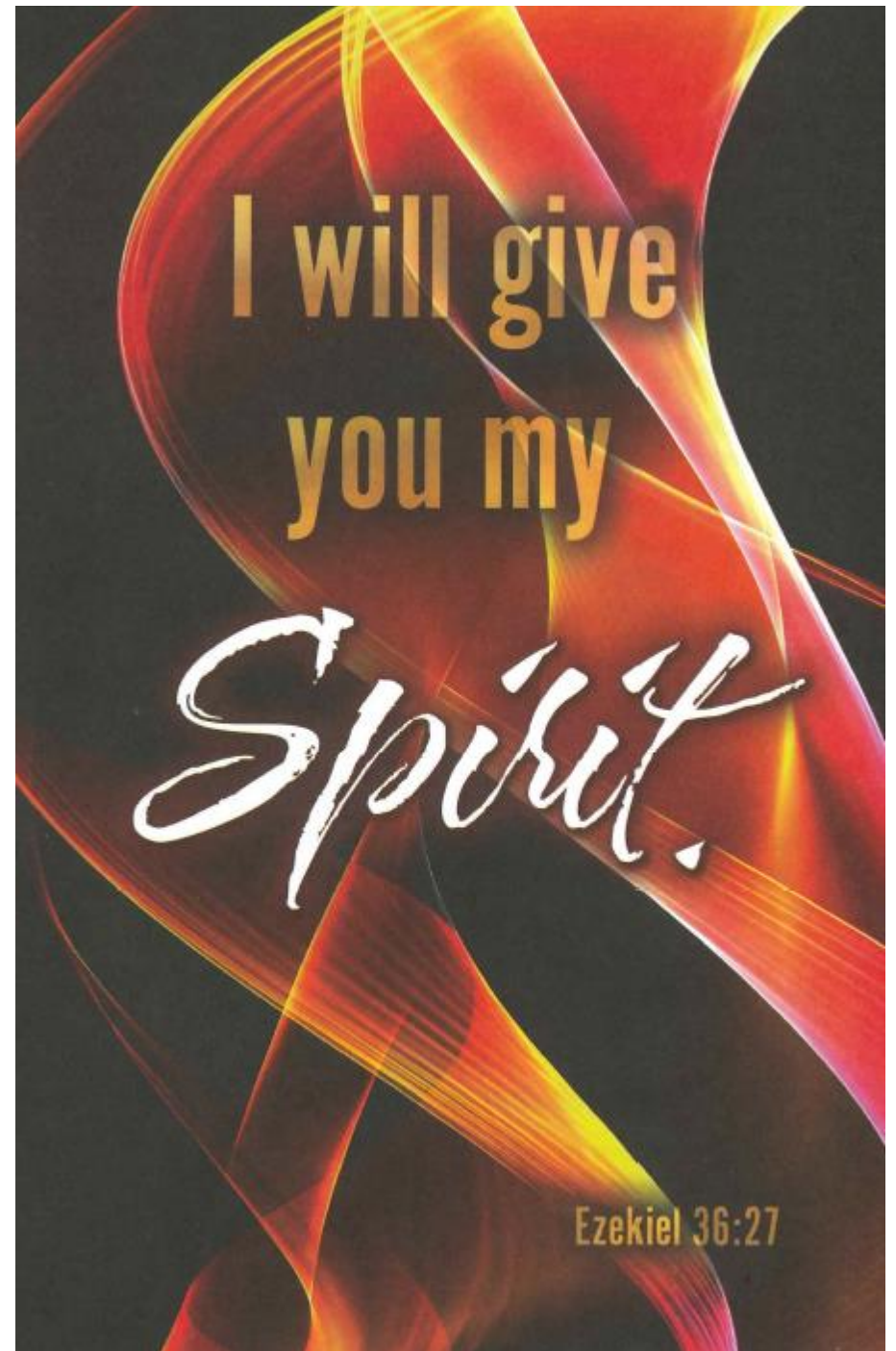
1041 bottles of peanut butter were given to Volunteer Center in 2024 & it was agreed to establish a new quota of 1000 bottles.

Church News

Please Note – In an effort to assist the Bathurst Volunteer Center, should you wish to make a monetary donation you may now do so by **issuing your cheque to First United Church**, indicating it is to be used for the purchase of Peanut Butter. Your donation will be marked as such and will be included on your annual tax receipt. Your cheques can be dropped off at the church office, put in the offering plate or mailed. Periodically the office will purchase the peanut butter while on sale and have it delivered directly to the Volunteer Center.

Community News

A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on Saturday, February 8th from 8:00 – 10:00 AM. As this community event serves to fund our local mission projects, we rely on donations and ask that you consider a minimum donation of \$ 8.00 to help defray costs. We appreciate your kindness and support. Come and enjoy fellowship and great food.



SCRIPTURE READINGS – Common English Bible

Luke 4:14-21

Jesus announces good news to the poor

- 14** Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news about him spread throughout the whole countryside.
- 15** He taught in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.
- 16** Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been raised. On the Sabbath he went to the synagogue as he normally did and stood up to read.
- 17** The synagogue assistant gave him the scroll from the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:
- 18** *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the prisoners
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to liberate the oppressed,*
- 19** *and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*
- 20** He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the synagogue assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the synagogue was fixed on him.
- 21** He began to explain to them, "Today, this scripture has been fulfilled just as you heard it."

Focus Scripture - 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

- 12** Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many.
- 13** We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink.
- 14** Certainly the body isn't one part but many.
- 15** If the foot says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not a hand," does that mean it's not part of the body?
- 16** If the ear says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not an eye," does that mean it's not part of the body?

- 17** If the whole body were an eye, what would happen to the hearing? And if the whole body were an ear, what would happen to the sense of smell?
- 18** But as it is, God has placed each one of the parts in the body just like he wanted.
- 19** If all were one and the same body part, what would happen to the body?
- 20** But as it is, there are many parts but one body.
- 21** So the eye can't say to the hand, "I don't need you," or in turn, the head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."
- 22** Instead, the parts of the body that people think are the weakest are the most necessary.
- 23** The parts of the body that we think are less honorable are the ones we honor the most. The private parts of our body that aren't presentable are the ones that are given the most dignity.
- 24** The parts of our body that are presentable don't need this. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the part with less honor
- 25** so that there won't be division in the body and so the parts might have mutual concern for each other.
- 26** If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part gets the glory, all the parts celebrate with it.
- 27** You are the body of Christ and parts of each other.
- 28** In the church, God has appointed first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, the ability to help others, leadership skills, different kinds of tongues.
- 29** All aren't apostles, are they? All aren't prophets, are they? All aren't teachers, are they? All don't perform miracles, do they?
- 30** All don't have gifts of healing, do they? All don't speak in different tongues, do they? All don't interpret, do they?
- 31** Use your ambition to try to get the greater gifts. And I'm going to show you an even better way.