



The United Church of Canada
L'Église Unie du Canada

St. Andrew's United Church



February 18, 2024.

1st Sunday in Lent

Our Mission Statement

"St. Andrew's United Church is a Christian Community of Faith
that shares Christ's love through
Worship, Fellowship, Spiritual Growth, and Outreach."



Where love is shared, the Lord is there
Fruits from Sunday School kids
<Photo Credit: Rev. Eunkyuu Ji>

188 Wellington Street. Miramichi, NB. E1N 1M4
Tel: 506-773-9932 / Fax: 506-773-9932
Church Email: chathamstauc@nb.aibn.com

Sunday Worship Service

(February 18, 2024, 1st Sunday in Lent)

Worship Leader: Rev. Eunkyu Ji
Organist & Choir Director: Lois McKinnon
Greeters: Carney Harris & Wanda MacDonald

* *In highlighted parts, let us present ourselves to God by standing or sitting freely according to each one's physical condition. **If there is no highlight, remain seated.***

We Gather To Worship

Music Prelude: *Organist*

Introit: *Choir* – VU # 'Holy, Holy, Holy' vs. 1

Lighting the Christ Candle: Gail Arsenault

As we begin our Lenten journey, we look at the promises God has made to each of us. God promises us love and forgiveness, and God promises wholeness for all of creation. God promises eternal life beyond death. As we light this candle of Christ, we remember God's infinite love for us. We are a covenant people. *(All candles are lit)*

Let us pray together with one voice:

Creator God, we come before you as a people who have been tempted and have yielded. We have fallen to the way of ease, and lack of concern for future generations. We have not been good stewards of your creation.

**Gracious God,
forgive our weakness. Strengthen and encourage us, as we journey through our own wilderness experiences. Amen.**

Welcome:

***Call to Worship:**

Bring your lives, full of sorrow and joy.

Bring yourselves, full of hope and despair.

Come in your brokenness, ready for fullness of life.

Stay in your weakness, ready to receive strength and the power of God.

Mary J. Scifres, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024

***Opening Hymn:** VU # 108, "Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights"

***Opening Prayer:** *(together)*

**Source of hope, bring us into the presence of hope.
Inspire us with the strength of faith.
Shower us with the waters of mercy and grace,**

**that our hope may be renewed
as we learn to trust your promise and love. Amen.**

Mary J. Scifres, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024

Prayer of Confession:

(Now, we are invited to reflect on ourselves before God. As the presider leads the prayer, join with your hearts in silence.)

O God, we come to worship this morning
knowing that we have not done all that you wished us to do.

We have not been the people that you wished us to be.

We have not lived in the loving ways that Jesus taught us.

We forget that our actions can make a difference
in our school, job, or neighbourhood.

We are sorry that we have let you down,
and ask for your forgiveness.

Please give us strength to try again.

Now, we confess our weakness in silence.

Merciful God, listen to our voices.

Grant us forgiveness and healing.

(a time of silent prayer)

Words of Assurance:

God is good, all the time. And all the time, God is good. Trust this truth
and receive God's gifts of mercy and love. We are forgiven people
through Christ's sacrifice and resurrection.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Whole People of God 2021

Sharing Time:

Hymn: VU # 299, "Teach Me God to Wonder"

(Children leave for Sunday school after hymn)

The Word of God Proclaimed

Prayer of Illumination: Sam Shirley

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be
acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer. Amen.

Psalms 19

Scripture Readings:

Psalm 25:1–10 (VU p.752)

Mark 1:9–15

Ministry of Music: "Shepherd of Love"

Message:

We Respond to God's Word

Announcements: Debbie Stymiest

Invitation to the Offering:

In our baptism, we are called to participate in Jesus' ongoing ministry. Through the gifts we offer to ministries of this church and those of Mission & Service, the wilderness becomes a place of abundance. Let us present our morning offering.

2024 Offering Invitations and Prayers, The United Church of Canada

***Offering Hymn:** VU # 537. "Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands"

***Offering Prayer:** *(Together)*

**Trustworthy and trusting God,
thank you for entrusting us with this good earth.
Thank you for sharing your gifts with us.
Help us live up to your trust,
even as we learn to place our trust in you.
Bless the gifts that we share,
that they may honor the generosity you have shown us.
In trust and gratitude, we pray. Amen.**

Mary J. Scifres, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024

Welcoming New Members:

"In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are built together spiritually[b] into a dwelling place for God." (Ephesians 2:21-22)

The church is a community of people with varied gifts, united by the Holy Spirit. We gather to celebrate God's presence, to discern God's truth, and to follow the way of Jesus. Today, we welcome a new member of St. Andrew's United Church who is already a member of the Church of Christ by one holy baptism.

Presentation:

- **New Membership: Akinyode Kolawole** (Preferred name: **Moses**)
- Mentor for new members: **Merle Milson** (by February 2025)
- **Transfer Membership: Valerie Flynn**
From Bethel United Church

Commitment of New Member & Congregation:

Welcome: Let's welcome the new family members with applause

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer:

- Sharing thanks or concerns
- People on Prayer Book – Debbie Stymiest
- Peace for countries in wars
- Ecumenical Prayer Cycle (18 - 24 February 2024):
France, Germany, Monaco

WE GO OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

(Let us present ourselves to God, either standing up or sitting down)

***Blessing Hymn:** 356, "Seek Ye First"

***Commissioning and Benediction:**

(Extinguishing the First Lenten Candles)

God continues to tear open the heavens of our world
and our lives, calling out with a voice of love:

"You are my beloved children, whom I love deeply."

God continues to tear open the heavens of our world
and our lives, sending us onto new paths and missions.

**God changes our hearts and lives,
and the Spirit pushes us in new directions.**

"Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom!"

We are Jesus people. We are kingdom people. Now is the time!

The grace of Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of us, now and forever.

Amen.

Rebecca J. Kruger Gaudino, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021

***Choral Closing:** (Choir) VU # 213, "Take Up This Song" x2

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Bible Readings for this week (Year B):

Genesis 9:8-17 / Psalm 25:1-10 / 1 Peter 3:18- 22 / Mark 1:9-15

- **Genesis 9:8-17:** When have you, after a season of loss, experienced new life? What was the sign of that new life?
- **Psalm 25:1-10:** How are you experiencing God's steadfast love and faithfulness in your life? How do you offer thanks?
- **2 Corinthians 5:20–6:10:** What negative consequences have you experienced as a result of your servanthood?
- **Mark 1:9-15:** Recall a "wilderness" experience in your own life. What helped you to move through that experience? What were the spiritual gifts of that experience?

The Upper Room, Disciplines 2024, www.upperroom.org/disciplines

Announcements

■ Memorials:

- In loving memory of **Ronnie Comeau**, a donation to Local Funds has been received from Jeanne Breau.

■ Worship:

1. Welcome everyone who worships with us today.

- If you would like to become a new member, please leave a **'Welcome card'** on the offering plate.
- Leave your offering on the plate at the entrance before the service. If you miss it, please bring it to the office after service.

2. We need "Bulletin Cover Photos" for each Sunday

The photo on the Bulletin cover is one of the ways we express our faith. For the Lenten and Easter Season, please submit photos for the Sunday bulletin to the church email.

3. Self-guided Lenten Bible Study:

- 1) "Lent 2024 40 Days Reflection" will help your daily Lenten Bible Study. (▪ Read the given Bible verse each day. ▪ Read the questions and meditate. ▪ End with your own prayer or the Lord's prayer.)
- 2) For deeper learning, you can buy this year's Lenten meditation book at <https://ucrdstore.ca/> or join the online National Lenten study at <https://churchx.ca/> (\$39.99 CAD)
- 3) The theme of this year's National Ecumenical Lent Campaign is **"Give it up for the Earth!"** During this year's Lent, all United Churches will work toward **"Act/Fast: Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis."** (Fasting to reduce greenhouse gases, disposable products and food waste, fasting for recycling, fasting on media use, etc.)

4. Worship Volunteers:

- **Greeters:** Feb. 25 – Barbara Doucet & Donna Curtis
- **Sound System:** Feb. 18 – Don Bowman/ Feb. 25 – Barry Campbell
- **PowerPoint:** Feb. 18 – Jennifer Walker/ Feb. 25 – Nathan Robichaud
- **Offering Counters:** Feb. 18 – Betty MacDiarmid, Marjorie Cassidy/ Feb. 25 – Judy & Dennis Morrison

5. Income Tax Receipts for the 2023 year are now ready and on the back table by the church office for pickup.

■ Regional & General Council News:

1. Black History (or African Heritage) Month

February is Black History (or African Heritage) Month. Officially recognized in Canada since 1996, this is a time to honour the contributions and struggles of people of African descent.

For the self-guided study, you can find Black History Month 2024 resource on the UCC website: <https://united-church.ca/blogs>

■ **This Week:**

1. Church Office hours:

Monday – Office Closed; Tuesday 9-4; Wednesday 9-4; Thursday 9-4; Friday 9-4

2. Weekly Collection;

Collection on Sunday, Feb. 11th \$ 957.00

Weekly Par Collection \$ 1,286.77

Total for Week of Feb. 11th \$ 2,243.77

Amount needed weekly to meet Budget \$3,962.00

3. The Villagers Concert realized a profit of \$835.00. A huge “Thank You” is extended to the Villagers Choral Group for performing for us and for helping with our fundraising goals for St. Andrew’s.

4. The Pancake Supper realized a profit of \$1,256.50.

Ferne & Ernie would like to thank all of the 52 volunteers who gave their time making cakes, beans and working so hard, both on Monday and Tuesday.

Thank you to Ferne and Ernie for overseeing this supper and making it such a success, you both worked extremely hard on this fundraiser and did a fantastic job.

5. Nursing Home Service at Losier Hall

Tuesday, Feb. 20th, 2:00 pm. New Year’s Communion. All are welcome to join the meditation service.

■ **Upcoming:**

1. Tuesday, Feb. 20th – 2:00 p.m. – Devotions will be held at Losier Hall.

2. The St. Andrew’s Breakfast group meets again in the main dining room of the Portage at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24th. Make plans to be there. All are welcome.

■ **Community Events:**

1. CGIT Alumni will be meeting for their monthly luncheon on Monday, Feb. 26th at 11:30 a.m. at Pizza Delight (Chatham) in the backroom. All former CGIT are invited to attend.

2. An evening of sharing our reading experience of “Rebekah” by Betty Ranford Turcott. Hosted by East Central Ontario Regions UCW

and open to All. Wednesday, Feb. 21st 7:00 p.m. till 8:30 p.m. Gather by ZOOM and contact Cheryl Mound to join, offer help or ideas, or get information. Contact cdmound@gmail.com
More information on the bulletin board inside the church doors.

- 3. **Smelt or Bologna (all you can eat) Supper** will be happening on Sunday, Feb. 25th from 2:00 till 5:00 p.m. at the Father Morrissey Centre, Bartibog. \$15 to eat in; \$17 for take outs. The meal will be served with potatoes, peas, roll and chow chow. Tea/Coffee will be available and the dessert will be homemade lemon chiffon pie.

- 4. **St. Paul’s Anglican Church, Bushville** will host the World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 1st at 2:00 p.m. The theme this year is “**I Beg You....Bear with One Another in Love**”

■ **Minister’s Office:**

1. **Pastoral Care and Pastoral Visit**

Pastoral care will happen as people request the minister. When you need pastoral care, contact Rev. JI or the church office.
Visits to the minister’s office are welcome anytime.

E-mail: rev.ekji@gmail.com



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to visit the St Andrew’s website.

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