



St. John's United Church of The United Church of Canada

75 Alma Street, Moncton, NB E1C 4Y3

506-858-8289 stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com

www.stjohnsmoncton.ca

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/16465565858>

<https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsmoncton>

Office Hours: M-F, 9am–1pm

A warm welcome is extended to all.

If you are a parent or caregiver, there is a kitchen and washrooms on the main and upstairs levels, as well as a diaper changing area upstairs.

Please feel free to return to the service at any time.

*The congregation is invited to join in responses printed in **bold**. Stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE

ELEGY

(Music: G.T. Thalben-Ball)

DOXOLOGY (541 VU)

(OLD 100TH) (Thomas Ken, Genevan Psalter)

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 23 and 1 John 3:16-24)

Day by day, God leads us:

**to the deep, deep pools of peace,
to the green, lush fields of grace.**

Day by day, Jesus calls us:

**to pour out ourselves in service,
to anoint the stranger with hope.**

Day by day, the Holy Spirit shows us:

**the community we could be,
the church we are called to become.**

HYMN 371 VU

OPEN MY EYES, THAT I MAY SEE

(OPEN MY EYES) (Words / Music: Clara H. Scott)

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

PRAYER OF APPROACH

**God of justice, peace and righteousness
come into our midst this day.**

**Breathe your breath,
your Spirit of prophecy, your energy,
your enlivening, your imagination on us.**

Wake us up

Open our eyes

Unplug our ears

That we might hear

That we might see

That we might grieve

That we might dream

**That we might follow the ways
of your extraordinary kingdom.**

We pray with the words Jesus taught us, saying, “Our Father...Amen.” (960 VU) (A laminated handheld version of The Lord’s Prayer can be found in the hymnbook holder in the pew.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of surprises, we know that we do not often perceive the world as you do.

We look to the flashy fame, the grand gestures, optimal achievements, and unreachable standards. Yet, in spite of our misguided reach towards perfection, you give us glimpses of your grandeur and grace. Surprise us yet again this day, O God, that in our complacency which allows us to drift towards the same old ways of faith that we may be transformed anew. Help us to see the cup that overflows with your abundance so that we may set out into your world to bless others.

In the name of the One whose love and peace make all things new we pray. Amen.

(moment of silence to offer personal thoughts and concerns)

WORDS OF GRACE

Friends, receive the Good News of God’s tender love and forgiveness this day.

God’s care and compassion for you abides in your heart today and always.

We are restored and renewed. Amen.

OFFERING

Offering boxes are located inside the Sanctuary at the two main entrances.

OFFERTORY (537 VU)

YOUR WORK, O GOD, NEEDS MANY HANDS

(KILMARNOCK) (Words: Calvin Weiss Laufer / Music: Neil Dougall)

Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere, and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share. Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make: be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

**Generous God, you remind us that you
“anoint our heads with oil” and that our
“cup overflows” with your abundance.
We do not take for granted all that you provide.
Take these gifts and use them
for the healing and tender care of your hurting world.
May your cup of love overflow and abide
with the hurting and heartbroken, forgotten and
despised, so that we may all be made whole. Amen.**

REMAIN SEATED

HYMN 365 VU

JESUS LOVES ME

(JESUS LOVES ME) (Words: Anna Bartlett Warner / Music: William Batchelder Bradbury)

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong, in his love we shall be strong.

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

Jesus loves me, this I know, as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee, saying, “Let them come to me.” *R*

Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live. *R*

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children up to age 12 yrs. are now invited to go to our Sunday School program time. If you are a child here for the first time, please feel welcome to join the children's group upstairs, or remain here for the rest of the service.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Read by Lillian MacMellon

Ephesians 5:8–14

Live as children of the light.

Psalm 23, Refrain 2, p. 749 VU

God is my shepherd.

(Music: Charles Collignon)

R2 The God of love my shepherd is; what can I want or need.

God is my shepherd,

there is nothing I shall lack.

You, God, make me lie down in green pastures,

you lead me beside peaceful waters;

you revive my spirit,

you guide me in right pathways for your name's sake. R

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

you are with me,

your rod and your staff are my comfort.

You spread a table for me in the sight of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup is overflowing.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in God's house my whole life long. R

John 9:1–41

Jesus heals the man born blind.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 652 VU

BE STILL, MY SOUL

(FINLANDIA) (Words: Katharina von Schlegel; English trans. Jane Laurie Borthwick /
Music Jean Sibelius; arr. *The Hymnal*)

Be still, my soul, for God is on your side;

bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.

Trust in your God, your saviour and your guide,

who through all changes faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul, your best, your heavenly friend

through thorny ways leads to a peaceful end.

Be still, my soul, your God will undertake

to guide the future surely as the past.

Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;

all now mysterious shall be bright at last.

Be still, my soul, life's tempests still obey

the voice that once the waves' wild fury stayed.

Be still, my soul, the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever in God's peace;
when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
love's joys restored, our strivings all shall cease.
Be still, my soul, when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed, we shall meet at last.

SERMON

ANTHEM *YOU ARE MINE* (Words / Music: David Haas; arr. Mark Hayes)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(We pray for Cavendish-Breadalbane Pastoral Charge)

HYMN p. 748 VU *GOD IS MY SHEPHERD (Psalm 23)*

(BROTHER JAAMES' AIR) (Words: *Scottish Psalter*; adapt. Lavon Bayler / Music: James
Leith Macbeth Bain; harm. Gordon Jacob; adapt. Walter W. Felton)

God is my shepherd, I'll not want, I feed in pastures green.
God grants me rest and bids me drink
from waters calm and clean.
Through daily tasks, I'm blessed and led
by one I have not seen.

Restored to life each morning new, I rise up from the dust
to follow God whose presence gives me confidence and trust.
I praise the name of God today; in God I put my trust.

When I must pass through shadowed vale,
where loss and death await,
I will not fear for God is there, my shepherd strong and great,
whose rod and staff will comfort me and all my fears abate.

No enemy can overcome, no power on earth defeat
the ones anointed by God's grace and fed with manna sweet.
My cup is filled and overflows as I my Saviour greet.

Goodness and mercy all my days will surely follow me;
and where God reigns in heaven and earth,
my dwelling place will be.

My shepherd blesses, cares and leads through all eternity.

COMMISSIONING FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

p. 918 VU, *A NEW CREED*

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God,

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL SONG POSTLUDE

GO NOW IN PEACE

(Words: Don Besig, Nancy Price / Music: Don Besig)

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

POSTLUDE

COME, YE FAITHFUL, RAISE THE STRAIN

(Music: Mary McDonald; Tune: St. Kevin by Arthur S. Sullivan)

During the postlude the congregation is welcome to depart.

**You are invited to join us in the Owen Fraser Hall
for a time of fellowship and refreshments.**



*For those attending the annual meeting,
please grab a refreshment, eat your
bag lunch and join us in the
Sanctuary for the Annual Meeting.*

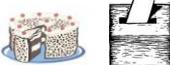
*The bulletin and pastoral letter are dedicated
in Loving Memory of
husband, Donald MacFarlane
by Elizabeth MacFarlane*



NOTICES, UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Check our website at www.stjohnsmoncton.ca
for **Sunday online Worship links**, calendar, and more.

Mar. 15	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP and Sunday School - 4 th Sunday in Lent	
Mar. 15	Sun.	12:30 p.m.	SJUC Annual Meeting (see notes) (Sanctuary)	
Mar. 16	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Al-Anon (weekly-Owen Fraser Hall)	
Mar. 17	Tues.			
Mar. 17	Tues.	7:00 p.m.	Finance & Property Management Committee (monthly-Owen Fraser Hall)	
Mar. 18	Wed.	6:15 p.m.	Sparks, Girl Guides of Canada (weekly-Owen Fraser Hall)	

Mar. 19	Thur.	7:00 p.m.	Choir (weekly-Choir Loft/Fellowship Room)
Mar. 19	Thur.	7:15 p.m.	Pathfinders, Girl Guides of Canada (weekly-Social Hall)
Mar. 21	Sat.	11:30 a.m.	Rehearsal – Scottish Assoc. (Sanctuary)
Mar. 22	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP and Sunday School - 5 th Sunday in Lent 
Mar. 22	Sun.	1:00 p.m.	Concert, 2pm – Scottish Assoc. (Sanctuary & Social Hall)
March 26 & 27	Thurs. & Fri.		Silent Auction & Dessert Extravaganza  (see note) (Owen Fraser Hall & Fellowship Room)
Mar. 28	Sat.	8:30- 9:30 pm.	
Mar. 29	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP and Sunday School - Palm Sunday  - Grocery Sunday (see note)  - Deadline to submit Easter Memorials
Mar. 30	Mon.	2:00 p.m.	UCW (monthly-Fellowship Room)

Announcements from other United Churches, Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region 14 and the community are shown on the TV in the Owen Fraser Hall and also located on the bulletin boards located at the Alma St. entrance and outside the Church Office.

SOBEYS & SUPERSTORE GIFT CARDS are sold each Sunday in the Sanctuary before and after Worship and at the Church Office M-F, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.



We make 4% on every card sold. Your support is needed and appreciated.

WELCOME!

We would like to warmly welcome any new faces to our church family today! Please feel free to introduce yourself to a fellow member or reach out to our minister if you have any



questions. We invite you to stay after the service for fellowship. Fill in the “welcome” envelope located on the table at our two main entrances and place in the offering box (no money required) or email the church office at stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com to let us know you are worshipping with us.



ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL MEETING will be held Sun., **March 15**, 2026 in the Sanctuary following Worship at 12:30 p.m. This is open to all who attend here. Come and be involved in your Church community. The

Annual Report is available on our church website www.stjohnsmoncton.ca. If you would like a printed copy, contact the Church Office. A few printed copies will be available at the meeting.



We appreciate your donation of any items - in good/working condition - that will attract bidders - i.e. hand-crafted items, needlework, paintings, china, furniture, lamps, household items, dishes, antiques, silver, brass, copper, paintings, pictures, puzzles, collectibles, etc.

UCW ladies will be looking for **help on Monday, March 23**, to bring the boxes upstairs for the Silent Auction. Please let Brenda McFarlane (506-852-3550) know if you are able to assist.

Articles may be dropped off at the Church until March 25 on weekdays, 9:30am-1pm and on Sunday when you come to Worship.

SILENT AUCTION & DESSERT EXTRAVAGANZA

<i>Come, and bring a friend!</i>	<u>Silent Auction</u>	<u>Dessert Extravaganza</u>
	 <p>Choose from hundreds of items to bid on. Bids opened Friday evening and winners notified.</p>	<p>Eat-in or Take-Out \$7.50/serving  (Includes tea/coffee.)</p>
Thur., Mar. 26	10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.	2:00 - 4:00 & 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Fri., Mar. 27	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The **PASTORAL CARE & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** needs volunteers for the various roles and activities the committee undertakes. If you would like to help or for more information, speak to Valerie Roy or contact the church office.

EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES are located at each of the church entrances. If you use SJUC box offering envelopes, an Easter envelope is in your box. If you use PAR, an Easter envelope is in your PAR envelope packet. The Church thanks you for your support.



EASTER PLANTS – Again this Easter, plants will be placed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. If you wish to help us with our plant order, you may make a memorial in memory of a loved one. All memorials will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 5.

Cost is \$15.00 each. The deadline to have your memorial form/payment to the Church Office is Sunday, **March 29.**

Order forms are located at the Church main entrances.

GROCERY SUNDAY FOR KARING KITCHEN

(**Mar. 29** – last Sunday of the month)

The Outreach Committee would like to bring your attention to the Karing Kitchen's need for these groceries: cream of celery soup, honey garlic sauce, flakes of ham and sugar. *White baskets will be at the main entrance for your donations.* Thank you.



BAPTISM, TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP, PROFESSION OF FAITH AND CONFIRMATION

The Pastoral Care & Membership Committee, as part of their mandate, is to seek those congregants who wish baptism, to transfer their church membership or become a member of to St. John's. This requires a phone call or email to Karen at the Church Office (506-858-8289 or stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com). In case of transfer, we will contact your former church. We will receive new members on **Easter Sunday, April 5.**

DEDICATE THE BULLETIN/PASTORAL LETTER in memory of a loved one(s). The cost is \$50.00. Upcoming date available: June 7, 2026. If you dedicated last year, you will be contacted to see if you want to dedicate again.

THE "BAKELESS BAKE SALE" has become an annual event of the St. John's UCW. This is a very popular and highly successful project. Our little rhyme explains how it works, and we hope you will give it your support.

We appreciate any amount you may wish to donate. Please have all donations in by the end of June. Envelopes are located at the church entrance. If you use SJUC box offering envelopes, an envelope is in your box. If you use PAR, an envelope is in your PAR envelope packet. Place your donation in the offering box on a Sunday morning, mail, drop off in the mail slot or use e-transfer.

*A lot of news we have to-day
A Bakeless Bake Sale is on the way.
In these busy days, who wants to bake
Pies and cookies - or even a cake?
You'd be surprised if you counted the cost
Of materials, heat and time you have lost.
Cooking for a sale is extra work
Yet nobody really wishes to shirk.
So we've thought of a plan that's really grand
And feel quite sure you will understand.
In this little envelope - just for our sake -
Please place the donation that you wish to make
Without fuss or bother, you've done your part
We're sure you'll give with a willing heart.
This is the end of our little tale -
Please wish us success with our Bakeless Bake Sale.*



STEWARDSHIP SECOND – Use generosity and gratitude to bring light, truth, and wholeness.

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH CARES... To notify the Minister of personal concerns, anxieties, illnesses, hospitalizations or deaths, or to pass along a prayer request, contact Rev. Aaron Billard at 506-858-8289 or sjucrev@gmail.com

Greeters & Offering

South Door – Alma St
Sylvia Ribble & Rheal Leger

North Door – Victoria St.
Brenda McFarlane

CHURCH MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND STAFF



Rev. Aaron Billard, *Minister*
sjucrev@gmail.com



Shelley Arsenault, B.Mus.B.Ed.
Music Director



Karen Geldart
Office Administrator
stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com



Pat Arsenault, *Custodian*



Rev. Dr. Douglas MacEachern
Minister Emeritus
douglasimaceachern@gmail.com

Church Council

Chair: Roland Gallant

Secretary: Karen Teed

Treasurer: Kimberley Buck de Jesus

Board of Trustees: Graham McCrea

Christian Development: vacant; Sunday School: Sonja Webster

Finance & Property Management: Marlene Godfrey

Fundy-St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region reps.: Rev. Aaron Billard,
Kimberley Buck de Jesus and Karen Geldart

Ministry & Personnel: Kimberley Buck de Jesus

Pastoral Care & Membership: Valerie Roy

UCW: Brenda McFarlane

Worship & Music: Sheri Brooks



March 22





*Easter Memorial
Flowers*

MEMORIAL DEDICATION FORM

Easter plants will be placed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. If you wish to help us with our plant order, you may make a memorial in memory of a loved one; below are ways to reach us:

- complete this form with payment and place in the offering box
- complete this form with payment and drop off in the mail slot on the Victoria St. church entrance
- complete this form with payment and mail to the church at 75 Alma St., Moncton, NB E1C 4Y3
- complete this form or provide the same details in an email to the office at stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com and pay by either e-transfer, mail a cheque, or drop off a cheque/cash in the church mail slot on the Victoria St. door

The cost is \$15.00 each. (tax receiptable). The deadline to have your form/payment to the Church Office is Sunday, **March 29, 2026**.
All memorials will be listed in the bulletin on April 5th.

The Easter plants will decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday and will then be delivered to our shut-ins (those on our church pastoral care shut-in list) after the service.

(Any extra proceeds go to the Chancel Fund to help cover costs associated with the Sanctuary.)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Quantity: _____

In Memory of: _____

Dedicated by: _____

(use back of form for additional dedications)