

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH

75 Alma Street, Moncton, NB E1C 4Y3

506-858-8289 sjuc@nb.aibn.com www.StJohnsMoncton.ca

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

Office Hours: M-F, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

A warm welcome is extended to all.

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

PRELUDE LORD JESUS, YOU SHALL BE MY SONG VU

DOXOLOGY (541 VU)

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW (OLD 100TH)

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

(Inspired by Psalm 90)

Holy One, you have been our God from generation to generation.
Before the universe exploded and the earth was without form,
you have been with us. .

Creator,

you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

We enter your presence to worship and praise your holy name.

Mighty One,

you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Teach us to count the days with joy and appreciation
for all your marvelous works and steadfast love.

Everlasting God,

you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

HYMN 642 VU *BE THOU MY VISION*

(SLANE)

Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Generous God, you pour your Spirit into us.

You bless us with your love.

In your presence, there is fullness of joy,

comfort for those in despair,

and peace in the midst of chaos and confusion.

You do not abandon us

in time of need or of celebration.

We turn toward you now seeking

to receive your message, to give you honour,

and to commune in your presence.

Make yourself known among us, O God,

make yourself known to us. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sovereign God, we confess that life is hard. We don't always make the best choices, and all too often we realize the options before us are lacking. We are overwhelmed with the enormity of the world's problems. Sometimes, we turn away completely. Sometimes, we respond with our tribal allegiances first in mind. Bitterness and resentment are easy guides. Help us seek wisdom and clarity, compassion and presence, hope and peace over shallow victories, material gain, and violence of the mind, body, or spirit. Bless us to be peacemakers, hope sharers, and love spreaders in the world for our neighbours and for your glory. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, God is merciful
and journeys with us as we navigate uncertain terrain.
God is still at work in us and through us that we might have
flourishing and abundant lives in community with one another.
Receive the grace God grants to begin anew when our journey
stalls or diverts from the path of the kingdom.
That grace is yours.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY (115 MV)

BEHOLD, BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW

Behold, behold I make all things new,
beginning with you and starting from today.
Behold, behold I make all things new,
my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.

PRAYER FOR THE OFFERING

Generous God,

we bring the gifts of ourselves and our abundance.

Magnify and multiply these offerings

to meet the needs before us.

Continue to cultivate the spirit of generosity among us

and make us good stewards as we allocate

the use of these gifts in your name.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S HYMN 229 VU *GOD OF THE SPARROW*

(ROEDER)

God of the sparrow God of the whale

God of the swirling stars

How does the creature say Awe

How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake God of the storm

God of the trumpet blast

How does the creature cry Woe

How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow God of the cross

God of the empty grave

How does the creature say Grace

How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry God of the sick

God of the prodigal

How does the creature say Care

How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbour God of the foe

God of the pruning hook

How does the creature say Love

How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages God near at hand

God of the loving heart

How do your children say Joy

How do your children say Home

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. 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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Read by Valerie Roy

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

The day of God will come as a thief in the night.

Psalms 123, p. 847 VU

We lift our eyes to you, O God.

*R To you, O God, our eyes we raise
until your mercy we may praise.*

To you I lift up my eyes,

to you who are enthroned in the heavens.

As the eyes of servants look to their master's hands,

as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

so our eyes look to you, O God,

as we wait till you show us your favour. R

We have had more than enough of contempt.

Too long we have suffered the scorn of the wealthy,

and the contempt of the arrogant. R

Matthew 25:14–30

The parable of the talents.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 506 VU TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE

(MOZART)

Take my life and let it be consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be swift and purposeful for thee.

Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne,

Take my love; and I will pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

SERMON

MINISTRY OF MUSIC *I, THE LORD OF SEA AND SKY* VU

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN 686 VU *GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY*
(CWM RHONDDA)

God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
now fulfil your church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us,
scorn your Christ, assail your ways;
fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring madness,
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places,
gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christlike graces,
pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
that we fail not them nor thee.

BENEDICTION

As you go on your journey...
Trust in God.
Use your talents.
Multiply the impact of your gifts.
Enter the Holy One's joy.

POSTLUDE


GOD LIGHTS A LAMP
Sung by the Choir

Then Let Us Sing

Investment: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost were written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

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.***



*The bulletin and pastoral letter are dedicated in
Loving Memory of
John Wadman
who passed away Nov. 21, 2017
by Evie, Susan, Joan & Gary and Family*

NOTICES, UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Check our website at www.stjohnsmoncton.ca
for on-line Worship, calendar, and more.

Nov. 19	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP and Sunday School – in-person & online - 2024 offering envelopes and PAR packets for pick up
Nov. 19	Sun.	12:30 p.m.	Ministry & Personnel Committee (upstairs)
Nov. 21	Tues.	2:00 p.m.	Friendship Group (Fellowship Room)

Nov. 22	Wed.	7:00 p.m.	Finance & Property Management Committee (Owen Fraser Hall)
Nov. 23	Thur.	7:00 p.m.	Pathfinders, Girl Guides of Canada (weekly-Social Hall)
Nov. 23	Thur.	7:00 p.m.	Choir (weekly-Choir Loft/Fellowship Room)
Nov. 25	Sat.	9:30 a.m.	UCW Women's Advent Rally (see note)
Nov. 26	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP and Sunday School – in-person & online - Communion - Anniversary Sunday - Reign of Christ Sunday - Welcome new members - Grocery Sunday (see note)
			  
Nov. 27	Mon.	2:00 p.m.	UCW Annual Meeting Bring all reports for the annual meeting. (monthly-Fellowship Room)
Nov. 28	Tues.	7:00 p.m.	Church Council (monthly-Owen Fraser Hall)
Nov. 30	Thur.	2:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	UCW Christmas Craft Sale table at Royal Court, Coverdale Rd., Riverview. Public is invited to shop.
Dec. 3	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP and Sunday School – in-person & online - 1 st Sunday of Advent - Hope
			
Dec. 3	Sun.	7:00 p.m.	A United Christmas Celebration – United Churches of greater Moncton (& SJUC) gather to share our Music Ministry and Celebrate Christmas at St. Paul's UC, Riverview. (see note)
			
Dec. 4	Mon.		Deadline to submit Christmas Memorials - form at church entrances
			

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.



Are you thinking of **donating** money to the **KARING KITCHEN**? Why not purchase a \$25, \$50 or \$100 Grocery Card either from the Church Office or after Worship during coffee hour. Your purchase will provide a 4% profit to our Grocery Card sales will provide the Karing Kitchen with much needed options for either Sobeys or Superstore groceries and will provide you with a year-end tax receipt for your donation. A win-win-win all around!!!

2024 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES & PAR PACKETS WITH SPECIAL OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available for pick up. Please do not use your 2024 envelopes until the New Year. As a cost-saving measure, offering envelopes not used in 2023 were not renewed.

You may donate to the church in a variety of ways:

- PAR (pre-authorized remittance) – form available on our website; pamphlet located at church entrances and outside church office; PAR cards are available to put in the offering box on Sundays
- e-transfer (use sjuc@nb.aibn.com - no password needed) - link in our website – identified with giver's name/address (for income tax purposes) if first time giver
- box offering envelopes – contact the church office
- Canada Helps – online - link on our website
- cash or cheque - identified with giver's name/address (for income tax purposes).

Blank offering envelopes are located at both church entrances for donation purposes. Write your name/address to identify your donation in order for an official receipt to be prepared for income tax purposes.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

WOMEN'S ADVENT RALLY

Sponsored by Chignecto UCW

November 25th - 9:30 am

St. John's United Church

ANGELS AMONG US

Guest Speaker - Rev. Janice MacLean

Bring a bag lunch!

Call 858-8289 to register



ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL OFFERING ENVELOPES are located at the Church main entrances. If you use SJUC box offering envelopes, an Anniversary envelope is in your box. If you use PAR, your Anniversary envelope is in your packet of envelopes. The Church thanks you for your support.

GROCERIES FOR KARING KITCHEN

(Nov. 26 – last Sunday of the month)

We are starting up grocery Sunday again! The Outreach Committee would like to bring your attention to the Karing Kitchen's need for these groceries: sandwich bags (zip lock), minute rice, butter chicken sauce, alfredo sauce, garlic sauce, flakes of ham. *White baskets will be at the main entrance for your donations.* Thank you.



CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS

In an effort to increase our numbers for the Christmas season, we extend an open invitation to join us with a further invitation to continue on after 'but with no pressure'. Just arrive at practice on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. or contact one of the Choir members or the organist. *Mel*

A United Christmas Celebration



Join us **Sunday December 3 at 7 pm**
as **United Churches** of greater Moncton gather to
share our Music Ministry and Celebrate Christmas
– *everyone is welcome* –

Location; St. Paul's United Church **404 Cleveland Ave** in Riverview



Refreshments to follow &
donations will be collected for our
local food banks

Any inquiries please contact:

Brenda Barnes, St. Paul's United
Bbarnes.musician@gmail.com

or

Martha Shaw, Visions United
marthashaw11@gmail.com



Each Wednesday evening during Advent, you are invited to a gathering on Zoom to share in the coming Sunday's readings as we prepare for the season of Christmas. Bring your questions and curiosity as we make this holy journey towards the light of Christmas while holding onto the message of Advent to wait and wonder.

Led by our Minister, each session will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will last approximately an hour. Register by emailing Rev. Billard at sjucrev@gmail.com. Each week a Zoom link will be sent out to you as well as the lectionary readings for that Sunday.

Schedule: **Dec. 6, 13 & 20.**

If you've never taken part in a Bible Study before, this is a great opportunity. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask. You don't have to take part in each session, just as you are able.



We will be supporting Crossroads for Women here in Moncton. Each Sunday **until Dec. 17** you are invited to bring a personal care item to place in a white basket as you come into the church. We will be dropping off these items in support of the work of Crossroads, which is also supported by the St. John's UCW. Items suggested: toilet

paper, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, lotions (for dry months), canned goods like soups and pasta. Thank you in advance for your support of this important program.



GIFTS WITH VISION CATALOGUE - New gifts, new hope. Giving a gift to a friend or loved one through Gifts with Vision can make a world of difference. The new Gifts with Vision giving catalogue is now online! Take a look! <https://www.giftswithvision.ca>

Catalogues are also available at our two main entrances.

STEWARDSHIP SECOND – “Good stewardship is not conserving and holding, protecting and preserving. Good stewardship is growing, developing, advancing, and building the gifts with which God has blessed us.” Kennon L. Callahan, *Giving and Stewardship in an Effective Church: A Guide for Every Member* (San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1992), 115.

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.
Mary Campbell

North Door – Victoria St.
Don & Elsa Sage

CHURCH MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND STAFF



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



Karen Geldart
Office Administrator
sjuc@nb.aibn.com



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



Rev. Melvin G. Fawcett
Music Director
melvinfawcett7@gmail.com



Pat Arsenault, *Custodian*

