

16<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost

September 28, 2025



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

75 Alma Street, Moncton, NB E1C 4Y3

506-858-8289 [stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com)

[www.stjohnsmoncton.ca](http://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.**

Nursery service for infants and toddlers is available in the nursery on the second floor.

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**

**RICERCAR**

(Music: Johann Pachelbel)

**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** (Inspired Psalm 146)

Praise God! Praise the Holy One, O my soul!

**We will sing praises to God our whole lives long!**

Praise God in whom we may trust.

Praise God in whom we may hope.

**Happy are we whose hope  
is in the Maker of heaven and earth.**

The Holy One lifts the bowed down.

The Righteous One loves justice.

**The Holy One brings the way of the wicked to ruin.  
Praise God who reigns forever!**

## **HYMN 242 VU      *LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING***

(THE ASH GROVE) (Words: Katherine K. Davis / Music: Welsh folk melody)

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
to God our Creator triumphantly raise,  
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
by guiding us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,  
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,  
till shadows have vanished, all darkness is banished,  
as forward we travel from light into light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses  
and sun in its orbit, obediently shine;  
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine,  
We, too should be voicing our love and rejoicing,  
with glad adoration a song let us raise:  
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,  
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

## **PRAYER OF APPROACH**

**God our Comforter and our Confronter, speak to our  
souls. Engage our spirits with truth and compassion.  
Stir our hearts with your vision of a world full of your  
love and hope. Inspire us through your word,  
meet us in the moment, and infuse us with joy and  
courage to pursue your way. Guide us on the journey  
even as you dwell in our worship so that we may  
honour you and be restored in you.**

**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**

**Compassionate God, we need to repent. We confess that too often we only care about our own suffering and discomfort and ignore the pain and troubles of our neighbour. We turn away or even contribute to the plight of others. We feast on systems that create deprivation and inequity. We enjoy the spoils of war that leave human siblings to subsistence in rubble and ruins. We accept distortions of the gospel that claim that your creation is insufficient to meet the needs of your beloved when your kingdom enables all to flourish. Meet us as we turn back to your way and your reign. Liberate us so that we may be instruments of restoration, repair, and renewal in your name. Amen.**  
*(moment of silence to offer personal thoughts and concerns)*

## **WORDS OF GRACE**

God’s mercy endures and renews. The world envisioned by the Holy One is available when we believe it, commit to it, and pursue it with all our being. Receive God’s grace to do a new thing, in word and in deed, so that the world may know the love of God, the hope of God, and the promise of God through what we say, how we live, what we do, and the fruit we produce.

## **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**

**Holy One, receive these gifts as expressions of trust  
and love of You and care and love of your beloved.  
Magnify them for your glory and bless those who give  
in faithfulness and hope. Amen.**

## **HYMN 661 VU**

### **COME TO MY HEART**

(COME TO MY HEART) (Words / Music: Joe Pinson)

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; come to my heart today.

Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring.

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.

Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.

Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; fill me with love today.

Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring.

Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; answer my prayer today.

Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring.

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.

## **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 Coleen Whitford

### **Jeremiah 32:1–3a, 6–15**

Houses, fields, and vineyards shall again be purchased.

### **Psalms 91, p. 807 VU**

God will raise you up on eagle's wings.

(Music: Michael Joncas)

*R: "And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of my hand."*

You who dwell in the shelter of your God,  
who abide in God's shadow for life,  
**say to your God: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"**  
The snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
and famine will bring you no fear:  
**under God's wings your refuge,  
God's faithfulness your shield. R**

You need not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day;  
**though thousands fall about you,  
near you it shall not come.**  
For to the angels is given a command to guard you  
in all your ways;  
**upon their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you dash your foot against a stone. R**

"Because they have set their love upon me I will deliver them,  
**I will uphold them because they know my name.**  
When they call to me I will answer,  
**I will be with them in trouble;**  
I will rescue and bring them to honour.  
**With long life I will satisfy them,  
and show them my saving power." R**

**Luke 16:19–31**

The rich man and Lazarus.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **HYMN, 260 VU GOD WHO GIVES TO LIFE ITS GOODNESS**

(ABBOT'S LEIGH) (Words: Walter Farquharson / Music: Cyril Vincent Taylor)

God who gives to life its goodness,  
God creator of all joy,  
God who gives to us our freedom,  
God who blesses tool and toy:  
teach us now to laugh and praise you,  
deep within your praises sing,  
till the whole creation dances for the goodness of its King.

God who fills the earth with beauty,  
God who binds each friend to friend,  
God who names us co-creators  
God who wills that chaos end:  
grant us now creative spirits,  
minds responsive to your mind,  
hearts and wills your rule extending all our acts by Love refined.

## SERMON

## ANTHEM

*LET PRAISES FILL THIS PLACE*

(Words / Music: Keith Christopher)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(We pray for Central United Church)

## HYMN 288 VU

***GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS***

(FAITHFULNESS) (Words: Thomas O. Chisholm / Music: William M. Runyan)

Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided --  
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *R*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow --  
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. *R*

## BENEDICTION

As you go,  
Spread comfort and hope  
Notice people  
Recognize their condition  
Know their worth  
And be comforted  
That the Maker of heaven and earth  
Notices you  
Recognizes your condition  
And knows your worth.  
Go in hope and care.

## 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.

**Comfort and Agony: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost** was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

---

***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  
our loved ones. Forever missed.  
by Nina & Norm Bourque*

*The Church extends its deepest  
sympathies and condolences to the  
family and friends of  
**Alberta MacLellan**  
(wife of the late Dr. Donald MacLellan)  
who died on September 25, 2025*

**MEMORIAL**

*Donations have been made to  
St. John's United Church in loving memory of  
**Dale Cale**  
(wife of Garth Cale)  
by Robert & Lucille Charman*

**IN HONOUR**

*A donation has been made to the  
Mission & Service Fund in honour of  
**Art & Sonja Buck**  
on their recent anniversary  
by the Rev. Dr. Doug & June MacEachern*

**National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Day  
September 30**



People all across Canada will wear orange shirts to remember and honour Indigenous children who were taken from their communities and families to residential institutions. On Orange Shirt Day we also observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. For non-Indigenous Christians in particular, this is a time to reflect on their role in colonialism and the ongoing responsibility to make reparations.





# **NOTICES, UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

Check our website at [www.stjohnsmoncton.ca](http://www.stjohnsmoncton.ca)  
for **Sunday online Worship links**, calendar, and more.

Sept. 28	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	<b>WORSHIP and Sunday School</b> - Truth & Reconciliation Sunday; wear an orange shirt - Grocery Sunday (see note)  
Sept. 28	Sun.	4:00 p.m.	<b>A United Hymn Sing</b> at Mount Royal United Church (see bulletin board)
Sept. 29	Mon.	2:00 p.m.	<b>UCW</b> (monthly-Fellowship Room)
Sept. 29	Mon	7:00 p.m.	Al-Anon (weekly-Owen Fraser Hall)
Sept. 30	Tues.		<b>SENB Youth Group:</b> Expression of Interest at St. Paul;s UC survey deadline. (see bulletin board)
Sept. 30	Tues.		<b>National Day of Truth and Reconciliation &amp; Orange Shirt Day</b> 
Sept. 30	Tues.		<b>Church / Office closed –</b> National Day of Truth and Reconciliation
Sept. 30	Tues.	7:00 p.m.	<b>Church Council</b> (monthly-Owen Fraser Hall)
Oct. 1	Wed.	6:15 p.m.	Sparks, Girl Guides of Canada (weekly-Owen Fraser Hall)
Oct. 2	Thur.	7:00 p.m.	<b>Choir</b> (weekly-Choir Loft/Fellowship Room)
Oct. 2	Thur.	7:15 p.m.	Pathfinders, Girl Guides of Canada (weekly-Social Hall)
Oct. 5	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	<b>WORSHIP and Sunday School</b> - World Communion Sunday 
Oct. 8	Wed.	7:00 p.m.	<b>UCW Fashion Show</b> (see note) (Owen Fraser Hall)
Oct. 10	Fri.	10:30 a.m.	<b>Worship</b> with the Rev. Aaron Billard at <b>Royal Court Chapel</b> , 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Coverdale Rd., Riverview If you are a resident there, we ask you to help us spread the word to members of the congregation who live there.

Oct. 10	Fri.	9am-1pm	<p>If you have harvest items (pumpkins, gourds) you would like to add to the <b>Thanksgiving display</b> at the front of the Sanctuary, please bring items in <b><u>NO LATER THAN</u> Friday.</b></p> 
Oct. 12	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	<p><b>WORSHIP</b> and <b>Sunday School</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thanksgiving Sunday</li> <li>- Blessing of the Backpacks</li> </ul> <p>We are sending our students and teachers back to school with our prayers and blessings. All kids, preschool through college, are invited to bring their backpacks to Worship and join us for this special time of blessing as they begin an exciting new school year.</p>  <p>Blessing of the Backpacks</p>
Oct. 12	Sun.	2:30 p.m.	<p><b>Worship</b> with the Rev. Aaron Billard at <b>Peoples Park Tower Chapel</b>, 960 St. George Blvd., Moncton. If you are a resident there, we ask you to help us spread the word to members of the congregation who live there.</p>
Oct. 13	Mon.		<b>church / office closed</b> – Thanksgiving Day
Oct. 14	Tues.	2:00 p.m.	<p><b>Friendship Group</b> (monthly-Fellowship Room)</p> 

*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.*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School resumed on **Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>**. Please fill out the Sunday School Registration Form located on our church website and at our two main entrances. Return the form to the church office either in person, by mail, drop off in our church mail slot (on Victoria St. door) or email [stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com). Thank you.



## NEW CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESS



Please note, the church now has a new email address. The old address was [sjuc@nb.aibn.com](mailto:sjuc@nb.aibn.com), while the new address is [stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com). Please adjust your correspondence as well as your Interac email transfer contacts accordingly.

## ST. JOHN'S HAS A NEW PRESENCE ON INSTAGRAM!

If you use Instagram, please give us a follow!

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

## 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 or email the church office at [stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com) to let us know you are worshipping with us.



## GROCERY SUNDAY FOR KARING KITCHEN

(Sept. 28 – last Sunday of the month)

The Outreach Committee would like to bring your attention to the Karing Kitchen's need for these groceries: cornstarch, can milk, soda crackers, alfredo sauce and honey-garlic sauce. *White baskets will be at the main entrance for your donations.* Thank you.



**DEDICATE THE BULLETIN/PASTORAL LETTER** in memory of a loved one(s). The cost is \$50.00. Upcoming date available: Oct. 12, 2025. If you dedicated last year, you will be contacted before your date to see if you want to dedicate again.



**UCW FALL FASHION SHOW** will take place of **Wednesday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**. Tickets are \$12.00 and available from members of the UCW and church office. Dessert and tea/coffee will be served. Door prizes. Fashions provided by Cazza.

**THANKSGIVING SPECIAL OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Thanksgiving envelopes are located at both church entrances. If you use SJUC box offering envelopes, a Thanksgiving envelope is in your box. If you use PAR, your Thanksgiving envelope is in your packet of envelopes. You can place your envelope in the offering box on Sunday, mail or drop your envelope in the mail slot on the Victoria St. entrance; e-transfer also an option. The Church thanks you for your support.



**DIME BLITZ**



This UCW fundraiser has now drawn to a close, and it's time to bring in the bottles of dimes you have saved over the summer. Please do this before the end of September



Deposit in the offering box on a Sunday morning or drop off in the mail slot located on the Victoria St. entrance door. Thank you for your continued support of UCW projects. Please ensure each container is labelled with your name.

**STEWARDSHIP SECOND** – We have all been blessed, so we all have a great opportunity to bless others through generosity.

**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](mailto:sjucrev@gmail.com)

**Greeters & Offering**

*South Door – Alma St*  
Susan & Bruce MacLeod

*North Door – Victoria St.*  
Cheryl & Graham McCrea

**CHURCH MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND STAFF**



Rev. Aaron Billard, *Minister*  
[sjucrev@gmail.com](mailto:sjucrev@gmail.com)

Karen Geldart  
*Office Administrator*  
[stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsmoncton@gmail.com)

Rev. Dr. Douglas MacEachern  
*Minister Emeritus*  
[douglasimaceachern@gmail.com](mailto:douglasimaceachern@gmail.com)



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

Pat Arsenault, *Custodian*

**Church Council**

Chair: Roland Gallant  
Secretary: Karen Teed  
Treasurer: Kimberley Buck de Jesus  
Board of Trustees: Graham McCrea  
Christian Development: Jennifer MacNairn; 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

