

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH

75 Alma Street, Moncton, NB E1C 4Y3
T: 858-8289 E: sjuc@nb.aibn.com W: www.StJohnsMoncton.ca
FB: St. John's United Church, United Church of Canada
Office Hours: M-F, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

WELCOME! A warm welcome is extended to all.
Your presence enriches both us and this time of celebration together.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son."

John 3:16 (NRSV)

The central Christian belief is that Christ's death has somehow put us right with God and given us a fresh start. Theories as to how it did this are another matter. A good many different theories have been held as to how it works: what all Christians agree on is that it works.

C.S. Lewis
Mere Christianity



*The bulletin is dedicated in Loving Memory of
Past Members
by the Fellowship Group*

NOTICES, UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

| | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|------------|--|--|
| Mar. 11 | Sun. | 11:00 a.m. | WORSHIP - 4 th Sunday in Lent |  |
| Mar. 12 | Mon. | 7:15 p.m. | Pathfinders, Girl Guides of Canada (weekly-Social Hall) | |
| Mar. 14 | Wed. | 12:00 p.m. | Lenten Bible Study (see note) (Owen Fraser Hall) | |
| Mar. 14 | Wed. | 7:00 p.m. | Worship & Music Comm. (monthly-Owen Fraser Hall) | |
| Mar. 15 | Thur. | | Deadline to register for bowling (see note) | |
| Mar. 15 | Thur. | 7:00 p.m. | Choir (weekly-Sanctuary/Fellowship Room) | |
| Mar. 16 | Fri. | 12:30 p.m. | Finance Committee (monthly-Owen Fraser Hall) | |
| Mar. 17 | Sat. | 8:30 a.m. | St. Patrick's Day Breakfast (see note) (Social Hall) | |
| Mar. 18 | Sun. | 11:00 a.m. | WORSHIP and Sunday School - 5 th Sunday in Lent |  |
| Mar. 18 | Sun. | | Deadline to order or renew Observer (see note) | |
| Mar. 18 | Sun. | 2:00 p.m. | Trefoil Guild, Girl Guides of Canada (Owen Fraser Hall) | |
| Mar. 18 | Sun. | 2:30 p.m. | Sunday School Bowling (see note) | |
| Mar. 21 | Wed. | 7:00 p.m. | Maple District, Girl Guides of Canada (Social Hall) | |
| Mar. 22 & 23 | Thurs. & Fri. | | Silent Auction & Dessert Extravaganza (see note) | |
| Mar. 23 | Fri. | | Deadline to register for Maritime Conference UCW Biennial Meeting on April 27-29, 2017 | |
| Mar. 25 | Sun. | 11:00 a.m. | WORSHIP and Sunday School - Palm Sunday - Grocery Sunday |  |

OFFERING FROM MARCH 4, 2018

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|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Plate Loose | \$ 29.00 | Karing Kitchen | \$ 20.00 (1) |
| Local | \$1,269.00 (48) | Bulletin Dedication | \$ 100.00 |
| PAR local | \$6,984.20 (78) | Housing (from Trustees) | \$1,000.00 |
| Mission & Service | \$ 179.00 (14) | Grocery Cards | \$1,000.00 |
| M&S Memorial | \$ 10.00 | Parking Revenue | \$ 675.00 |
| PAR M&S | \$ 902.46 (38) | Observer Magazine | \$ 25.00 |
| Easter Flower Memorial | \$ 15.00 | Karing Kitchen Rent | \$ 500.00 |

Thank you for your generous and continued support!

SOBEYS & SUPERSTORE GIFT CARDS are sold each Sunday at the sales table in the Owen Fraser Hall after Worship during fellowship and coffee time or at the Church Office on weekdays during office hours.

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

Year-to-date sales: \$4,250.00

Profit: \$170.00



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M&S UPDATE: Goal: \$23,500.00

Givings to date: \$3,585.42 (15%)

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EASTER NEWSLETTER – Did you receive your Easter Newsletter in your in-box? If not, please provide your email address to the Church Office by emailing sjuc@nb.aibn.com. For those without email, a few printed copies of the Newsletter are located at the Church main entrances.

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

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Lenten Bible Study

ENGAGING THE PARABLES - Through a study of some of the Parables from the Gospels, the Christian Development Committee of St. John's United Church, corner of Alma & Victoria Streets, invite you to attend this year's

Lenten Bible study, led by Minister Emeritus, Rev. Dr. Doug MacEachern. Through the study you will be invited to a different way of seeing God, yourself, others and life itself. Dates and time for the four week study: **February 28, March 7, 14, 21** – noon, 12:00-1:00 p.m. You are asked to bring a Bible and bag lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided. Everyone is invited! To register and to receive a parking permit, please Doug at dougjune@nb.sympatico.ca

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY BREAKFAST

Saturday, **March 17**, 2018, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

St. John's United Church (Social Hall)

Menu includes: eggs, ham, muffins, toast, tea & coffee

Irish Entertainment

Childcare available. Free-will offering.

Let us know you will be attending; sign-up sheets are located at the Church entrances.



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CONFIRMATION/MEMBERSHIP – If you are interested in being confirmed and becoming a member of St. John's or would like to transfer your membership to St. John's, please contact the Church Office or Rev. Aaron Billard by phone or email.

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BOWLING - All children from St. John's Sunday School are invited to join us for an afternoon of bowling on **Sunday, March 18 at 2:30 p.m.** at the Fairlane's Bowling Centre on Mountain Rd. The bowling will take place from 2:30-3:30 p.m. and then we will walk over to McDonald's for an ice cream. **Pick-up time will be 4:00 p.m.** at McDonald's. There is no cost associated with this event as it is being sponsored by the CD Committee. Please **RSVP before March 15** to confirm your child's participation. We are also looking for 4 or 5 adult volunteers to help with the supervision etc., so please let us know if you can stay for the event.

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OBSERVER MAGAZINE - Now is the time to **ORDER OR RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION**. The *Observer* is a publication of The United Church of Canada and is published 11 times a year. For only \$25.00/year you can learn what's happening within the United Churches across the country. If you're not familiar with the Observer, check out the copies on the table outside the Church Office or visit: www.ucobserver.org.



To order or renew your subscription place \$25.00 payment in an envelope (Observer envelopes are located at two main entrances & outside Church Office) with your name, in the offering plate, or contact the Church Office. **Deadline is March 18.**

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SILENT AUCTION & DESSERT EXTRAVAGANZA

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| <p>Come, and bring a friend!</p> |  | <p><u>Silent Auction</u></p> <p>Choose from hundreds of items to bid on. Bids opened Friday evening and winners notified.</p> | <p><u>Dessert Extravaganza</u></p> <p>Eat-in or Take-Out \$5.00/serving (Includes tea/coffee.)</p>  |
| | <p>Thur., March 22</p> <p>Fri., March 23</p> | <p>9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.</p> <p>9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.</p> | <p>2:00 - 4:00 & 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.</p> <p>2:00 - 4:00 p.m.</p> |

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

Articles can be dropped off at the Church by March 21 during office hours.

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EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWERS - Easter hydrangeas will be placed in the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday, April 1. Price is \$15.00 each. If you wish to have one placed in memory of a loved one, please put your request with payment in the offering plate or contact the Church Office (858-8289 or sjuc@nb.aibn.com). Deadline to order is Monday, March 26. All memorials placed will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. After the Easter service, plants will be taken to those on our shut-in list. (We will bring in plants needed, and the extra proceeds go to the Chancel Fund to help cover costs associated with the Sanctuary.)

WORSHIP

*(The congregation is invited to join in responses printed in **bold**)*

PRELUDE

WE GATHER IN THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
why have you come to worship this morning?

**We come to celebrate the love of God
in the form of Jesus Christ.**

This love reaches through the shadows of our lives to embrace us.
Our challenge is to trust the light of God's love in the midst of our struggles.

**We come to celebrate the light of God in Jesus
who offers love and acceptance,
not judgment and rejection.**

If only we will trust,
Jesus leads us in the way of light and love.

**We come to celebrate our God
who loved and loves us so much!**

GATHERING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

**O God, you are infinite, eternal and unchangeable,
glorious in holiness, full of love and compassion,
abundant in grace and truth.**

**All your works praise you in all places of your dominion
and your glory is revealed in Jesus Christ our savior,
therefore we praise you, blessed and holy trinity,
one god, for ever and ever**

(praying as our savior Christ has taught us, "**Our Father...**")

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of Comfort and God of Challenge,
we come to you this morning the way the Israelites did,
full of complaints and dissatisfaction.

Nothing is enough;

we do not recognize your blessing at work in our day to day lives.

**Forgive us when we become so comfortable
that we moan and groan about**

the most insignificant details of our lives.

In our complaints, challenge us as you did the Israelites,
to consider the bigger picture of oppression, injustice, and inequality around us.

Forgive us when we close our eyes

for fear of what you might show us;

keep sending loving and compassionate leaders

to open our eyes until we see what you see in our world.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

You are blessed because God's image resides deep within each of you.

So return God's blessing by the way you love others.

HYMN # 278

IN THE QUIET CURVE OF EVENING

(YOU ARE THERE)

CHILDREN'S TIME

Due to March Break, children are asked to remain with their parents throughout the remainder of the service.

The Nursery is available for parental use.

WE REFLECT UPON OUR COMMON STORY

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Numbers 21:4–9

A bronze serpent heals the people.

Psalms 107:1–9, 17–22 (VU p. 831 Parts One and Two)

God's steadfast love endures forever.

John 3:14–21

For God so loved the world.

God's story is for all people.

It is ours to receive and share.

HYMN # 226

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

(LUCERNA LAUDONIAE)

SERMON

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING INVITATION

Consider the steadfast love of God in every breath you breathe.
May that steadfast love inspire you to give generously.
so that we may live into God's Reign of peace and compassion
through the offerings of our own church.

OFFERING / ANTHEM

OFFERTORY # 115 MV **BEHOLD, BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW** (BEHOLD)

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

DEDICATION

**O Generous One, we give thanks to you
for your steadfast love endures forever.
May these gifts be used to feed the hunger and satisfy the thirst
Of all those you love throughout your creation. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN # 585 **JESUS BIDS US SHINE** (JESUS BIDS US SHINE)

BENEDICTION

Let us rejoice: God so loves the world!
May God your Maker
send you back into the world with creative energies refreshed.
May Christ the Light illuminate your darkest moments.
And may the Holy Spirit of steadfast love
guide you until we worship together again.
This day and forevermore. **Amen!**

POSTLUDE

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

This week, as part of our ecumenical prayers, **WE PRAY** for the congregation of the **Highfield Street United Baptist Church**, their pastors, and their ministry.

STEWARDSHIP MINUTE – Stewardship practices allow God’s love to act in our lives, bringing us out of our wilderness experiences.

MEMORIALS

*A donation has been made to the M&S Fund in Memory of:
Marie Lidia de Jesus (mother of Luiz de Jesus)
by Roberta Bunker*

Today’s Team

Greeters & Ushers:

South Door – Alma St.

Greet: Lynda Leclerc

Offering: Lynda Leclerc, Hal Sherrard

Mona & Darrell Miller

Scripture Reader: Alvin Edgett

Elevator: Gordon Belyea

Grocery Card Sales: Kimberley Buck de Jesus

North Door – Victoria St.

Greet: Eleanor Patterson, Nancy Black

Offering: Bob Charman, Sandra Dooe

Joanne Richardson, Kathy Seymour

Tellers: Sandra Dooe, Bob Charman

Sound Board: Luiz de Jesus

CHURCH MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND STAFF



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



Karen Geldart, *Office Administrator*
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Branden Olsen, *Music Director*



Pat Arsenault, *Custodian*

