



The United Church of Canada
L'Église Unie du Canada

St. Andrew's United Church



December 15, 2024.

Advent 3

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."



Joy for the Advent Season

< Photo Credit: St. Andrew's United Church >

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Church Email: St_Andrews1@outlook.com

Sunday Worship Service

(December 15, 2024. Advent 3)

Worship Leader: Daniel Szemok

Organist & Choir Director: Lois McKinnon

Greeters: Marilyn McGerrigle & Jeanne Breau

*Indicates to stand when you are able

We Gather to Worship

Music Prelude:

Introit:

**Will you come, gather in,
Come in joy and with rejoicing,
With the poor and the lowly.
Songs of life – we'll be voicing.
Will you come, gather in?**

Lightning the Christ Candle: *Cynthia Duplessie*

Joy, in the midst of sadness – is such a thing possible?

We come weary but full of hope that his is true, full of love for one another and God.

Joy, even when things are hard, this joy we seek today.

Let us gather from the four winds seeking God-with-Us.

Let us pray for Emmanuel, for joy, for wisdom to find those glimmers of joy like stars in the night sky.

VU #6, vs. 3 “A Candle is Burning”

**A candle is burning, a candle of joy,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy:
our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow.
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.**

Welcome

Call to Worship: (only the bolded section)

Lamb of God, you came to give us rest and tranquility in the midst of unending storms that rage in this world.

We proclaim your goodness and we rest in the sound of your joy. We are not afraid for we know you are our invisible God who has power over the visible world.

God, our provider we thank you for the little that we have and for the lot that we have been given.

In times of plenty and in times of few, our Lord is with us; his joy surrounds us! O Lord, guide our minds and lift up our hearts, so we may know Your joy that is not related to circumstances. In Jesus name, Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** VU #96, “Will You Come and See the Light”

Opening Prayer: (read together with congregation)

O Lord, our Good Shepherd, you are the source of all true and lasting joy. We praise you for your power which is beyond compare. We worship you for your wisdom which is beyond understanding. You can meet all our needs. You are the source of our joy and the light for our feet. You are our beginning and our end. How great you are, Lord! Fill our hearts with joy as we respond to your love by singing praises to you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen!

Placing the Shepherd and Lamb into the manger scene

– *Daniel and Gratitude*

Children’s Time: “The Birth of Jesus”

The Word of God Proclaimed

Ministry of Music: “Still, Still, Still”

Message: Joy...ful

Pastoral Prayer:

We Respond to God’s Word

***Hymn:** VU #50 “He Is Born”

Announcements: *Judy Morrison*

Invitation to the Offering:

***Offering Hymn:** VU #55, “In the Bleak Midwinter” vs. 4

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—give my heart.**

***Offering Prayer: (read together with congregation)**

Heavenly Father, provider of all things good; we claim your call to give and care for those who are in need. Renew our hunger to do your will, to do what's right for your glory. The way we spend what we have is the greatest indicator of what we love and where our joy comes from. Give us a selfless heart that is joyful not in riches or in comfort but in the beauty of your amazing kindness. Amen!

Praise Before Prayer: MV #119, "God Our Protector"
God our protector, keep us in mind,
always give strength to your people.
For if we could be with you one day at a time
it is better than a thousand without you.

Prayers of the People:

WE GO OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Closing Hymn: VU # 46, "Gentle Mary"

*Commissioning and Benediction:

*Choral Closing: VU #37, "Gloria"
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Musical Postlude



Announcements

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Phyllis Sweezey and Family on the death of her husband, Don Sweezey.

Memorials:

In loving memory of **Don Sweezey**, donations to the Community Kitchen have been received from Barbara Doucet, Melanie Facey.

In loving memory of **Don Sweezey**, a donation to Local Funds has been received from Karen & Paul Rose, Marie MacDonald, Hugh & Collen Dickson, Jeanne Breau, Bill & Sally Donald, Frank & Catherine MacKinley.

In loving memory of **Burton Gorbett**, a donation to Local Funds has been received from Freda Gorbett.

In loving memory of **Patrick LeTourneau**, a donation to Local Funds has been received from Jack & Cynthia Duplessie.

Worship:

▪ **Greeters:** Dec. 22 – Bev Campbell & Muriel Lamkey/Dec. 24th – Mary Reynolds & Helen Jones

▪ **Sound System:** Dec. 15 – Brian Savoy/Dec. 22 – Don Bowman/Dec. 24 – Brian Savoy/Dec. 29 – Barry Campbell

▪ **PowerPoint:** Dec. 15 – Barry Campbell/Dec. 22 – Jennifer Walker/Dec.24 – Barry Campbell/Dec. 29 – Karen Rose

-**Offering Collectors:** Dec. 15 – Patty Deitch, Cynthia Duplessie, Dennis & Judy Morrison/Dec. 22 - Debbie Stymiest, Moses Akinyode, Ernie & Ferne MacLean/Dec. 24 - Helen Jones, Brian & Joan Savoy, Jeanne Breau/Dec. 29 - Bev & Barry Campbell, Holly Daley, Judy Donnelly

▪ **Offering Counters:** Dec. 15 – Karen Rose & Carol Johnston/ Dec. 22 – Betty MacDiarmid & Don Bowman/Dec. 24 – Brian Savoy & Barry Campbell/Dec. 29 - Betty MacDiarmid & Liz Mullin

3. Weekly Collection:

Collection on Sunday, Dec. 8 th	\$ 1,030.00
Weekly Par Collection	<u>\$ 1,120.31</u>
Total for Week of Dec. 8th	\$ 2,150.31

4. The Loonie Sock Pot Luck was enjoyed by many. There was lots of laughter, music and delicious food. This raised a total of \$ 572.10 which will go towards the perishables for the Christmas Hampers.

This Week:

1) Monday, Dec. 16th - 1:00 p.m. - St. Andrew's Exercise Class
This will be the last one till after the New Year.

2) Advent Bible Study being held on Wednesday, Dec. 18th at 10:00 a.m. with Daniel Szemok. All are welcome to attend!

4) Offering Envelopes for 2025 are ready at the back of the church for people to pick up.

Upcoming:

Sunday, Dec. 22nd – *Christmas Communion Service with Wendell Grehan*

Tuesday, Dec. 24th – 6:00 p.m. – *Christmas Eve Service with Daniel Szemok*

Sunday, Dec. 29th – *No Sunday School for this week.*

Fundraisers:

1) The 100th Anniversary Church Calendars have arrived and are on sale through the church office for \$10 each. Limited number available.

Community:



BECAUSE HUNGER DOESN'T TAKE WEEKENDS OFF

Isthmus Northumberland has found its home in St. Andrew's United Church and as we approach Christmas I cannot express how grateful we are for the home you have provided and the support. This academic year we have been fortunate to receive grants and donations from the City of Miramichi and the Boys and

Girls Club, as well as some service groups. A donation of a quilt from the Miramichi Quilting Guild for us to raffle off has been provided and other acts of generosity. Many of you have donated food and funds and others help with the packing of 85 bags

presently every week. We plan to increase that number to 115 bags in January as we expand to more area schools which will bring us to 6 schools we support with weekend food bags. You are helping change lives with this kindness and thank you so much and I hope that the holiday ahead is a joyous one and that 2025 is a blessed year.

Thank you and Merry Christmas

2) A “Christmas Blessing” is this year’s theme of a night filled with Christmas Music featuring The Villagers at St. Paul’s Anglican Church, Bushville on Sunday, Dec. 15th at 7:00 p.m. Admission is a free will offering and everyone is invited to attend.

3) CGIT Alumni Vesper Service from 2023.

We would like to say a special THANK YOU to these ladies for their many years of services and dedication to St. Andrew’s. Due to many factors last years was the last Vesper Service that will be offered. The congregation of St. Andrew’s certainly enjoyed each and every one of them. WELL DONE LADIES!



Pastoral Care:

Rev Alice Szemok is covering for any pastoral emergencies. If you need pastoral care, please contact the church office at 506-773-9932, and Karen will arrange it.

We gratefully acknowledge the dedication of the bulletins in memory of Joy Howe by Jayme, Donald, Maya and Julia Campbell.



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

Online St. Andrew's United Church

www.standrewsunitedmiramichi.org

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