



Minister: Rev. Dr. Shawn Redden
Music Director: Daphna Pearson
Office Administrator: Kristen McGraw
Greeter: Carla & Doug Bourque
Door Attendant/Greeter: Doug Bourque
Teller: Gordon Norton

Open Doors · Open Minds · Open Hands · Open Hearts
Welcome to Visions United - "God's Doors Are Open to All"

Visions United seeks to be a safe place for all people to worship regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background, sexual orientation or gender identity

Spirit Gathering

Sunday, March 4, 2018 - Lent 3 & March 11, 2018 - Lent 4

<i>Events at a glance</i>		
March 4	9:30am	Conversation Café (Choir)
	10:30am	Spirit Gathering
March 8	7pm	Choir Practice
March 11	9:30am	Conversation Café (Choir)
	10:30am	Spirit Gathering (Grocery Sunday for Karing Kitchen)
March 13	7pm	CLT (Congregational Leadership Team)
March 14	9:30am	Vision Aiders meeting
March 15	7pm	Choir Practice

March 4th - Lent 3 - Spirit Gathering: We continue to explore the theme of Covenant Promise. Thank-you to our participants in the Drama Reflection: Peter Lightfoot (*Rev. I. B. Leave*), Audrey Hayward (*Voice of God*), Ainsley MacTavish-Hawkes (*Messenger*), John Russell (*Messenger*).

March 11th - Lent 4 - Spirit Gathering Armchair Ministry: We are pleased to welcome Manar Dawad. The United Codiac Refugee Committee sponsored Manar to come to Canada. Visions has played an active role in UCRC, both in terms of volunteers and donations. John Russell will interview Manar about his experience coming to Canada. Come meet Manar and hear his story.

Children's Spirit Space

This week's leader: Ruth Flanagan (March 4), Linda Higgins (March 11); *Nursery Helper:* Hannah Baisley. Spirit Space is our program for all-ages held downstairs. Children gather with the congregation in the Great Room for our opening. We will let you know when Spirit Space begins! There are also activity bags available for children who choose to remain upstairs.

Visions News & Updates

Office Closure: The office will be closed March 6, 7, 8 and 9 while our administrator, Kristen, is on vacation. The office will reopen on Tuesday, March 13 at 9am.

March 6th-12th: Rev. Shawn Redden is away on a writing retreat preparing resources as part of our participation in the Spiritual Memoir project partnership with the Prayer Bench and Rev. Janice Maclean. They are working on a series of worship services, which will be shared at Visions after Easter and offered as a resource to other congregations. She will also be attending a meeting with the EDGE network at General Council as part of our work on exploring partnerships. If there is a pastoral emergency while she is away, please contact Peggy Renton (386-1077), who will be in touch with Shawn.

Storm Cancellations: On Sunday mornings a decision will be made by 8am. When any services or special events are cancelled due to bad weather, a message will be left on Visions United's answering machine (384-0843), and a notice placed on our Website and Facebook page. We will also try and give notice to radio stations such as CBC and you can check:
<http://www.cbc.ca/stormcentre>

Grocery Card Program: *Easy for you fundraiser!* For every grocery card sold Vision United gets 4%; that's \$4 for every \$100 sold. Get your Sobeys, and Superstore cards before the service.

Expression of Gratitude from Shawn: Thank you for the many cards and expressions of support shared with my family and me over the last several weeks. Lovely notes, kind words, memorial donations, visitors at the funeral home and the service: all of these gestures of thoughtfulness have certainly reminded us "*We are not alone*" on this journey. Especially, my gratitude for your understanding and grace, enabling me to alter my work schedule and spend more time than usual with my family those last weeks.

Visions Events

Book Club – Friday, March 23 (7pm)

This meeting will be at the home of Jan Sunderland (101 McKay Ave.). We are reading "His Whole Life" by Elizabeth Hay. All readers are welcome.

Pancake Brunches - Mark your calendar: March 24th, 31st, April 7th & 14th (8am-1pm) Adults - \$12/Children under 12 - \$6. We are still in need of volunteers for this event to be a success. If you are able to give some time, please contact the office.

Other Church and Community Events

Annual Meeting of UCRC – Sunday, March 11 (2pm)

Meeting will be held at St. Paul's United Church in Riverview. Manar Dawod will join us this year as our guest speaker! He will share his insights about his transition to life in Canada. Storm date: Sunday, March 25th, at 2:00 pm.

GET READY FOR SPRING ! - The weather has been fabulous and walking is great.....but those shoulder, arm, back and tummy muscles need a workout too! Join St. Paul's United Church's Senior Fitness group to have fun and get in shape. We have spaces available in both our 9:00 a.m. (advanced) and 10 :00 a.m.(beginner) groups. Only \$40.00 for 12 weeks, every Tuesday and Friday morning, March to end of May. It's not too late! Phone Marge at 372-4570 or the church office 386-3335 to register or for more information.

Engaging The Parables four week study –March 7, 14, 21 (12-1pm) 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, Moncton, 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. 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 contact Karen in the Church Office 858-8289 or e-mail the Church at sjuc@nb.aibn.com or Doug at dougjune@nb.sympatico.ca

Movie Night – Thursday, March 15 (7pm)

The affirming committee of Central United Church presents the movie "Spotlight" starring Mark Ruffalo, Michael Keaton and Rachel McAdams in the Community Peace Centre Forum, 22 Church Street, Moncton on Thursday, March 15th. @ 7:00pm. Movie & snacks are free. Come and bring a friend.

Casserole Fundraiser – Friday, March 24 (2-5pm) READY-TO-BAKE

CASSEROLES to cook immediately or to freeze! 4 featured recipes all made with Lean Ground Beef: Shepherd's Pie, Cheeseburger Casserole, Meatballs, and Hamburg & Tomato Dish. Sizes: Small (approx. 1-2 servings) \$6; Medium (approx. 4 servings) \$10; Large (approx. 5-6 servings) \$15. ***Pre-order yours by Sunday, March 18*** by calling Verna 388-5437 or Sandra 734-3980. Pick-up at the church, 2891 Main Street, Hillsborough Casserole comes in a Ready-to-Bake or Ready-to-Freeze container! Order yours today!

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Web:	www.visionsunited.ca
Facebook:	www.facebook.com/visionsunitedchurch www.facebook.com/groups/visionsunited
Office Hours:	Tuesday to Friday - 9am to 1pm
Minister Hours*:	Wednesday & Thursday - 9:30am to 12:30pm *Minister is available other hours by appointment

We Value Abundant Generosity! *How Can I Share an Offering?*

Choose from two easy ways to make donations to Visions United to support the ongoing work and ministry. We don't pass the offering plate during the service, but we do dedicate the gifts we all share with prayer and thanksgiving:

Weekly Offering - There is a **Giving Table** at the entry of the Great Room with envelopes for visitors or occasional gifts. We encourage regular participants to contact the Church Office by phone or email to request your own box of weekly offering envelopes; a charitable tax receipt is issued at the year-end.

Pre-authorized Remittance (PAR) is an easy way for you to make regular and reliable contributions on the 21st each month to ensure the vitality of Visions' ministry. Deductions can be changed/cancelled anytime with sufficient notice to the office.

- Request a PAR form from the church office or print and fill out *PAR form* from the website with your monthly offering amount.
- Place a "VOID" cheque and completed form in a sealed envelope. Give it to the office or place in the offering plate during service.
- Tax receipts are issued at the beginning of each year for the previous tax year.



VISION AIDERS' PROJECTS: *Our outreach in the community & around the world*

MISSION & SERVICE - the United Church of Canada's unique way to fund global and Canadian mission projects, bringing healing, justice and hope to life! Your M&S gift helps Visions meet our 2017 objective of \$20,000.



RECONNECT JAR – Your donation supports the Reconnect Street Intervention Program in Greater Moncton, outreach to those who are homeless and at risk.

KARING KITCHEN – Your chance to donate groceries and/or grocery store cards, the 1st Sunday of each month, to assist Moncton's largest soup kitchen.

OTHER – You are invited, at various times, to respond to local, national and international requests for assistance.