



Minister: Rev. Dr. Shawn Redden
Music Director: Daphna Pearson
Office Administrator: Kristen McGraw
Greeter: Carol & Charlie Kelly
Door Attendant/Greeter: Charlie Kelly
Teller: June Kelly

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, April 15th, 2018

This week's theme: **Listening to Our Lives - "*Hearts Strangely Warmed*"**

Sources for Spiritual Memoir: Family Recipes, Old Photos, Antiques

Wisdom Reading: The Emmaus Road - **Luke 24: 13-33**

<i>Events at a glance</i>		
April 15	9:30am	Conversation Café (Vision Aiders)
	10:30am	Spirit Gathering
April 17	7pm	Exploring Partnerships Team
April 19	10:30	Small Group: <i>StoryTellers</i> (190 Carson Drive Community Room)
	7pm	Choir Practice
April 15	9:30am	Conversation Café (Vision Aiders)
	10:30am	Spirit Gathering

The current theme for our Spirit Gatherings is about Spiritual Memoir. Each week we explore spiritual memoir stories in the Bible and are invited to listen to our lives and reflect on the meaning of our ordinary stories, discovering the Holy in our lives. These services are part of the Spiritual Memoirs Project, a partnership between Visions and the Prayer Bench.

Consider signing up for the small group study called *StoryTellers* (*see announcement next page for sign-up information*).

Children's Spirit Space

This week's leader: Ruth Flanagan; *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

Change in Office Hours - There will be a change in the official office hours beginning in May. New hours will be Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 1pm - 4pm. Please contact Terry Hawkes M&P Chair with any questions or concerns

Loblaws's \$25 Gift card - Why not donate it to the Karing Kitchen?

If you are planning to register for the \$25 gift card through Loblaws's (Superstore) why not consider donating the card to the Karing Kitchen or a food bank. Register online loblawcard.ca. The deadline is May 8th.

Petition for Ban on Single-use Plastic Bags: Our action for Earth Day organized as a Green initiative. We have a petition to submit to Moncton City Council. "Given that City Council supports a healthy environment for the residents of Greater Moncton, and recognizing that plastic waste is a serious environmental issue because:

- Most plastics are manufactured from fossil fuels which are a major source of greenhouse gases
- Plastic is a non-renewable resource that degrades land, water, the health of humans and other creatures
- Waterways, beaches, and oceans are clogged with plastics making them unattractive and dangerous to both humans and sea creatures
- Plastics are not biodegradable, but instead break up into smaller pieces in creeks, lakes, rivers and oceans where they enter the food chain (including humans)

We, the undersigned, respectfully request the introduction by City Council of a bylaw which would ban single use plastic grocery and other plastic shopping bags." *Will you consider signing?*

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.

Visions Events

The StoryTellers Small Group Study - Begins April 19 (10:30am – 12pm)

We all have a story to tell... In this small group study we will listen to a teaching on spiritual memoir and then show and share the story of whatever article we choose to bring. Together, we reflect on the sacred in our life.

There are four sessions:

1. Introduction: Honouring the Sacred in Our Lives
2. Family Recipes, Old Photos & Antiques: Listen to Your Life
3. Quilts & Other Precious Possessions: Making Meaning
4. Diaries, Letters & Commonplace Books: Living Fully

When? April 19, 26, May 3 & 10. 10:30am to 12pm

Where? 190 Carson Drive, Common Room. (Home of Anna Peters)

Sign-up sheet in the foyer or contact the office. (If you are interested and can only attend an evening, please indicate on the sign-up sheet for possible evening session.)

Book Club – Friday, May 4 (7pm) - 1118-190 Carson Drive

We are reading “The Other Einstein” by Marie Benedict. All readers welcome.

Stroll for the Soul - 21 Days of Encouragement begins May 7

This email retreat offers participants daily encouragement and mindfulness meditation for your time spent walking, jogging, or biking for 21 days

WHEN: You receive daily emails from May 7-28.

SIGN UP: Contact the Office by April 22 or add your name to the sign-up sheet in the foyer. **This program is offered free of charge as part of a Congregational subscription your Spirit & Worship Team has purchased for Visions.*

Other Church and Community Events

Social Justice (Outreach Committee) event – Tuesday, April 17 (7pm)

Mountain View United Church. Guest Speakers will be Tradina Meadows-Forgeron (Executive Director) of Hospice & Debbie Landry-Jaillet. This event is open to anyone who might wish to attend and a light lunch will be served. (parking available in the hospital lot across the street).

Movie Night – Thursday, April 19 (7pm)

The Affirming Committee of Central United Church presents the movie "Freeheld", starring Julianne Moore and Ellen Page, in the Community Peace Centre Forum, 22 Church Street Moncton. Movie and snacks are free of charge. Come and bring a friend.

Advanced Care Planning Session - Thursday, April 19 (7pm)

The Moncton Hospital, Amphitheatre A. Advanced Care is a process of thinking about and sharing your wishes for future health and personal care needs. Hosted by Dr. Pam Mansfield, Clinical Director of Palliative Medicine at The Moncton Hospital and past-president of the New Brunswick Hospice Palliative Care Association.

Moncton Headstarts Annual Lorne Preston Scholarship Breakfast – Friday, April 27 (8am) Camden Place, 55 Camden Crescent, Moncton.

Admission is \$10.00 seniors and \$20.00 adults, with a tax receipt upon request. All proceeds go towards Lorne Preston Scholarships.

Please contact Glenna Lightfoot (383-8240) for tickets or more information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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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 all gifts during the "Invitation to Generosity".

Weekly Offering - There is a **Giving Table** at the entry of the Great Room with envelopes for visitors or occasional gifts. Contact the Church Office to request your own box of weekly offering envelopes.

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.



Charitable tax receipts for Envelope & PAR contributors are issued at the year-end.

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 2018 objective of \$18,500.



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.

CURRENT FOCUS – Petition for Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags.