



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

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 29th, 2018

This week's theme: Making Meaning - "The Pattern or Our Lives"

Sources for Spiritual Memoir: Quilts and Precious Possession

Wisdom Reading: Exodus 1: 8-10; 15-17, 22

<i>Events at a glance</i>		
April 29	9:30am	Conversation Café (Vision Aiders)
	10:30am	Spirit Gathering
May 1	7pm	Spirit & Worship Meeting (Jim Slupsky)
May 3	10:30am	Small Group: <i>Storytellers</i> (190 Carson Dr. Community Room)
	7pm	Choir Practice
April 29	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.

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.

Our **Sympathy** is extended to **Brian & Kim Affleck** on the death of Brian's mother Georgie Affleck on Wednesday. We offer our prayers for healing peace. Funeral service is today at Bedeque Untied Church, PEI.

Visions News & Updates

Change in Office Hours - There will be a change in the *Office Administrators and Ministers* official office hours beginning May 1st. New hours for the office administrator will be Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 1pm - 4pm and the Minister Tuesday from 1pm to 3:30pm and Thursday from 10am-12pm. Please contact Terry Hawkes M&P Chair with any questions or concerns.

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

If you are planning to register for the \$25 gift card through Loblaws (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 - May 3 & 10 (10:30am – 12pm)

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

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. This week's theme: Quilts and Precious Possession.

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 May 2 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.*

The Dover Cemetery – Saturday, May 12 (9am-12pm)

The Dover Cemetery is in need of some TLC. A work date with the cemetery is planned for Saturday, May 12. Depending on the resources available, we plan to clean up debris around the edge of the property, rake leaves, remove dilapidated fencing, and stabilize grave markers. If you have tools that would be useful for this project bring these with you. The cemetery is located 7 kilometers down Route 925 (along the Petitcodiac) from its intersection with Route 106. Contact Gordon Norton if more information is needed.

Other Church and Community Events

Covenanting Service - Sunday April 29 (7pm) for the Reverend Brock Shaver, the Parrsborough Shore Pastoral Charge, and Chignecto Presbytery will be held at the Grace United Church, Port Greville, Nova Scotia. All are welcome.

Used Book Sale – Friday, May 4 and Saturday, May 5

5th annual book sale - Central United. For information, contact Pam at 382-3412 or 874-0184. Book donations accepted at Central United until May 1 from 10am to 2pm. (No textbooks, magazines, videos, CD's or tapes). Everyone Welcome!

***Smiley-face pancake breakfast* - Saturday, May 5 (8-11am)**

Mount Royal United Church, 106 Mount Royal Blvd. Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausages, toast coffee/tea, juice, jam and maple syrup. Adults \$10, kids u12 \$6.

***Spring Tea* - Saturday, May 12 (12pm)**

Celebrate Spring and Mother's Day by attending a* Spring Tea* at Mountain View United Church. Tickets are \$12 each (sandwiches, sweets, and entertainment) and may be obtained by calling the church office at 857-4817.

The Greater Moncton Chorale 30th Anniversary – Saturday, May 12 (7pm)

Community Peace Centre Forum - Concert program that is pure fun! *A Night at the Pops* features madrigal spoofs by parodist Peter Schickele (P.D.Q. Bach); charming old-timey tunes; slightly shocking 20s-style songs from a quirky little Off-Broadway show; a whirlwind medley of Richard Rodgers favorites; romantic Gershwin melodies and contemporary popular songs arranged by Grammy-winner Craig Hella Johnson. Adults/\$18 (\$20 at door) and kids under 12/\$8 (\$10 at door). Advance ticket sales at Read's Newsstands in Moncton and Riverview.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Office Hours:	Tuesday , Thursday, Friday – 1pm to 4pm
Minister Hours*:	Tuesday – 1pm to 3:30pm & Thursday – 10am-12pm *Minister is available other hours by appointment

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

You may have noticed we don't pass an offering plate during the service, but we do bless all gifts during shared during our "Invitation to Generosity". You can choose one of two ways to support the ongoing work and ministry of Visions:

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 to City Council for Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags.