



Minister: Rev. Dr. Shawn Redden
Music Director: Daphna Pearson
Office Administrator: Kristen McGraw
Greeter: Norman Teed
Door Attendant/Greeter: John Russell
Teller: Fay Cameron

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, August 12th, 2018

Summer Series - "A Divine Voice Sings Through All Creation"

This Sunday: *"Down to the River to Pray"*

<i>Events at a glance</i>		
August 12	9:30am	Conversation Café
	10:30am	Spirit Gathering - <i>"Down to the River to Pray"</i>
August 19	9:30am	Conversation Café
	10:30am	Spirit Gathering - <i>"Trees Clap Their Hands"</i>
August 27	7:00	CLT Special Meeting

August Worship Series: "A Divine Voice Sings through All Creation"

Rocks, Waters, Trees and Flowers: Scripture is filled with references and images of the Divine in Creation. What Wisdom do they offer us?

"Ask the animals; they will teach you.

Inquire of the birds; they will tell you.

Speak to the earth; she will inform you.

The fish of the sea, they will instruct you.

They all know that God is the Source." - Job 12: 7-9

Our summer series continues this week with the theme, "Down to the River to Pray." The melody of this old African-American spiritual invites to gather.

Rivers and waterways fill scripture from the opening verses of Genesis to the closing verses of Revelation. "Every River Has a Story": Do you have a favorite river or significant waterway in your life's journey?

An Invitation: Next Sunday's focus will be Trees. Maybe you have a special tree or forest place... Send along a picture to Shawn for next Sunday.

Children's Spirit Space

During the summer (August-early September) we have activity bags available for children and they can remain with us for the Spirit Gathering.

Visions News & Updates

Summer Postcards - Send Visions a postcard or email a photo with a short tweet (caption) telling us about your summer adventures. We will create a visual montage of our summer adventures for Sept. 23rd, the first Sunday of fall. Mail postcards to: RPO North End Box 29101, Moncton N.B., E1G 4R3 or email photos (an electronic postcard) and caption to office@visionsunited.ca.

Strategic Planning Update - enVisions 20/20

On January 21 the congregation voted 94% in favour of "exploring a partnership as the preferred option in the development of a strategic plan" for our future. (This was preferred over renovating the Stilesville property or seeking a location on our own again in North Moncton). Two working groups were established: one to address the future of the Stilesville property, and the second to research and explore possibilities for partnering with other organizations. The Congregational Leadership Team (CLT) decided to contract an outside facilitator to help direct this project. The CLT applied for a grant from the United Church of Canada Edge network to help us with this project, and we have received \$2800 in funding.

Meet our facilitator Eric Tusz-King: Eric is a semi-retired Diaconal Minister. His ministry has been in local congregations (St. John United, Moncton), General Council, Maritime Conference and more recently in the community working with climate change, energy efficiency, and co-operative business development. In his semi-retired state he is making himself available to assist congregations who have specific challenges related to their ministry with their communities. Eric chaired the committee at Sackville United Church in Sackville, NB, in deciding to leave their historic building and venture into Mount Allison University chapel and later to repurpose the town hall as their church building. Now, Eric is treasurer for the congregation to guide it towards longer term sustainability. Eric is working with us on this project from May 15 to October 31st.

Update from June 24th Congregational Meeting held June 24th on the future of the Stilesville Campus: A report from the June 13 Neighbourhood Consultation was received. The following motion was passed: Visions United Church instructs the Trustees to seek the permission of Chignecto Presbytery to list for sale the Stilesville property and building, at a time to be determined by the Executive of the Congregational Leadership Team, if the property is not considered as of value for a potential partnership.

Visions Events

Mark Your Calendar! August 25th (Sat) 1:30pm - River of Pride Parade. The United Churches in Greater Moncton will again be marching in the parade and a contingent from Visions will join them with our Visions' banner. Details to follow in next week's bulletin about time and location to meet. Contact Glenna Lightfoot or Rev. Shawn with questions or more info.

August 18 (Sat) 11:30 Flag Raising at Moncton City Hall

August 19 (Sun) 10:45 Pride Service Community Peace Centre hosted by Central United. All are welcome.

Other Pride Events are on-line at www.fiertemonctonpride.com

Congregational Leadership Team Special Meeting – August 27 (Mon) 7:00pm

Reports are not necessary. Business includes updates from the Partnership Exploration Team, the Stilesville Property team, and Finance. Eric Tusz-King will join us as well.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address:	1270 Gorge Rd., Stilesville, NB, E1G 3E5
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Web:	www.visionsunited.ca
Facebook:	www.facebook.com/visionsunitedchurch www.facebook.com/groups/visionsunited
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 - July - Donation to Camp Ta-Wa-Si; August - Headstart