



**Minister:** Rev. Dr. Shawn Redden  
**Music Director:** Daphna Pearson  
**Office Administrator:** Kristen McGraw  
**Greeter:** Norman Teed  
**Door Attendant/Greeter:** Norman Teed  
**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, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

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

This Sunday: *"Flower Communion"*

<b><i>Events at a glance</i></b>		
August 26	9:30am	Conversation Café
	10:30am	Spirit Gathering - <i>"Flower Communion"</i>
August 27	7:00pm	CLT Special Meeting - Campus
August 28	9:00am	Vision Aiders volunteer at Headstart
	7:00pm	Spirit & Worship - Jim Slupsky
September 2	9:30am	Conversation Café
	10:30am	Spirit Gathering <i>with Rev. Catherine Gaw</i>

### **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? We turn our attention to flowers as we conclude this creation series. Bring a flower for our "communion of flowers" - any flower from your garden, the roadside, or maybe you planted those wildflower seeds in June for the bees and now they are blooming! (We will have extra flowers for those who do not have a flower to bring). Our conversation time will include sharing about favourite flowers, or special flowers/plants that grow in your garden.

### **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

**Rev Shawn is away August 30<sup>th</sup> - September 19<sup>th</sup>** for 2 weeks of Continuing Education time and one week of vacation. She will be participating in a Retreat/ Pilgrimage in Germany: Hildegard of Bingen and the Greening Power of God. If you are interested in reading more visit [www.abbeyofthearts.com](http://www.abbeyofthearts.com) Shawn will be sharing more about the Pilgrimage in a Spirit Gathering this fall. *(Ministers have three weeks of continuing education leave per year and this is the first Con-Ed. time Rev. Shawn has used for 2018).*

**Sunday Spirit Gatherings on Sept 2, 9, 16** - We are pleased Rev. Catherine Gaw will lead our Spirit Gatherings while Rev. Shawn is away.

**Pastoral Care/Funeral coverage:** Please contact Peggy Renton, Congregational Care (506-386-1077 home) (506-866-7155 cell) with questions or pastoral care concerns. Rev. Stephen Brown (Salisbury-Petitcodiac) is on-call for Hospital visits/ emergency Pastoral care/funerals. His contact info is 506-756-3340.

**Summer Postcards** - The time is now! Can you believe the last day of summer is September 22<sup>nd</sup>? We are looking for your photos or postcards about your summer adventures and vacation. On September 23<sup>rd</sup> we will have a visual montage celebrating your moments of summer play and renewal. Email photos (an electronic postcard) and caption to [office@visionsunited.ca](mailto:office@visionsunited.ca). by Sept 17<sup>th</sup>, or drop off your photo/postcard at the office, or send it by snail mail to: RPO North End Box 29101, Moncton N.B., E1G 4R3

### **Earth Gratitude email Retreat starts Sept 12<sup>th</sup> - Are you interested?**

As part of our congregational subscription to the Prayer Bench, we can offer a 4 week email retreat for 6-8 persons. What's an email retreat? You will receive a welcome email on September 12th, and then every Saturday from Sept 15<sup>th</sup>- Oct 6<sup>th</sup> you will receive an email retreat. You can print or use it on-line. You can use the retreat any way you like: set aside an hour or so once a week, or use a little every day. There are some book suggestions, too.

**What's the theme?** What's really going on in us when we feel gratitude for that beautiful sunset or magnificent starry sky? How might we participate as co-creators of meaningful earth community and learn to "relish our radiant universe"? In what ways can we deepen our earth care? What are the truths that support us in times of natural disasters? How do we creatures say Thanks? Drawing on wisdom readings and creation scriptures, this retreat series invites a deeper spiritual practice of gratitude and highlights teachings about being part of a meaningful earth community. **Registration deadline:** Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>. Email [office@visionsunited.ca](mailto:office@visionsunited.ca) and put "Earth Gratitude Retreat" in your subject line, please.

## Visions Events

### **Congregational Leadership Team Special Meeting – August 27 (Mon) 7pm**

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.

### **Book Club – Saturday, September 22 (7pm)**

Our selection this month is \*The Lemon Tree\* by Sandy Tolan. We are meeting on September 22nd at the home of Rosemary Geddes (491 Indian Mtn. Road). Sandy Tolan brings the Israeli-Palestinian conflict down to its most human level, suggesting that even amid the bleakest political realities there exist stories of hope and reconciliation.

## Other Church and Community Events

**The United Codiac Refugee Committee** (UCRC) urgently needs the support of church members and others from the community in asking our elected officials to intervene on humanitarian and compassionate grounds regarding the case of Dr. Haya Samar and her parents whose application to be accepted as refugees was denied. (UCRC has sponsored Haya's fiancée, Manar Dawod, who arrived in Moncton in April 2017). Haya's family was forced to briefly return to Syria so both of her parents could receive medical treatment that was not available or affordable for them in Lebanon where they had taken refuge. UCRC has been attempting to bring Haya and her family to Canada almost since we began our work in late 2015. Please sign the letter that is available in in the foyer!

**Memorial Service** - St. Andrew's United Church, Rexton, NB, will have a Memorial Service on Sunday, **September 9th, at 9.30 am**. There will be special music, the worship ending with the benediction at the cemetery, followed by refreshments. If you want your donation to go to the Cemetery Fund, please mark your envelopes accordingly.

**Seniors Fitness** – **Tuesday, September 11** (9am) - St. Paul's United Church Senior Fitness classes for "Fifty Plus Fitness" is a very active program using weights and floor mats. At 10am for our easier level of "Senior Fitness". If you would like to join us, you will be most welcome. \$50.00 for the fall session, meeting every Tuesday and Friday morning until December 18th. To register, or for more information, please phone Marge at 372-4570.

### **Spaghetti Supper – Tuesday, September 11** (4:30-6:30pm)

Mountain View United Church Men's Club, 85 MacBeath Ave. Moncton. Spaghetti with meat sauce, Caesar salad, garlic bread, dessert, tea/coffee. Freewill offering.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Address:</b>	1270 Gorge Rd., Stilesville, NB, E1G 3E5
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	RPO North End Box 29101, Moncton, NB, E1G 4R3
<b>Telephone:</b>	384-0843 (Office)                      588-0326 (Minister Cell)
<b>Fax:</b>	384-8013
<b>Email:</b>	office@visionsunited.ca minister@visionsunited.ca
<b>Web:</b>	www.visionsunited.ca
<b>Facebook:</b>	www.facebook.com/visionsunitedchurch www.facebook.com/groups/visionsunited
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesday , Thursday, Friday – 1pm to 4pm
<b>Minister Hours*:</b>	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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 - Coats for Care