



Minister: Rev. Dr. Shawn Redden
Music Director: Daphna Pearson
Office Administrator: Kristen McGraw
Greeter: Claudia Schaerer
Door Attendant: Fernand Daigle
Teller: Cecil Briggs

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, November 25th, 2018

Armchair Ministry

Joanne Murray - John Howard Society

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| November 25 | 9:30am | Conversation Café (Vision Aiders) |
| | 10:30am | Spirit Gathering - Armchair Ministry Joanne Murray - John Howard Society *rescheduled from Nov.4 th |
| November 26 | 7-8:30 | Advent Small Group Study - Living Nativity |
| November 28 | 10am | Decorating Visions for Christmas |
| November 29 | 5:30-7pm | Advent Community Supper & Colouring |
| December 2 | 9:30am | Conversation Café (UCW) |
| | 10:30am | Spirit Gathering - Advent 1 - Candle of Hope |

Today We Welcome Joanne Murray,

the Executive Director of the John Howard Society, Moncton.

This is the organization we are in conversation with about establishing a Community Hub Partnership and a Housing Project.

Joanne will share the story of the John Howard Society and the existing Housing Project and Social Enterprise they presently support.

Children's Spirit Space

This week's leader: Ruth Flanagan; *Nursery Helper:* Kaylee Cormier.

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

Do you have a special Nativity set? Each Sunday during Advent, Rev. Shawn is looking for someone to bring their Nativity set to display for the service and share the story of how it came to be yours and why it is special for you. Please speak to her, if you would like to participate.

Gifts with Vision, the United Church's Christmas gift booklet, which provides the opportunity for you to help people nationally and globally improve their lives, was included with your latest Observer magazine. If you would like to give a unique gift to a loved one, but don't have a booklet, please contact a member of your Vision Aiders Team or the Visions' office (384-0843) or visit www.giftswithvision.ca to choose gifts on-line.

Moncton Headstart's Toyland - Members of the Vision Aiders Team will be available before Spirit Worship on Nov. 25, Dec.2 & 9 to receive any gift cards (appropriate for teenagers) and/or monetary donations for Moncton Headstart's Toyland. A list of card suggestions and envelopes for cash will be available. Many Thanks!!

Update from the Trustees regarding the Stilesville Campus: Chignecto Presbytery gave permission to list for sale the Stilesville Campus property. The Trustees finalized a listing agreement this past week with Karen Lyons of Remax (karen.lyons@remax.net)(383-3140). We anticipate it may take a while for the property to sell, and the proceeds will be necessary for our future lease costs. PET (Partnership Exploration Team) and the Trustees continue to investigate possible rental options in the event the property sells soon. Please contact Cecil Briggs (384-7582) with any questions.

We are collecting 2019 calendars for the inmates at the Springhill institution. Over the years you have been very successful at this task. Please do what you can and bring them to church every week until Dec 10th. Many thanks.

Visions Events

Congregational Information Session and report today at 11:30am and Special Congregational Meeting - Sunday, December 2nd, 11:30am, following the Spirit Gathering. PET - the Partnership Exploration Team - will provide an update to the congregation with a report from our facilitator, Eric Tusz-King today, Nov.25. A Special Congregational Meeting will be held Dec. 2 to vote on a recommendation about a partnership. Please plan to attend. This is a significant decision for Visions' future direction.

Can you help decorate Visions for Christmas? Join us on Wednesday, November 28th, 10am. Sign up sheet is in the foyer.

Advent Journey Community Suppers & Coloring – Mark Your Calendar!

Three Thursdays during Advent - November 29, December 6 & 13 (5:30-7pm)

Join us for supper (provided), singing and conversation as we color our way to Christmas. All ages are welcome. RSVP each Wednesday by noon with numbers & food allergies: 384-0843 or office@visionsunited.ca. Please bring your own plate, mugs & cutlery to help with our clean-up.

UCW Christmas Luncheon – Sunday, December 9 (4pm)

The UCW are cordially inviting ladies of our congregation and community to a "Christmas Luncheon" at the campus. Please sign-up on the sheet in the foyer by December 2nd. Hope to see you there!

Visions' Advent Small Group Study - "Living Nativity" - Monday nights,

beginning November 26th, December 3, 10, and 17th (7-8:30pm). Take a closer look at the figures of the nativity and how their presence in the story connects with the human spiritual journey. Explore the incarnation in the bigger picture of Love and as a practice of cooperation. See how each figure can infuse the ordinary, as we ask who is always in the story and never in the creche.

Book Club: Friday, December 7 (7pm) – Home of Claudia Schaefer.

Our next book is "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman.

Advent Email Retreat: "Waking Up" available free to Visions participants

What's an email retreat? Each Saturday in December you receive an email from the Prayer Bench with a reflection to help you prepare for Christmas.

Registration deadline today. Email office@visionsunited.ca and put "Advent Email Retreat" in your subject line, please.

Other Church and Community Events

Plastic Bags Survey: The Cities of Dieppe, Moncton and the Town of Riverview in partnership with Eco360 formed a working group to explore options for reducing the consumption of single-use plastic bags in our region. Please respond to the survey online to provide the working group with clear recommendations: <https://bags-sacs.splashthat.com>

Mount Royal UCW Candlelight Communion Service – Wed., Dec. 5 (7pm)

106 Mount Royal Blvd. Moncton. Begins with a carol followed by a worship service. Theme: "Faces of Joy", an adaptation of CGIT Vesper Services written by Esther Mah. Offering: A non-perishable food item.

Ten Thousand Villages Sale

Lutz Mountain Heritage Museum, 3143 Mountain Road, Moncton

Friday, December 7th from 10 am to 9 pm

Saturday, December 8th from 10 am to 5 pm

CONTACT INFORMATION

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| Address: | 1270 Gorge Rd., Stilesville, NB, E1G 3E5 |
| Mailing Address: | RPO North End Box 29101, Moncton, NB, E1G 4R3 |
| Telephone: | 384-0843 (Office) 588-0326 (Minister Cell) |
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| Email: | office@visionsunited.ca minister@visionsunited.ca |
| 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. All loose offering is given to our Visions Aid fund for local outreach.

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 - November Leaf on the Generosity Tree – Toyland - Headstart