



Minister: Rev. Dr. Shawn Redden
Music Director: Daphna Pearson
Office Administrator: Kristen McGraw
Greeter: Carol Kelly
Door Attendant: 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, December 16th, 2018

Advent 3 - Joy

"Living Nativity - At the Edge of the Crèche"

December 16	9:30am	Conversation Café (UCW)
	10:30am	Spirit Gathering - Advent 3 - Candle of Joy
December 17	7-8:30	Advent Small Group Study - Living Nativity
December 20	7:00pm	Choir
December 22	10am	Rehearsal with children for Dec 23 rd Service
December 23	9:30am	Conversation Café (UCW)
	10:30am	Spirit Gathering - Advent 4 - Candle of Love & Celebration of Communion

Children's Spirit Space

This week's leader: Linda Higgins; *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.

Our Advent theme, ***Living Nativity***, explores the theme of incarnation.

This week's focus is ***"At the Edge of the Crèche"***.

We consider the less obvious characters, the animals, waiting at the edge of the crèche for the unfolding of the nativity story, and the gifts they each offer.

Incarnation is alive in all creation!

We wonder about what gift each of us can offer at the edge of the crèche.

Carla Bourque shares the story of her beautiful nativity with us.

Visions News & Updates

Christmas Season Spirit Gatherings – Mark your Calendar!

Sunday, December 23 – 10:30am – Advent 4: Love (Communion)

Christmas Eve Services – Sunday, December 24

4-4:30pm – Children's Story & Carols (*30 minute service especially for families with young children under 7 years*)

7pm - Service for all ages with Candle lighting

Sunday, December 30 – No Spirit Gathering

Sunday, January 6 – 10:30am - Epiphany

Pastoral Care over the Holidays – Rev. Shawn will be away for a few days during Christmas holidays and will resume regular responsibilities January 2nd. She is available for pastoral care so please be in contact by her cell phone: 588-0326.

Holiday Office Hours – The office will be closed from Friday, December 21st at 4pm until Wednesday, January 2nd at 1pm.

Storm Cancellations – On Sunday mornings a decision will be made by 8am. When any services or special events are cancelled due to bad weather, a message will be left on Visions United's answering machine (384-0843), and a notice placed on our Website and Facebook page. We will also try to give notice to radio stations such as CBC and you can check: <http://www.cbc.ca/stormcentre>.

2018 Offering Envelopes are now available. If you would like to enroll in PAR (pre-authorized monthly remittance) or receive weekly offering envelopes, please contact Kristen at the office.

Photos now available! If you ordered photos from Universal Portraits when you had your picture taken for our photo directory, they will be available to pick up on Sunday, December 16th and 23rd. If you are unavailable one of these times and need them prior to Christmas, please contact the office to make arrangements on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday afternoons.

Missed having your photo taken for the directory? If you would like to submit a photo, you can do so by giving a photo to Helen Halfpenny or Audrey Hayward or by emailing a digital copy to office@visionsunited.ca by January 7.

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.

Visions Events

Visions' Advent Small Group Study - "Living Nativity" - Monday, December 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 crèche.

Other Church and Community News & Updates

Thank you from the United Codiac Refugee Committee

On behalf of the United Codiac Refugee Committee (UCRC/Comité Codiac uni pour les réfugiés (CCUR), we would like to offer our sincere thanks for your generous support, assistance, and donations as we prepared for the arrival of our sponsored family. The support we have received from individuals, businesses and congregations has been incredibly encouraging. Our committee is run entirely by volunteers, so this show of support from the wider community goes a long way in motivating and re-affirming our commitment to this work.

We are very happy to share that as a result of donations like yours, we were able to completely furnish and outfit a 3-bedroom house in the downtown Moncton area prior to the arrival of the family. We were also able to provide each member of the family warm clothing and cold weather outerwear.

The family (a mother, father, and 5 children: 4 daughters and 1 son), refugees from Iraq who have been living in Jordan, arrived in Moncton on Tuesday, November 20, 2018 and have enjoyed getting to know our post-settlement committee, the community, preparing for school, and playing in the snow! We're happy to report that the children **love** the snow and have gotten really good at throwing snowballs, making snowmen, and sliding. They are very excited to begin school this week; the family has decided to enroll their children in the Francophone school district.

Our group will continue to be engaged with this family through our 1-year commitment and beyond, while also continuing to be involved with refugee issues into the future. Thank you again for your support!"

Sincerely,

Sheila Snider and Bonnie Steele
Co-Chairs of Pre-Settlement

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. 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 - December Leaf on the Giving Tree – Gifts with Vision (M&S)