



**Minister:** Rev. Dr. Shawn Redden  
**Music Director:** Daphna Pearson  
**Office Administrator:** Kristen McGraw  
**Greeter:** Carol Kelly  
**Door Attendant:** Charlie Kelly  
**Teller:** Bob Christie

---

***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 people of all races, creeds, ages, cultural backgrounds, sexual orientations and gender identities to worship.

**Spirit Gathering**

**Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**

**Advent 4 - Love**

***"Living Nativity - "Is Everybody Here?"***

December 23	9:30am	Conversation Café (UCW)
	10:30am	Spirit Gathering - Advent 4 - Candle of Love & Celebration of Communion
December 24	4pm	Christmas Eve – Children's Service
	7pm	Christmas Eve – All Ages & Candlelighting
December 25		No Spirit Gathering
December 27	7:00pm	No Choir Practice
December 30		No Spirit Gathering
January 6	9:30am	Conversation Café (Choir)
	10:30am	Spirit Gathering - Epiphany
January 8	7pm	CLT meeting

Our children will remain for our Spirit Gathering this morning.

They will share with us a presentation based on a Godly Play Story as we explore our Advent theme, ***Living Nativity***.

We thank our children and their leaders, Ruth Flanagan, Linda Higgins and Kaylee Cormier for their participation!

We celebrate Communion this morning. Ours is an "Open Table".

Everyone is welcome to share in communion with us.

The bread is gluten-free. The wine is grape juice. Today, we come forward to receive the elements. If you cannot come forward or choose to remain in your seat, our servers will happily serve you.

## Visions News & Updates

**Christmas Season Spirit Gatherings** – Mark your Calendar!

**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 21<sup>st</sup> at 4pm until Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> 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>.

**Christmas Offerings and Year-End Donations:** Your Finance Team reminds you of our special Christmas Offering envelopes included with the Christmas newsletter, and thanks you for your generosity and all your gifts shared with Visions in 2018. Please note that any year-end donations should be given though the Christmas Eve offering to be included in your 2018 charitable tax receipts.

**2019 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 are available to pick up today.

**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](mailto:office@visionsunited.ca) by January 7.

**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

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