



Minister: Rev. Dr. Shawn Redden
Music Director: Daphna Pearson
Office Administrator: Kristen McGraw
Greeter: Carol Kelly
Door Attendant: Charlie Kelly
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, December 9th, 2018

Advent 2 - PEACE

"Living Nativity - Feet on the Ground"

December 9	9:30am	Conversation Café (UCW)
	10:30am	Spirit Gathering - Advent 2 - Candle of Peace
	4:00pm	UCW Christmas Luncheon
December 10	11:30am	PET team & JHS Board
	7-8:30	Advent Small Group Study - Living Nativity
December 11	7pm	CLT meeting
December 13	5:30-7pm	Advent Community Supper & Colouring
	7:00pm	Choir
December 16	9:30am	Conversation Café (UCW)
	10:30am	Spirit Gathering - Advent 3 - Candle of Joy

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.

Our Advent theme, ***Living Nativity***, explores the theme of incarnation. This week's focus is ***"Feet on the Ground"*** as we consider the characters of the nativity and their journey to creche. How's your journey to Christmas this year?

John the Baptist offers wisdom for the Advent journey. (Luke 3:1-5)

Jane Aikman shares the story of her special wood carved Nativity.

Thank you, Jane.

Visions News & Updates

Office Closed this Tuesday afternoon, Dec 11 – When there is a CLT meeting on Tuesday, the office will be closed that afternoon as Kristen works that evening at CLT.

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. She is looking for one more volunteer for next Sunday, December 16. 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 – Last Day - Members of the Vision Aiders Team will be available before Spirit Worship today to receive 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!

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

Advent Journey Community Suppers & Coloring – December 13 (5:30-7pm)
Join us for supper (Pizza provided), singing and conversation as we color our way to Christmas. All ages are welcome. RSVP Wednesday noon with numbers & food allergies: 384-0843 or office@visionsunited.ca. Sign up sheet is in the foyer. Please bring your own plate, mugs & cutlery to help with our clean-up.

UCW Christmas Luncheon – Today, Sunday, December 9 (4pm)
The UCW are cordially inviting ladies of our congregation and community to a "Christmas Luncheon" at the campus. Hope to see you there!

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

Other Church and Community Events

The Metrotones Pop Chorus – Friday, December 14 (7:30pm)

The Metrotones Pop Chorus present their annual Christmas charity concert at the Moncton Wesleyan Celebration Centre in an effort to assist the working poor and the homeless. All proceeds go to The Food Depot Alimentaire with assistance to The Karing Kitchen and The Ray of Hope Needy Kitchen. Tickets are \$10. plus food items available at Jean Coutu Pharmacies; Read's Newsstands; Sobey's (Vaughn Harvey Blvd.); The Hospice Shoppe; People's Park Tower Variety; and any chorus member. For more information call 384-0225 or visit www.metrotones.org.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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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)