



**Minister:** Rev. Dr. Shawn Redden  
**Music Director:** Daphna Pearson  
**Office Administrator:** Emily Smith  
**Greeter:** needed  
**Door Attendant:** John Russell  
**Conversation Café:** Carol Kelly  
**Teller:** Jocelyne Quann

***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 8, 2019 - Advent 2 - Peace**

Preparing a Way - Persisting in Peace

*Isaiah 11:1-10 & Matthew 3: 1-12*

Dec. 8	9:30am	Conversation Café - <i>Host: Carol Kelly</i>
	9:30-10:30am 11:30am - 1pm	"Write for Rights"
	10:30am	Spirit Gathering - Advent 2 - Peace
Dec. 10	1:30pm	UCW Meeting
	1:30pm	Joint Steering Team with JHS
Dec. 11	10am	Advent Small Group BeLoving (190 Carson Dr. Common Room)
	7:00pm	CLT Meeting
Dec. 12	9:30am	Vision Aiders (Second Cup Gorge Road)
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
Dec. 15	9:30am	Conversation Café – <i>Host: Ruth Flanagan</i>
	10:30am	Spirit Gathering - Advent 3 - Sing Joy

### **Children's Spirit Space**

*This week's leader:* Megan Smith; *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.

**The Season of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love** are more than feelings.

We bring these gifts to birth with our living.

Today, we light the candle of Peace.

Thank you to the Baycroft family for lighting our Advent Wreath today.

**This Sunday - Dec 8<sup>th</sup> - "Write for Rights"** 9:30am-10:30am and 11:30am-1pm, Participate in this international letter-writing campaign to support people who have been wrongly imprisoned and tortured, and to influence world leaders to protect individuals or people whose human rights have been denied. The event marks International Human Rights Day, Dec. 10th and is part of the work of Amnesty International. Case stories, sample letters are provided. You may also choose to take material home to write a letter. Hosted by Vision Aiders.

**Toyland at Moncton Headstart** - Once again, the Vision Aiders Team is organizing assistance to those who need help at Christmas time. Gift cards (suitable for teenagers) or a monetary donation (cash or a cheque made out to Visions United church with "TOYLAND" IN THE MEMO LINE) may be given and a tax receipt will be issued for both. A list of suitable gift cards is available at church. Donations may be made at the table in the front hallway from Nov. 17-Dec.15. Many Moncton families will greatly appreciate your generosity.

**UCW Meeting** – Tuesday, December 10 at 1:30pm. UCW will be meeting at the home of Carol Kelly, 196 Carson Drive, Apt. 2114. Members are invited to bring along a Christmas poem, reading or such to share.

**Visions' Congregational Christmas Party!** - Wednesday, December 18 at 5:30. Come one, come all, and bring a friend. We'll gather downstairs for a pizza supper. Please bring your own dishes, and a dozen cookies to share if you've done some holiday baking. Everything else will be provided: pizza, veggie tray, punch, and ice cream. Free will donation. At 6:30, we'll head upstairs for a carol sing, followed by a talent show until 7:30. All are welcome to sign up and play a tune, recite a poem, juggle, etc. Please let us know numbers by Sunday, December 15.

**Advent Small Group "BeLonging"** - Dec 11<sup>th</sup>, 10-11:15pm (190 Carson Dr. Common Room) Joseph and Mary travelled to Bethlehem because they belonged to "the house and lineage of David." Join us as we create space to explore belonging: the longing to belong in an age of loneliness, the nature of belonging, and the challenges and joys of belonging in a community of faith. Donna Tourner, a friend of the L'Arche community, joins Janice MacLean of the Prayer Bench to offer us reflection.

**Book Club** - Friday, December 13, at 2:00 at the home of Linda Higgins - 483 Indian Mtn. Road. Our book is Oranges for Christmas by Margarita Morris.

**Offering Envelopes:** It's that time of year again folks. If you do not use PAR and are currently not receiving envelopes but would like to, please contact Emily by leaving a phone message, 506-384-0843 or email her at [office@visionsunited.ca](mailto:office@visionsunited.ca) and she will add you to the list. All envelopes will be available for pick up on or after Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Looking Ahead - Advent & Christmas Season Gatherings**

Dec 15<sup>th</sup> Advent 3 - Sing Joy - A special service of Carols, Story and Reflection  
Dec 18<sup>th</sup> Congregational Christmas Party  
Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> Advent 4 - Love - Our children will lead us and we share Communion  
Dec 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve - 4:00pm Children's Service of Story and Song  
Christmas Eve - 7:00pm All Ages with Candlelight service  
Dec 29<sup>th</sup> No service  
Jan 5<sup>th</sup> Epiphany Sunday

**Grocery Card Program** - *Easy for you fundraiser!* For every grocery card sold Vision United gets 4%; that's \$4 for every \$100 sold. Get your Sobey's, and Superstore cards before the service.

**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 answering machine (384-0843), and a notice placed on our Website and Facebook page. We try and post notice to radio stations and CBC storm centre: <https://www.cbc.ca/news2/interactives/stormcentre/index.html?region=NB>

## **OTHER CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEWS & UPDATES**

**Rock & Roll Christmas Concert** - Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 7pm - Mountain View United Church, with Jonny & The Moondawgs, Mark Lloyd, Stephen Lloyd, Donna & Gerry Melanson & Mountain View Choir. Freewill offering.

**The Metrotones Pop Chorus Annual Christmas Charity Concert** - Dec. 15, 7:30pm, Moncton Wesleyan Celebration Centre. All net proceeds for the Food Depot Alimentaire with assistance to The Karing Kitchen and The Ray of Hope Kitchen. Tickets \$10 (plus food items) available at Jean Coutu Pharmacies; Read's Newstands; Sobey's (Vaughan Harvey Blvd); People's Park Tower Variety; & any chorus member.

**"Messiah Heaven's Glory" Christmas Cantata** – Hillsborough United Church, Thurs. Dec. 19, 7:30pm and Sun. Dec. 22, 10am. All are welcome to join us in this celebration of song.

## 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 - Messages)	384-8013 (Fax)
	588-0326 (Minister Cell)	
<b>Email:</b>	office@visionsunited.ca	<a href="mailto:minister@visionsunited.ca">minister@visionsunited.ca</a>
<b>Announcements:</b>	announcements@visionsunited.ca	
<b>Web:</b>	visionsunited.ca	
<b>Facebook:</b>	Facebook.com/visionsunitedchurch Facebook.com/groups/visionsunited	
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9:30am – 12:30pm	
<b>Minister Hours:</b>	This week: 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. Change/cancel deductions 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 Return to the office or place in the offering plate on Sunday.
- Charitable tax receipts for Envelope & PAR contributors issued at 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 2019 objective of \$20,000.



**RECONNECT JAR** – Your donation supports the Reconnect Street Intervention Program in Greater Moncton , outreach to those who are homeless and at risk. Donate your refundable recyclables to Visions. All proceeds support Reconnect.

**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.