



**Minister:** Rev. Dr. Shawn Redden  
**Music Director:** Daphna Pearson  
**Office Administrator:** Emily Smith  
**Greeter:** Jocelyn Quann  
**Door Attendant:** Fay Cameron  
**Conversation Café:** Ruth Flanagan  
**Teller:** Cecil Briggs

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***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 15, 2019 - Advent 3 - Sing Joy**

*The Story of the First Christmas Carol*

*Luke 1: 26-37; Luke 1:47-55*

*Service of Carols and Story*

|         |                   |  |
|---------|-------------------|--|
| Dec. 15 | 9:30am            | Conversation Café - <i>Host: Ruth Flanagan</i> |
|         | 10:30am           | Spirit Gathering - Advent 3 – Sing Joy         |
| Dec. 18 | 5:30pm-<br>7:30pm | Congregational Christmas Party                 |
| Dec. 19 | 7:00pm            | Choir Practice                                 |
| Dec. 22 | 9:30am            | Conversation Café – <i>Host: Jill Baycroft</i> |
|         | 10:30am           | Spirit Gathering - Advent 4 - Live Love        |
| Dec 24  | 4:00pm            | Children's Christmas Eve - Story and Song      |
|         | 7:00pm            | Christmas Eve All Ages with Candle lighting    |

**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 Joy and Sing Joy as we  
celebrate this season with a special service of the story of song.

Thank you to Kaylee and Maddie Cormier and Linda Higgins  
for lighting our Advent Wreath today.

### **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.

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**Toyland at Moncton Headstart** - Last Sunday to bring your gift cards or donate. 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. Many Moncton families will greatly appreciate your generosity.

**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. Those who are interested are invited to stay on for a game of Christmas Trivia, Jeopardy style.

**Offering Envelopes:** Please pick yours up today before or after the Spirit Gathering.

**The Christmas Letter** is also available for pick-up today. If you are able to deliver or drop off someone's letter in the next few days, please do. Remaining letters will be mailed.

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

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

**Letters from 'Write for Rights'** - Bring your letters addressed overseas to church this Sunday. Visions Aiders will bundle them and pay postage. Letters to the Canadian Prime Minister/MP's can be mailed with no postage. Thank you for your participation.

**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 Sobeyes, 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>

**Do You Have an Announcement?** Please remember that all announcements for the bulletin are sent to the special announcement email: [announcements@visionsunited.ca](mailto:announcements@visionsunited.ca)

#### OTHER CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEWS & UPDATES

**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; Sobeyes (Vaughan Harvey Blvd); People's Park Tower Variety; & any chorus member.

**Stories and Songs** – Trinity-St. Stephen's United Church, Amherst. Sun. Dec. 15, 4pm. Come and hear the story of "Carmichael's Dog" and musical selections sung by the choir. Freewill Offering with proceeds supporting the Amherst Food Bank and the Trinity-St. Stephen's Outreach Fund.

**"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.

**Atlantic School of Theology** – AST invites you to register for one of their Continuing Education opportunities, beginning in January - sign up before December 17, 2019 to reserve your spot! To check out course options please visit <http://www.astheology.ns.ca/con-ed/2020.html>

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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|-------------------------|---|--|
| <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)   |
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| <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<br>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.