

**Saint Andrew's Presbyterian
&
St. Paul's United
Ecumenical Shared Ministry**
January 25, 2026 - 10:30 a.m.

Robbie Burns Day



Minister

The Rev. Michelle Armstrong

Organist & Choir Director

Dr. Sharon Pond

Clerk of Session

Jean Boudreau

Council Chair

Marc Horncastle

Ministers Emeriti

Rev. Douglas E. Blaikie

Rev. Dr. Basil Lowery

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Bulletin submissions:
Noon Wednesday

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wəlastəkwiyyik (Wolastoqiyik) Peoples.

This territory is covered by the “Treaties of Peace and Friendship” which Wəlastəkwiyyik (Wolastoqiyik), Mi'kmaq, and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1726.

The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyyik (Wolastoqiyik) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude: *Jesus, Joy of Man's Desiring*

~ Bach

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Introit:

'Open Our Hearts'

MV 21

**Open our heart, open our minds.
Open our lives to you O loving God
open our hearts. (x 2)**

Call to Worship: *(Responsive)*

The Lord is our light and salvation.

We will not be afraid.

Behold the beauty of the Lord!

**God will shelter us on any day of trouble
and set us high upon a rock.**

Let God's people shout for joy!

For Christ calls us and claims us as his own.

Come and worship in unity and love; let us rejoice together!

Opening Prayer

Hymn:

'Will You Come and See the Light'

VU 96

**Will you come and see the light from the stable door?
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.
It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are.
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?**

**Will you step into the light that can free the slave?
It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.
By the pyramids of greed there's a longing to be freed.
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?**

***Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?
Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.
When the truth is cut and bruised, and the innocent abused,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?***

***Will you join the hope, alight in a young girl's eyes,
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?
When the lowest and the least are the foremost at the feast,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?***

***Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?
In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,
and the darkness all about is too dim to put it out:
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?***

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

O God, you call us to live in the light of your love, Yet we confess that in our shame and guilt, we stand in the shadows, afraid that if we bring our selfishness and our mistakes before you that you will turn your back on us. We also confess that we have turned our back on you, allowing the loudest voices to take center stage, even while they proclaim ways of being that run counter to Jesus' teachings. We shrink into the shadows out of fear of what might happen if we stand up for the truth we find in the life of Christ. Help us, Lord, to remember and proclaim that You came into the world, not to condemn it, but to save us and the whole world. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Time for the Young and the Young at Heart

The Story before the Story

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination:

O God, we seek your wisdom and truth in the Scriptures. Send your Holy Spirit upon us to open our minds and hearts to receive the gift of your Word. Challenge and comfort us in what we hear, and strengthen us to follow Jesus, your Living Word.

Scripture Readings:

Responsive Psalm: 139:13-18

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!
I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Focal Reading (Gospel): John 3:1-21

Narrator: Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him,

Nicodemus: “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.”

Narrator: Jesus answered him,

Jesus: “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

Nicodemus, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?”

Jesus “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus “How can these things be?”

Jesus “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds

were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem: *Cantate Domino*

~ Lewis

Message

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of Response:

*‘Lord, the light of your love is shining’
Lord, the light of your love is shining
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us.
Set us free by the truth you bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.*

TBOP 376

(Refrain)

*Shine, Jesus shine; fill this land with the Father’s glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our heart on fire.
Flow, river flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light!*

*Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by your blood I may enter your brightness.
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me. R*

*As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory:
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me. R*

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

Presentation of the Offerings

Doxology

*‘Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow’
Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures high and low,
Give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.*

VU 541

Hymn:

'Let there be Light'

VU 679

***Let there be light, let there be understanding,
let all the nations gather, let them be face to face.***

***Open our lips, open our minds to ponder,
open the door of concord opening into grace.***

***Perish the sword, perish the angry judgment,
perish the bombs and hunger, perish the fight for gain.***

***Hallow our love, hallow the deaths of martyrs,
hallow their holy freedom, hallowed be your name.***

***Your kingdom come, your Spirit turn to language,
your people speak together, your Spirit never fade.***

***Let there be light, open our hearts to wonder,
perish the way of terror, hallow the world God made.***

Prayer of Dedication: (Unison)

God, we never know what you will do with our gifts, but we offer what we have and ask that with your blessing these gifts may shine with your love and light. Through your spirit guide us so that these gifts may be used in ways that hold back the darkness, allowing your kingdom to shine forth. Amen.

GOING OUT TO SERVE

Choral Closing:

"This Little Light of Mine"

MV 138

***This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.***

Commissioning & Benediction

Postlude: Masque

~ Bedard

¹ PCC Worship Planner January 25, 2026; ² New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

GOOD MORNING AND WELCOME EVERYONE!

May this service be a blessing to you
as we continue to worship together each week, in person and online.

Please join us in the Hall following service for fellowship and refreshments.

Thank you to our Volunteers today:

Greeters - Jean and Alan Boudreau, Carole Peacock

Scripture Readers - Ron Naugler (Responsive Psalm and Narrator)
Deborah West (Jesus), Kendall Wright (Nicodemus)

Audio/Visual - Glynis Martin, Beth and Shawn Meister

Counters / Tellers - Carole Peacock and Gail Simmons ***Fellowship Host*** - Chris Grant

THANK YOU, CHURCH! I want to reach out personally to thank you for supporting the mom and her two children from through our Christmas sponsorship via Liberty Lane. Your collective generosity served as a reminder to her that the community truly cares.

She is incredibly deserving and was genuinely taken aback when she came in to meet with us. It was an emotional moment, and we are so grateful that you were able to support her in a way that met her exactly where she was at the time. We will continue to walk alongside her and support her on her journey forward, with hope and care, and our prayers. Wishing you a wonderful 2026 filled with many beautiful moments ahead. ~ Heather Rutherford, M & O

Friday A.M. Breakfast 2 Go currently need the following items:

Cheese Whiz, peanut butter, instant coffee, individual cereal boxes and toilet papers.

The Pantry needs the following items for their clients:

hand soap bars, dish detergent, salt, cake mixes, 1L vinegar, 1L apple and orange juice.

The Brown Bag Lunch Program currently needs proteins

(pull tab top sandwich meats such as flakes of ham or turkey etc.)

Donations to all our outreach programs are greatly appreciated.

ANNUAL REPORTS are due!

**If you have a report to submit,
please email it to the office/s ASAP.**

Thank you.

**** Extra parking is available Sunday mornings
at *Bright Minds Early Learning Centre*, located at
the corner of Carleton & Needham Streets, just a
short walk from the West church door.**

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

Feb. 1 – Marg Leonard

Feb. 8 – Beth and Shawn Meister

Feb. 15 – open for a volunteer

Feb. 22 – Sandra and Ron Steeves

Due to your quick response,
the roster for next month is nearly complete.

Thank you!



The Women's

Inter-Church Council of Fredericton
will be hosting the *World Day of Prayer
Bible Study* on Monday, February 2 at
11:00 a.m. at St. Theresa's Catholic
Church, 1 William Street, Northside.

All are welcome to join us.

This Week:

Ecumenical Assembly meets in the Hall this Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.
Bible Study with Rev. Michelle resumes on Thursday, from 6 - 7 p.m. in her Study.
All are welcome to attend.

ONGOING CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Monday - Friday ~ **Community Outreach ~ Brown Bag Lunch Program**
Tuesdays ~ **Ladies Group, 9:30 a.m. in the Hall - All are welcome!!**
Tuesdays & Thursdays ~ **Quilting Group, 1 - 4 p.m. in the Parlour - All are welcome!**
Wednesdays ~ **Community Outreach ~ Pantry Program –**
~ **Bible Study, 6-7 p.m., Rev. Michelle's Study – All welcome!**
Thursdays ~ **Choir Practice, 7-8 p.m. in the Hall ~ All welcome!**
Fridays ~ **Community Outreach Breakfast 2 Go, 9-10:30 a.m.**

The Fredericton Choral Society, under the dynamic direction of Greg Geldart, rehearse on Monday evenings; new members are welcome, and we accept registrations up to the end of January. We are preparing for two exciting concerts this spring: On April 14, we will present Haydn's "*Missa in Tempore Belli*" with the Fredericton Symphony Orchestra at the Playhouse. On May 9, we will present our second annual "*Spring Songs and Sweets*" concert, which will feature popular show tunes. For more info. contact Jack Walsworth at jlwals@nbn.net.nb.ca

Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers is a local charitable organization whose Fund Raising Projects support grass roots organizations in sub Saharan Africa, through the Stephen Lewis Foundation & Help Lesotho. New members are welcome; you don't have to be a grandmother. Our next meeting is on Monday, Jan. 26, 1:30 pm in the basement of Holy Family Church on Hanwell Rd. Come to the meeting & learn more.

CONNECTING WITH REV. MICHELLE

Rev. Michelle can be reached at either office number:

(506) 455-8220 or (506) 458-1183,

on her direct office line:

(506) 455-0639,

or by text or call her cell:

(506) 259-7602

or via email at michellenarmstrong@hotmail.com

Her drop-in office hours are Sundays & Mondays, 1 -2:30 p.m.

Appointments are preferred to ensure the time you need to connect.

Can't make it to Sunday Service in person?

Join us via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83673756287> Passcode: **2023**

View anytime on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@st.paulsunitedchurch984/videos>