

**Saint Andrew's Presbyterian  
and  
St. Paul's United  
Ecumenical Shared Ministry**

**February 22, 2026 - 10:30 a.m.**

**Lent I**



Minister

**The Rev. Michelle Armstrong**

Organist & Choir Director

**Dr. Sharon Pond**

Clerk of Session

**Jean Boudreau**

Council Chair

**Vacant**

Ministers Emeriti

**Rev. Douglas E. Blaikie**

**Rev. Dr. Basil Lowery**

**Our Address**

512 Charlotte Street  
Fredericton, NB E3B 1M2

**Office Administrators**

**Erin Webb**

(506) 458-1183

[stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com)

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays,  
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Melissa Howard**

(506) 458-1183

[stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com)

Contact for appointment.

**Joanna Price**

(506) 455-8220

[sapcfred@gmail.com](mailto:sapcfred@gmail.com)

**Office Hours:** Mon. – Fri.  
2:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**Bulletin submissions:**  
**Noon Wednesday**

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

*This territory is covered by the “Treaties of Peace and Friendship” which Wəlastəkwiyik (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 Wəlastəkwiyik (Wolastoqiyik) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.*

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**WE GATHER TOGETHER**

***Prelude: 'Blessed Jesus, At Your Word'***

*~ Bach*

***Welcome & Announcements***

***Lighting of the Christ Candle***

***Introit:***

*'Healer of Our Every Ill'*

**VU 619**

*Healer of our every ill,*

*light of each tomorrow,*

*give us peace beyond our fear,*

*and hope beyond our sorrow.*

***Call to Worship: <sup>1</sup> (Responsive)***

Come, walk with the Lord this day,

**We seek places of peace and rest  
from the stresses of our lives.**

The Shepherd will lead you

to where your soul may be restored.

**We come, sometimes fearful  
of the hostilities of the world.**

Amid all the turmoil of this time, the Shepherd still speaks.

**Listening to his voice,**

**we find all we need for abundant life.**

As we worship, may his words and actions

bring healing and a restoration of our spirits.

***Opening Prayer***

***Hymn:***

*'Are You a Shepherd?'*

**MV 126**

***Are you a shepherd, good shepherd who leads us  
safely through danger while calming our fears?***

***Are you a father who shelters and feeds us,  
shares in our laughter and wipes away tears?***

*[Refrain:]*

***Yes, you are shepherd, parent, and teacher,  
but you are greater than all that we know.  
Holy and living, loving and giving,  
God you are with us wherever we go.***

***Are you a mother, good mother who bears us,  
comforts protects us, and helps us to rest?  
Are you a teacher who daily prepares us,  
challenging students to offer their best? R.***

***Great, gentle shepherd, forever beside us,  
lead all your children in paths that are right.  
Great, loving parent, wise teacher you guide us.  
We want to love you and bring you delight. R.***

**Prayer of Confession:<sup>2</sup> (Unison)**

Prayer response:

Living Word, you speak  
and we don't always recognize your voice.

***Assurance of Pardon***

***Time for the Young and the Young at Heart***

## **THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

***The Story Before the Story***

***Prayer of Illumination:*<sup>2</sup> (Unison):**

God of Life, send the Holy Spirit to guide us as we listen to today's Scripture. What we hear may sound familiar, yet we pray that you speak your truth again in ways that open our minds and hearts so that we may have a deeper understanding of your Living Word. Amen.

***Scripture:* John 10:1-18**

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate.

Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. **Thanks Be to God.**

**Anthem:** 'Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days'

~ Meyer

**Message**

### **OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn of Response:**

*'God of the Bible'*

**MV 28**

***God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,  
hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,  
you are our centre, daylight or darkness,  
freedom or prison, you are our home.***

*[Refrain:]*

***Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.  
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.***

***God in our struggles, God in our hunger,  
suffering with us, taking our part,  
still you empower us, mothering Spirit,  
feeding, sustaining, from your own heart. R.***

***Those without status, those who are nothing,  
you have made royal, gifted with rights,  
chosen as partners, midwives of justice,  
birthing new systems, lighting new lights. R.***

*Not by your finger, not by your anger,  
will our world order change in a day,  
but by your people, fearless and faithful,  
small paper lanterns, lighting the way. R.*

*Hope we must carry, shining and certain,  
through all our turmoil, terror and loss,  
bonding us gladly, one to the other,  
till our world changes, facing the Cross. R.*

### ***Invitation to the Offering***

#### ***Doxology***

*'Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow'*  
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures high and low,  
Praise God in Jesus fully known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit One.**

**VU 541**

#### ***Prayer of Dedication:***<sup>3</sup> *(Unison)*

Lord God, we offer our gifts in thanksgiving for all the goodness you provide. Bless our gifts and our lives so that we become a source of goodness for others, in the name of Christ, our strength and our hope. Amen.

### ***Invitation to the Table***

#### ***Communion Hymn:***

*'Bread of Life, Feed My Soul'*

**MV 194**

**1. Bread of life, feed my soul,  
as the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.  
Bread of life, fill my heart  
With the grace and mercy you impart.**

*[Chorus:]*

**I have heard your voice calling,  
"Come, my friend, and share  
In the feast that is laid out for you  
To show how much I care."**

**3. Bread of life, help me live  
A life as pure and true as Jesus did.  
Bread of life, help me see  
The boundless love of Christ for you and me. Ch.**

**5. Bread of life, feed my soul,  
as the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.  
Bread of life, fill my heart  
with the grace and mercy you impart.**

## ***Communion Liturgy<sup>4</sup>***

### ***The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving***

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Faithful God,

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise.

You are the maker of heaven and earth,

The giver of every good gift,

The gardener of all creation.

From dust you formed us,

And by your breath, you gave us life.

You planted us in your love

And called us to walk in your ways.

When we turned from you,

You did not abandon us.

You made a covenant with your people,

Walked with them through the wilderness and wandering

And taught them how to live by your word.

Again and again, you have been patient with us-

Pruning what leads to death,

And tending what leads to life.

In the fullness of time

You sent your son, Jesus Christ, born of Mary,

Baptized in the waters of repentance,

Driven into the wilderness,

And faithful even to the cross.

In him you have shown us the way of mercy

The path of obedience,

And the promise of new life.

And so, with all who have gone before us,

With all who seek your truth,

And with all creation that sings your praises,

We lift our voices and join the song of heaven:

***O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.***

***All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.***

***Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.***

***And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always!***

We give thanks that on the night when he was betrayed,  
Our lord Jesus took bread,  
And after blessing it, he broke it and said,  
“This is my body, given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, he took the cup, saying  
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
Poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

“Do this, as often as you drink it,  
In remembrance of me.”

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!  
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!***

Pour out your Spirit upon us, O God,  
That this meal may strengthen us for the journey,  
That this grace may take root in our lives,  
And that we may bear fruit for your kingdom.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
In unity with the Holy Spirit,  
All glory and honour are yours, Almighty God,  
Now and forever.

***Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!  
Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!***

***The Lord's Prayer:***

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory, forever.  
Amen.**

***Sharing of the Elements***

**Prayer after Communion**<sup>3</sup> (Unison)

Lord Jesus Christ,  
We are so grateful for the gifts you have shared with us,  
for we know what they cost you.  
Send us out in the strength of the Holy Spirit,  
unafraid of what service in your name will cost us,  
For we would be faithful to you now and always. Amen.

**WALKING TOGETHER IN THE WAY**

**Hymn:**

*'Take Up His Song'*

**MV 213**

**Take up his song of peace\* and go into the world.  
Take up his song of peace\* in ev'ry moment.  
In ev'ry moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives;  
Lay them down, in peace, lay them down, and take up his song.**

\*(Additional verses: "hope," "faith," and "love.")

**Commissioning & Benediction**

**Choral Closing:**

*'Throughout these Lenten Days and Nights'*

**VU 108, Vs. 5**

**So let us choose the path of one  
who wore, for us, the crown of thorn,  
and slept in death, that we might wake  
to life on Resurrection Morn!**

**Postlude:** *'Postlude on "Drumclog"'*

*~ Noble*

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<sup>1</sup> - Adapted from Nancy Townsley <https://ministrymatters.com/>; <sup>2</sup> - Adapted from Bibleworm Liturgy February 17, 2026;

<sup>3</sup> - Adapted PCC worship Planner Feb. 22, 2026; <sup>4</sup> *Grounded and Growing—A Communion Liturgy for Lent | Reformed Worship*

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**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** - Rose Johnston and Ron Naugler      **Scripture Reader** - Kelly Simpson  
**Audio/Visual** - Glynis Martin, Beth and Shawn Meister  
**Counters** - Joanna Price and Volunteer / **Tellers** - Carole Peacock and Kimberly Keetch  
**Fellowship Hosts** - Ron and Sandra Steeves

**TAX RECEIPTS** will be available soon. If you have had a recent change of address, please call or email the offices and update your contact information. Thank you.

**HELP WANTED!** In recent months, many of us have voiced concern over the quality of the sound in the sanctuary and with the Zoom broadcasts of Sunday services. Last October we asked Doug Beairsto (who created and manages the sound system at Wilmot United) to study our current sound system (installed over 20 years ago), locate/identify problems and recommend updates, including a shopping list for new equipment. **This has all been done and now we need a volunteer to put the plan into action.** Maybe you are an engineer, or someone seriously interested in new technology. Perhaps you don't know much about sound systems but you're good at making things happen, getting things done. Are you the parent of a student pursuing studies in this field at college or university? This project could be a family affair. The time frame? Starting now, completed by September. Saint Andrew's/St. Paul's needs you! For further information, please contact Glynis Martin at [glynism@gmail.com](mailto:glynism@gmail.com).

### **CURRENT NEEDS OF OUR OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

**The Pantry:** Cheeze Whiz; Jello; tuna; spaghetti; salt; toothbrushes;

**Brown Bag Lunch:** Juice boxes.

**Breakfast 2 Go:** Cheese Whiz; peanut butter; instant coffee; mini cereal boxes; TP.

*All donations are appreciated!*

### **THIS WEEK:**

**Ecumenical Assembly** meets in the Hall on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

### **ONGOING CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**Tuesdays** ~ *Ladies Group, Hall - 9:30 a.m. All are welcome!!*

**Tues. & Thurs.** ~ *Quilting Group, Parlour - 1-4 p.m. ~ All are welcome!*

**Wednesdays** ~ *Pantry Program, Basement - 9-11 a.m.*

~ *Brown Bag Lunch Program, St. Paul's Office - 10:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.*

**Thursdays** ~ *Bible Study, Rev. Michelle's Study - 6-7 p.m. ~ All are welcome!*

~ *Choir Practice, Hall - 7-8 p.m. ~ All are welcome!*

**Fridays** ~ *Breakfast 2 Go, Hall entrance - 9 - 10:30 a.m.*

### **SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE**

March 1 – **Volunteers needed!** March 8 – Lois Paterson and Barb McGuigan

March 15 – The Simpsons March 22 - **Volunteers needed!**

March 29 – Kim Keetch, Beth & Shawn Meister

The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Hall entry.

*Thank you for supporting this ministry of hospitality!*

**Annual World Day of Prayer Services in the Fredericton Area**

**The Women of Nigeria have prepared the World Day of Prayer service this year.**

*The theme is "I Will Give You Rest: Come." (Matthew 11:28-30).*

The Women's Inter-Church Council of Fredericton invites you to the following services:

**Southside: Friday, March 6, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church,**  
2130 Route 102, Lincoln. Rain Date: Friday, March 13 at 2:00 p.m.

**Northside: Sunday, March 8 at 2:00 p.m. at St. John's Anglican Church,**  
75 Main Street, Fredericton. Rain Date: Sunday, March 15 at 2:00 p.m.

***Refreshment and Fellowship following the services.***

***~ All are welcome, women and men. ~***

**Parking for Sunday Service**

If our lot is full, **extra spaces are available** at ***Bright Minds Early Learning Centre,***  
**486 Needham Street,** only a 2 min. walk out Carleton Street to the West door of the church.

The reserved parking in our lot for the Minister and Organist are to be available to them 24/7.  
Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

***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](mailto: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>