

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

**August 16, 2026 - 10:30 a.m.
12th Sunday after Pentecost**



TO LOVE & SERVE

**We welcome
Rev. Susan McAllister
leading us in worship today.**

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**

**Office Administrators
Saint Andrew's
Joanna Price**

**Tuesday and Thursday
9 am – 1 pm
(506) 455-8220
sapcfred@gmail.com**

**St. Paul's
Melissa Howard
Hours vary.
Email is monitored.
Please reach out.
(506) 458-1183
stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com**

**Our Address
512 Charlotte Street
Fredericton, NB E3B 1M2**

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.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude: '3 Short Voluntaries'

~ Walond

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship* : (Responsive)

One: How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!

**All: We gather together to worship the Holy One
in unity.**

One: How very good and powerful it is
when we commit to the kingdom of God

**All: We gather together to discern God's will
and declare God's reign!**

One: How very good and hopeful it is when we reconcile
and repair our brokenness and bless one another!

Opening Hymn: 'God of Grace and God of Glory' VU #686

***God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
now fulfil your church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour.***

***Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn your Christ, assail your ways;
fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days.***

***Cure your children's warring madness,
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton selfish gladness,
rich in goods and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.***

Prayer for Transformation and New Life *:

God of abundance, forgive us for living as if scarcity is an unavoidable reality. Forgive us for allowing siblings in our neighborhoods, communities, and world to live in poverty as an unending condition. Forgive us for not trusting in your abundance, and propel us to defy the temptation to adopt a scarcity mindset due to challenging economic conditions. Empower us to participate in mutual sharing of resources, as well as to demand and create equitable systems that eliminate poverty for all your creation. Amen.

Words of Grace:

Beloved, Creator has crafted a world full of all we need.
Embrace abundance as an act of faith and trust
in the God who provides, who redeems, and who repairs.
The kingdom will come as we insist upon it,
and the Holy One meets us in our commitments.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Prayer for Understanding: (Unison)

Holy God, your Word is bread for our journey. Send us your Spirit so that we may know your wisdom and live it out for the sake of Christ, your Living Word. AMEN.

The Scriptures:

Hebrew Scripture: Genesis 45: 1- 15

45 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there, since there are

five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.' ¹² And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³ You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

Response: Thanks be to God for the gift of Ancient Wisdom.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 15: 21-28

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

Response: The Gospel for the People, **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Musical Interlude: 'As the Deer'

~ arr. Hayes

Message: A Persistent Parent'

Hymn of Response: 'There's a Wideness in God's Mercy'

VU #271

***There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.***

***There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings have such gracious judgement given.***

***There is plentiful redemption in the blood that Christ has shed;
there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.***

***Troubled souls, why will you scatter like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Foolish hearts, why will you wander from a love so true and deep?***

***For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind,
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.***

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering:

Knowing that every good and perfect gift
has the Holy One as its original source,
let us share the blessings that God has trusted with us.
Give generously and lovingly in the name of the Holy One.

Doxology: (Unison) *'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: (Unison)

Eternal and ever-present God, we offer these gifts in thanksgiving for the work of Christ in our lives. Bless them and us with the power of the Spirit, using our gifts for the work of reconciliation Christ has given us to do in the world you love. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer: (Unison)

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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom,
the power, and the glory for ever and ever.
AMEN.

WALKING TOGETHER IN THE WAY

Closing Hymn:

"Now Thank We All Our God"

VU #236

*Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever-joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us strong in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.*

***All praise and thanks to God for all that has been given,
the Son, and Spirit blest who dwell in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be, evermore.***

Commissioning & Benediction: (adapted from Psalm 67)

Be gracious unto us O God, and bless us, let the light of your face shine upon us. Encourage and empower us to make your ways and your saving power known to all the earth. Let us go forth, praising you in all we do and say, and my Your Blessing be upon us this day and forever more. In the name of God the Creator, Jesus Christ the Redeemer and the Holy Spirit the Sustainer, **AMEN.**

Postlude: 'Allegro'

~ Mendelssohn

Sources: Liturgy: *www.cc-ucc.org; Scripture: <http://www.biblegateway.com> New Revised Standard Updated English

Good Morning Everyone - Welcome!

May this service be a blessing to you

as we continue to worship together each week, in person and online.

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

Thank you to today's Volunteers!

Greeters – Etta Davis and Joan Shaw

Scripture Readers – Barbara Cull-Wilby (Hebrew Scripture); Roger Miller (Gospel)

Audio/Visual - Beth and Shawn Meister, Glynis Martin

SA's Counters - Treasurer & Assistants / ***SP's Tellers*** - Carole Peacock and Gail Simmons

Hospitality & Fellowship - Beth and Shawn Meister, Kim Keech

(Volunteers are still needed for Sundays, August 16, 23 and 30th;

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

The Worship Committee invites you to read scripture at Sunday services! Prior experience with public reading is not necessary. To participate in this ministry of the Word please contact Roger Miller at roger_miller@rogers.com.

Good News!

Thank you, everyone, for your patience, support and prayers during the time of Michelle's leave and thank you to all who led and supported us in worship as well as other pieces of our church life.

We are delighted to share that Rev Michelle will begin a gradual return effective Monday, August 17. Please continue to be patient and supportive while sharing your joyful returning welcome to Michelle when you see her.

Sincerely, Rev. Doug Blaikie,

Interim Moderator for Saint Andrew's & Co-chair Ecumenical Assembly

Current Needs of our Outreach Programs

The Pantry: Hand soap, dish soap, vinegar, salt, cookies, tomatoes, syrup.

Breakfast 2 Go: Cheez Whiz, cans of ham, chicken, turkey, fish; peanut butter; instant coffee; nutritional drinks; mini cereal boxes; TP.

Thank you for your ongoing support over the summer months.

Book Table – At fellowship time in the Hall following service, we invite you to browse a selection of books that were part of our lending library and are now for sale by donation. All funds raised will be used to purchase new titles for you to enjoy!

A Reminder!

For the month of August the offices will continue to operate on reduced hours. See the front of this bulletin for staff hours and how to reach either of us.

~ Joanna and Melissa

Outreach activities continue all summer:

Wednesdays ~ Pantry from 9 - 11 a.m. and Fridays ~ Breakfast 2 Go, 8:30 - 10 am.

It's time to renew your subscription and new subscribers are welcome! *Broadview* is an award-winning Canadian magazine featuring thought-provoking articles on spirituality, justice, ethics, faith, and current events. To renew or subscribe, please e-transfer \$30.00 to stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com. In the message field of your e-transfer, please include "**Broadview Subscription Fee**" and be sure to reply with your current mailing address, as the magazine is mailed directly to your home. Browse the current issue here: <https://broadview.org/category/magazine/2026-07/> If you have any questions, please contact Melissa in Saint Paul's office.

School Supplies: If you would like to donate school supplies which will be given to the Pantry team for distribution to clients with children returning to school in September, you are welcome to drop any off under the lighted white Mission tree at the entrance of the church on Sundays, or to the Hall during office hours. Items to consider; backpack, lunch box, water bottle, binders, loose leaf, lined tablets, crayons, pens/ pencils pens, individual Kleenex and travel size hand sanitizer. Thank you.

In Rev. Michelle's absence, if you or your family need pastoral care, please call either the Rev. Richard Bowley (Nashwaaksis United) at his cell number (506) 262-2150 or the Rev. Ellen Beairsto (Wilmot United) by text to her cell number (506) 474-2324. An emergency contact name & number is always available on the church voicemail - 24/7.

Parking Reminder – There are 2 dedicated parking spaces in our lot: Minister & Organist. Please respect this 24/7; there is 1 space to park with a disability permit and several more available on Charlotte St. directly in front of the church. There is extra parking for *Sunday services only* at Bright Minds Early Learning Centre (486 Needham St.) a 2 min. walk out Carleton St. to the West door of the church, at the corner of Carleton & Charlotte Streets.

Can't get to 512 Charlotte St. for Sunday Service? We will come to you!

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