

First United Church

19 Park Street, Corner Brook, NL A2H 2W8

Phone: 634-5301

Email: ucadmin@nl.rogers.com

Website: www.firstunitedcb.com

Minister: Rev John van Vliet
Ministers Emeritus: Rev Clayton Parsons
Rev Harry Whitehorne
Office Staff: Trixie Robertson
Music Director: Jennifer Billard

Office Hours: Weds & Thurs 9 am – 3.30 pm.
Fridays 8-12 noon.

We're able to receive bulletin info until **Thurs at 2.**

Rev van Vliet's email is firstministercb@gmail.com
His phone is **632-7129**. He tries to take Fridays off.

Washrooms

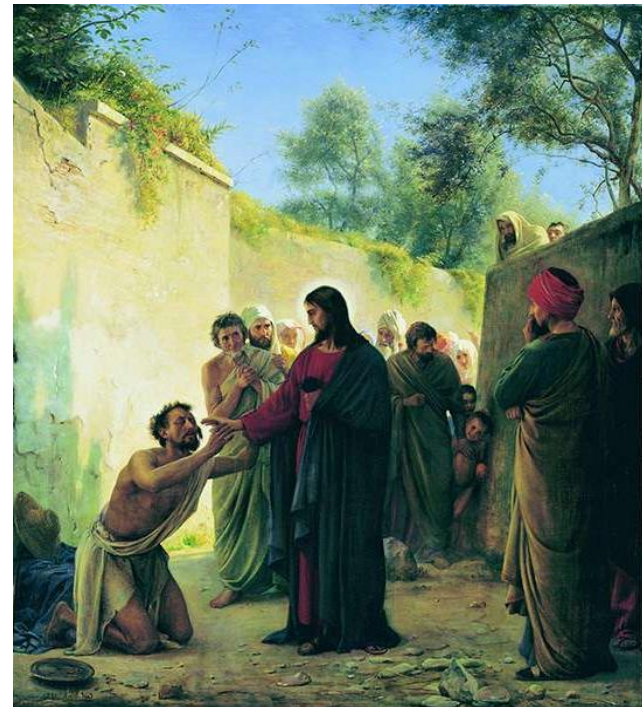
Upstairs: through the door to the right of the stage

Downstairs: the exit between the two coat racks

First United strives to be a scent free facility.

First United Church Corner Brook

October 27, 2024



The Healing of Bartimaeus
Carl Heinrich Bloch, 1871

October 27, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

Silent Prayer

Introit

Call to Worship: (adapted from Psalm 34)

L: I sought the LORD and he answered me.

P: When I cried out in suffering the LORD was there.

L: He delivered me from all my fears.

P: Those who look to God will never be ashamed.

Hymn: *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* VU 326

Prayer of Thanksgiving for God's Presence

Anthem

Reading: Mark 10: 46-52

Message: Far beyond the obvious

Hymn: *When Jesus the Healer* VU 358: 1, 4-6

Offertory Hymn: *We Give You But Your Own* VU 542

Offertory Prayer

Community Prayer/ LORD's Prayer

Hymn: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* VU 333

Blessing

Choral Blessing

Postlude

Join us for coffee, tea and other refreshments downstairs after the service today. It's Birthday Sunday!

Tonight at 7 pm there's an Uncommon Praise Concert at Oakland United Church. Everyone welcome. Admission \$10.

Memorials

Local: In loving memory of David Pardy by Marilyn & Kevin Pardy

Local: In loving memory of sister & aunt, Katherine Tavenor by Daphne & Brad Gardner & family

Local: In loving memory of our daughter Katherine Tavenor by Kitty & Edgar Stratton

Local: In loving memory of sister & aunt Katherine Tavenor by Dion & Joelle Stratton & Christian Davis

An important point to remember when reading the gospels...

The content of a story is often more reflective of the time it was written than the time in which the story is set.

While the *events* of Jesus' ministry took place between c. 30 and 33 – the actual *recording* of those events only started a couple decades later.

Paul wrote his letters from c 48 to about 60.

Mark wrote the first gospel – the first 'biography' of Jesus – probably in the late 60's. He may have been familiar with some of Paul's work.

Matthew and Luke wrote at least a decade or two later, and John later still.

The point is that while the gospels are *set* in the early 30's, their underlying theological content is often reflective of thinking from the 60's – 90's.

Fun facts related to today's reading...

Jericho is one of the oldest known continually inhabited places on earth, with over 20 different layers of occupation dating to at least as 9000 BCE. It's sometimes described as the oldest fortified city in the world.

Due to the nearby Jordan River and many springs it's a surprisingly rich agricultural area, sometimes called the city of palms. (Not that there are really that many, but compared to the surrounding desert it's an oasis.)

The city of Jericho sits at one of the lowest places on earth, very near to the Dead Sea, at about 270m below sea level. Due to its low elevation it actually benefits from compressed oxygen levels – about 4% more oxygen than at sea level.

Jericho is in the Great Rift Valley that stretches from Central Africa, up the Red Sea, and up the Jordan Valley. This is a major fault zone, and explains why the region experiences significant seismic activity. Two well-known bible stories featuring Jericho both describe violent seismic-type events: when the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed in an extremely violent way, and when the Israelites under Joshua captured the city after the walls famously collapsed.

Windows – We're getting close to being able to finish the last few. We don't want anyone to donate to this project in lieu of their usual givings but if you're able to give a bit more than usual and would like to see it go to a specific project, please consider a donation to the window fund.

\$200, \$500, \$1000, \$2000 or more – it all helps. As before, we'll put up small window plaques for the larger donations.

Please make your cheques out to First United Church, and add **Windows** to the memo line.

For more information please contact Charles Cameron at charlescameron451@hotmail.com (or 634-3067) or Jeff Follett at jefffollett@icloud.com (or 640-4171)