

Hello All,

On the road again...

Sunday, September 10 I had the privilege, on behalf of the Region, to join United Church friends in Florenceville-Bristol, NB to celebrate the formal amalgamation of St. Paul's (Centerville) and Faith Memorial United Churches.

Joy filled the air as friends gathered with smiles abundant while carrying baskets of their best food for the essential and most delicious after worship pot luck.

The people of these two congregations have been living together for some time. Still Sunday was a new day. Like many couples who follow the same path of living together before formal union, eventually comes the time to make a public commitment. To say "I do."

Sunday they said, "I do." They made a public statement of how they wish to be united, how they wish to live out God's dream for the world here and now, in Florenceville-Bristol, neighbouring communities and into the world.

With Spirit in our midst, Rev. Susan Estabrooks guided us with word, song and silence through a very meaningful liturgy which led us to a place of Oneness.

Worship began by acknowledging the territory, lighting the Christ candle and publicly declaring "We are indeed on Holy ground, for a power greater than ourselves has brought us to this day." For indeed, Spirit led these congregations to this place.

I had the privilege to offer a reflection and declare, on your behalf, the official words "You are now one congregation in Christ."

Going forward in hope, may it be so.

Please hold Rev. Susan and the newly amalgamated community of faith of Faith Memorial to the light. The future needs them.

Finally thank you to everyone of Faith Memorial for your gracious hospitality... even sending us home with a bag of gluten free rolls and a jar of mustard pickles! I love this United Church of ours... and of course Gods. To see photos form Sunday check out FSLDW Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/FSLDW>

In Peace,

Elizabeth

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