



Weekly Update from First – December 8/22



Everyone is invited to join us at **FIRST UNITED CHURCH** on Sunday Morning at 10:30am for our **ADVENT 3** Worship Service.

Rev. Paul will deliver the Family Time & Sermon!
Message: "Choosing the Way of Joy!"

Richard Auckland will be the Worship Leader

Scripture: St. Luke: Chapter 1, Verses 26-45

The Band will play, the Choir will sing and Rev. Paul, Austin & Rev. Paul's daughter, Siohban will sing as well!

If you'd prefer, join us ONLINE for Worship,
here is the Streaming Link for December 11th:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bIWcEksk0AY>

or join us on our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/firstunitedchurch

CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT COSTUMES

will be available in the Library
(sanctuary level across from
Rev. Paul's office)
beginning this Sunday!

Join us for Christmas Eve Worship
Saturday, December 24th at 7:30pm

TRUST... show RESPECT ... LISTEN ... then SPEAK.



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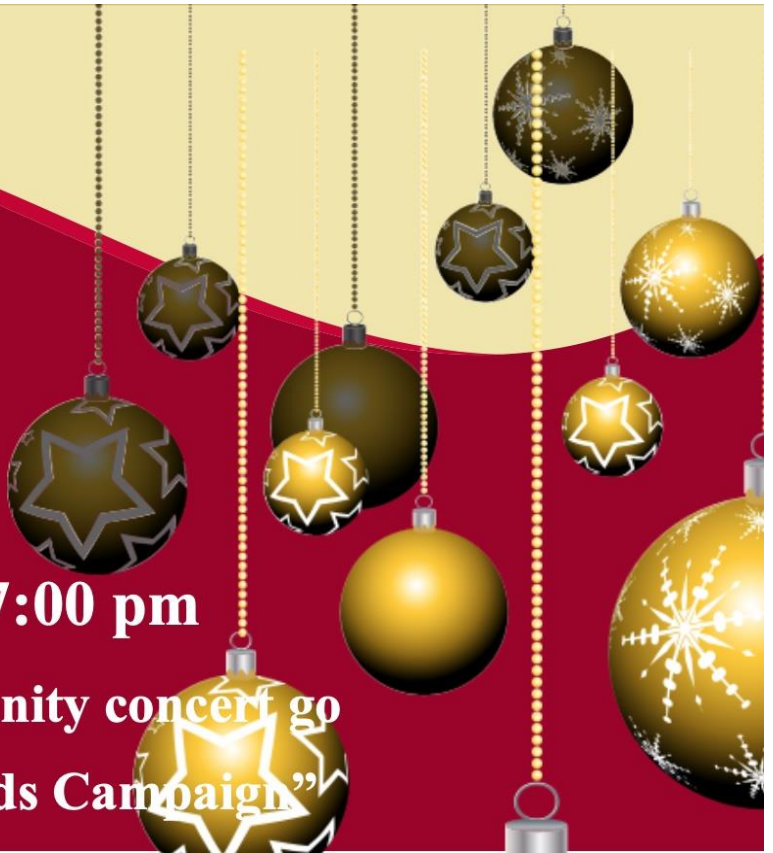
Central United Church
Presents

*Carols by
Candlelight*

Sunday, December 11, 7:00 pm

All proceeds from this community concert go

“Keep a Roof over their Heads Campaign”



Don't Miss the

DEADLINE!

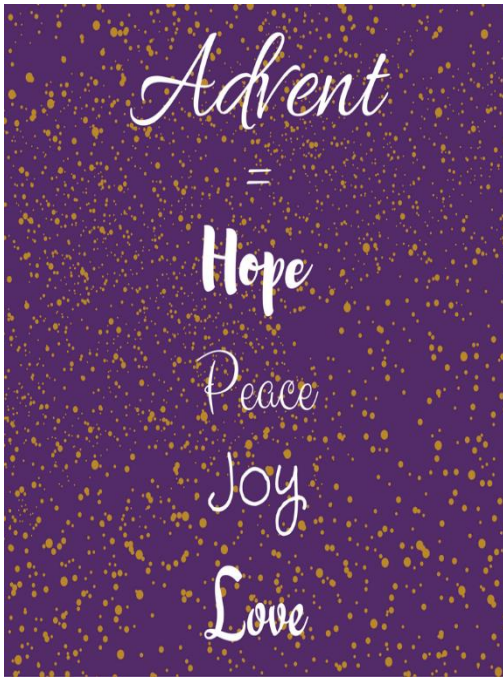
Lori will be on vacation from Friday, December 16 to Monday, January 2nd inclusive.

Anything that needs to be included in the Weekly Updates / Announcement Slides or posted on the website between Dec. 16 & Jan. 2 needs to be submitted to the Church office by noon on Wednesday, December 14th. Thank you!

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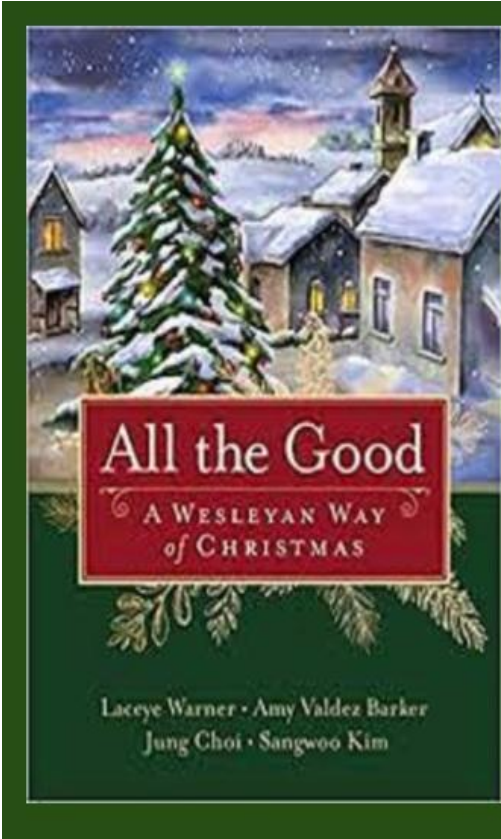
Tuesdays
in the Lower
Parlour
at Central UC

2 groups
10am - noon
7-9pm

"Take Time To Talk Together"

Led by Susanna Suchak





Central United invites all to come on an Advent journey to deepen your commitment both to God and to your neighbour. Study books are in paperback, large print, and ebook editions.

Wednesday at 1:00 pm (at Central United). Evening sessions available: Contact Kathryn Fletcher at 519-633-1902 or fletcherfamily@rogers.com for more information.

Everyone Welcome!

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Let's approach
 Christmas with an
 expectant hush, rather
 than a last-minute rush.

-Anonymous

First/Central Youth Group
 (Grade 6-12)
 meets **Wednesdays at**
First United Church
7-8:15pm

All Youth are welcome!



Senior Choir

Thursdays @ 7:30pm

**New Voices always
 welcome!**



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Next Sunday
December 18th

*Harpist
Kathleen
Gahagan*

playing with
Dr. Wayne
Carroll..bringing
some lovely
Christmas music
on the harp.



You are invited to join us for our
CHRISTMAS EVE
Worship Service

Saturday,
December 24th

Service
starts at
7:30pm



First United Church

7 Curtis Street, St Thomas

Check out our other upcoming events on our website:
www.1stunitedchurch.ca

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*Join us for a Joint
Christmas Day
Worship Service*

Sunday, December 25th: 10:30am
at Central United Church
(135 Wellington St.)



*First & Central United Churches
Communities of Kindness*



Family Movie Night
AT CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH

Wednesday December 28th
6:30 pm

Featuring: **The Star** -The Story of the
First Christmas

Families, friends and those young at
heart are invited to attend. Pj's and
blankets welcome.

Depending on Covid protocols snacks will be available.



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Put a seat at the table, an extra seat - or maybe two
for the lost and the cold, for the returning and the new.

Put a seat at the table to mark the spirit of the season:
counting our blessings, softening hard reason.

Put a seat at the table and another, to be sure,
throw some logs on the fire and open the door.

Tell everyone you know about this table that never ends;
shout on-high and shout it low - to every corner love extends.

Love, like the eyes of a child so Divine that it's said the very stars
in the Heavens aligned.

Born in the unlikeliest of places, it's true, to show us that stars can
be many a hue and that love can shine through us in every thing
that we do.

Like a Railway City with 'giving back' at its core; so full of the
spirit, you couldn't possibly ask more: Santa's favourite spot on
his wintry world tour, from the Grace Cafe to Harvest Hands,
the YWCA and the Christmas Care gang, to the Food Providers
Network and even the public library - a world without these places
would be much too scary.

So, put a seat at the table, for merriment and mirth,
for egnog-induced dancing and a reminder of your worth.

Put a seat at the table and tell stories of hope - from out of the cold
we gather and cope
and smile
and cry
and laugh
and swear...

You feel the Love again;
You are a part of the family.

Written by: Austin Campbell

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From the Church Office

Lori will be on holidays
from Friday, December 16th
to Monday, January 2nd inclusive

If you would like to make a donation for the 2022 year:

- see Lori in the Office on or before Thursday, December 15th
- place it through the Curtis Street mail slot
- slip it under the Office Door
- mail it to the Church
- You may also come in on Tuesday, January 3rd to make a final donation.

The final deposit for 2022 Givings will be made at 3pm on Tuesday, January 3rd .

Donations received after this time will be credited to your 2023 Givings.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy & safe Advent / Christmas Season.

First United Church

7 Curtis St., St. Thomas, ON N5P 1H3

Rev. Paul Browning, Minister

Phone: 519-631-7570 ext 22 (office)

519-681-3521 (home)

Email: paul@sharedministry.ca

Drop-in Hours: Tuesdays from noon-5pm

Austin Campbell, Community Engagement Co-ordinator

Phone: 519-631-7570 ext 23 (office)

519-617-3975 (cell)

Email: austin@sharedministry.ca

Lori Hoffman, Secretary/Treasurer

Phone: 519-631-7570 ext 21 (church office)

Email: office@1stunitedchurch.ca

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Even small gifts can make a big difference.



<p>\$10 Provides supplies for workshops to help youth serve their communities. GWV22-48</p>	<p>\$15 Helps stock an emergency pantry in Newfoundland. GWV22-35</p>	<p>\$10 Buys a grocery gift card for a family in northern Manitoba. GWV22-03</p>
<p>\$25 Provides a hygiene pack for a refugee from Ukraine. GWV22-39</p>	<p>\$25 Helps Indigenous people in Vancouver receive support that honours their culture GWV22-07</p>	<p>\$15 Provides nursery school supplies for a Girls School in Zambia. GWV22-26</p>

Meaningful gifts. No wrapping required. E-cards available.

Order online!  **gifts with vision**.ca 

A Giving Catalogue from the People of The United Church of Canada

Happy Birthday to

Wayne Travis, Noel MacKay, Dave Copeland, Carol Gagen, Maureen Turner



If you have an Upcoming Date / Event / Meeting you'd like included in the slides for our



please have it to Lori at First (office@1stunitedchurch.ca)

by Wednesday at noon. Thank you!

Warm wishes for the week ahead.



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CHRISTMAS

WORSHIP

18

DEC

**ADVENT 4 - PEACE
AT FIRST**

REV. DIANE MACPHERSON | 10:30 AM

24

DEC

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
AT FIRST**

REV. PAUL BROWNING | 07:30 PM

25

DEC

**JOINT CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
AT CENTRAL (FIRST CLOSED)**

AUSTIN CAMPBELL & SHERRY JOHNSTONE | 10:30 AM

01

JAN

**JOINT NEW YEARS DAY SERVICE
AT FIRST (CENTRAL CLOSED)**

REV. PAUL | 10:30 AM

08

JAN

**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
AT FIRST**

10:30 AM

For more details visit: www.1stunitedchurch.ca

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