



Weekly Update from First – March 28, 2024

Join Us!

Joint
**GOOD
 FRIDAY**
Worship

Friday, March 29th
 • 10:30 am •

Held at Central United Church
 135 Wellington Street
 St. Thomas

www.centraluc.ca
 www.1stunitedchurch.ca

First & Central United Churches
 COMMUNITIES OF KINDNESS

* *Kindness* * *Respect* * *Fairness* *

CHORAL CONNECTION

Mozart's Mass in C Minor
 Friday March 29, 2024
 at 7:30 PM
 Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas

20th Anniversary
 2023-2024

www.choralconnection.ca

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



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Join us for *Worship*



AT FIRST UNITED CHURCH

**EASTER
SUNDAY
March 31st
9:30 am**

Rev. Paul will lead worship.

Richard Auckland will be the
Worship Leader.

Mike Hardman & Chris
Higgins will serve
Communion.

The Band will lead the music.

Scripture: Luke Chapter 24

ALL ARE WELCOME



Spread some Easter Cheer



The Program Committee invites you to bring a potted plant to enhance our Easter worship service. Perhaps you have a loved one whose memory you wish to commemorate.



You can bring them with you on Easter Sunday or drop them off to the church office a few days before.

Following the service, we will take our plants home to enjoy them or we may wish to give them to someone as a way of spreading some love and Easter cheer.

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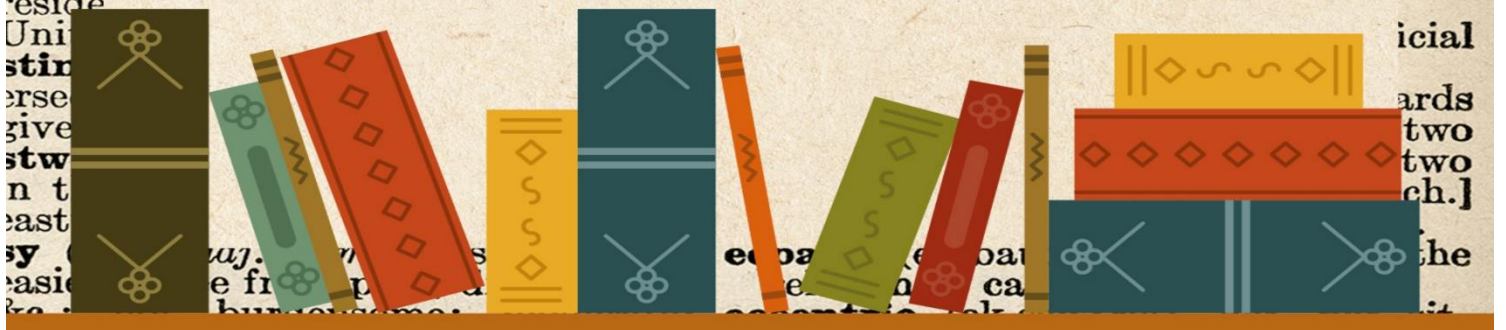
turbance, labor, or affectation; quiet; repose; facility: *v.t.* to free from pain, anxiety, or trouble: give

easily. **Easy Street** (*strēt*), a position of financial comfort. [Colloq.]

Our Library will soon be renovated!

To help us with this project, please take a few moments this Sunday to take a look at our book collection in the Music Room, to see if there are any books you would like to have or pass along to a friend or family member. Bring a box or a bag for any books you wish to take home.

**Donations will be gladly accepted :)
Thank you!**



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Resurrection?! Rev. Paul Browning

A dear member from a former congregation called me and shared that when recently visiting her sister the subject of Easter and Resurrection came up. Her sister was dismissive of this woman's faith and of the United church saying, "My church really believes in the resurrection".

The member's sister was obviously intending to "witness" to her because she handed the visiting sister a copy of her minister's sermon on the resurrection which clearly proclaimed that if someone does not believe in the physical resurrection of Jesus they cannot be a Christian.

The sermon said there were only two possibilities: either the physical body of Jesus rose from the dead, (his point of view) or the resurrection stories are simply myths no basis in fact.

I explained that I seldom accept polarities. Things are not generally this way or that; they are a bit of this and a bit of that. Without balance, truth gets lost and wisdom with it. In this case, the resurrection is a fact that led to the creation of Christianity and the resurrection is explained by richly symbolic stories.

The Resurrection stories, beginning with Paul's letter to the Corinthians and later contained in the gospel's, make it clear that something amazing happened after Jesus' death. People became so convinced that the risen Christ was real and present to them that they changed from being fearful to becoming courageous, loving people. As a result, the church was given its birth, years after Jesus' death.

The apostle Paul never known Jesus and was a member of the secret police arresting Christians. He experienced the resurrected presence of Christ in a vision which affected him so profoundly that he became the church's greatest promoter.

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Paul's writings, which are the earliest in the New Testament, is clear that the resurrection is about a spiritual, not a physical reality. He writes in 1 st Corinthians 15, "In death we die a physical body and are raised a spiritual body...flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God".

All the resurrection stories in the gospels emphasize an ambiguity about Jesus' physical body. Mary sees the risen Christ but does not recognize him until he speaks her name, thus indicating that for her, the resurrection was about feeling reconnected to him rather than physically seeing him.

Another story tells of Jesus walking with two people who do not recognize him until they eat together, a reference to experiencing the presence of Christ in the Communion meal. In fact, in all the resurrection stories, people do not recognize the physical body of Jesus when they experienced his risen presence.

The laws of the physical world do not have to be set aside for the power of Spirit of Spirit to flow in us and through us! "That which is born of flesh is flesh, and that which is born of Spirit is Spirit" (Jesus).

We are a resurrection people because something extraordinary happened after Jesus died. The powers of domination thought they had gotten rid of Jesus challenging them to become a people of love and to create a more humane society.

Yet, 2000 years of history evidence the miracle that the world, against all odds, has become increasingly kinder. Christians have played a leadership role in the evolution of democracy, the constitutional rule of law and the recognition of human rights.

We are here, in our lives and as a church, doing the work of Jesus. Like the early followers of Jesus who experienced his love and support even when his body was no longer with them, we too experience his continuing presence which, sometimes against all odds, gives us the courage, hope, meaning and the capacity to Love too.

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YOUTH GROUP
YOUTH GROUP
YOUTH GROUP
YOUTH GROUP
YOUTH GROUP
YOUTH GROUP
YOUTH GROUP
YOUTH GROUP
YOUTH GROUP
YOUTH GROUP

Wednesdays
7:00-8:15pm
in the Gym at First

YOUTH

group

For Youth in Grades 6-12!

ALL YOUTH WELCOME!

Leaders: Chris Ross & Teah Welch
First & Central United Churches
Communities of Kindness

* *Kindness* * *Respect* * *Fairness* *



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CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH
(135 Wellington Street, St. Thomas)
PRESENTS...

CHESS *Warriors*

Bring your chess board & chess men if you have them!



If you don't have any don't worry - we have some!

WEDNESDAY
EVENINGS

6:30 -
8:00 PM

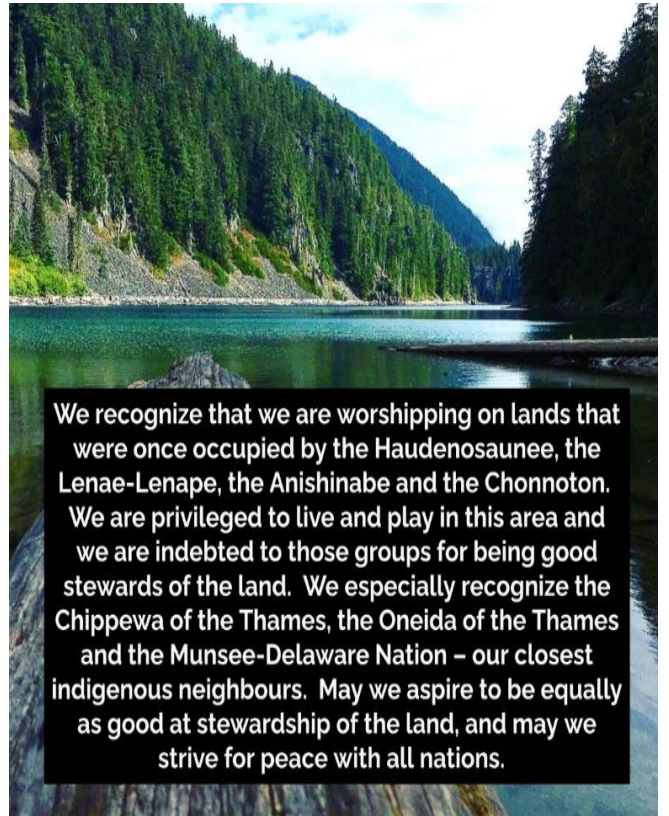


ALL AGES AND TALENT LEVELS, INCLUDING BEGINNERS, WELCOME



INSTRUCTION AVAILABLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT TERRY LANNING
519-630-8171 or terry_lanning@sympatico.ca



We recognize that we are worshipping on lands that were once occupied by the Haudenosaunee, the Lenae-Lenape, the Anishinabe and the Chonnoton. We are privileged to live and play in this area and we are indebted to those groups for being good stewards of the land. We especially recognize the Chippewa of the Thames, the Oneida of the Thames and the Munsee-Delaware Nation – our closest indigenous neighbours. May we aspire to be equally as good at stewardship of the land, and may we strive for peace with all nations.

* *Kindness* * *Respect* * *Fairness* *

**FIRST
WORSHIP
Band**

LOVE TO SING??

NEW VOICES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

PRACTICES ARE THURSDAY
EVENINGS AT 7:30PM

JOIN US!!

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First United Church **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** *Sunday, April 7th @ 10:30am*



The Meeting will be held following the worship service.

* *Kindness* * *Respect* * *Fairness* *

First United Church is hosting a...



Tuesday, April 9, 2024

**Doors open @ 6:00 p.m.
Auction starts @ 7:00 p.m.**

TICKETS: \$5 each

**Includes Admission & 2 Bidding Paddles
Extra Paddles are \$2 each**

Please bring your own quarters!

Light refreshments and snacks available to purchase

**7 Curtis Street, St. Thomas (corner of Talbot and St. George)
Call: 519-631-7570 for more details**

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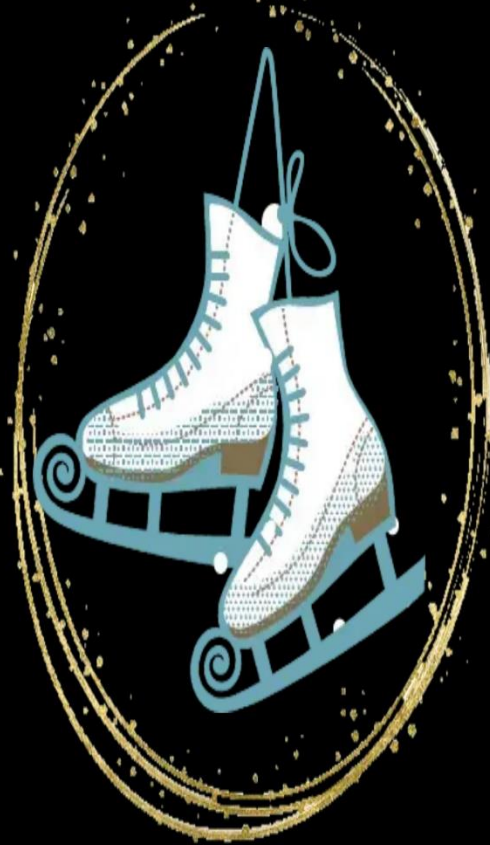
Let's Go Skating

Sunday, April 28th
2:00-3:00pm

*Joe Thornton Community Centre
75 Casco Crossing, St. Thomas*

There is no charge for this event
- We'd love for you to join us!!

*Sponsored by First & Central United Churches
Communities of Kindness*



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Weekly Update from First – March 28, 2024



Central United Church presents their Spring
Quarter Auction

135 Wellington St., St. Thomas

Wednesday, May 8th

**Doors open @ 6 pm
Auction starts @ 7pm**

Admission: \$5

**Includes 1 paddle.
Extra Paddles: \$2 each**

**10+
Vendors**

**50/50 draw &
Raffle Table**

** Kindness * Respect * Fairness **

SAVE YOUR POP TABS



**First Church Friends!
Please save your POP TABS to help 13 year old,
Aliye Hac Ismail, who has spina bifida
to get a new wheelchair!**

**There is a container in the Fellowship (Coffee)
Room to collect your donations.**

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First United Church

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

Rev. Paul Browning

Phone: 519-631-7570 ext. 22 (office)
519-681-3521 (home)

Email: paul@sharedministry.ca

Rev. Paul's drop in hours at First are
Mondays from 9:30am to 2pm.
Other times are available by Appointment.

Lori Hoffman (church office)

Phone: 519-631-7570 ext. 21 (office)
Email: office@1stunitedchurch.ca



1stunitedchurch.ca



[firstunitedchurch](https://www.facebook.com/firstunitedchurch)



[@firstunited1834](https://www.instagram.com/firstunited1834)



[@FirstUnitedStT](https://twitter.com/FirstUnitedStT)



[First United Church,
St. Thomas](https://www.youtube.com/FirstUnitedChurchStThomas)

* *Kindness* * *Respect* * *Fairness* *

*Thank you for your ongoing support of the
ministry of First United Church!
Your gifts make a difference in the lives of others!!*



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