



Weekly Update from First – March 31/22

Sunday Worship Service

This Sunday, April 3rd

You are welcome to attend in-person at First at 10:30am!

Please enter through the Accessibility door in the parking lot.

If you plan on attending in person, please consider the following precautions:

- * wear a mask if you wish to do so
- * use the hand sanitizers available at the accessibility entrance and the hallway leading into the sanctuary
- * pews will remain marked with green tape and yellow tape - please use pews marked with green tape as a simple way to continue social distancing and help prevent the spread of COVID-19
- * ensure that you are feeling well and have not been in contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 in the last 5 days
- * visitors will be encouraged to sign in at the entrance, to help us follow up in the event of a confirmed or suspected COVID case traced back to Sunday service

THIS WEEK: Rev. Matthew will be preaching at First and Rev. Daryl will be preaching at Central. Sherry Johnstone will be the Worship Leader at First. As always, the Band will be live at First!!

If you'd prefer, here are the ways to join us ONLINE for Worship: Streaming Link for April 3rd:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rtnHciJCJ8A>

LIVE on our Facebook page! www.facebook.com/firstunitedchurch

This Sunday, join us on Google Meets for the service and a 'coffee & a chat' afterwards.

Link to join: <https://meet.google.com/pjg-zbez-nax>

About Church School!!

Come join the fun each Sunday (at First) as we learn about Jesus & his journey with his disciples through stories, prayer, games & crafts!

Families will worship together in the sanctuary & children will leave for church school following the children's time.

We hope you can join us!

Happy Birthday
Richard Auckland





Weekly Update from First – March 31/22

This coming Monday April 4 at 10:30 am. We conclude our series on Affirming Church communities and the discussions about welcoming and inclusive communities.

Last week we were so fortunate to have Rev. Emma Pipes join us. She was a member and candidate for ministry from First.

It was a special time and we had a couple of people from First come and greet her and take part in the conversation.

The group conversation was uplifting and interesting and life giving! We learned more about a Creative God who is not committed to one way of being, and of course affirms the LGBTQ2+ community by bringing them into places to nurture their spirituality and sense of family. Thanks Emma!

This week we pick up where Emma left off.

We gather to tell stories about our own experiences of exclusion and belonging. We tell stories because we come to identify the deep need for Public, Intentional and Explicit communities who practice radical inclusion. As we encounter need, we embark on the journey of changed churches and discover what keeps people from feeling safe in a congregation.

As always, bring your coffee, curiosity, and your story of encountering a need for belonging in your life and the deep need for people to find communities of faith that practice radical inclusivity.

Here is an interesting video to help add to our conversation about stories of inclusion.

Members of the LGBTQ2S+ community discuss the intersection and layers of being a racialized person in their respective communities <https://globalnews.ca/news/7665423/commentary-black-trans-women-support/>

If you've not joined us before, or it has been a while you may want to risk showing up this week!

Coffee and Curious Spirituality

Monday Mornings at 10:30am



Link to join:

<https://meet.google.com/pjg-zbez-nax>

Bible Study

Lesser Evils: Daily Reflections on Seeking Wisdom



Weekly Study: Wednesday at 1pm starting March 9th (Central United Church Fellowship Hall) or evening online meetings can be arranged. Contact Kathryn Fletcher at 519-633-1902 or fletcherfamily@rogers.com.

One Hardcover book available: \$16.50. Ebooks are available for \$7.95 at www.ucrdstore.ca



Youth Group will meet AT FIRST on Wednesday from 7:00-8:15pm

We will be talking about the Ten Commandments.

All Youth are welcome!

Youth Group Leaders: Chris Ross & Jean Fletcher



Weekly Update from First – March 31/22

First & Central United Church's Christian Development Committees present a movie series:



With Pastor Mark Hughes from **The Church of Rock**

There are 6 parts to the series.

They will happen every Thursday (for 6 weeks) starting on Thursday, April 7th.

Time: 7:00 p.m. (each movie is approx. 45 mins.)

There will be a short discussion following the movie.

Location: First United Church, Sanctuary

Childcare available!
Everyone welcome!



Mark is a pastor at The Church of Rock in Winnipeg who, using a blend of comedy and storytelling shares the Word of God and how it applies to our every day life.



Weekly Update from First – March 31/22

Next Sunday we begin **Holy Week**
as a Community of Faith. Join us!

Palm Sunday - April 10 at 10:30AM - Rev. Daryl preaching

Good Friday - April 15 at 10am - special readings and music

Easter Sunday - April 17 at 10:30 am - Rev. Daryl preaching
We will share the Sacrament of Communion together.

All services are in person and online too.

Easter Sunday is Rev. Pegi's final Sunday. She will be preaching at Central that morning. A special presentation and farewell is being planned for her. All are welcome to attend.

First United Blind Auction Fundraiser #3 (Organized by Sherry Johnstone)



Auction Launch Date; Sunday, April 24th

Deadline for Auction Item Donations: Sunday, April 17th

We hope to raise some money for the general fund and have some fun too!!
We're looking for donations for the auction - NEW or Like NEW items in excellent condition.

Suggestions:

Baking * Dinner for 2 or a family of 4 * Movie night gift basket * Wine tour/tasting * Beer tour/tasting * Time/talent * Spring cleaning of vehicle (in & out) * Afternoon of cornhole toss with snacks * Coffee gift basket * Gardening time * Bird lovers gift basket * Garden lovers basket * Pet lovers basket * Chocolate lovers basket * Teacher appreciation basket *

If you are interested in donating an item to the auction, Please contact Sherry Johnstone 519-933-5033 or sjohnstone1959@gmail.com



Weekly Update from First – March 31/22

Here are some of the **24 items** that have already been received for the **First United Blind Auction Fundraiser #3** (Organized by Sherry Johnstone)

If you are interested in donating an item to the auction, Please contact Sherry Johnstone 519-933-5033 or sjohnstone1959@gmail.com



Let's put Sunflowers up on our church walls!

You can help!

There are lots of designs to choose from on the internet - you can colour one, make one out of construction paper, cloth, wood, or any other Materials you'd like. Be creative!

Please share your sunflowers with us!





Weekly Update from First – March 31/22

Youth Forum 2022



Are you a young person aged 16-19 and looking for a summer opportunity to engage in the life and work of the United Church AND have summer employment?!

Email thea@thegoproject.ca to find out more!

YAT Forum: Community Retreat for Ages 19 & up

Date: Friday, April 29 - Sunday, May 1

Long walks to the dining hall ... Gracefully launching yourself down the rolling hills ...

Desperately trying to shake that catchy worship tune ... Running into the arms of people you haven't seen in years ... or ever ... or yesterday!

... Sounds awe-inspiring, fairytale-esque, a utopian dream!



But hold up!!! This is not a drill! YAT Forum (Young Adults Together) is coming to a Pearce Williams Christian Center near you (actually it's located in Iona Station)!! Never been to adult overnight camp? Desperate for arts and crafts? Need space to connect with the divine, nature or yourself!?

For those who are 19+, come be Re-United in worship, fellowship and the quietness of creation from Friday, April 29 - Sunday, May 1. Covid-19 guidelines will be followed during the weekend. Register now at <https://arwrcucc.ca/yat-forum-2022/>
Cost \$150-\$200-\$300



Weekly Update from First – March 31/22

First United Church's Behavioural Covenant

As God's people of First United, who love and work together,
we promise to:

TRUST

- Assume one another's positive intentions
- Work collaboratively and honour the decisions we have made together
- Be accountable for what we have promised and made a commitment to do
- Share information so everyone has it
- Take responsibility for our actions

RESPECT one another and our differences

- Exercise grace, compassion, and forgiveness especially when there are misunderstandings
- Make room for one another's ideas and opinions
- Respect and care for each other regardless of differences of gender, ethnicity, sexuality, and where we are in life

LISTEN carefully and openly

- Listen to others with empathy, curiosity, and patience with the intent to understand and value what has been said
- Listen attentively and with an open and non-judgemental mind

SPEAK clearly and honestly

- Speak to others directly, respectfully, and clearly
- Take responsibility for what we say
- Honour confidentiality in our conversations with others
- Communicate decisions openly (transparently) and directly to others
- Promise to discuss, debate, disagree, and forgive openly in meetings
- Name bullying behaviour and gossip when we witness it

