



First United eNews

April 3, 2012

The place where you'll find up-to-date information about what's happening, what's new and what to expect in the church community.

Dear First Family,

Last night I had an experience of wonderful encouragement. Lloyd and I attended the Easter Play at Millwoods Assembly. Gathered with seven hundred others we enjoyed a theatrical telling of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. There was passionate music, lots of dry ice and a real donkey for the Palm celebration scene. And though the Scripture does not describe singing Pharisees it does speak of a "living word" and that is what I experienced in the performance.

Children, women and men gave hours of time and talent to help share the greatest story ever told. I left with a reminder of the joy we all share as part of the unfolding story with the Christ. Jesus, who as an instrument of God in a particular time and place offered us a love that compels leaders to be servants, pronounces sinners forgiven and gives abundant grace now and always. It's a magnificent story of faith. It is our story of wholeness and connection to God.

During this Holy Week please join us as we take part in the story anew.

Maundy Thursday - 7pm. We model after Jesus in washing each others hands and sharing in a candlelight meal of transformation.

Good Friday - 10am. We will feel the agony of a trial and execution.

Saturday Vigil - 7pm - 7am We will wait and pray for the promise to dawn.

Easter Sunday - 10am We rejoice and declare: Christ is alive!

This Holy Week come to worship. Experience the story. Bring a friend and share God's Good News.

Peace to you,
Rev. Danielle

MUSIC NOTES

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Alleluia is from the Hebrew meaning, most literally meaning Praise Yahweh! Alleluias are sung at First United Church at a variety of times during worship. We may sing it for the passing of the peace, or perhaps with the children. It can be part of the refrain in a hymn. Actually, it doesn't even have to be sung, it can be a spoken response. Think about how good it feels to just say "Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!"


I don't remember burying Alleluias as a child - although some of you might. During the season of Lent, we have given up singing most of our Alleluias at worship. Have you noticed?

Just a few more days without them and then our Alleluias can be spoken, shouted and sung! Think about how good that will feel to say, shout and sing "Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!"

Join us in worship on Sunday and share your Alleluias!

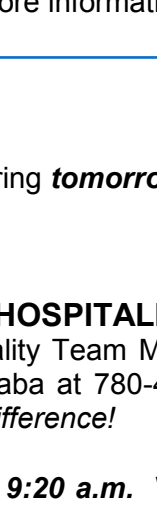
Camille Ream
Music Coordinator

HOLY WEEK EVENTS...



April 1	Palm Sunday Worship	10 a.m.
	With Holy Communion	
April 5	Maundy Thursday Worship	7 p.m.
April 6	Good Friday Worship	10 a.m.
April 6	Walk of the Cross	12 p.m.
	Meet at the Fire Hall	
April 7	Easter Vigil	7 p.m.
April 8	Easter Sunday Worship	10 a.m.

*Please join us as we celebrate.
Christ is Risen!
Alleluia!*



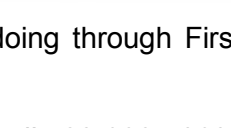
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WALK OF THE CROSS – On Friday, **April 6**, please join us on a 2.5 km / 40 minute walk along Veterans Way, beginning at the Fire Hall at noon. This is an interdenominational event sponsored by the *Fort Sask. Ministerial Association*.

EASTER VIGIL– Everyone is invited to join in a special time of prayer and reflection on **Saturday, April 7th**. Beginning at 7PM we will gather in the Sanctuary to begin a silent vigil as we wait and watch for the sunrise moment of Christ's resurrection. The Easter vigil has its roots in ancient Christianity and remains an important ritual for many Christians today. Come for one hour or more, sit in silence and allow yourself to be open to the movement of the Spirit as She moves with us towards the light of God's promise revealed once again on Easter morn. At sunrise, (6:27 AM) a short prayer time will be offered and then everyone is welcome to share in a breakfast which will be provided. There is a sign- up sheet on the *'Ministry in Action'* table however please feel free to come anytime during the evening or night as your schedule allows. There will be several youth in attendance throughout the night. Contact Rev. Heather if you would like more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LENTEN STUDY - Last gathering **tomorrow, April 4** at 7:00 p.m.



"SPRING" INTO WORSHIP HOSPITALITY MEETING – Tuesday, April 17 at 7pm. If you are a Hospitality Team Member or Leader, then this is for you! Please RSVP to Marg Chaba at 780-449-1512. *Together the Worship Hospitality Ministry is making a difference!*

U.C.W. Meeting – **April 10 at 9:20 a.m.** We welcome all ladies that might be interested in sharing our purpose, which varies with needs of our surrounding district, or just within the church needs. Please join us.

BOOK CLUB – **April 10 at noon.** We will discuss the book **"The Help"** by **Kathryn Stockett**. Members of the church community and beyond are welcome!



PRAYER CIRCLE – Immediately following Sunday morning worship on **April 15th** you are invited to share in a short prayer circle time in the Sanctuary. A prayer circle is an opportunity to sit in peace with others, and share, in either silence or voiced words any special prayers you feel called to offer. These might be prayers of concern for yourself or another, prayers of celebration and joy, or prayers that express a deeper yearning to come closer to God. In other words, a prayer circle can be what you need it to be in this time and place; there is no set liturgy. Come, experience a moment of quiet prayer time in the company of others.

MUSTARD SEED EASTER PARTY – About 225 bags of chocolate went to the Mustard Seed to help children enjoy the Easter Celebration. Thanks to everyone who donated. You all brought joy to many children in inner city Edmonton.

Please regularly check-out our website at fsunited.org to keep yourselves updated about our coming events, and to listen to our recorded sermons.

Celebrating 130 Years Together 1882-2012

We invite you to spread the news about what God is doing through First United by forwarding this email to someone.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at fspc@shaw.ca or call 780-998-4060.

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