



First United eNews

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.

November 23, 2012

eNote from Rev. Danielle

Dear First Family,

Last Sunday we heard the story of Hannah who prayed to the Lord for a child. We also worshipped Sunday evening in Taize sung prayer. And during this week, you have prayed in the car, at the kitchen table, in the morning and at the day's end. Prayer is part of who we are as people of faith. Opening ourselves to the presence of God also opens us to live as people of God.

Today in the original homeland of Jesus there is conflict and war. The people of Israel-Palestine need our prayers. Images of death, grieving and anger flood the media. On both sides, civilian families flee their homes. Let us pray for healing and resolution to this painful conflict. Today, as you practice prayer consider opening yourself to prayers for Israel-Palestine. From the land of David's poetry and Hannah's prayer peace can rise. Pray that it will be so.

From Psalm 122:

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

'May they prosper who love you.

*Peace be within your walls,
and security within your towers.'*

For the sake of my relatives and friends

I will say, 'Peace be within you.'

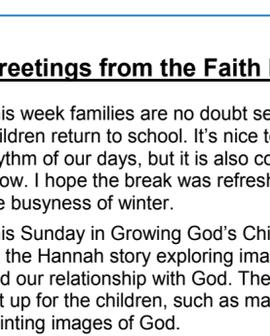
For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,

I will seek your good.

in solidarity of prayer,

[Rev. Danielle](#)

This Sunday, November 25



Photograph by Sherwin James, 2008.

Reign of Christ Sunday
worship led by
Nancy Chegus

"Where the end and the beginning meet."

Congregational Generosity Letter

A letter from Rev. Danielle filled with thanks. [Click here to read the letter.](#)

Greetings from the Faith Formation Desk

This week families are no doubt settling back into routines as the children return to school. It's nice to have a break from the usual rhythm of our days, but it is also comforting to return to what we know. I hope the break was refreshing for you as we all settle into the busyness of winter.

This Sunday in Growing God's Children we will continue to focus on the Hannah story exploring images of God, bullying, prayer and our relationship with God. There are some interesting centers set up for the children, such as making prayer pockets and painting images of God.

For the volunteers of Growing God's Children, there will be an important Lead and Learn event on Saturday morning, December 1 from 10:00 until 12:00. We will introduce the Godly Play approach to sharing and working with biblical story. I will have the coffee on! I look forward to sharing what we have learned so far about Godly Play. Lots of potential! Parents, leaders, and the curious, all welcome. Let me know if you are coming so I know how much coffee to put on.

The Story Project – Take Two: will be offered as an "early out" program for children in grades 1-3. That means we will meet at 2:30 instead of 3:30 and only once a month. We hope you will find this to be a fun and engaging alternative on staff meeting days. Let me know what you think. Next up: Dec. 5 from 2:30 to 3:30.

Focus: Advent and Christmas.

After school snack provided, followed by music, games, stories and activities.

Faithfully yours,

[Nancy Chegus](#)

Faith Formation Coordinator



One Church, Many Voices

An article written by David Burroughs.

LIFE IN THE MIDDLE OF A STORM

There is a story in the Bible about that tells about a time when Jesus took a trip across the Sea of Galilee with the disciples. When they were far from shore a mighty storm came up. The boat was taking on water and everyone except Jesus just knew they were about to die. Was Jesus bailing, driving the boat, or perhaps inventing short wave radio to get help? Nope, he was taking a nap.

Finally, the disciples woke Jesus up in a panic. He asked them why they are afraid, accused them of having little faith, and calmed the seas. Do you ever feel you are living life in the middle of a storm?

Since May 1st I have felt I have been working and living life in the middle of a storm. It has been a time of constant change, transition and trial. I have been unable to share with you any devotional moments since that time. Nevertheless, all I can think of when the storms rage is this story.

As for me, I will have faith that God's hand is in my journey. I will even welcome the storm as it will make me stronger and better prepared for the purpose and service God has for me and my journey.

If I come through the storm intact, I will be humble in the glory that belongs to God.

If I come through the storm all wet, I will be grateful for the cleansing.

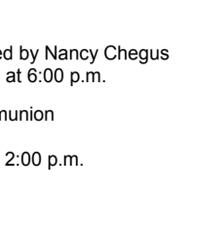
If I come through the storm in the bottom of the sea, I will be glad because that seems to be the time God lifts us up best.

Maybe I will just go ahead and get on my knees now so the lifting can go ahead and start. Sure beats bailing water with a tea cup.

David Burroughs

News

Congratulations to Tyler and CoraLea Halldorson on the birth of their son, Miller Sloan Halldorson. Stella is a very happy big sister! May God bless you always.



First United Church annual Cookie Walk

Saturday, November 24, 2012

following the
Santa Claus Parade

Fill a box with
an assortment of Christmas
cookies for only \$7

Any questions, please contact the office
780-998-4060

First United Church

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Looking Ahead

November 23 —Drop-off your cookies between noon and 5 p.m.
—[Youth Group](#)

November 24 —[Cookie Walk](#).

November 25 —Reign of Christ Sunday Worship led by Nancy Chegus
—Dr. Turner Lodge Worship Service at 6:00 p.m.

December 2 —First of Advent Worship and Communion
—Food Bank Sunday
—Back to Pop Christmas Concert at 2:00 p.m.

December 4 —Bissell pick-up

December 9 —Second of Advent Worship

December 10 —[Country Blend Christmas Concert at 7:00 p.m.](#)

December 11 —[U.C.W Meeting](#) at 10:00 a.m.
—[Book Club](#) at noon

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

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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Celebrating 130 Years Together 1882-2012