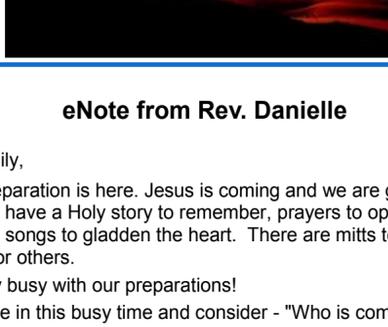




First United eNews

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.

December 6, 2012



eNote from Rev. Danielle

Dear First Family,

The time of preparation is here. Jesus is coming and we are getting ready for his arrival. We have a Holy story to remember, prayers to open the doors of our minds, and songs to gladden the heart. There are mitts to knit and baskets to fill for others.

We will be very busy with our preparations!

But let us pause in this busy time and consider - "Who is coming to the door?"

At the door is justice for all, hope for the oppressed, a call to care of Creation, and an affirmation of beauty all around.

At the door is forgiveness, healing and capacity for reconciliation.

At the door is the One who shares identity as a child of God.

And at the door is so much more...

Who is coming to the door?

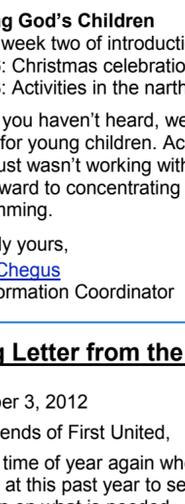
Consider what Jesus' arrival means for you, and your preparations will be bright with meaning.

Here's a reminder of the story we so love...may it help to open this season of preparation for the One who comes.

www.youtube.com

See you Sunday,
[Rev. Danielle](#)

This Sunday, December 9



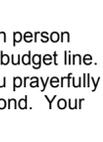
Second of Advent
worship led by
Rev. Dr. Danielle A. James
at 10:00 a.m.

Sermon Series:
The Arrival

Sermon Title:
"The Arrival of Grace"

Greetings from the Faith Formation Desk

It is just the first week of December and already the energy level is up a notch. My Christmas cactus has begun blooming once again, the first batch of cookies are made and tested, and a bare tree is waiting patiently for decorations in the corner of our family room.



I hope that amid all the ways you and your family prepare for Christmas, there is room for some Advent ritual you practice together. Last Sunday the children went home with a simple family Advent candle lighting ritual. It will be available this week as well. Perhaps this is one way to have a moment of calm and prayer together as a family. Enjoy!

Growing God's Children

Dec. 9: week two of introduction to the Holy Family

Dec. 16: Christmas celebration with the children

Dec. 23: Activities in the narthex

In case you haven't heard, we will not be offering The Story Project for young children. According to feedback, it was a good idea it just wasn't working with families schedules. However, I look forward to concentrating our efforts on our Sunday morning programming.

Faithfully yours,

[Nancy Chegus](#)

Faith Formation Coordinator

Giving Letter from the Board

December 3, 2012

Dear Friends of First United,

It is that time of year again when your Board begins preparing the new budget. We look at in this past year to see where we are, to highlight our celebrations and to zero in on what is needed.

We celebrate your generosity in many areas, we also note that the 'Budget Balancing Special Appeal' line has not been met. This \$30,970.00 revenue source in the 2012 budget was approved by the congregation and we now need to ask you to examine your hearts and make that special donation to this line.

With our current number of identifiable givers of 171 people, if each person contributed an additional \$181.10 by year end we would meet this budget line. Some may be able to give more, some less, but we do ask that you prayerfully consider how your gratitude and generosity are calling you to respond. Your contribution can be given online at fsunited.org or by cheque.

The Board will be calling a Congregational Budget meeting in January to present the 2013 budget and to share celebrations and review next steps.

If you are wondering how much you have financially given to First United in 2012, please call Jen in the office (998-4060) or email her at fspc@shaw.ca. She will send you an update of your givings to date.

Yours faithfully in Christ

Jackie St. Goddard

Board Chair

Advent Outreach

This Advent our church will have 2 local and 1 global focus for our Advent Outreach. Please participate as you are able! Our contributions go a long way in supporting others.

1. Charlie Brown Christmas Tree - Please help decorate our 'Charlie Brown Tree' in the Narthex with new items for the children, youth and young adults of Fort Saskatchewan and return your items no later than **December 16**. There are three areas of need:

Christmas Hamper - Children's books and toys.

Boys & Girls Club and Local Schools - Children's mitts, scarves and hats.

Homeless Youth Needed Items - surrounding the Charlie Brown Tree are baskets for items needed by our local Fort Sask. young adults. Please take a wish list from the Narthex. One is called **Community Care**

Welcome Baby Basket and the other is **Christmas Housewarming Basket**.

2. Christmas Care Paks - Help us help the homeless of Edmonton and share God's Christmas Joy! Please take a plastic bag from the wrapped box in the Narthex and fill it with everything on the list (inside the bag). Return the filled bag no later than **December 16** in time for Christmas delivery top the Bissell Centre.

3. Gifts with Vision - These are gifts for those in other countries. Through the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church we will send gifts for specific ministries in the church internationally.

You may choose a gift from the list below, and bring your payment to the table in the foyer and fill out a "Gift with Vision" gift tag to be hung on our Christmas tree. Our gifts will be dedicated on December 23.

\$10 Give the gift of 10 chickens to provide eggs for meals and to sell.

\$25 Your gift provides supportive programming for one grandmother.

\$30 Your gift will purchase a pair of special shoes for a child undergoing treatment for clubfoot.

\$120 Give the gift of a bicycle for a pastor in Zambia.

[Click here for a description of each item.](#)

Congregational Care Conversation

Due to weather, the Congregational Care meeting on December 5 was rescheduled to Wednesday, **December 12 at 1:00 p.m.** Please invite any one else who might be engaged in this topic and ministry. Bring your voice, ideas and heart to our planning about caring ministries. How can we deepen connection, community and care with one another? Let's explore. Speak with Rev. Danielle for more details. All are welcome!

Looking Ahead

Country Blend Christmas Concert

Monday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$20

Tickets are available the following ways:

- This Sunday in the foyer
- Church office, 780-998-4060
- Margaret, 780-998-4190.
- Tickets will also be for sale at the door before the concert.

Check them out at www.countryblend.ca.



Blue Christmas Worship

Wednesday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Come and join with us in prayers, scripture, and music that will comfort your heart. All are welcome. In coordination with the Fort Sask. Ministerial Association.



Blue Christmas

December 9 —Second of Advent Worship. Part 2 of "[The Arrival](#)".

December 10 —[Country Blend Christmas Concert](#)

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

December 12 —Congregational Care Conversation
—[Blue Christmas Worship](#)

December 16 —Third of Advent Worship. Part 2 of "[The Arrival](#)".
—Baptism and Soup Sunday
—[Evening Service of Light and Song](#)

December 18 —Bissell Pick-up
—Board Meeting

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.

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Click [here](#) to download PDF versions of past issues of eNews.



Celebrating 130 Years Together 1882-2012