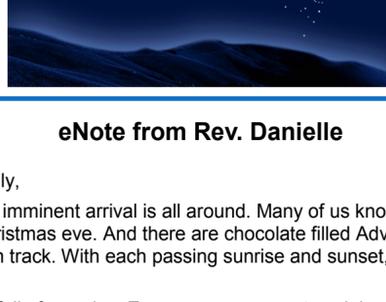




First United eNews

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 13, 2012



eNote from Rev. Danielle

Dear First Family,

News of Jesus' imminent arrival is all around. Many of us know the number of sleeps until Christmas eve. And there are chocolate filled Advent calendars to help keep us on track. With each passing sunrise and sunset, the holy day approaches.

But our faith is full of paradox. Even as we prepare to celebrate the renewed arrival of Christ, the Christ is already with us. Now.

Each day is holy. Already filled with God's presence, Christ's hope and the Spirit's love, our lives practice the Christmas message even as we prepare for the celebration again.

So count the days for Emmanuel Comes, and continue to practice being disciples of a Christ who is with us even now!

I enjoy this version of O'Come, O'Come Emmanuel, maybe you will also..

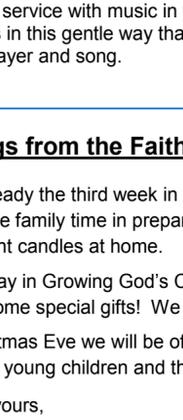
www.youtube.com

See you on Sunday - the Third Sunday of Advent we light the candle of Joy!

with my prayers,

[Rev. Danielle](#)

This Sunday, December 16



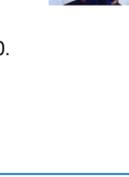
Third of Advent
worship and Baptism led by
Rev. Dr. Danielle A. James
at 10:00 a.m.

Sermon Series:
The Arrival

Sermon Title:
"The Arrival of Joy"

Soup Sunday!

Please join us after worship this Sunday for a Soup Lunch and friendly conversation in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. All are welcome.



Evening Worship in Light and Song at 7:00 p.m.

A candlelit service with music in the style of Taize. Join with others in this gentle way that renews your spirit through prayer and song.



Greetings from the Faith Formation Desk

This is already the third week in Advent. I hope you are able to share some family time in preparation for Christmas by lighting your Advent candles at home.



This Sunday in Growing God's Children the children will be opening some special gifts! We hope to see you there.

This Christmas Eve we will be offering a special half hour service for young children and their families beginning at 5:30.

Faithfully yours,

[Nancy Chegus](#)

Faith Formation Coordinator

Moderator's Advent Message 2012

From the Rev. Dr. Gary Patterson to all the United Church congregations.

[Click here to view the video.](#)



Moderator, Rev. Dr. Gary Patterson.

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24

5:30 p.m. Christmas for Young Children

7:00 p.m. Family Christmas Worship

10:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion

*Invite a friend!
All Are Welcome!*

Gratitude for Advent Outreach

This Advent our church focused on 2 local and 1 global opportunities for our Advent Outreach. Thank you for your support! Our contributions go a long way—let's keep it going!

If you haven't had a chance to participate in **Gifts with Vision**, we will be offering this opportunity for one more Sunday. Our gifts will be dedicated on December 23.

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.

\$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.](#)

Annual Reports

Attention all Ministry leaders! Annual Reports are due by January 15, 2013.

Looking Ahead

December 16 —Third of Advent Worship. Part 3 of ["The Arrival"](#).
—Baptism and Soup Sunday
—[Evening Service of Light and Song](#)

December 18 —Bissell Pick-up
—Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
—Resounding Joy Handbell Practice, 7:00 p.m.

December 23 —Fourth of Advent Worship. Part 4 of ["The Arrival"](#).

December 24 —Christmas Eve
—5:30 p.m. Christmas for Young Children
—7:00 p.m. Family Christmas Worship
and Part 5 of ["The Arrival"](#) sermon series.
—10:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion

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