

First United Church

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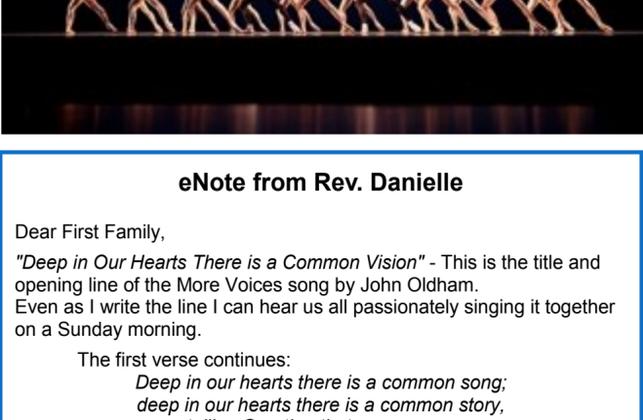
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First United eNews

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.

February 8, 2013



eNote from Rev. Danielle

Dear First Family,

"*Deep in Our Hearts There is a Common Vision*" - This is the title and opening line of the More Voices song by John Oldham. Even as I write the line I can hear us all passionately singing it together on a Sunday morning.

The first verse continues:

*Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.*

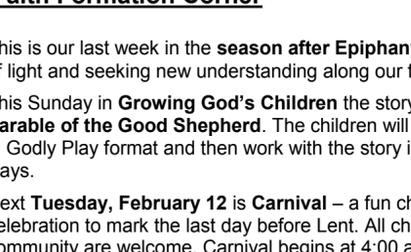
For today's message I simply want to remind us of the beauty there is in creating community. As a church, we tap into the common longings we all have for belonging and grace. We get to share in the delight of exploring our unique and collective stories. And we get to declare that God is with us on the journey. We are not alone. Practicing church is an art form.

Offering yourself to a Spirit guided common vision is an amazing task. We dance together and pray together. We move with uniqueness and commonality to God's glory.

Well done, good and faithful family.
The story continues...

[Rev. Danielle](#)

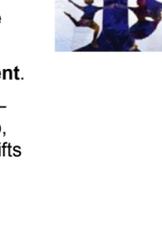
This Sunday, February 10, 10:00 a.m.



Theme:
Strength to Love

Words of The
Rev. Dr. Martin
Luther King

Worship Leader:
Rev. Danielle



Congregational Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is **this Sunday** following worship. All members and participants of First United Church are invited to take part. There will be a **chili lunch** before the meeting and program. Discussion and commitment to our 2013 budget will be part of this meeting.

Faith Formation Corner

This is our last week in the **season after Epiphany** – a season of light and seeking new understanding along our faith journey.

This Sunday in **Growing God's Children** the story shared is **The Parable of the Good Shepherd**. The children will hear the story in Godly Play format and then work with the story in a variety of ways.

Next **Tuesday, February 12 is Carnival** – a fun children's celebration to mark the last day before Lent. All children from the community are welcome. Carnival begins at 4:00 and will be followed by a **Pancake Supper at 5:30** and a **Service of the Ashes at 6:30**.

Youth are meeting again this Sunday for **Life in the Basement**.

Adult Faith Formation opportunity during the season of Lent – **February 17 to March 17** following Sunday morning worship, you have the option of 2 learning circles: **Prisms**: Spiritual Gifts Discovery, and **Sermon Conversations**.

Faithfully yours,

[Nancy Chegus](#)

Faith Formation Coordinator



Naramata Centre — Welcome!

Sign up for Summer Programs!!

The Naramata Centre is a learning and retreat centre of the United Church of Canada. Located in the Okanagan Valley, the centre is open to people of all ages, backgrounds, and places along the journey of faith. Registration for Summer Programs is happening this week!

If you're looking for learning, spiritual nurture and renewal - this could be the place for you!

If you're looking for a summer job opportunity or to share your talents - check it out!

www.naramatacentre.net

For more info, please talk with Ted Griffiths.

Ted has led art classes at Naramata and experienced the power of the community.



naramata centre
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Meeting Your Board

Board Secretary: **Charlotte Fildes**

I have been in Canada now for six years, having made the move over with my family from Rendlesham, United Kingdom. I am the eldest of three, and graduated University last year with my Bachelor of Art in Psychology. I recently purchased a house in Waskatenau (my first!), and look forward to creating many wonderful memories in it. My faith journey was reignited when, after my third year at University, I began to question what was missing in the bigger picture. I'm glad to say, I haven't looked back since first attending First United! As for my connections with the church, they are numerous and still growing, and I am thoroughly happy to be considered a part of this family.

Why do I serve on the Board at First United? To help make a difference and record all our aspirations and accomplishments here at First United.

What are my dreams and aspirations for First United? That we shall continue in our growth, and help reach out to more individuals. Further, that we never lose the family collectiveness that I have noticed and been a part of within our congregation.

Charlotte Fildes



Charlotte with
Rev. Danielle.

Lent Beginning

The Season of Lent begins the evening of **Tuesday, February 12** (Shrove Tuesday). Join us for family fun, children friendly games and a pancake supper that celebrates God's abundance in our lives. After supper we'll move to the sanctuary for a brief Service of the Ashes to take the first steps on a spiritual journey through Lent and toward Easter.

Children's Carnival – 4:00 p.m.

Pancake Supper – 5:30 p.m. Free Will Offering.

Service of the Ashes - 6:30 p.m.

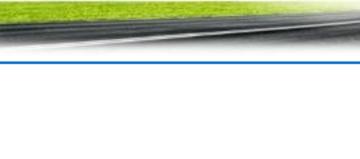
**Pancake Supper
and Carnival**

Calling All Men... Traditionally, the men of the congregation have overseen the pancake supper. If you are interested in helping out with flipping pancakes, serving, etc., then please sign up in the Narthex or contact [Richard Lemieux](#) at 780-922-4930.

Learning Opportunities During Lent

February 17—March 17, after worship, stay for a community lunch followed by two learning opportunities both beginning at 11:50 p.m.:

- **"Prisms" Spiritual Gifts Discovery** workshop. Discover ways to release your passion. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.
- **Sermon conversations**. All are welcome!



February Book Club

Members of the church community and beyond are welcome to join us! You are invited to bring your lunch for this one hour session beginning at 12:00 p.m. where we discuss the novel we've read and reflect on the insights within our own lives. Come for one or come for all!

BOOK CLUB
take this bread
SARA MILES



February 12: "Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion"
[by Sara Miles](#)

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