



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 12, 2013

Pancake Supper and Carnival

Beginning Of Lent

Our Shrove Tuesday celebrations and Service of the Ashes marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Join us in today's events and worship! All are welcome!

Today:

- 4:00 pm - carnival begins for children and families.
- 5:30 pm - pancake supper beings and carnival continues!
- 6:30 pm - Service of the Ashes

Lent is the 40-day season leading up to the commemoration of Christ's crucifixion and the celebration of the Resurrection. The 40 day season is drawn from Jesus 40 day fast in the wilderness before he began his public ministry. Christians of various traditions and nations often fast from something during that season to identify with Jesus (Sundays are feast days within the season and the fast is often broken on those days since each Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection). Lent is a season of introspection, repentance and intentional spiritual growth.

The **Service of the Ashes** is a beautiful and meaningful way to begin your Lenten journey. The imposition of ashes as a sign of repentance and a reminder of one's mortality ("ashes to ashes, dust to dust") goes back over 3,000 years. The Hebrew people would place ashes on their heads as a public sign of repentance.

During the season of Lent this year I'll preach on **The 7 Last Words of Christ**. These are a grouping of Jesus' words while he was on the cross. You will be drawn into the heart of Jesus through these words, and glimpse on the depth of love he shared for humanity. **I'm inviting each of us to read the Gospel of Luke Chapters 22-24 during the next two weeks**. The sermons will help us explore what the Spirit says through Jesus' words. And after worship we will gather for a conversation small group to discuss the topic.

[Click here](#) to see the **7 Last Words of Christ** poster and description.

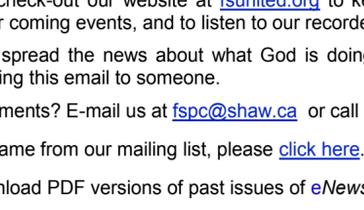
Here are the weekly words:

- Feb 17: **"Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing."** Luke 23:34
- Feb 24: **"I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."** Luke 23:43
- Mar 4: **"Dear woman, here is your son."** John 19:26-27
- Mar 10: **"My God, my God, why have you forsake me?"** Matt 27:46
- Mar 17: **"I am thirsty."** John 19:28
"It is finished." John 19:30
- Mar 24: **"Father into your hands I commit my spirit."** Luke 23:46

As part of our intentional spiritual growth, everyone is invited to take part in **Prisms! A Spiritual Gifts Lenten Study**. If you still need to sign up please email or call the office. Nancy Chegus will lead the group on an adventure of discovering their spiritual gifts. What are these gifts? What spiritual gifts do I have? How can I express them well?



[Click here for poster and description.](#)



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

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

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