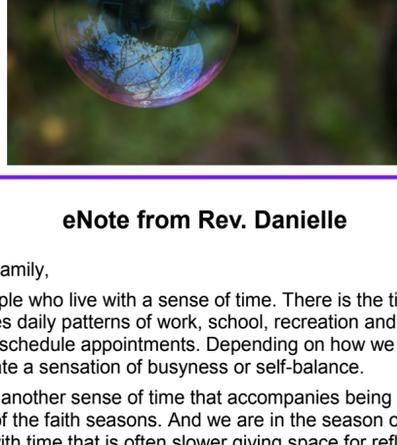




First United eNews

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 21, 2013



eNote from Rev. Danielle

Dear First Family,

We are people who live with a sense of time. There is the time that accompanies daily patterns of work, school, recreation and rest. We set alarms and schedule appointments. Depending on how we use this time we can create a sensation of busyness or self-balance.

But there is another sense of time that accompanies being a Christian; it is the time of the faith seasons. And we are in the season of Lent, which is marked with time that is often slower giving space for reflection. It moves with time that ponders Scripture and seeks renewal.

This Sunday we will continue to explore **The Last Words of Christ**, and practice the gifts of reflection, Scripture and renewal.

Please read **Luke 22-24** as part of your Lenten practice.

Our focus this Sunday:

"I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."
- Luke 23:43

Come and join in the conversation!

[Rev. Danielle](#)

Special Appeal

Clothing Drive for the Homeless of Edmonton – Due to a body lice epidemic in the homeless shelters in Edmonton, Boyle Street Community Services is calling for more clothing donations. First United would like to respond. We are asking for NEW mens or ladies underwear and/or socks, and gently used outer wear, especially warm sweaters and work type pants. There will be a box in the Narthex for your donations until Sunday, **March 3**. Thank you for your generosity!

Worship Series



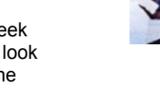
This Sunday: Part 2 of The 7 Last Words of Christ

"I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."
Luke 23:43

Join us this Sunday at 10:00 a.m.!

Following worship...

- Adult Learning Circle—Spiritual Gifts Discovery
- Drop-in Sermon Conversations



Faith Formation Corner

We are into week 2 of **Lent** and this Sunday the children will continue to offer their **footprints** to our **Lenten pathway** in worship. In **Growing God's Children** we will be exploring another lesson learned from Jesus. The **Godly Play** story for the next 2 weeks is based on the **Parable of the Sower**. Perhaps this story will provide an opportunity for you as a family to talk about the ways we could be good soil to support new life.

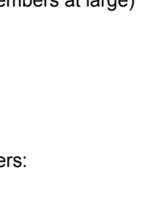
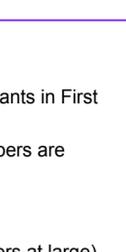
Thank you to those who are participating in our 5 week **adult learning circle – spiritual gifts discovery**. I look forward to continuing the conversation this week. The books have arrived!

Rev. Danielle is offering another option through Lent in the form of **drop in conversations** about her sermon. Feel free to join her over coffee after worship.

Faithfully yours,

[Nancy Chequs](#)

Faith Formation Coordinator



Congregational Meeting Summary

A congregational meeting was held on Sunday Feb 10. All participants in First United were invited to be present.

Here are some **highlights** from the meeting. Church Board members are available to discuss any of these topics.

We celebrated the service of 2012 Board members:

2012 Past Members: Joe Holyck and David Ansah (Members at large)
Past Treasurer: Al Gummeson

We welcomed new Board members:

Ted Griffiths (Member at large)
Joan Prochnau (Treasurer)
Matthew Heesing (Presbytery representative)

We welcomed new Ministry and Personnel Committee members:

Freda Spearing
Richard Lemieux

We voted to accept the 2013 Budget.

(available in your Annual General Report or by request to the office)

We voted to move forward with a (JNAC) Joint Needs Assessment Committee. The JNAC work will assess the paid accountable ministry leadership needs for areas of faith formation. Members of the JNAC include Karen Martin, Amanda Ansah and Charlotte Fildes.

We received the information that Rev. Danielle will be on a paid sabbatical August 15, 2013-November 15, 2013.

Current Board Members:

Chair	Jackie St. Goddard	780-998-3851
Chair Elect	Vacant	
Secretary	Charlotte Fildes	780-707-4605
Treasurer	Joan Prochnau	780-998-1008
Ministry & Personnel Chair	Sandra Woods	780-996-3276
Stewardship & Generosity Team Chair	Vacant	
Yellowhead Presbytery Rep	Matthew Heesing	780-992-0944
Member at Large	Elwood Galloway	780-998-3057
Member at Large	Cora-Lea Halldorson	780-992-1955
Member at Large	Ted Griffiths	780-992-1982
Member at Large	Vacant	
Ministry Personnel	Rev. Dr. Danielle A. James	780-998-4060

What is a Sabbatical?

At the congregational meeting it was announced that Rev. Danielle will be on a paid sabbatical August 15, 2013-November 15, 2013.

"It is the policy of The United Church of Canada that every pastoral charge provides a paid sabbatical of at least three consecutive months to those in paid accountable ministry who have completed at least five years of service in one call or appointment. (General Council 2003, Petition 131)"

[Click here to read more](#)

Looking Ahead...

Yellowhead Presbytery Oversight Report – A copy of the report is available to you on request. Contact the church office if you would like it emailed or printed.

Perogy Making Work Bee – Saturday, **March 9** starting at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Calling all men and women, those experienced in making perogies, and those who have never made them but would like to learn how... please join us! The perogies will be used for the St. Patrick's Day Perogy Supper on March 16.



St. Patrick's Day Perogy Supper – Saturday, **March 16**, 5 – 7 p.m. Only \$12 for a full serving and \$8 for a half serving. Tickets are available at the church office, on Sundays following worship, and at the door.



Easter Candy and Chocolate Wanted – The Outreach Ministry is seeking donations for the Children's Party at the Mustard Seed. Please ensure that your treats are small in size. The last day of collection is **March 24th**.



Pennies From Heaven Fundraiser – Consider supporting the ongoing ministries of First United by donating your pennies. There is a container on the table in the narthex; pennies can either be rolled or deposited in the container unrolled.



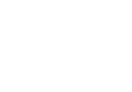
Please regularly check-out our website at fsunited.org to keep yourselves updated about our coming events, and to listen to our recorded sermons.

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](#).

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Celebrating 130 Years Together 1882-2012