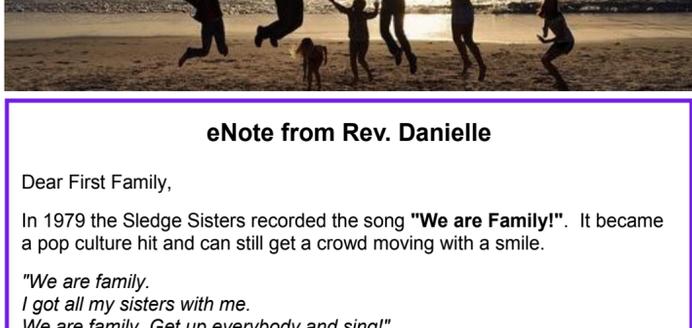




First United eNews

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 28, 2013



eNote from Rev. Danielle

Dear First Family,

In 1979 the Sledge Sisters recorded the song **"We are Family!"**. It became a pop culture hit and can still get a crowd moving with a smile.

*"We are family.
I got all my sisters with me.
We are family. Get up everybody and sing!"*

I wonder how this song would translate to Sunday morning worship? The family of God. Brothers and sisters in the faith. Adopted members of Christ's family by baptism!

The family of God goes beyond genetics and has a wider reach.

On the cross Jesus reminded us to expand our understanding of family. While speaking to Mary (his mother) and John (his beloved disciple) he said: "Woman, here is your son. And here is your mother." (*John 19:26-27*)

Our family is who God has given us to care for and with. First United, welcome to God's family.

Join us this Sunday for worship that continues to explore the **Last 7 Words of Christ** from the cross, and Jesus words on family love.

prayers for the journey,
[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 **this Sunday, March 3**. Thank you for your generosity!

Worship Series



This Sunday: Part 3 of The 7 Last Words of Christ

"Dear woman, here is your son."
John 19:26-27

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

Attention Youth!

This Sunday, join us for **"Life in the Basement"**. It's our youth bible and life conversation. Join us in the youth room! Everyone is welcome. Sunday at 10 a.m.

Following worship...

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

Food Bank Sunday

This Sunday, please bring your food donations such as jam, peanut butter, pasta, sauces, and tin fruit.

Faith Formation Corner

Our Lenten path continues. As a way of marking our journey towards Easter the children and I have been offering our footprints to the path in the sanctuary. I wonder how your Lenten journey is going so far and how you and your family have chosen to mark your way.



This week in **Growing God's Children** we are exploring the **Parable of the Sower**. There is a parent letter and story ready to help you continue working with the story at home.

March 10 and 17 will be our time to focus on preparing to hear the Easter story.

The adult study group using the resource **"Prisms"** is going well. Thanks to participants for your willingness to engage the material.



This Sunday the youth will be meeting for **Life in the Basement**. This is a youth friendly discussion of the scriptures and worship theme.

Faithfully yours,
[Nancy Chegus](#)
Faith Formation Coordinator

Youth Group Update

The Youth Group has been doing lots of learning, serving and fellowship. During January and February, the group of about 10 youth plus leaders met for **"Doin' Life"**, their Friday evening conversation, activity and social time.

Alternating Sundays you can find the youth and leaders in the Youth Room studying the Scriptures and its meaning for their lives. They call this, **"Life in the Basement!"**

Last Friday, it was a great team effort that made for a successful **Alice in Wonderland Murder Mystery** theme night!

Youth Group is open to all youth grades 7-12.

If you would like more information about the Youth Group, call Eleanor Heesing at 780-992-0944.



Left: The cast of Alice in Wonderland Mystery Dinner!

Community News

A Service in Celebration and Thanksgiving of the life of **Grace Slater**, will be held on **Friday, March 1 at 2:00 p.m. at First United Church**.

Grace was a longtime member of this congregation. Many of you will remember her love of life, music and deep faith. We place our trust in God's promise of eternal life for Grace, and extend our prayers to her family.

Sabbatical Care Team

In upcoming months the Church Board will seek the congregation's input on ways we will use the sabbatical time for congregational development and spiritual growth. There is an immediate need for three people to be part of a Sabbatical Care Team, with the primary task of listening and responding to the congregation about the congregational sabbatical needs and plans. If interested, please contact Jackie St. Goddard (Board Chair) at 780-998-3851, stgod@telus.net.

["What is a Sabbatical"](#)

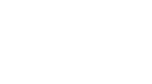
Looking Ahead...



Fountain Needed! – We need a portable fountain for our sanctuary during Holy Week. If you have one to share for a few days, please get in touch with Rev. Danielle.

Caregivers Workshop – A COMPASS workshop for caregivers is coming to Fort Saskatchewan. This is for anyone caring for a family member or friend with challenges due to aging, illness or disability. Caregivers are often stressed or struggling emotionally, and this workshop focuses on support the caregiver journey with subjects like stress management, coping with grief and guilt, recognizing burnout, etc. It runs once a week for 8 weeks, 2 hours in duration each time. In conjunction with the FCSS in Fort Saskatchewan workshops begin on Thursdays starting **March 7th**. [Click here](#) for more information.

Perogy Making Work Bee – Saturday, **March 9** starting at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Calling all men and women, those experienced at 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. [Click here](#) to see the poster.



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](#).

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



Celebrating 130 Years Together 1882-2012