



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.

March 21,
2013

The Pope is fully illuminated

eNote from Rev. Danielle

Dear First Family,

There has been an overwhelming response to this image on the occasion of Pope Francis election. The Pope is fully illuminated by a sea of electronic screens. All of this in just eight years. What does this say about us? Are we to be amazed or mortified?

Global culture is shifting at an unprecedented pace. Technology is the most obvious pacesetter.

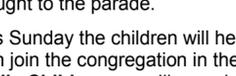
As Christians who walk ancient paths of love and justice, compassion and hope where we point our modern screens can have an impact on what the world notices. Are you online as part of a justice-making initiative? Do you blog or read stories of resilience and courage that when passed on might encourage others? Are there images and communities from around the world that inspire you on your faith walk?

We're interested in hearing from you. Please send me the links to some of the images, communities and websites that light up your screens and support your faith journey. We'll compile them over the next week, and find ways to share them with the church family. fspc@shaw.ca or rev.daniellejames@gmail.com

Looking forward to hearing from you...
and I'll see you for Sunday worship!

[Rev. Danielle](#)

Sunday Worship



Join us this Sunday at 10:00 a.m. for the final part in the Sermon Series

The 7 Last Words of Christ

"Father into your hands I commit my spirit." Luke 23:46

Preacher: Cathy Pearson
Worship Leader: Rev. Danielle

Following worship...

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

Faith Formation Desk

This week our "one foot in front of the other," takes us toward **Palm Sunday**. For adults this can be a bittersweet celebration because we know what comes next in the story. But for now, let's stay in the moment of celebration with palm branches in hand, recognizing the hope and peace that Jesus brought to the parade.

This Sunday the children will hear the Palm Sunday story and then join the congregation in the great parade. In **Growing God's Children**, we will experience a **Godly Play** story and then return to the sanctuary for **communion** with families.

I would like to thank all the participants in our **Prisms** study group. It has been a pleasure to work with you and to get to know you better. We look forward to sharing the **spiritual gifts discovery** with the congregation beginning April 21.

Faithfully yours,

[Nancy Chequs](#)

Faith Formation Coordinator



Youth Group

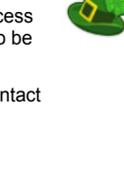
Friday, March 22nd: Climbing Wall at Boys & Girls Club

Drop off: 7:00 p.m. at Boys and Girls Club

Pick up: 10:00 p.m. at First United Church

RSVP: Tuesday, March 19th

Bring: a pair of clean indoor shoes



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.

Morning of Music

This Saturday, March 23 at 9:30 a.m. We will sing and reflect on some of our Lenten Music, have an opportunity to be creative, pray, praise God and have some fun!

Please feel free to bring your instruments with you (whether it is a voice, guitar, drum, flute, or harmonica!)

All are welcome! Bring a friend! For more information, contact Camille at 780-997-0551.



Gratitudes

St. Patrick's Day Perogy Supper

Thank you to everyone that helped make perogies, set up, take down tables, cooked, cleaned and purchased tickets for the St. Patrick's Perogy supper. You helped make this a great success as we realized a profit of \$1705.59 (not including perogies yet to be sold). Please know that you are appreciated.



Perogies for Sale - at \$5.00 per dozen. If interested please contact Edna at 998-0240 and she will bag the amount you require and make arrangements for you to pick them up.

Heartfelt Thanks for Your M&S Gifts!

The people of The United Church of Canada gave generously for M&S in 2012! Together we gave **\$29,347,390** for United Church Mission and Service work in our neighbourhoods, across Canada, and globally. The campaign wrapped at the end of January 2013 with congregational gifts totalling \$27,026,390, plus bequests of \$2,321,000 applied to the 2012 M&S ministries.

Even in the midst of financial struggles throughout the country and in our congregations, people have been generous. Our generosity has changed people's lives. Our generosity shows M&S as a lively part of our church life and our faith expression. A special note of thanks to all ministry personnel, M&S Enthusiasts, UCW members, and many lay leaders for your faithful and creative leadership in promoting M&S. Thank you for your good and loyal work in support of our church's Mission and Service. Check out your [congregational results on the United Church website](#).

David Armour
Director of Philanthropy
The United Church of Canada
darmour@united-church.ca

Looking Ahead...

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 **this Sunday**.

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. Last day of collection is **this Sunday**.



Easter Lilies – Potted lilies are available for \$10 each and will be placed as decoration in the Narthex and Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. As a symbol of hope, you are welcome to take your lilies home with you after Worship on Easter Sunday. Deadline for orders is **this Sunday**.



Church Finance - Where do we go from here? – Saturday, **April 20** from 9:30 to 2:00 p.m. The Board is hosting a one day event, with guest presenter Kathryn Hofely of the United Church of Canada Stewardship and Philanthropy unit. The day's agenda will include Kathryn's presentation and small group work for participants. These small group discussions will aim to provide feedback to the presented ideas, and plan next steps for financial stewardship within First United. This is an opportunity for all members of the church to grow in discipleship. Your insight and participation is needed and valued. **Please RSVP by April 12th**. Lunch will be provided. Contact the church office at 998-4060 or fspc@shaw.ca

Holy Week

March 24 Palm Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
With Holy Communion

March 28 Maundy Thursday Worship 7 p.m.

March 29 Good Friday Worship 10 a.m.

March 29 Walk of the Cross 12 p.m.
Meet at the Fire Hall

March 30 Easter Vigil 7–9 p.m.

March 31 Easter Sunday Worship 10 a.m.



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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