

# First United Church

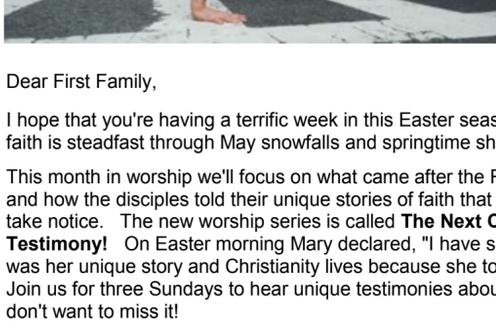
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## First United eNews

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.

May 2, 2013



*There is never just one way to walk through life. We each have a unique story to tell.*

Dear First Family,

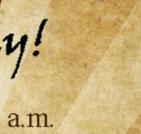
I hope that you're having a terrific week in this Easter season! The joy of our faith is steadfast through May snowfalls and springtime showers!

This month in worship we'll focus on what came after the Resurrection moment and how the disciples told their unique stories of faith that compelled others to take notice. The new worship series is called **The Next Chapter: Stories of Testimony!** On Easter morning Mary declared, "I have seen the Lord!". That was her unique story and Christianity lives because she told others her story. Join us for three Sundays to hear unique testimonies about living faith! You don't want to miss it!

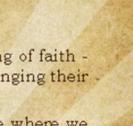
[Rev. Danielle](#)

### Sunday Worship

Join us this Sunday at 10:00 a.m. for the New Worship Series "**The Next Chapter: Stories of Testimony!**"



Then... stay after worship for a **soup lunch and a celebration** as we offer gratitude to **Al Gummeson** for his service with the church.



**The Next Chapter**  
**Stories of Testimony!**

Sundays May 5, 12 & 19 at 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Danielle A. James

The New Testament is a collection of people speaking of faith - sharing their testimonies to the power of God in changing their lives and communities.

We all have a unique story to tell, but in a culture where we are often hesitant to talk about our faith, what if we practiced giving our testimonies? What would we learn about God and ourselves?

Join us for three Sundays about the practice of testimony for ourselves and our community.

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### Faith Formation Desk

Pentecost is fast approaching so our next Godly Play story for **Growing God's Children** is "**The Mystery of Pentecost.**" The children will explore this story May 5 and 12. Pentecost is known as the birthday of the church, so be prepared for a celebration May 19. Hopefully the children will be familiar with the story by then.



I'm looking forward to more spiritual exploration time with **adults**. Check out **Mini Nooma** if you are interested.

**May 26** - Save the date for a celebration of our children and youth as we bring another program year to a close.

Faithfully yours,

[Nancy Chequs](#)

Faith Formation Coordinator

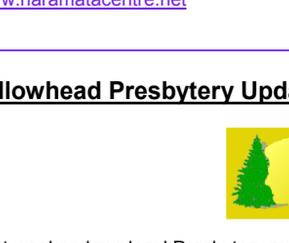
### Gratitudes!



*Kristine Osbaldeston, Al Gummeson and Chris Ream, among the eight people from First United, helping serve at the Bissell Centre, April 28, 2013.*

Thank you to all those who shared food for the Bissell meal last Sunday, and thanks to the team who went to the centre for worship and the feast! The team shared worship with about 75 people and the meal nourished about 180 people.

### Summer Retreat!



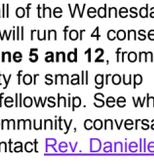
**The Naramata Centre** is a United Church Retreat Centre. It is a place for spiritual and personal growth 10 minutes north of Penticton, BC - right on the lake. It offers a variety of courses and programs for all ages and walks of life. It is ecumenical and great for individuals, couples, children and families.

Courses are on topics like spirituality, the arts, leadership and personal growth.

Ted Griffiths is an instructor in wood and stone carving during the summer courses. He talks about a strong connection between the arts and spirituality throughout his courses and life at Naramata. Ted's available for conversation about the centre (780-992-1982) or the check out the website:

[www.naramatacentre.net](http://www.naramatacentre.net)

### Yellowhead Presbytery Update!



Last weekend our local Presbytery met in Whitecourt for two days. There was worship, learning and action taken that further supports the congregations.

[Click here](#) for a summary report from one of our presbytery reps.

### Catering Needs Help!

Due to some of our senior members being unable to work or bake any longer, we need workers, bakers or people who could help with both. Please contact Elleine at 780-998-3460.

### Upcoming Events

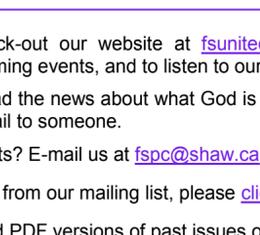
#### Mini-Nooma: Small Group Ministry

In response to requests from the congregation the small group ministry, Nooma is making a come back. Everyone is welcome to come for one or all of the Wednesday night sessions. This "mini-Nooma" will run for 4 consecutive **Wednesdays May 22, 29, June 5 and 12, from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** You'll have an opportunity for small group conversation, faith study and fellowship. See what God has in store for you. Join us for community, conversation and connection! For more info, contact [Rev. Danielle](#).



#### Stewardship Saturday: Spring Cleanup

Saturday, **May 11** is our Stewardship Saturday and Spring Clean Up day. Men and women are needed to clean both inside and outside our church property. Women could you bring rags and men brooms for the parking lots and gardening tools. We will start the fun at **9:00 AM** and end by 12:00 noon. Bring your family and let's share the work. Hope to see you there! Phone Ted at 780-998-1982 if you have any questions.



Please regularly check-out our website at [fsunited.org](http://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](mailto:fspc@shaw.ca) or call 780-998-4060.

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