

# First United Church

10409-100 Avenue, Fort Saskatchewan, AB T8L 1Z3  
780-998-4060 Fax: 780-998-4061  
Email: [fspc@shaw.ca](mailto:fspc@shaw.ca) Website: [www.fsunited.org](http://www.fsunited.org)



## 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.

August 8, 2013

### Sunday Worship, August 11

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

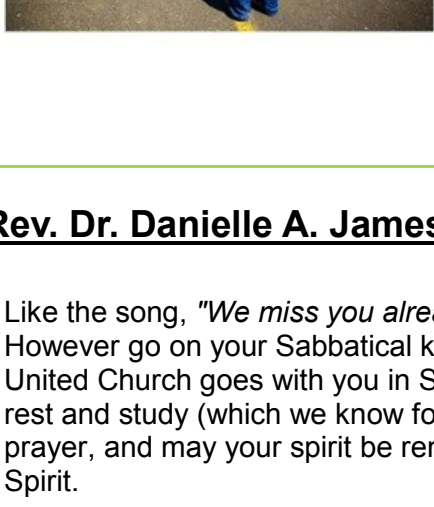
Worship Leadership:  
**Rev. Dr. Danielle A. James**

Sermon Title:  
**Ordinary Courage:  
A Journey of First Steps**

Holy Communion

Children's Programme during the  
Sundays in August.

All families and children are welcome!



### Rev. Dr. Danielle A. James aka Rev. D.

Like the song, "We miss you already and you're not even gone." However go on your Sabbatical knowing that this congregation of First United Church goes with you in Spirit and in love. Our wish for you is lots of rest and study (which we know for you is rest), helpful and encompassing prayer, and may your spirit be renewed, re-energized and fulfilled with God's Spirit.

You have guided us well, we will rest and discern while you are gone and we will eagerly anticipate your return.

Enjoy yourself, miss us just a bit, and walk with Christ on your journey.

With our love,  
Your congregation at First United

### Congregational Meeting Feedback

Last Tuesday (July 31) about 30 participants in our congregation met to discuss the JNAC report and recommendations. This represents about 1/3 of our worshipping community.

The members present voted to accept the report and all recommendations. The group took part in 2 additional activities.

1. To identify areas of abundance in our current ministries, so that we might build in those areas.
2. Identify what areas of ministry they are willing to let go. And what areas of ministry they are willing to take on.

Given the 27 responses:

The group identified Lay Leadership and Children/Youth Ministry as the top areas of ministry that express our congregational abundance.

Individuals also named that they are **willing to let go** of some areas of ministry except Children/Youth Ministry. Examples of areas to let go included: "outside mission work", "commitments to the wider church", "a portion of our music programme", "Taize worship", "fundraisers" and "outreach programmes".

Individuals also named that they are **willing to take on**: "working with children and youth in Godly Play", "parenting classes for youth parents", "community outreach" and "stewardship conversations"

These responses show the diversity of voices in our congregation. They also convey the dynamics we currently experience between finances, desire for meaningful ministry and call of the Spirit.

The next Board meeting is **August 24 at 6:30pm**. Your Board will continue the conversation of all these dynamics. If you were unable to attend the congregational meeting, the Board seeks your input. Please send your responses your Board Secretary: Charlotte Fildes ([fildes@ulberta.ca](mailto:fildes@ulberta.ca))

### Financial Stewardship Update

#### FIRST UNITED FINANCIALS

##### AS AT JULY 31, 2013

REVENUE	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE	
	\$144,514	\$127,715	\$16,799	<b>FAVORABLE TO BUDGET</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	\$184,401	\$199,999	-\$15,598	<b>FAVORABLE TO BUDGET</b>
<b>CURRENT DEFICIT 2013</b>				<b>-\$42,138</b>
<b>DEFICIT PREDICTION 2013 BASED ON BUDGET</b>				<b>-\$66,801</b>
				<b>FAVORABLE TO BUDGET</b>

### Bottle Fundraiser

NEW! Here are the ways to participate...

1. Pick up an envelope on the table at the entrance to deposit the funds you receive when you return your own bottles to the depot. The envelope can then be turned into the office or put in the offering plate on Sundays.
2. Bring your bottles to the church and deposit them in the container downstairs beside the Bissell box. Please ensure your bag is labelled with your full name and address so proper credit can be applied against your giving account.
3. You can drop off your bottles at the home of Joan Prochnau at 22 Westpark Road (780-998-1008) properly labelled and they will be taken to the bottle depot.
4. If you require your bottles to be picked up at your home, contact Joan at 780-998-1008 and she will arrange pick up.

If you have any questions, please contact Joan.

Thank you First United for your ongoing support!

**What are container deposits?** Container deposit refund levels are set through government legislation and include all 'Ready to Serve' beverage containers, including milk.

Current deposits are: 1 Litre & under = 10¢.  
Over 1 Litre = 25¢



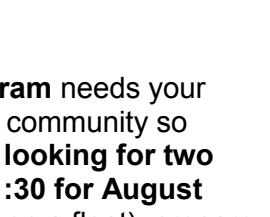
### Upcoming and Ongoing

#### Run for Body and Soul

September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013

The **Run for Body and Soul** is a community 5km run/walk that begins and ends at First United. This fundraiser will support **First United Church** and the **Fort Saskatchewan Community Hospital Foundation**.

**Volunteers needed...** There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer, or contact Megan at 780-996-0609, or [msblumhagen@hotmail.com](mailto:msblumhagen@hotmail.com). Thank you to those of you that have already committed to help!



#### Summer FUNdraiser

It must be very nice in Jasper because our holiday bus stayed there another week. Where to next?

Please keep us moving on our *imaginary journey* across Alberta with your donation of 25¢ per kilometer. Follow along on the map in the Narthex to see our progress.



#### Community Connections: Kitchen Help Wanted

First United's commitment to the **Adult Day Support Program** needs your help. This is a church wide opportunity to connect with our community so please fill in the dates that you could be available. **We are looking for two volunteers every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30 – 1:30 for August and September**. Duties include: shop for food (you are given a float), prepare lunch, serve and clean-up. Please sign-up in the foyer for one day or many. For more information, call Edna at 780-998-0240.

#### Meals on Wheels

First United will be delivering Meals on Wheels for the month of August and there are still some days left for you to sign-up for. [Click here](#) for more information, or call Edna at 780-998-0240.



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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