

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.

August 29, 2013



Sunday Worship, September 1

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

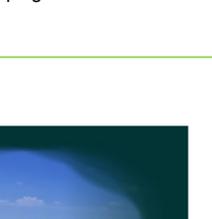
Worship Leadership:
Jackie St. Goddard (LLWL)

Sermon Title:
Thinking of Ourselves Less

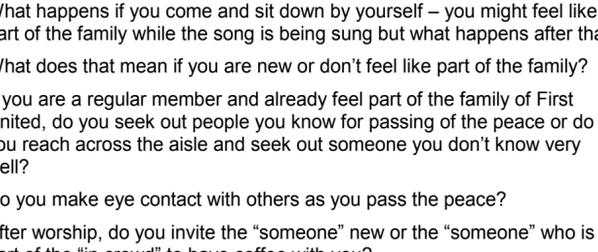
*Food Bank Sunday!

All families and children are welcome!

* With school starting this week, lunch snack items are a great idea, such as juice boxes and fruit cups. Last month, the Food Bank was low on tinned fruit and veggies breakfast cereal and crackers. Donations can be placed in the shopping cart in the foyer.



Music Notes



It is hard to believe that school will be starting next week. Also, in the next few weeks, children and youth will be returning to worship for Sunday School. There will also be newcomers attending to "check" us out to see if First United is a place that they would like to join and become a member in.

At the beginning of worship, there are formal words of welcome. We may sing a song that is "welcoming" such as More Voices 1 where the refrain says "All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place". This Sunday, we sing Voices United 395 "Come In, Come In, and Sit Down".

The lyrics invite all to come in and sit down because all are part of the family. The lyrics are familiar to many of us but do we really take time to put those words into action?

What happens if you come and sit down by yourself – you might feel like part of the family while the song is being sung but what happens after that?

What does that mean if you are new or don't feel like part of the family?

If you are a regular member and already feel part of the family of First United, do you seek out people you know for passing of the peace or do you reach across the aisle and seek out someone you don't know very well?

Do you make eye contact with others as you pass the peace?

After worship, do you invite the "someone" new or the "someone" who is not part of the "in crowd" to have coffee with you?

Let us put these words into action and ensure that everyone feels part of the family!

Camille Ream
Music Coordinator

Growing God's Children

Once there was a man who said such marvelous things and did such amazing things, that people began to follow him. But they didn't really know who he was. So one day they asked him, "Who are you?" And he answered, "I am the Light."

Welcome back to "GROWING GOD'S CHILDREN", our programme here at First United, for Elementary School aged children. Regular classes of Godly Play will resume on Sunday, September 8th. We welcome children who have come previously, as well as all newcomers.

This is the "line-up" for September:
Sept. 8 The Church Calendar
Sept. 15 Creation
Sept. 22 Noah and The Flood
Sept. 29 The Great Family

We are blessed that Nancy Chegus left us with a complete year's schedule of stories. We are also blessed to have a dedicated team of Storytellers and Doorkeepers, to guide the Sunday morning children's time. And work has been put into the preparation of the children's sacred space, as well as the props needed for the storytelling. What is missing however, to put it bluntly, is a "Nancy" to pull everything all together with the prep work required from Sunday to Sunday.

Before she left at the end of June, I had assured her that I could get things started for September. My commitment to do so was based on the assumption that Nancy's position would be filled sometime in the early Fall, by someone with professional and theological qualifications, education and experience similar to her own.

Regrettably, this will not be happening any time soon. So, we are set for September, friends....And after that, I am not sure.

Yours in good faith,
Francee Kaehn
780-998-7614
780-720-8767 cell

Update From the Board

Your Board is back to work after a short one month hiatus (during which time we had a congregational meeting).

We remain a busy church as we move forward, discerning and growing in our faith, and now it is time to plan for the fall and into the new year.

The Ministry and Personnel Committee have been busy doing staff reviews, the Property Team was busy putting up the sign, and making small repairs throughout the building. It seems that never stops.

Our custodian Paul will be on holidays Sept. 2 to 16th and when he returns the Fellowship Hall, classrooms and hallway floors will be stripped and refinished. It is a big job and takes a lot of coordinating between the renters using the basement. New groups we currently rent to in addition to the regulars are, Sparks, TOPS and Zumba.

Finance shared wonderful news with us. We started 2013 with a cumulative deficit of \$136,740.02. We are now at a cumulative deficit of \$91,000.00. We are making wonderful progress in part to your generosity, and in part through many new initiatives.

We were informed that the Bottle Drive is really taking off. \$380.00 was received in bottles from one donor alone (and not even a church member). All ministries remain under budget.

We have four months to go and in that time will be hosting three major fundraisers. That along with your generous offerings should see us in a much better position this year end.

A Congregational Budget Meeting is being planned for November 27th so mark your calendar. More information will follow.

A Stewardship campaign is planned from October 20th, starting with a Mission Fair kickoff, through to November 10th. We will look forward to your participation, your insight and your generosity as more information is presented.

We note that Marg Chaba has stepped down as Hospitality Team Coordinator and we are looking for someone to fill this position. While not too time consuming, it is a very important role, as this position is the liaison between the various hospitality teams and the ministry staff. Please consider bringing you forward to a Board member or call the church office and a Board member will contact you. Marg would help someone assume the role.

We are grateful to Marg as she was the first in this position and as well as learning, sometimes through trial and error, she has brought this to a well organized, truly efficient ministry in our church.

Thank you Marg for all your time, effort and dedication.

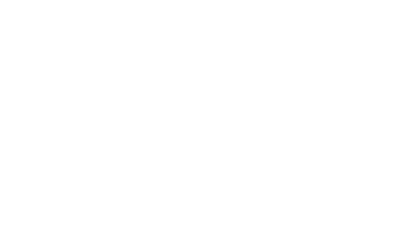
Outreach has been kept really busy over the summer, organizing the Meals on Wheels program for August, organizing the staff to prepare the lunches twice a week for the Adult Day Support Group (which is also a fundraiser for our church) and the ongoing Food Bank and Bissell Centre donations. All ministries are gearing up for the fall and we will learn more soon.

We will hear about the Children and Youth programs as soon as they are set for the fall.

If you wish, Board minutes are available for you to read anytime. They are in the Church office, simply ask Jen to see them.

Respectfully submitted
Jackie St. Goddard
Board Chair

Upcoming and Ongoing



Harvest Moon Coffeehouse

Saturday, September 28
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Concert starts at 7:00 p.m.

Please come to our second annual **Harvest Moon Coffeehouse** featuring live music from the **Gates Family**, and **Peter Nolan and Friends**. There will be FREE fair-trade coffee & tea, plus gourmet cheesecake available for purchase. This is a fundraiser for the **Canadian Foodgrains Bank**. Cover charge: \$10 or \$25 per family.

Grow a Row

Its back! The tasty part of "Grow a Row"... Starting this Sunday, August 25th and running for four consecutive Sundays. Bring in your garden's (vegetable, flower or herb) bounty to share with your God family! Bring what you can; take what you need and be thankful for the bounty God gives us daily.

A "sharing table" will be set up in the narthex and remember to bring your own bags! Questions, please contact Karen Martin (780-998-3692) or email: khmartin@telus.net.



Music / AV Invitation to all

Are you interested in helping with Worship? The Music Ministry and AV Ministry are actively looking for volunteers to help with worship services. There are a variety of ways to help: **Singers, Ringers, Strummers, Instrumentalists, Powerpointers, and Sound and Recording Personnel**. For a detailed description click [here](#).

If you are interested or know of someone who is, please contact Camille Ream at 780-997-0551 or through the church office.



Run for Body & Soul

September 14th, 2013
Ways that you can be involved: register to participate, sponsor someone, volunteer to help, or donate something for our participant goodie bags.

More details [here](#).
The *Run for Body & 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**.

Summer FUNdraiser

This has been extended for one more week. The bus left Fort McMurray to visit the **Basilian Father's Grotto** in Mundare, Alberta. Now we need to come home! Please help with your holiday mileage quarters to keep us moving.

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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