

# 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.

October 3, 2013

### Sunday Worship, October 6



## Called to be the Church

Part II . . . a united diversity.

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

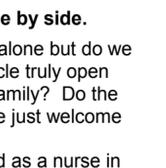
Worship Leadership:  
**Matthew Heesing**

Sermon Series:  
**Called to be the Church**

Sermon Title:  
**Part II... a united diversity**

All families and children are welcome!

**Food Bank Sunday** – This Sunday Food donations such as jam, peanut butter, pasta, sauces, and tin fruit are gratefully accepted and appreciated. Donation can be placed in the shopping cart in the foyer.



### Music Notes

As we move to the second part of the sermon series on "Called to Be the Church" we focus on diversity. As United Church people, we think that we know what that means – but do we? As Church people, we need to be accepting of diversity – but are we? We have somewhat a sheltered life in Fort Saskatchewan – with most of us being white and middle class. One of Gordon Light's song that we are singing on Sunday says:

**Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still  
Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side.**

Do we really do that? We really don't want people to stand alone but do we embrace all who walk into our doors? Is our God family circle truly open wide? Do people who are different than us feel part of the family? Do the poor, the alcoholics, the drug addicts feel welcome or do we just welcome those into God's family if they are like us?

I know that it can be hard to accept diversity. I have worked as a nurse in downtown Edmonton where there are many people who have mental illnesses, alcoholism, drug addiction or who live in poverty. I admit that often I felt uncomfortable. When that would happen, I never felt alone – I tried to remember the things that Jesus might do so that I could be accepting and helpful to those in need. Many of us have helped with the Bissell lunches where there is true diversity amongst the people. In that setting, they feel part of the circle – the circle is wide open – no one needs to stand alone. We could learn many things for those who are not as fortunate as we are.

Camille Ream  
Music Coordinator

### Update From the Board

The Ministry and Personnel Committee attended the September Board meeting in order to share some findings from their recent reviews. There were many positive comments, however, there were also some concerns raised by congregation members.

The Board listened and will be in further discussions as we move ahead in addressing specific issues. The first step has been to book a facilitator for a weekend of "goal setting" and discernment. It will be a time of learning about ourselves, a time to set goals for the future and a time to reflect on where we are now as a church. This event will be open to all members of the congregation. The date is tentatively booked for Saturday, March 8, 2014. As a Board we must prayerfully try, at all times, to work for the goals and aspirations of the congregation as a whole and always discerning that we are being led by the Holy Spirit.

One concern we did hear is the "need to fill vacant positions and change positions on the Board." We agree. Filling positions on the Board and on any ministry team can only be done by you, members of this congregation. (There are currently three Board vacancies - one chair elect and two members-at-large). When asked, please prayerfully consider helping, or if you are interested, simply contact a Board member who will sit with you and discuss what serving on a ministry or on the Board requires.

Stewardship Saturdays are beginning again in October. If you feel called to help maintain our lovely building and meet with like minded people for fellowship, please make note of the date and stop by.

Music Ministry is already thinking ahead to Advent and will be looking for help for special Christmas and long weekend services. A special music offering will be given by a choir under the direction of Brent Orchard during worship in October.

Being a Board member is a ministry of leadership, and it is a privilege to serve this congregation. If you have questions, beefs or bouquets don't hesitate to contact anyone of us.

Jackie St. Goddard - Board Chair [stgod@telus.net](mailto:stgod@telus.net)  
Charlotte Fildes - Secretary [fildes@ualberta.ca](mailto:fildes@ualberta.ca)  
Joan Prochnau - Treasurer [jbrochnau@shaw.ca](mailto:jbrochnau@shaw.ca)  
Ted Griffiths - Member at Large & Property Portfolio [heritagecarvings@shaw.ca](mailto:heritagecarvings@shaw.ca)  
Matthew Heesing - Presbytery Rep [matthew.heesing@hotmail.ca](mailto:matthew.heesing@hotmail.ca)  
Elwood Galloway - Member at Large [elwmir@gmail.com](mailto:elwmir@gmail.com)  
Richard Lemieux - Acting M & P Chair [rlmieux@albertacom.com](mailto:rlmieux@albertacom.com)

### We're Excited—You're Invited

First United Church will be holding a **Ministry Fair** after service on **October 20th**. This event will provide insight; it will share the vision and goals of First United and will help everyone see the work that is being done by key ministry areas of our church. We will have a display contest – you will choose the "People's Choice Award for Best Display" and each booth will have food for you. There will be handouts, information and most of all enthusiasm for what we are doing in this church community of ours. Please mark your calendar to be sure and attend.

### Gratitudes

#### Fall Fest Bake Sale

It is with deepest gratitude and thanks that we acknowledge all the work accomplished through baking, donating, pricing, selling and buying at the Bake Sale held in conjunction with the Fall Festival Celebrations.

A profit of **\$815.55** was realized. Our thanks also go to the volunteers that helped with the children's craft table, and manned the coffee and food table. The community expressed delight in our offerings and it was appreciated. Well Done!

#### Harvest Moon Coffeehouse



Thanks so much to all those who helped with the Coffee house this year! We had many hands to help make this a success. We are thankful to the musicians who volunteered their time to help make this a success. We thank Peter Nolan, Marlee and Troy Gates, Mickie-Lee Smith, Katie and Thomas Corrigan, John Appleton, and Glen Nott.

We are thankful to Fort Sight and Sound for providing the sound equipment for the event. We are thank to Terrance from the Canadian Food Grains Bank for displaying information for us so that we can better understand the good work that this organization does for people around the world. We are thankful to Second Cup for their donation of coffee (they have already volunteered to donate it again next year! Thanks to Starbucks and The Smiths for the donation of door prizes! Thanks to those who helped to clean up at the end of the evening!

The Coffeehouse Planning Committee has divided the proceeds between the Benevolent Fund at First United Church (**\$200.00**), the Canadian Food Grains Bank (**\$415.84**) and the Ministries of First United Church (**\$415.84**).

#### Adult Day Program

Thank you to the 15 people who cooked, served and enjoyed the fellowship of the Adult Day Support Group during August and September. In addition to raising funds, this was a great way to meet and talk with many diverse people and it was fun. Special thanks to Edna Melnyk for organizing it all so efficiently. We realized **\$1,008.00**.

#### Godly Play

Our prayers have been answered and two people have volunteered to act as co-coordinators for the Godly Play Children's Church, for the balance of this church year. Our sincerest thanks to Judy Melnyk and Karen Martin. We look forward to hearing from these ladies as we help them support the children's ministry at First United Church.

### Getting Involved

#### Morning of Music

**This Saturday, October 5** from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Come gather in an environment of Gratitude, Thankfulness and Thanksgiving. We will explore music from both Voices United and More Voices hymnaries. We will sing old songs with new words. We will learn about the diversity of them music that is in these books. Christians all around the world give thanks to God for what he has done! Join us in this Celebration of Thanks through music.



#### Fall Celebration Choir

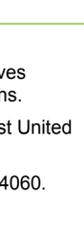
The sounds of SATB voices will be happening **October 27** at First United Church. We are thankful Brent Orchard has agreed to direct a Fall Celebration Choir for worship. Megan Galloway has agreed to play the piano. Rehearsals will be at 7 pm on Oct 15 and 22. Singers will gather on October 27 at 9:00 am for a final rehearsal as they plan to share their music in worship. Please call Camille Ream at 780-997-0551 if you would like to join or let Jen at the Church office know. Music will be on the organ bench at the front of the church for singers to pick up on Thanksgiving weekend. Please join us!

#### United Church Women

Meeting Tuesday, **October 8 at 9:20 a.m.** We welcome all ladies that might be interested in sharing our purpose, which varies with needs of our surrounding district, or just within the church needs. Please join us – we would love to have you with us!

#### A Novel Faith

Meeting Tuesday, **October 8 at 12:00 p.m.** All are welcome to join us in a discussion about the book of the month: **"The Life of Pi"** by Yann Martel.



#### Strathcona County Ecumenical Mission

**October 6-9, 2013.** Led by Mission Leader, **Rev. Danielle.** Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Eileen Stannard at [estann@shaw.ca](mailto:estann@shaw.ca) or call 780-922-3175.



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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