**LIFE & WORK OF THE CHURCH**

**April 5, 2020**

Dearest First Church Friends,
We hope you are well.
If you are in need of support, please reach out to the Church through a phone call or email and someone would be happy to speak to you.
Church Office:   office@1stunitedchurch.ca
Rev Daryl:       minister@1stunitedchurch.ca
Church phone:  519-631-7570

**Thank you to everyone who participated in the Parking Lot Drop Off Food Drive for the Food Bank yesterday!** Donations will be delivered to the Food Bank tomorrow.

**Thank you to those who have been sending in their Church Offering! We appreciate your ongoing support!**

Giving options can be found on our website on the

“Ways to Donate” page.

**Happy birthday to**: Sam Mogk, Richard Auckland, Bev Fellows & Sharron Rupple.

All Worship Services & the Monday Coffee Time with Rev. Daryl can be accessed through the same link:  [meet.google.com/pjg-zbez-nax](https://meet.google.com/pjg-zbez-nax)

**MONDAY: Coffee time with Rev. Daryl – online at 10:30am.** Same link as Sunday worship!

**THURSDAY: Online Maundy Thursday Worship @ 7pm**

**FRIDAY: Online Good Friday Worship @ 10:30am**

**NEXT SUNDAY: Online Easter Sunday Worship @ 10:30am**

Join us to celebrate the Risen Christ!

**The Spring Rummage Sale – originally scheduled for Saturday, April 25 has been postponed** (new date TBA), but PLEASE hold on to your donations! Once the Church Building opens back up we will be accepting them!

**Other First Happenings:**

**Here is a First family challenge!** Let's write some bedtime stories to share with each other's families. I wrote this one a few years ago. Used pictures on PowerPoint and put text on the slides. Technically it was pretty easy. I used some pictures we took at the time we were up at the cottage, and then pulled others from my Photos on my computer. The picture of the tailpipe on the red car was from Google Pics. The kids wrote the story, acted in it and I helped them embellish! It has been a keepsake and so much fun to revisit! It made long days at the cottage fun- especially building the enormous sandcastle! Anyone up for a creative challenge?? We'd love for you to create some and email them to us! A link to submitted stories can be found on our website on the Upcoming Events page – just look for the Story Time announcement.

**We’re still looking for family stories for our timeline**

**Invitation to contribute stories:** We are inviting members of our congregation and community to contribute to the story that is First United Church.  Perhaps you or your family have a special connection with the church, have an interesting story of your involvement or have a longer history as a member.  We’d ask that you submit your story to Richard Auckland at rauck27@gmail.com.  You may also handwrite your story and submit it (we may retype these to provide an opportunity for people to read them as they will be posted on the wall).

The intent is that your story will become part of a large timeline that will be posted in the hall on the way into the sanctuary by the Fellowship Room.  Below are a couple of sample submissions, but you may have your own thoughts.  If you have pictures feel free to include those as well.

Sample Church History Submissions

Please include the date (approximate is fine), your name and brief story or history of your family’s involvement at First United Church.  If you happen to have a picture to include that would be great.

1946 – Some members of the Auckland Family have attended First United since the 1940s.  My parents were wed at Talbotville United Church in 1948, moved to Pearl Street and attended the church.  Lloyd (my dad) served on the Board, the Trustees and was witness to the horrific fire in 1946 which burned the church beyond repair.  As leader of the Argonauts and Argonettes (the youth group), and as a local teacher, he taught many of St. Thomas’ future leaders.  My mother, Phyllis, was an original member of the United Church Women (UCW) at the church.  All five of us children were baptised and raised in the church.  My sister, Sandra (& Mike), 1971 and our son Jon (& Laura), 2018 were wed in the church.  A fond memory is coming to church and sitting in the south transept.  It was always warm there with the heater on and the sun would often shine through.  The Sandersons, the Parsons and other families sat in the same transept for many years as I grew up.

Submitted by Richard Auckland

1970s – A fond memory for me was growing up with Lloyd, my father leading the Argonettes and Argonauts.  As a youngster, I was permitted to go tobogganing at Union Golf Course with the older crowd.  After a really long run, I continued on into the creek and got a real soaker! Submitted by Richard Auckland

The Church Building is closed until further notice

Join us online each Sunday!

The worship link is posted on our website

[www.1stunitedchurch.ca](http://www.1stunitedchurch.ca)

7 Curtis St., St.Thomas, ON N5P 1H3 Phone: (519) 631-7570

e-mail: office@1stunitedchurch.ca web: www.1stunitedchurch.ca

MINISTERS: ALL THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Intentional Interim Minister: Rev. Daryl Webber

Music Minister: Jody McDonald-Groulx

Secretary/Treasurer: Lori Hoffman Custodian: Dave Luftenegger