**First United Church**

*Seeking to be a welcoming community of Christian faith, proclaiming and celebrating the love of God in Jesus Christ through the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit*

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August 18, 2019 @ 10:30am

*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*

*Music Minister: Jody McDonald-Groulx*

*Secretary/Treasurer: Lori Hoffman*

*Custodian: Dave Luftenegger*

**Order of Service**

**\*** You are invited to stand if comfortable doing so

VU = Voices United MV = More Voices

***Musical Prelude***

***Choral Musical Prelude:*** *MV#7 “Gather Us In”*

 *MV#18 “Lord Prepare Me”*

***Opening Prayer***

***Call to Worship:***

***One:*** *The Creator has gathered us to this place.*

***All: We open our hearts to hear the word of God.***

***One:*** *The Christ summons us to this place.*

***All: Where we can learn how to serve God without reservation or hesitation.***

***One:*** *The Spirit will send us from this place.*

***All: Where we can put our faith into action, and be true believers and leaders of the faith through our word and deed.***

***Lighting of the Christ Candle***

**I am the light of world, you people come and follow me.**

**If we follow and love, we’ll learn the mystery**

**Of what we were meant to do and be.**

***Passing of the Peace (***VU #958“Halle, Halle, Halle*”****)***

***Welcome/Life and Work of the Church***

***Hymn of Praise:*** *VU#424 “May the God Of Hope…”*

***Prayers of the People/The Lord’s Prayer***

***Hymn:*** *MV#182 “Grateful” (2x) Chorus only*

***Conversation with the Young People***

*Children may leave for the Activity Room 😊*

***Offering Ourselves, Tithes & Gifts***

***Dedication Hymn:*** (tune “Eidelweiss”)

**God of Love, hear our prayer. Bless this offering we bring you. May our lives do Your will; guide and guard us forever. Give us courage to stand for truth; help us give to others. God of Love, hear our prayer, Bless this offering we bring you.**

***Scripture Reading***

***Hymn of Preparation:*** *VU#660 “How Firm a Foundation”*

***The Message:*** *Jamie McArthur*

***Hymn of Response****: VU#289 “It Only Takes a Spark” vv 1 & 3*

***\*Commissioning/ Benediction***

 ***Closing - Sing:*** *MV #209*

**Go make a diff’rence. We can make a diff’rence.**

**Go make a diff’rence in the world.**

**Go make a diff’rence. We can make a diff’rence.**

**Go make a diff’rence in the world.**

***\* Musical Postlude***

Summer Services at First

We are pleased to welcome the following individuals to our services this summer who will share their experiences with us:

August 25 We are worshipping at the St. Thomas Christian Church at 451 Wellington.  There will be a catered lunch after the service.  Please sign up in the Fellowship Room if you are intending to stay for the lunch that day (just trying to get a handle on numbers).  There will be a free will offering to cover the cost.

September 1 We are back at First United for the fall. Join us as we

continue to celebrate our 185th year!

***The Life & Work of the Church – August 18, 2019***

*Thank you to Paula Thomas for sharing her*

*musical gifts with us today.*

**Future Dates / Events**

Jody & her music student Hillary Tufford, are presenting a **Mini-Recital on Sunday, August 25 at 3pm.** All members of the congregation & their friends are welcome to attend. The Recital will feature the music of Mozart, Beethoven, Strauss, Mahler, and Weill.

**Elgin Theatre Guild Fundraiser for First**

On **Thursday, September 26 at 7:30 PM, the Elgin Theatre Guild presents Sandy Toes and Salty Kisses at the historic Princess Ave. Playhouse.** Tickets can be purchased for this date through First United Church for $20, with **$8 from every ticket sold going back to the church!**  This is a great opportunity to invite friends, family and neighbours for a fun evening out, and raise money for First! Tickets are available through the church office.  Check our website for more details 😊