**LIFE & WORK OF THE CHURCH – August 30, 2020**

**We hope everyone is well this week.**

**If there are any needs you have for groceries or a conversation, please contact the office to let us know**.

We have people who are eager to help.

First’s Church Office:  [office@1stunitedchurch.ca](mailto:office@1stunitedchurch.ca)

Central’s Church Office: [admin@centraluc.ca](mailto:admin@centraluc.ca)

**To all those who have been sending in your offering.**

**We appreciate your ongoing support!**

**Rev. Daryl is on vacation.** He returns Tuesday, September 8. In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Lori in the Church office and she will put you in touch with Rev. Paul or Rev. John from Central. Thank you to Rev. Paul & Rev. John for covering while Rev. Daryl is on holidays.

**Happy birthday to**: Maggie Burns, Penny Welch-West, Rev. John Brown, Doug Whiteman, Madison Chute, Charlie MacMenamin, Pat Faseruk.

**Happy Anniversary to**: Jon & Laura Auckland.

**You are invited to join us for worship online this Sunday at 10:30am. You can find the link to join in your weekly email.**

A few notes about Sundays:

**\*If you are having technical difficulties** getting connected Sunday morning in any way, we have a tech group who are willing to walk you through the steps. They have had good success with a number of folks. Contact the office if you need assistance (519-631-7570 or [office@1stunitedchurch.ca](mailto:office@1stunitedchurch.ca))!

**\*Those without access to technology can reserve a seat at the church to watch the service on the screen** (so if you know one of our members who doesn't have the internet or access to a way to watch our online worship - please let them know!).  As mentioned last week there are protocols in place by the Ministry of Health and Antler River Watershed Region that we must abide by - STRICT Social Distancing will be practiced. Please contact Richard Auckland at 519-860-0381 or [rauck27@gmail.com](mailto:rauck27@gmail.com) to sign up in advance.

**\*If you'd like to participate in the worship service** (scripture, lay leader roll, etc) but aren't comfortable doing it "live", Tom Lautebach has offered to help! You can contact Tom at [519-281-1492](tel:519-281-1492) or by email [tom@lautebach.ca](mailto:tom@lautebach.ca)

Check out Tom's Video explaining how it works!

<https://youtu.be/_lM5NbG9Azk>

**Monday Morning Coffee & Conversation @ 10:30am!** This is open to everyone - join us! Rev. Daryl is still on vacation but Lori will open the (virtual) room so pop in for a chat if you’d like. (Link is in the weekly email)

**First United Return to Church Info!**

The Executive of the First Official Board has decided that beginning on September 13 they will further open up the church to parishioners while continuing to offer online connection and worship with Central and St. Andrews (pending their discussions) over the next few months.  It has been an amazing experience to offer these joint services with the people from our area churches.  First’s building has been open for a few weeks with success for individuals who could not connect online in attendance.  Please see the “Return to Church” email that was sent out last week for full details of the return to church plan to ensure safety while providing a worship experience.

While we used to shake hands, we will greet others with a nod, a wave or in another socially distant manner.

Key highlights:

- if you are ill, stay at home - you can still join online!

- entry from the back, accessibility door only

- **RSVP in advance** if you are attending in person (519-631-7570), attendance will be recorded

- mask wearing is mandatory, hand sanitizer is provided

- pews where bubble groups can sit are marked with green painters tape; yellow marks pews where you cannot sit

- no singing is permitted

- Sunday School will not operate, but we are looking at alternatives

First looks forward to safely returning to the Church building!

Please continue to watch for the weekly emails for more info.

**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](mailto: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.  If you have pictures feel free to include those as well.