**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*



March 8, 2020 @ 10:30am

Order of Service

\* You are invited to stand if comfortable doing so

VU = Voices United MV = More Voices

***9:30am Conversational Church: “Listening for the Song of Faith”***

***10:25am Gathering in Song***

“Pharaoh, Pharaoh”

**CHORUS: Pharaoh, Pharaoh**

**Oh, baby, let my people go**

**OOH, AAH, Yeah, Yeah, Yeah, Yeah** (Sing 2x)

1. **Well a burnin’ bush told me just the other day**

**That I should come over here and stay**

**And get God’s people out of Pharaoh’s hand,**

**And lead them to the promised land.** CHORUS

1. **Well, me and God’s people going to the Red Sea,**

**And Pharaoh’s army comin’ after me.**

**I raised my rod, stuck it in the sand,**

**And all of God’s people walked across dry land.** CHORUS

1. **Well, Pharaoh’s army was a comin’ too,**

**So what do you think that I did do?**

**I raised my rod and cleared my throat,**

**And all of Pharaoh’s army did the dead man’s float!** CHORUS

***Choral Musical Prelude***

1. MV#92 “Like A Rock” (2x)

**Like a rock, like a rock, God is under our feet.**

**Like the starry night sky God is over our head**

**Like the sun on the horizon God is ever before.**

**Like the river runs to ocean, our home is in God evermore.**

1. MV#96 “And When You Call For Me” (2x)

**And when you call for me, I have already answered.**

**And when you call for me, I am already there.**

***Welcome (Life & Work of the Church)***

***Call to Worship***

One: Come and worship.

**All: It is the Living God**

**In whose mercy we find our peace,**

One: In whose presence we find our place,

In whose world we find our calling.

**All: May grace be granted to us to hear**

**And accept the Word – the Christ- who is dwelling among us.**

One: We come as a community,

**All: Gather as the mystical body of Christ**

**continuing his journey and ministry.**

**Spirit teaches us here to listen for the Holy will and way**

**All of our days.**

One: Let us to the Living God.

***Lighting the Christ Candle***

Sing:**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.**

***Opening Prayer***

One: O Holy God,

Who is resting among the holy ones,

 praised by the Seraphim with the thrice-holy voice,

 glorified by the Cherubim,

 and worshiped by every celestial power,

You have brought all things into being out of nothing.

You have created humankind

 according to Your image and likeness

 and adorned them with all the gifts of Your grace.

You give wisdom and understanding to the one who asks,

 and You overlook not the sinner,

 but have set repentance as the way of salvation.

You have granted us, Your humble and unworthy servants,

 to stand even at this hour,

 before the glory of Your holy Altar of sacrifice

 and to offer to You due worship and praise.

**All: Master, accept the Prayers and song**

**also from the lips of us sinners, and visit us in Your goodness. Forgive all our voluntary and involuntary transgressions,**

**sanctify our souls and bodies,**

**and grant that we may worship You in holiness**

**all the days of our lives,**

**through the intercessions of the Holy Mother**

**who poured out the love you poured into her,**

**and of all the saints who have pleased You throughout the ages**.

Trisagian Hymn/Prayer

***Passing of the Peace:*** MV#145 (v 2, 3)

**Refrain: Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.**

**Let this be our song, no one stands alone,**

**standing side by side**

1. **Let out hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small;**

**let our loving know no borders, faithful to God’s call.** Refrain.

1. **Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we’ve ever dreamed before; Let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door.** Refrain

***Musical Offering:*** Senior Choir

***Conversation with the Young People***

***Hymn****:* VU#249 “Rejoice in the Lord Always” (2x)

 **Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice!** (clap, clap)

 **Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice!** (clap, clap)

 **Rejoice, rejoice and again I say rejoice.** (clap, clap)

 **Rejoice, rejoice and again I say rejoice.** (clap, clap)

*During the Hymn the children & youth are invited to leave for Church School.*

***Prayer/The Lord’s Prayer***

***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:*** Genesis 12:1-4a

***The Reflection:*** Living Word. Loving God: The Promise of Orthodoxy

Rev. Daryl Webber

***Prayer***

***\*Hymn****:* VU#420 “Go to the World” (v 1& 4)

1. **Go to the world! Go into all the earth.**

**Go preach the cross where Christ renews life’s worth,**

**baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.**

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

1. **Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,**

**For I am with you til’ the age shall end,**

**When all the hosts of glory cray “Amen!”**

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

***\*Commissioning/Benediction***

 ***Closing - Sing:* VU#209** *“Go Make A Difference”*

**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***

**LIFE & WORK OF THE CHURCH**

**March 8, 2020**

**Happy birthday to**: Jim Harris, Lyle Cameron

**\*TODAY**: \*Join us for Coffee, Cold drinks & Conversation in the Fellowship Room following worship.

(At First we love having a time of **Fellowship after Worship on Sundays!** It’s a time to greet friends, new and old, over a drink & maybe a goody!! If this is something you would enjoy hosting, you are invited to sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Room (Drinks supplied – coffee would just need to be put on in the morning! We’d love to have you!)

\*Would you be **willing to participate or lead the worship service**?  If so please speak to Rev. Daryl, Richard Auckland or one of the worship team leaders.

**This week:**

**Monday: \*Coffee & Conversation with Rev. Daryl** from 10-11am. All welcome!

**\*Official Board Meeting** @ 7pm.

**Tuesday: \*EarlyON Playgroup** in the Gym - 9:30 – 11:30am

\***First Youth** with Chris Ross & Justin Chute in Room 3/Gym from 7-8:15pm.

**Thursday**

**\*Sr. Choir @ 7:30pm!** Don’t be shy – singing’s great for the soul – come and give it a try!

**Next Sunday**

9:30am Conversational Church: “Listening for the Song of Faith”

10: 20am Gathering in Song

**Upcoming Dates & Events**

**Monday, March 23** - We will be holding our 2nd **Quarter Auction**!

Doors open at 6 p.m. Auction starts at 7:00 p.m.
We will have vendors for shopping and food will be available for purchase. Join us for this super fun event! Admission is $5 (includes 1 paddle) Extra paddles are $2 each.

**Anniversary Sunday – March 29, 2020**

As our “185”celebrations come to a close, we celebrate the 70th anniversary since the sanctuary was opened on March 5, 1950!

We invite you to attend a special service on Sunday, March 29, 2020.  During that service we will have a look back at some of our history through your eyes and then look to the future and the next 185+ years.  Following the service there will be a **chili luncheon**.  A variety of chili, buns, caeser salad and drinks will be provided (including a gluten free option).  Local historian, St. Thomas alderman, Steve Peters will be talking about the church’s history at the luncheon following the service.

**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 Lori in the office by either dropping off your submission to the church office or emailing it to: office@1stunitedchurch.ca.  You may also choose to send it 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

**PWCC**

**Registration is open for Pearce Williams Summer Camp Programs!**

June 26 - 29: Family & Alumni Camp Weekend (ages 0-99)
July 5 - 10: Counsellor-In-Training Adventure (age 15 by July 12th)
July 12 - 17: July All Ages Camp (ages 7-14)

Wilderness I (ages 10-14)

July 19 - 24: Sports & Arts Camp (ages 7-12)

World Camp Week (ages 11-15)

July 26 - 31: Girls All Ages Camp(ages 7 -14)
Aug 3 - 7: Leadership Camp (ages 11-15)

Wilderness II Jr. (ages 9-12)

Aug 4 - 7: Primary Camp (ages 5-9)
Aug 9-14: August All Ages Camp (ages 7-14)

Wilderness III Girls Only (ages 10-14)

Aug 16-21: Youth Camp (ages 11-15)

For more info visit campisbetter.com

**Church Office Hours**

Monday to Thursday 8:30am to 3:30pm

(Closed from 12-1pm for lunch)

*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*