**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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The Life & Work of the Church for

March 17, 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*

*Pastoral Minister: Rev. Emmanuel K. Ofori*

*Music Minister: Jody McDonald-Groulx*

*Secretary/Treasurer: Lori Hoffman*

*Custodian: Dave Luftenegger*

**LIFE & WORK OF THE CHURCH**

**March 17, 2019**

**Happy birthday to**: Jonathan Renaud, Hannah Bosveld, Jenna Dawdy, Rick West.

**\*TODAY -** Everyone isinvited to gather with the Elford Family for refreshments following worship. Congratulations to them on Casey’s Baptism this morning!

**\*Newsletter Submission Deadline TODAY**. All Newsletter Submissions must be received in the church office by end of day TODAY in order to have it printed and ready for distribution next Sunday! (Emailed and ready to insert into the document is GREAT and much appreciated!)

**This week:**

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

**\*Property Committee**@ 6:30pm in Room 3

**\*Finance Committee** @ 6:30pm in the Fellowship Room

**\*Official Board EXECUTIVE** at 7pm in the Fellowship Room.

**Wednesday**: **\*Spring Rummage Sale Sorting & Pricing** begins on Wednesday, March 20 @ 9am. If you have an hour or two you can spare we’d appreciate the help! Join us in the gym! Also, since we’re ready to sort and price that means it’s the perfect time to bring in all the treasures you no longer need at home…Or purge your closet so you have room to buy some new spring outfits!! We’d love to have your Spring & Summer clothes (in good condition!)

**Thursday –** \***First Youth** with Chris Ross (grades 8-12 every week) & Justin Chute (grades 5-7 every other week) in the Gym from 7-8:15pm.

**\*Sr. Choir @ 7:30pm** in the Music Room- come and give it a try!

**Future Dates / Events**

\***Rededication Service - Commitment Sunday,** March 24. We encourage everyone to attend this special service.

\***Anniversary Sunday** – First Is Celebrating 185 years as a community of faith this year! Our first “Happy 185th” Special Event will be an **Anniversary Sunday Service on March 31st**. Reverend Don Parsons will be the Guest Minister. Come to church early (9:30 AM) before the service starts to share a coffee or juice with friends and family. Also, plan on staying after the service, to share fellowship, lunch & Birthday Cake downstairs in the Assembly Hall. Your CD & Membership Committee

\***First Church & Friends Artisan & Vendor Market – Saturday, April 13th from 10am to 2pm**. **We hope to have as many Artisans & Vendors as possible so we can have a SUPER SUCCESSFUL event and raise some money for the General Fund!! So if you are an Artisan/Crafter/Baker, etc. or if you are involved in direct sales – WE’D LOVE TO HAVE YOU PARTICIPATE!** {We will only be accepting ONE direct sales Vendor per company (ex. 1 Scentsy, 1 Tupperware, 1 Epicure, etc.,

as we want everyone to have a profitable day! So make sure you contact Lori in the office ([office@1stunitedchurch.ca](mailto:office@1stunitedchurch.ca)) ASAP to reserve your space!  Don’t be disappointed!} Applications can be found on our website!

\***Spring Rummage Sale** – Saturday, April 27 from 8:30-11:30am

Donations being accepted now ☺

**\*El Sistema Concert at First!** Sunday, April 28 at 2:30pm. Tickets are $10 and are available in the Church office!

**\*Mom to Mom Sale – Saturday, May 25 from 9am to 1pm**. We are renting out spaces for those who have an overabundance of children’s clothes/supplies so they can come and sell some of it

– and probably buy some more from other parents who are here!

If you’d like a space call or email Lori in the Church office! (office@1stunitedchurch.ca)

\*First United is hiring a **Family & Youth Ministry Co-ordinator**! For more information or to see the job description please visit our website: [www.1stunitedchurch.ca/family--youth-ministry-co-ordinator-position.html](http://www.1stunitedchurch.ca/family--youth-ministry-co-ordinator-position.html). All cover letters and applications can be sent to the attention of the Ministry & Personnel Committee at [personnel@1stunitedchurch.ca](mailto:personnel@1stunitedchurch.ca)

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**Minister’s Drop-In Office Hours**

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10am to 12 Noon

\*Other times available by appointment, call 519-631-7570 ext. 22

**TODAY’S MESSAGE**

When “we are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ” (Rom 3:22), a new relationship begins. God wants to communicate with us because we can’t have a relationship without communication. We communicate with God through prayer; God communicates to us through the Bible, the Word of God.

The Word of God has been described as food (1 Peter 2:2), light (Psalm 119:105), mirror (James 1:23-25) and many more. To know the Bible, we need to study it as Paul tells us in **2 Timothy 2:15**

*“Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”*.

Personal study of the Bible is known as ***Personal Devotion*** or ***Quiet Time***.

Getting started with daily devotions takes only a bit of planning. There’s no set standard of what your devotional time should look like

1. **Before you start, you’ll need**
2. Bible
3. Notebook/pen to take notes (or a tablet for the same purpose)
4. Bible devotion notes or reading plan, e.g. *Our Daily Bread*
5. Quiet place
6. **What to do**
7. Bible – Read a passage of Scripture and meditate on it
8. Message – Write down what stands out to you.
9. Prayer – Pray about things Scripture brings to mind.
10. Action Plan – Write down a step or two that you need to take today or this week, based on what God is revealing to you

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

“*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for* ***teaching, rebuking, correcting*** *and* ***training*** *in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work*” – Paul

**Think about this:**

* **You need the Word of God the way you need food to live.**
* **Have you allowed God to talk to you today? Are you listening?**

**NEXT WEEK:** “**Talk with other believers**” (Hebrews 10:19-25)