 The Life & Work of the Church for March 24, 2019

**Happy birthday to**: Millie Slaght, Mack Jackson, Katie Auckland.

**\*TODAY -** Everyone isinvited to gather in the Fellowship Room for refreshments following worship.

**\*Newsletter DELIVERERS** are asked to pick up their bundles of Newsletters for delivery in the Library following worship today.

**This week:**

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

**Thursday –** \***Youth Group** 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!

\***NEXT SUNDAY is 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

**Future Dates / Events**

**\*3rd First United Church “Retreat” – Saturday, April 6 from 9am to noon.** All Official Board Members are asked to attend and the event is open to any interested congregation members.

**Lent & Easter at First**

Sunday, April 7 – Lent 5

Sunday, April 14 – Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 18 – Maundy Thursday – Worship @ 7pm

Friday, April 19 – Good Friday – Worship @ 10:30am

Sunday, April 21 – Easter Sunday – Worship at 10:30am

\***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!

**\*Bean Blast** in support of the Community Dinners at Trinity is being held on Thursday, April 18 from 11:30am to 1pm at St. Anne’s Centre. - There will be Door Prizes & Entertainment. Tickets are $5 in advance of $6 at the door. For more info or to get tickets call Jean Johnson @ 519-631-8877.

\*The **Youth Group will be attending “The Swell”** at Wesley Knox United Church in London on Friday, April 19 @ 7pm.

\*The Youth Groups will be participating in an Earth Day Cleanup on Monday, April 22 (time TBA) If you’d like to join them let Chris or Justin know ☺

\***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

**From the Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee is continuing to ask for your support via online donations through PAR/Paypal.  Once set up, these donating vehicles provide very efficient, user friendly and cost-saving methods of supporting our church.  On March 31st, we will be providing new laminated cards in the pews for use by those families donating via PAR or PayPal.  We encourage those of you who have embraced online donations to put these cards on the offering plate during the Offertory to promote this initiative.  Should you need any help in adopting either of these two methods, please contact Lori in the church office and she or another member of the Finance Committee will assist you. Thank you!

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*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*

**TODAY’S MESSAGE**

The New Testament uses the Greek word, *koinonía* to describe the family ties that is unique to our relationship with other believers – the shared union, shared fellowship, the shared participation that we have together with Christ.

1. **Obey the Great Commandment**
2. Jesus’ command to

“Love your God”, and “love your neighbour” (Matthew 22:36-40) is about relationships. See “love one another” (John 15:12).

1. The apostles

Paul (Romans 13:8), Peter (1 Peter 1:22: 4:8) and John (1 John 3:11, 23), echoed the “love one another’ theme in their epistles.

1. **Understand family responsibilities**
2. We are called to

* Be devoted to one another,
* Honour one another above ourselves,
* Live in harmony with one another,
* Build up one another,
* Be likeminded towards one another,
* Accept one another.
* Admonish, care for, serve, confess to/forgive, be patient with, be kind and compassionate to one another and pray for one another.

1. Get rid of anything that undermines our connectedness

God’s word teaches us to learn to love across our differences, NOT TO

* “judge *one another* anymore” (Rom 14:13),
* provoke “one another, envying one another” (Galatians 5:15, 26),
* “lie to one another” (Colossians 13:9) or
* speak “evil of one another” (James 4:11).

1. **Church attendance/Christian fellowship is good for your soul**

A lone ranger Christian is a dangerous concept.

You need the fellowship of the church to grow into Christ-like maturity.

“***And let us consider how to spur one another on to love and good deeds. And let us not neglect to meet together as some are in the habit of doing, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near***” (Hebrews 10:24-25).

**Think about this**

* “If one part [of the family] suffers, every part suffers with it”

(1 Corinthians 12:26).

* We have within our grasp the vision of the Psalmist:

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers and sisters to dwell together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1).