**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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Description automatically generated**

October 20, 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***

***Welcome***

***Choral Musical Prelude***

1. MV#88 “Over My Head” (2x)

**Over my head, I hear music in the air**

**Over my head, I hear music in the air**

**Over my head, I hear music in the air**

**There must be a God somewhere.**

1. MV#21 “Open Our Hearts” (2x)

**Open our hearts, open our minds.**

**Open our lives to you, O loving God.**

**(Open our hearts)**

***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***

The Peace of Christ be with you.

**Response: And also with you!**

**Sing: Halle, Halle, Halle, lu jah! Halle, Halle, Halle, lu jah!**

**Halle, Halle, Halle, lu jah! Halle lu jah! (clap) Halle lu jah!**

***Musical Offering:*** *Senior Choir*

***Life and Work of the Church***

***Hymn:*** VU#459 “Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face” (v1, 2, 3)

***Communion***

***Prayer/The Lord’s Prayer***

***Hymn:*** VU#459 “Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face” (v 4, 5)

***Conversation with the Young People:*** *Children/Youth may go to Church School*

***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:*** Mark 10:46-52

***The Message:*** “Seeing with a Difference”Rev. Bill Vanderveeken

***Hymn:*** VU#427 “To Show By Touch & Word”

***\*Commissioning/ Benediction***

***Closing - Sing:*** VU #298

**When you walk from here, when you walk from here,**

**Walk with justice, walk with mercy, and with God’s humble care.**

***\* Musical Postlude***

*Thank you to Rev. Bill Vanderveeken*

*for sharing his message with us today.*

***The Life & Work of the Church – October 20***

**Happy birthday to:** Erin Chute, Owen Chute, Joy Dawdy, Lori Hoffman.

**Happy Anniversary to:** Michael & Amanda Elford.

**This week:**

**Monday –** \*There are still tickets left for our **Boston Pizza Night!** A great ‘fun’raiser for the church. Cost is $20 per person – but $10 of that comes back to the church. An opportunity to visit and best of all – NO CLEAN UP! THE BUFFET includes: Pizza, Pasta and Caesar Salad (drinks not included) There will be DOOR PRIZES too! So be sure to write your name on the back of the ticket before you turn it in at the restaurant. Tickets will be drawn that night! Children can order from the ‘Children’s menu” instead of paying $20 for each child. Bring a friend or two! It’s a great & affordable evening out! **Tickets are available from the office!**

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

**\*First Youth Group - 7-8:15pm**

**Thursday - \*Pathfinders / Rangers Group** meets at 7pm

**\*Senior Choir practice @ 7:30pm**

**Upcoming Dates & Events**

**\*Holly Fair & Vendor Market**: **Saturday, November 9 from 9am to noon (please note the change in date). At the 2019 Holly Fair we have decided to open up some of our space to host a Vendor Market!!** We will still have our own amazing areas: Attic Treasures, Bake Table, Book Room, Cafe, Crafts & Holiday Entertaining (so we're still counting on your donations First Church Friends!!! (See our website for the wish list!) but we will be opening up space to some of your favourite Vendors just in time for Christmas Shopping!! **MARK YOU CALENDARS for this ONE STOP SHOPPING Opportunity!**  
If you are a Vendor (Artisan or Direct Sales) we invite you to submit an application to be part of this event (available in the church office or on our website)! Our Holly Fair is a **VERY well attended annual event**- with people lined up at the door waiting to get in! So get your applications in asap so you don’t miss out on this opportunity.  
\*We will only be accepting one of each Direct Sales Vendors and will try to keep Vendors with similar items to a maximum of 2.  
Note: we are hosting our own Epicure Fundraiser at the event this year  
to benefit the Church so we will not be accepting an Epicure Vendor for this event. Thank you for understanding.

\***Knox Presbyterian Church presents “The Sounds of Silents”** on Saturday, November 9 @ 7pm  - You are invited to a night at the movies featuring Martin Anderle on the Knox organ and grand piano.   We will be watching a silent Laurel and Hardy movie as it was originally enjoyed, accompanied by live improvisational organ music. Then, a tribute to Canada with images from sea to sea by local photographers, accompanied by original piano music.  FREE WILL offering with all proceeds going to the St. Thomas Inn out of the Cold.  Dessert to follow.

We need your help to know who is sick, in hospital

or just wishing a visit. Please let Lori know in the

Church Office at 519-631-7570 ext 21. Thank you!

**2020 PAR CHALLENGE**

We all know the members of First United love a good challenge - and always come through! The Finance Committee is issuing a 2020 PAR challenge to the congregation, and the good news is, you don’t need to be a golfer to participate!

**What is PAR?**

It stands for Pre-Authorized Remittance – or monthly automated contributions to the church. On the 20th of each month, money will automatically come out of your bank account and go towards the General Fund of our church. You also have the option of using your Visa or MasterCard. No cheques to write, no envelopes needed.

**How do I sign up?**

Signing up is easy! Simply obtain a PAR authorization form from the office or our website and fill it out. You will need either a void cheques or a credit card number. You can change or cancel the contribution at any time. You can also sign up through PayPal on our church’s website.

**What’s the challenge?**

Currently we have 28 members on PAR with total monthly contributions to the General Fund of $2874. Our challenge is by January 1st of 2020 to have 40 members and $4000 of monthly contributions to the General Fund. If you have not signed up, please consider doing so. If you have signed up, please consider increasing your contributions if you are able.

**What about the Offering?**

The offering is an important part of our Worship Service. We have cards available in the pews for those on PAR that can be placed in the offering plate. You can also consider donating a portion of your annual contributions by PAR, and still use your envelopes.

**What are the benefits of PAR?**

PAR allows for a regular, dependable flow of contributions to the church. It makes it easier for the church to budget and meet its monthly expenses. It also means continued support for our church, even if you are unable to be there every week. In addition, it makes supporting your church easier for you! Please consider signing up today!

***6****Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.****7****Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful\* giver. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

*\*Remember, here at First, we love grumpy givers too!!*

**From the Finance Committee**

**Update**

In order to meet our Financial Obligations at First Church

we need, on average and excluding fundraising, $4,400 in General Fund Givings EVERY WEEK**.**

Last week our General Fund Givings were $1,647.00

**This represents a shortfall for the week of $2,753.00**

**Year to Date Update** (as at September 30/19)

YTD Amount Needed to Meet Obligations: $176,000

YTD Actual General Fund Givings:  $84,090

**This represents a YTD shortfall of $91,910**

**Our Current Financial Position is a Net Operating Loss of $83,052**

**Misc. Info**

Revenue from Fundraising Projects to date: $7,278

Monthly General Fund PAR Givings $2,874

For more information, contact Don Renaud or Lori in the church office.

*PLEASE NOTE:*

The church requires many hours of volunteer work to make it run smoothly.  If you are able to serve or know of someone who would be good to serve on our Official Board please talk to an existing member of the Board, or Lori in the church office.