



Weekly Update from First – August 26/21



Sundays at 10:30am!

Our sanctuary is open.

(Social Distancing protocols are in place and masks are to be worn inside the building)

We also continue to offer the **Worship Service Virtually at 10:30am** for our own First family, as well as friends from Central, St. Andrew's & New Vision UC! This is a great opportunity to connect with your faith community and our friends from other United Churches in St. Thomas!

IMPORTANT!! THERE IS A NEW LINK EACH WEEK to join Online Worship LIVE.

This Sunday's Link is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15haC408Twm>

Please use the link provided in the Weekly Update each week to join Worship (it will change each week)

NEW ALARM SYSTEM AT FIRST CHURCH

If you have a key but have not been given a new code for the new alarm, please don't enter the building – the alarm will go off.

Please contact Lori if you are in need of a code for the alarm.

Happy Anniversary this week to:

Jon & Laura Auckland



Happy birthday this week to:

Penny Welch-West

Doug Whiteman

Madison Charle

Charlie MacMenamin



GOOD NEWS!!!!

After a long arduous journey and a new treatment of immune suppressant therapy, Rosemary Underhill's great niece Hillary who has aplastic anemia is in FULL REMISSION!!

Thank you to all who prayed for Hillary!
Rosemary Underhill



**MOVIE NIGHT
at First!**

**Tuesday, August 31
at 7:30pm in the
Sanctuary**

Upcoming Staff Summer Vacation Times

Lori will be away:

Wednesday, September 1

Rev. Daryl will be on holidays:

Tuesday, August 31 – Tuesday,
September 7



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**Rally Day for both Central & First
September 12th!**

We welcome people to return health unit guidelines permitting.

The CD Cttee, Worship Cttee & Shared Worship Dream Team have been busy this summer planning for a return to church which includes a continuation of the online service as well.

You are welcome to join us in person or online for a grand return to church on September 12 at 10:30am at First! More details to follow!



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On Saturday, August 14, a devastating earthquake struck Haiti destroying homes, community buildings, and hospitals. Haitians and the international community are desperately racing to rescue survivors trapped under the rubble. **But the number of deaths and the extent of the destruction are both increasing.** And Tropical Storm Grace hit Haiti on August 16, making an already bad situation even worse.

This crisis requires a quick and compassionate response.

The United Church of Canada is in contact with local Mission & Service partners in Haiti, who are already on the ground in the areas where the damage is the worst. They are already providing **emergency shelter, clean water, and food**, and as the immediate crisis ends, they will be providing support for rebuilding homes and businesses and helping survivors deal with the trauma and tragedy.

The United Church of Canada has set up a donation page: united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/earthquake-haiti. If you give online, please tell them to credit your congregation (First United Church 7020420) so your donation will be added to the church's Mission & Service total for 2021.



Please help the people of Haiti. Make a gift today.

united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/earthquake-haiti

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If you feel like you are traversing a wilderness and want to share with others how to find courage and belonging in this scary time, please join Susanna Suchak in the Fall (well after Labour Day) in an **online book study** of Brené Brown's book, ***BRAVING THE WILDERNESS***.

You could form your own group and gather together to participate in the discussions with others who are also venturing into new territory as we reopen our churches. Sneak peek here:

<https://brenebrown.com/blog/2017/09/07/braving-the-wilderness-excerpt/>

There will be activities (mere suggestions) as well as discussions, so put on your best pilgrim gear and take a chance...

Curious, but still wondering exactly what this might look like, email susanna suchak – susanna.suchak@gmail.com to ask your questions.

