



Weekly Update from First – December 2/21

# *A Candle in the Window*

*Advent / Christmas Event*

*Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm*

*Outdoor Event - in the parking lot at First Church*



*EVERYONE IS WELCOME to attend this Outdoor Event!*

*\*See our AWESOME Christmas Light Display*

*\*Stories / Readings*

*\*Caroling & Hot Chocolate*



*\*A Musical Performance by Jerome Thomas*

*...and maybe even a Visit from a VERY Special Christmas Friend!*

*Join us in the South Parking Lot where we'll be broadcasting over our outdoor speakers OR you can stay in your car and tune in over your car radio – 87.9FM*

*\*If you do wish to get out of your vehicle, please wear a mask and follow physical distancing protocols.*

*If you are able, please bring a donation for Christmas Care (toys or non-perishable food items - you can bring back your Secret Santa bags as well!)*

*This "A Candle in the Window" Event is the kick-off to our Advent/Christmas Fundraising Campaign! (More details below!)*



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### *A Candle in the Window!*

*2021 Advent / Christmas Fundraiser*

*It's that most wonderful time of the year once again!*

*It's Christmas Time 2021.*

*A time to be thankful for that all God has given us.*

*A time to share our love with each other.*

*A time to show our thanks to First United for being a magnificent place of worship.*

*This year, we would like to invite you again to participate in a fundraiser to help sustain our beautiful church throughout the 2022 year and beyond.*

*This year, we are calling our event “A Candle in the Window”. It is hoped that we can raise enough to purchase new energy efficient windows for our church. This will not only result in cost savings but will continue our work in renewing our building to keep it serving us well into the future... and reduce our carbon footprint as well!*

*Our goal is to reach \$20,000 by Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, which should provide us with sufficient funds to replace 20 windows. Each time we raise \$1000, an electric candle will be lit in a window signifying the purchase of a new window.*

*To contribute to this fundraiser, just designate your donation in some way to “A Candle in the Window”. Your donation can be made by cheque, envelope, bank transfer, PAR or PayPal. Like last year, for anyone opening a new PAR or PayPal account committed to making monthly donations, we will multiply the first month's donation by 12 and add that sum towards reaching our goal.*

*We will be officially launching this year's fundraiser on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at our event in the church parking lot at 7 PM - *but you can start donating now* 😊♥*

*Let's all pitch in and make Christmas 2021 special!*





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## RETURN YOUR SANTA BAGS THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5th!

### Our Secret Santa Outreach Project!

Unwrapped Gifts for children (up to age 12) or Monetary Donations would be GREATLY appreciated! You can donate directly to Christmas Care through this link:

<https://christmascaresthomas.com>

or you can bring your donation to the Church – payable to Christmas Care (please include your name & mailing address for receipt purposes) and we'll make sure they receive it. (You don't need to have a "Santa Bag" to participate. Feel free to buy more than one of the same gift.)

Our gifts will be included in the Christmas Care Packages given to those in need this holiday season.

**ALSO**, again this year we are collecting

**SOCKS for Grace Café.** There is a huge need for Men's, Women's and children's socks! **Please bag these separate from your Secret Santa Gifts.**



*Donate to  
First United Church*





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### This Sunday is Advent 2 - Peace

You are welcome to attend  
in-person at First at 10:30am!

Please enter through the Accessibility door  
in the parking lot.

**THIS WEEK:** Rev. Daryl will be preaching  
at First United and Rev. Pegi Ridout will  
be preaching at Central United.

**Communion will be served.** If you are  
joining us online please have some bread or a  
cookie/cracker and a drink with you.

The Band will be here at First  
to lead us in song!

Thank you for your patience as we  
experiment with the format  
and the technology. The service will be  
tweaked as we learn and grow. This is in  
preparation for sharing Ministry  
staff with Central UC.

We are so excited to share  
all of this with you!! See you Sunday!

Here is the link to join online for this  
Sunday, December 5:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eex4JvycHuQ>



*Coffee*  
and  
Curious Spirituality  
Monday Mornings at 10:30am



For the link to join, visit First's website!

### 'Coffee & Curious Spirituality'

Join us Monday, December 6th @ 10:30am

We reflect together on "Hospitality and Welcome" in churches as a jumping off place for how we actually live out our values in specific ways and concrete ways in the church. What we practice is what we value, sometimes it is good to ask how we might experiment further to broaden the practice. How do you practice hospitality and welcome? Join us for a great conversation about action

[https://www.clarion-journal.com/clarion\\_journal\\_of\\_spirit/2015/02/radical-hospitality-in-ordinary-churches-elizabeth-turman-bryant.html](https://www.clarion-journal.com/clarion_journal_of_spirit/2015/02/radical-hospitality-in-ordinary-churches-elizabeth-turman-bryant.html)

See you Monday at 10:30! All are welcome to bring curiosity to their Spirituality and to this Small Group!

<https://meet.google.com/pjg-zbez-nax>



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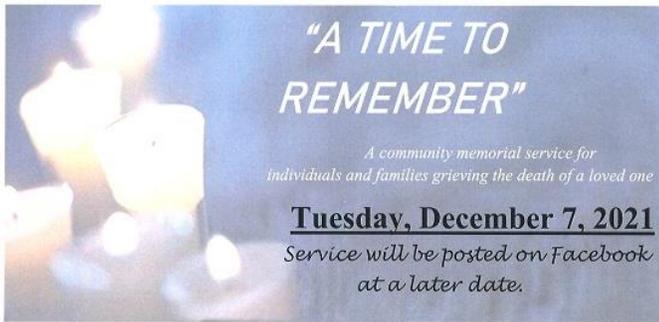
Happy birthday to:

Teah Welch  
Wayne Travis  
Noel MacKay



VON Middlesex-Elgin Supportive Care and Bereavement Program  
and Knox Presbyterian Church, St Thomas

Present:



*"Memories are like roses in December – they can make a cold day warmer and bring beautiful colour to the white of snow"*

7:00 – 8:00 pm

In person option available at Knox Church  
55 Hincks Street, St Thomas  
(use the Mitchell Street Entrance)

Masks and Proof of double vaccination required  
Physical Distancing will be Observed

For more information,  
please contact Becky at VON 519-637-6408 ext. 222  
or [becky.ahrens@von.ca](mailto:becky.ahrens@von.ca)

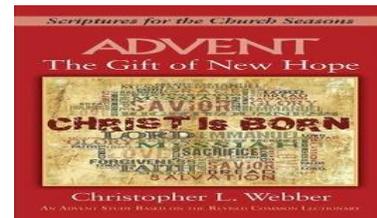


ADVENT - The Gift of New Hope

Come and take part in a 5 week study of commentary and reflection based on readings from the Old Testament, the Gospels, and the Epistles.

Wednesdays until Christmas 1.00 - 2.30 pm at Central United Church

For more information please contact Kathryn Fletcher at 519- 633-1902 or [fletcherfamily@rogers.com](mailto:fletcherfamily@rogers.com)



Youth Group meets  
at First Church on  
Wednesday evenings  
from 7-8:15pm.

All Youth are welcome!

Youth Group Leaders:  
Chris Ross  
& Jean Fletcher



The Gifts With Vision 2021 catalogues have arrived. The print copies of the catalogue are available to you on the bulletin board by the coat hooks on the sanctuary level at the Church. You can also access the catalogue online at [www.giftswithvision.ca](http://www.giftswithvision.ca)

These suggested gifts that help people in our country and in the world make an awesome gift for loved ones at Christmas.

The London Centre RCCO presented their Carol Service online again this year.

To watch the replay  
visit: <http://www.londonrcco.com>.