



# Greetings from First United Church

"Reach for the Stars!"  
Fundraising Campaign



**YOU did it!**

**We have hit our 'Reach for the Stars' \$10,000 fundraising goal!!!  
WELL DONE FIRST CHURCH!!**

**THANK YOU to all who have donated!**  
Your generosity is helping us to keep our beautiful church alive and well during this most difficult time.

**Let's keep it going and see how much we can raise by December 31st!**

Any additional funds we raise will be used to address health & safety issues, to improve building access and update technical infrastructure to improve online worship.

**We hope to host an event in the Church parking lot on New Year's Eve to release our final figures and celebrate our success.**

**Watch for more information about this upcoming event!**

**To contribute to this fundraiser, just designate your donation in some way to "REACH FOR THE STARS".**

**Your donation can be made by Cheque, Cash, E-Transfer, PAR or PayPal.**



Families are invited to attend our family worship service **Sunday Mornings at 10:15** in the Assembly Hall at First. We will be following all Co-vid guidelines and parents & kids must wear a mask. We are planning to have a lesson/scripture, video/activity, and a craft each week.

Please RSVP by emailing Karen Auckland at [27Swifty@gmail.com](mailto:27Swifty@gmail.com) or to answer any questions you may have.

See our website for more details!  
<http://www.1stunitedchurch.ca/upcoming-events.html>

Happy birthday to:  
**Sara Turner**





# Greetings from First United Church



You are invited to Worship with us  
Sunday Mornings at 10:30am!

Our sanctuary is open with 28 spots  
available. Please RSVP if you are planning  
on attending in person  
(email [office@1stunitedchurch.ca](mailto:office@1stunitedchurch.ca) or call  
519-631-7570 x21 & leave a message)  
(Social Distancing protocols are in place and  
masks are to be worn inside the building)

**Throughout Advent the First  
Band will be playing LIVE at  
First!! LOTS of special  
Christmas Music!**

We also continue to offer the Worship  
Service Virtually (also at 10:30am)  
for our own First family, as well as  
friends from Central, St. Andrew's & New  
Vision United Churches.

If you're not comfortable joining us  
in person we'd love it if you joined  
us online- even if you've never  
done so before!

This is a great opportunity to connect  
with your faith community and our friends  
from other United Churches in St.  
Thomas! (link to join is included in the  
weekly email).



For some generations Christmas wouldn't be  
complete without some seasonal favorite  
shows. Everyone loves Charlie Brown's  
Christmas. This year when Christmas is  
spent in small groups or by ourselves we may  
empathize with good ol' Charlie Brown. Like  
him we may wonder what it would be like to  
join in on the festivities with the enthusiasm  
of Snoopy! Rewatch this classic story and  
bring some eggnog to Coffee Time on  
December 21 at 10:30am

<https://archive.org/details/ACharlieBrownChristmasTVMovie19651080pHD>

## Lighting of the Lights

Be sure to check out our Christmas Light  
display! Just drive in to the parking lot,  
set your car radio to 87.9FM & watch as the  
lights dance to the music!

Evenings from 5-8pm.



# Greetings from First United Church

Youth Group is on a break  
until after the holidays!



**We are asking people to please  
submit electronic photos  
of their family or themselves  
holding candles (best in a  
darkened room!) for our closing  
hymn Silent Night.**

**We are hoping for at least  
75 photos!**



Please submit them to Tom  
Lautebach at [tom@lautebach.ca](mailto:tom@lautebach.ca)  
by Sunday, December 19.

## FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

I am on holidays from Friday, December 18 to Monday, January 4 inclusive.

If you would like to make a **DONATION FOR THE YEAR 2020** – please place it through the Curtis Street mail slot, slip it under the Office Door or mail it to the Church. You may come in on Tuesday, January 5 if you would like to see me in person.

The final deposit for 2020 Givings will be made at 3pm on Tuesday, January 5. Donations received after this time will be credited to your 2021 Givings.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy & safe Advent / Christmas Season.

Best wishes,  
Lori







# Greetings from First United Church

## Christmas Eve – December 24

It looks like Christmas will be unlike any other in memory. I hope people are finding support from neighbours, family, friends and church family during this time...and giving it in return of course!

First Church is doing a great job keeping the tradition of **Christmas Eve Communion Service** alive by going online this year.

You will find the Service premier at 1pm on Christmas Eve on Central United's YouTube Channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_8miBHhwtp2qy19zQzXCvA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_8miBHhwtp2qy19zQzXCvA)

as well as posted on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/firstunitedchurch](http://www.facebook.com/firstunitedchurch)

It will remain posted on YouTube all through the holidays.

**We have planned a viewing of the pre-recorded Christmas Service on Christmas Eve in the afternoon at 1pm in First Church sanctuary.**

Sign up to reserve your seats by calling Karen and Richard Auckland at (519) 860-0381. Enjoy and great thanks to Karen and Richard for hosting!

Communion elements will be available at the in-person service, otherwise join in with a piece of bread and a cup of juice.

Stay tuned to our website & Facebook page for more details about upcoming events!

### LIVE NATIVITY

Everyone is invited to check out the live nativity put together by members of a sister United Church on their sheep farm. The animals and the Holy family, will be outdoors at the nativity between 4:30 and 7:30 every night this week and next until Christmas eve.

The address is 276 Scotland Drive (off of Highbury)

Donations to the food bank are welcome.

Come and see the sheep and goats and the Christmas donkey.

