



Weekly Update from First – February 16/23



# Join Us For *Worship*

*Sunday,  
February*

**19**

**10:30am**

Rev. Paul Browning  
will be at First!

Learning Time:  
"Secret Codes"

Sermon:  
"Integration:  
Our Way is the Highway"

Scripture Readings:

1 Corinthians, Chapter 12 & Galatians, Chapter 3

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

If you'd prefer, join us ONLINE for Worship,  
here is the Streaming Link for February 19th:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYHSaOolgD0>

or join us on our Facebook Page:  
[www.facebook.com/firstunitedchurch](http://www.facebook.com/firstunitedchurch)

*\*Kindness\**

*\*Respect\**

*\*Fairness\**

*Happy birthday to:*

*Grant Whiteman*

*Marg Epp*

*Mary Ann Rayner*

*Bev Glass*

**YOU ARE**

passionate

smart

beautiful

strong

creative

inspiring

brave

magical

balanced

kind

**MORE  
THAN ENOUGH**

TRUST... show RESPECT ... LISTEN ... then SPEAK.



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# JOIN US TUESDAY AT FIRST CHURCH FOR PANCAKES!!!

## PANCAKE SUPPER



### WHERE?

first united church  
(7 Curtis St)

### WHEN?

Feb. 21, 2023  
5–6:30pm  
(or until supplies last)

### COST?

\$10 / or \$5  
(for kids 12 and  
under)

1 ticket = 2 pancakes, 2 sausages, and beans

Tickets will be sold at door!

Everyone welcome!

Bring your friends and your appetite.

*We hope to see you there!*

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WEDNESDAYS  
7 TO 8:15 PM

**YOUTH**  
*group*

For Youth in Grades 6-12!

ALL YOUTH WELCOME

Led by Chris Ross & Austin Campbell

First & Central United Churches  
Communities of Kindness

*\*Kindness\**

*\*Respect\**

*\*Fairness\**



Central United Church is offering a Lenten Study: Faith on the Move, Daily Reflections on Hope and Change

Starts Wednesday, February 22nd (no meeting March 1st) at 1:00 pm in the Upper Parlour at Central or at 7:00 pm by Zoom.

Contact Kathryn Fletcher at 519-633-1902 or [fletcherfamily@rogers.com](mailto:fletcherfamily@rogers.com) for the Zoom link.

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*Thank you  
for supporting  
the ministry of  
First United  
Church.*



**Choir meets on  
Thursday Evenings!**

**7:30pm**

*New voices always  
welcome!*

*Led by our Music Minister  
Jody McDonald-Groulx!*

*\*Kindness\**

*\*Respect\**

*\*Fairness\**



**We are looking for  
volunteers to help in  
the nursery. If you are  
interested, please call  
or email Karen  
Auckland at  
519-200-9373 or  
27Swift@gmail.com**

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## Joint Central & First Study Group Making Sense of the Bible (4 part series)

7 to 8:30 Wednesday nights (Feb 1st & 15th at First and  
March 1st & 15th at Central)

Bring your questions and insights!

The bible has long been a primary source of Christian inspiration and direction. But how can we trust the bible to be meaningful today:

- when its miracle stories don't fit with science,
- when the bible contains racist and objectional material
- when it contains contradictions
- when it presents Jesus in two differing ways?

### 1. Miracle stories verses Science - Feb 1st at First

Nature of stories: Difference between facts and truth, history and story

Example of facts leading to untruths: 1 billion spent on political pacs same as amount spent on gum....meant to minimize pacs by comparing it to trivial gum but two different things

Special effects as powerful symbols and attention grabbing

Creation and Evolution

### 2. Inspirational scripture verses Objectional material - Feb 15th at First

How do we determine what is true and what is false?

Separating cultural norms from Loving norms

Repairing the damage of those beaten up by parts of the bible

### 3. Contradictions as Differing Points of View - March 1st at Central

Bible debates that continue today

Original Sin verses Original Blessing

Rules verses Justice

### 4. Two differing presentations of Jesus - March 15th at Central

Mat. Mark, Luke verses John

Jesus as only way verses Love as only way

Jesus moving beyond Tribal racism verses tribalism

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**Our own “Minister of Fun” & Community Engagement,  
Austin Campbell will be the Camp Director!!**



**MARCH**

**GRADES 1-8**

**BREAK**

**CAMP**

**MARCH 13-17**

**9AM - 4:30PM**

**AT FIRST UNITED CHURCH  
7 CURTIS ST., ST THOMAS**

**ACTIVITIES**

- SNAG GOLF
- WONDERS OF WATERCOLOUR
- ACTIVE GAMES
- CRAFT OF THE DAY
- KARAOKE



**\$300**

**PER CHILD (OR \$250 PER CHILD  
IF YOU ARE REGISTERING MORE  
THAN ONE)**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  
[WWW.1STUNITEDCHURCH.CA](http://WWW.1STUNITEDCHURCH.CA)

OR CALL NOW!  
519-631-7570 EXT. 23

**REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE!**

[www.1stunitedchurch.ca](http://www.1stunitedchurch.ca)

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You are invited to  
join us for an



# AFTERNOON SKATE

Sunday, April 2nd, 2023

From 2:00 - 3:00PM

at Memorial Arena

(80 Wilson Ave, St. Thomas)

SPONSORED BY  
FIRST & CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH  
COMMUNITIES OF KINDNESS :)

TRUST... show RESPECT ... LISTEN ... then SPEAK.





# Weekly Update from First – February 16/23

**If you have an Upcoming Date / Event / Meeting you'd like included in the slides for our**



**please have it to Lori at First (office@1stunitedchurch.ca) by Wednesday at noon. Thank you!**

*\*Kindness\**

*\*Respect\**

*\*Fairness\**

## ***First United Church***

7 Curtis St., St. Thomas, ON N5P 1H3

### ***Rev. Paul Browning, Minister***

Phone: 519-631-7570 ext 22 (office)

519-681-3521 (home)

Email: paul@sharedministry.ca

Drop-in Hours: Tuesdays from noon-5pm

### ***Austin Campbell, Community Engagement Co-ordinator***

Phone: 519-631-7570 ext 23 (office)

519-617-3975 (cell)

Email: austin@sharedministry.ca

### ***Lori Hoffman, Secretary/Treasurer***

Phone: 519-631-7570 ext 21 (church office)

Email: office@1stunitedchurch.ca



**Check out our Website & follow us on all our Social Media platforms!**

Website: [www.1stunitedchurch.ca](http://www.1stunitedchurch.ca)

On Facebook: [firstunitedchurch](https://www.facebook.com/firstunitedchurch)

On Instagram: [@firstunited1834](https://www.instagram.com/firstunited1834)

On Twitter: [@FirstUnitedStT](https://twitter.com/FirstUnitedStT)

On YouTube: [First United Church, St. Thomas](https://www.youtube.com/FirstUnitedChurchStThomas)

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