



# Greetings from First United Church



Due to lockdown [Family Worship](#) is [postponed](#) until we are able to gather at the church again.

Stay safe & well everyone!



You are invited to Worship with us [ONLINE Sunday Mornings at 10:30am!](#)

We offer the Worship Service Virtually for our own First family, as well as friends from Central, St. Andrew's & New Vision United Churches.

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).

**\*\*Due to lockdown we are unable to host in person worship at this time.**

Stay safe & well everyone!

Happy birthday to:

Debbie Alward

Nancy Copeland

Marg Sanderson

Noah Derganc



Annual Reports will be emailed out next week (technical difficulties this week – sorry!!)

Tax receipts will be mailed out on Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

We hope everyone is well. If there are any needs you have for groceries or a conversation, please contact the office to let us know. We have people who are eager to help.





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We continue with

**Coffee & Conversation Time**  
**Monday Mornings at 10:30am**

(link to join is in the weekly email).

We began a few weeks of conversation around the concept of "Ministry" of the church, which isn't about paid staff of the church. Our first short video is of a United Church Minister's call into paid accountable Ministry, but the other short videos expand our notion of ministry, and refine our notion of "Inclusivity" and "Welcome". The church has always been called to live beyond its traditional definitions and confines of its institutional life. Notice in these videos the rejuvenation that comes with such work together and a sense of purpose. Lets begin thinking about Ministry in St. Thomas and the opportunity we have as the United Churches in town to redefine Ministry **and** staff so we can be expanded in our hearts and minds by the Spirit!

The videos will take about 20 minutes to view collectively! Enjoy!

<https://united-church.ca/leadership/entering-ministry>

<https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/welcome-united-church-canada/partners-mission/canadian-partners-and-community>

<https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/being-community/children-and-youth/programs-youth-and-young-adults>

## Official Board Meeting

**Monday, February 8 at 7pm**  
(Regular Google Meets link)

## Shared Ministry Team Meeting Tuesday February 9 at 7pm online.

We will put together our thoughts and ideas that we have worked at brainstorming over the last three weeks.

We are working on a presentation to the Boards/Council and congregation.

## "The Party Crashers" Group

Thursday evenings at 7pm!

When parties are forbidden that is when we need them most!

No need for a personal invitation, no need to take your shoes off at the door, no worries if you don't know who will be there, just show up!

We will check in with each other and partake in a little fun!

Join in using the Sunday Worship Link!





# Greetings from First United Church

Join us for A Taste of Palestine

**TASTE FOOD - HEAR STORIES - MAKE CHANGE**

**A three-part event: February 16 & February 23**

**Live Zoom with Fatma and Claire from Palestine and March 9 - Our action!**

Cooking Demo

(follow along & enjoy the flavours)

\*February 16, 9:30-11am EST Fatma Nawaja

\*February 23, 9:30-11am EST Claire Anastasis

\*March 9, at 9:30-11am to learn about the work of United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine Israel (UNJPPI)

& how you can help create justice in Palestine

**See the poster on our website for all the details and link to register**

## Ash Wednesday Service

February 17, 7pm online

(regular google meets link)

We are led by Susanna Suchak in a quiet service of readings and chants and where we are marked with the cross as precious children of God. We are brought together to begin our Lenten journey in this circle of grace we create by joining in.

All are welcome. Invite a friend.



## Official Board Retreat

All members of the Board and Transition Team as well as volunteers from the Shared Ministry Dream Team are asked to reserve **Saturday February 20 9:30- noon** for a retreat/Workshop on "Clarifying Roles and Expectations for Ministry Personnel" and reviewing our own role with Ministry staff.

We share the meeting with members from Central Council.

This will be an important workshop in our process of calling & potentially sharing Ministry Staff with Central.

Stay tuned for more updates.