



Greetings from First United Church



Due to lockdown Family Worship will be 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:

Marilyn Beechey, Benjamin Turvey,
Wayne Smith, Michael Kingswood,
Geoffrey Auckland.



Happy anniversary to:

Jim & June Harris.

Committee Chairs & Group Leaders are reminded to have their **Annual Reports** emailed in to the Church Office by Monday, January 25th .

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.

We might be apart,
but we're in this together.

Thinking
of you!



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We continue with
Coffee & Conversation Time
Monday Mornings at 10:30am
(link to join is in the weekly email).

Last week we listened to author of Gilead, Marilynne Robinson speak to us about how she understands the good life". She said, 1. Consider yourself to be a unique expression of what is humanly possible and ask "What gifts are you most thankful about who you are?" Marilynne also suggested the good life is in 2. Discovering your vocation. Following your passion is key to the good life, competition is a sign that you're probably not living the good life. Robinson says also that the Christian Life and the Christian community we live in is part of the good life in that it helps us 3. Develop a sympathetic imagination in an environment where grace is a cornerstone of how we perceive the world. We wondered what that triggered in us about how we live the good life!

This week we can continue on with the conversation. Colin Beaven is a writer and environmentalist and puts the theme of the "Good Life" in a different framework- if we were living in balance with earth, would this help us grasp something of the good life?

I invite you to watch the film that was made of Colin Beaven's book, No Impact Man. It is 1.5 hours, but it is entertaining and insightful. I think Colin would say he learned to live a good life. Check it out!

Here is the link. See you Monday!!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fW5_R-7BCIY



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SOMETHING NEW!

We are going to start up a new online group Thursday evenings at 7pm that I'm going to call "The Party Crashers".

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!



BOOK STUDY on Cathedral on Fire – a church handbook for the climate crisis by Rev. Brooks Berndt, United Church of Christ Minister for Environmental Justice.

News of burning forests and rising temperatures raise concern for all of God's creation. This Book Study can help us to discover the unique gifts which we have to offer. Berndt starts with the Genesis story of beginnings, goes on to explore: the importance of caring for God's creation as our first calling; a scriptural basis to pursue justice for both planet and people; a moral foundation of the climate crisis as an inequality crisis; our power source of love; lifting up hope in the history of environmental justice movement; a rich tradition of theology in time of crisis; and a recognition of youth as the climate prophet of today.

Book Study Facilitators – Marg Murray and Carey Wagner of Antler River Social and Ecological Justice Network. Marg and Carey are retired clergy in Antler River Watershed Region. Marg's background is in environmental planning and Carey's, fossil fuel industry. Both have a passion to integrate climate justice and its impact on the most vulnerable.

Link is here to the first chapter of Cathedral on Fire: https://www.uccfiles.com/pdf/Cathedral-on-Fire_SAMPLE_PAGES.pdf

WHEN? Tuesday, January 26 at 10:00 to 11:30 am to February 16, 2021.

To register, email Carey Wagner cgwagne@sympatico.ca. Register early to ensure a place as registration is limited to 15. Registration free. Meeting by Zoom. Invitation details will follow upon registration.

The book will soon be available from United Church Resource Distribution Centre.

Estimated cost of the book is \$10.00.

