



Weekly Update from First – June 10/21



QUARTER AUCTION

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Online Quarter Auction!

Your support is appreciated!!



Online Sundays at 10:30am!

We continue to offer the Worship Service Virtually at 10:30am for our own First family, as well as friends from Central & St. Andrew's UC! 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:

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



Family Worship will resume for the next 3 Sundays: June 13, 20 & 27.

All families are welcome to join us in the Assembly Hall @ 10:15am.

Orange Shirts

We were all sickened and saddened by the discovery of 215 children's bodies at the former Kamloops Residential School in BC. Orange Shirt Day memorializes the suffering by those who were scooped up as part of Canada's goal to assimilate the Indigenous population into Canadian Society.

If you would like to order a t-shirt or hoodie, I am placing an order in early July. Just send me what product you would like (t-shirt or hoodie), what size(s) and what quantity at rauck27@gmail.com.

T-shirts are \$20 each and hoodies are \$40. All proceeds from these sales go to the Woodland Cultural Centre which is the site of the former Mohawk Residential School. Orders should arrive in early September.

Richard Auckland



Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday this week to:

Tracey Medhurst
Maggie Moore
Mason Visser
Wayne Lalonde

Happy Anniversary this week to:

Bill & Teresa Turvey
(15 years!)





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Monday Mornings at 10:30am

This week: Author Karen Armstrong and Bill Moyers (My other favorite interviewer other than Krista Tippett) discuss the Charter of Compassion and the practice of compassion as central to all Religions. "It is not good enough to practice Compassion by holding hands in church, it is something to be practiced all day and everyday, and that is something quite different". Enjoy this thoughtful dialogue about the rise of compassion in religious thought throughout all religions. The video is 45 minutes, and is filled with the thoughtfulness and probing of these two great thinkers.

<https://vimeo.com/55371288>

In a panel discussion on Christian and Muslim dialogue, we eavesdrop on a conversation about what it would be like to pray for each other among other topics. It is an easy to listen to and understand this conversation and is a good beginning place for the church to contemplate its relationships with our neighbours who have faced a great heart ache and traumatic episode in London last week.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFmMo9K4INg>

It is always so apparent to me that we can be a church these days pretty easily, but to follow Christ requires surrendering much of our ego and learning a new responsiveness. These videos help the church learn a practice of compassion that allows the faithful to discern Christ's path, I think! Come with a cup of coffee!

Link to join is: <https://meet.google.com/pjg-zbez-nax>

Our prayers and hearts go out to our Muslim brothers and sisters and those friends, family and neighbours of Yumna Afzaal, Madiha Salman, Talat Afzaal, and Salman Afzaal who were murdered last Sunday evening.

We pray for them and for their community who know fear, terror and grief.

We pray too for Fayeze and his road now marked by such great loss.

May there be Allah's grace as you make your journey, Fayeze.

We stand with our Muslim neighbours in this most traumatic time.

We pray too for the young man who is charged with murder and attempted murder. And we pray for his family who must be devastated.

May each of them know God's strength and compassion in this time when sorrow is everywhere. May we all know that same compassion.

May the Christian churches grow in love for neighbour, and steadfastness in our embrace and growing understanding of our Muslim neighbours.



#ourlondonfamily