



Weekly Update from First – November 18/21

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT SUNDAY MORNING



You are welcome to attend in-person at First Church Sundays at 10:30am!

Please enter through the Accessibility door in the parking lot.

THIS WEEK: Rev. Pegi Ridout will be preaching at First United and Rev. Paul Vollick will be preaching at Central – this is Rev. Paul’s last Sunday!

Also, the Band will be here at First to lead us in song! We can sing with our masks on!

Thank you for your patience as we experiment with the format and the technology. The service will be tweaked as we learn and grow. This is in preparation for sharing Ministry staff with Central UC.

We are so excited to share all of this with you!! See you Sunday!

Here is the link to join online for this Sunday, November 21:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7bqAJYayeo>

Happy birthday to:
Casey Elford



Happy anniversary to:
Avery & Sharron Ruppel



Coffee & Curious Spirituality



‘Coffee & Curious Spirituality’
Join us Monday, November 22nd
@ 10:30am

We will continue to consider the core values of our lives and the life of the Congregations this Monday. Being helped to reflect on values through Green Renaissance videos and all of our videos has helped us articulate the aspects that provide a foundation and help inspire our formation as Christians. Review the lists of values (on our website) that Brene Brown and the Fundamentals of Transitional Ministry offer and choose what stands out for you as your top one and bring it with you to unpack in the group. We will be creating a wall of values for the congregations to explore as well!

You are welcome to explore more of the Green Renaissance videos and use them as your daily meditation and even at mealtime with your family.

See you Monday at 10:30! All are welcome to bring curiosity to their Spirituality and to this Small Group!

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



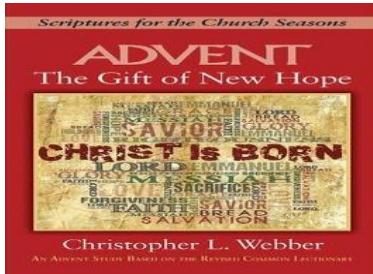
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ADVENT - The Gift of New Hope

Come and take part in a 5 week study of commentary and reflection based on readings from the Old Testament, the Gospels, and the Epistles.

Starts Wednesday, November 24th 1:00 – 2:30 pm at Central United Church

For more information please contact Kathryn Fletcher at 519- 633-1902 or fletcherfamily@rogers.com



Youth Group meets at First Church on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:15pm.

All Youth are welcome!

Youth Group Leaders:
Chris Ross
& Jean Fletcher



Lori will be on vacation from Friday, November 26 to Sunday, included in the Weekly Update going out on Thursday, December 2nd (for the week of December 5-11) need to be submitted to the Church office by noon on Wednesday, November 24th. Thank you!

Next Sunday, November 28th is ADVENT 1



We'll have the sanctuary decorated for Christmas and the tree will be up!

The Band will be here to lead us in song!

We hope you'll join us in the Sanctuary at 10:30am for Worship!



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A Candle in the Window

Advent / Christmas Event

Saturday, December 4th at 7pm

Outdoor Event - in the parking lot at First Church



EVERYONE IS WELCOME to attend this Outdoor Event!

**See our AWESOME Christmas Light Display*

**Hear several Stories / Readings*

**Caroling & Hot Chocolate*



**A Musical Performance by Jerome Thomas*

...and maybe even a Visit from a VERY Special Christmas Friend!

Join us in the South Parking Lot where we'll be broadcasting over our outdoor speakers OR you can stay in your car and tune in over your car radio – 87.9FM

**If you do wish to get out of your vehicle, please wear a mask and follow physical distancing protocols.*

If you are able, please bring a donation for Christmas Care (toys or non-perishable food items - you can bring back your Secret Santa bags as well!)

This "A Candle in the Window" Event is the kick-off to our Advent/Christmas Fundraising Campaign! (More details below!)



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A Candle in the Window!

2021 Advent / Christmas Fundraiser

It's that most wonderful time of the year once again!

It's Christmas Time 2021.

A time to be thankful for that all God has given us.

A time to share our love with each other.

A time to show our thanks to First United for being a magnificent place of worship.

This year, we would like to invite you again to participate in a fundraiser to help sustain our beautiful church throughout the 2022 year and beyond.

This year, we are calling our event “A Candle in the Window”. It is hoped that we can raise enough to purchase new energy efficient windows for our church. This will not only result in cost savings but will continue our work in renewing our building to keep it serving us well into the future... and reduce our carbon footprint as well!

Our goal is to reach \$20,000 by Dec 31st, which should provide us with sufficient funds to replace 20 windows. Each time we raise \$1000, an electric candle will be lit in a window signifying the purchase of a new window.

To contribute to this fundraiser, just designate your donation in some way to “A Candle in the Window”. Your donation can be made by cheque, envelope, bank transfer, PAR or PayPal. Like last year, for anyone opening a new PAR or PayPal account committed to making monthly donations, we will multiply the first month's donation by 12 and add that sum towards reaching our goal.

We will be officially launching this year's fundraiser on Saturday, December 4th at our event in the church parking lot at 7 PM - *but you can start donating now* 😊♥

Let's all pitch in and make Christmas 2021 special!





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Hello First Church Friends!
It's that time of year again!

Our Secret Santa Outreach Project!

Unwrapped Gifts for children (up to age 12) or Monetary Donations would be GREATLY appreciated! You can donate directly to Christmas Care through this link: <https://christmascaresthomas.com> or you can bring your donation to the Church – payable to Christmas Care (please include your name & mailing address for receipt purposes) and we'll make sure they receive it. (You don't need to have a "Santa Bag" to participate. Feel free to buy more than one of the same gift.)

Our gifts will be included in the Christmas Care Packages given to those in need this holiday season.

ALSO, again this year we are collecting **SOCKS for Grace Café**. There is a huge need for Men's, Women's and children's socks! **Please bag these separate from your Secret Santa Gifts.**

Please have your Secret Santa Gifts & Socks for Grace Café **back to the church BY Sunday, December 5th!** They will be picked up by Christmas Care on Mon., Dec. 6th.



The **Gifts With Vision 2021** catalogues have arrived. The print copies of the catalogue are available to you on the bulletin board by the coat hooks on the sanctuary level at the Church. You can also access the catalogue online at www.giftswithvision.ca

These suggested gifts that help people in our country and in the world make an awesome gift for loved ones at Christmas.



*Donate to
First United Church*

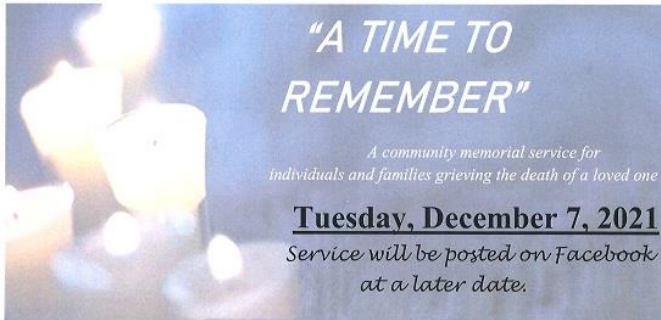


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Community Events

VON Middlesex-Elgin Supportive Care and Bereavement Program
and Knox Presbyterian Church, St Thomas

Present:



"Memories are like roses in December – they can make a cold day warmer and bring beautiful colour to the white of snow"

7:00 – 8:00 pm

In person option available at Knox Church

55 Hincks Street, St Thomas

(use the Mitchell Street Entrance)

Masks and Proof of double vaccination required

Physical Distancing will be Observed

For more information,
please contact Becky at VON 519-637-6408 ext. 222
or becky.ahrens@von.ca



Central's Mini Bazaar

**Saturday, Nov 20th
9am to Noon**

**Bringing you unique, Handcrafted
Gifts, Gift Baskets, Christmas
Décor, Puzzles, CD's & Books**

(Masks Mandatory/Social Distancing)

