



Weekly Update from First – November 25/21

HOLIDAY
MODE
ON

*Lori is on holidays from
Friday, November 26 to
Sunday, December 4.*

Coffee
and
Curious Spirituality
Monday Mornings at 10:30am



For the link to join, visit First's website!

'Coffee & Curious Spirituality'

Join us Monday, November 29th @ 10:30am

SUNDAY
WORSHIP SERVICE

This Sunday is Advent 1 - Hope

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

Please enter through the Accessibility door
in the parking lot.

THIS WEEK: Rev. Daryl will be preaching
at Central United and Erin Chute will be
giving the Family Story Time from First!

The Sanctuary will be decorated and the
Tree will be up! **COME EARLY
(10:15am) TO DECORATE THE
TREE!!** The Band will be here at First
to lead us in song!

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 28:**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6eObf_w7a4

Today we pick up on some of the conversation
threads we've been sharing around shared
values. We are thankful for the teachers who
have built on our value of "faithfulness" and
have helped us explore the breadth of faith.
Also, we've been talking about dominant
imagery in religious art and how that shapes
our experience of church and God. We hear
from Feminist Lois Wilson former Moderator
of the United Church, and a community of
black womanists all of whom speak about a
faith that aligns with love and in turn aligns
with justice work. These are a little heady, but
Lois is funny, and the installation of Earth in a
church really changes the way we think about
art in the church! Bring a cup and join us.

Womanist perspectives

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

Feminist reflection from Lois Wilson

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

Planet Earth Installation

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/WhctKKXHFxnRbjcBmNXSksKWwgSZVGNHNKhNZITftcgZJzGkqFGnptTHLsXtSBxWdmZZBG?compose=Hr rBHnMhCqBFtSpQGCSbtXSFztKWMfMsBnDVswM LknDwfjdlgKWZsmvRNHNktbwqZmkdzhchPgdlFd LPTdBgsPJNVdZdZzsKBCgJVWtJpNdtLGQSD>

*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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Happy birthday to:

Clark Renaud

Kathryn Bosveld



Advent Word Search

S	T	N	J	L	C	H	X	C	R
L	Z	N	O	E	P	S	H	C	J
E	I	V	E	E	S	R	K	Y	A
G	E	C	S	V	I	U	I	V	U
N	R	O	C	S	D	H	S	K	C
A	J	H	T	E	R	A	Z	A	N
M	N	M	P	R	A	Y	E	R	S
Q	A	A	G	A	X	D	O	D	T
S	A	G	Y	R	A	M	O	N	A
S	F	S	B	Q	E	E	C	G	R

ADVENT
ANGELS
CHRISTMAS
GOD
JESUS
JOSEPH
LOVE
MARY
NAZARETH
PRAYER
STAR

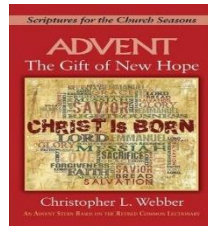


Advent- The Gift of New Hope

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

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

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



Ministry of Joyful Gatherings

The online community studying Brene Brown's book 'Braving the Wilderness' finished last Tuesday afternoon. We had great conversations about the art of "belonging and showing up in life with courage as opposed to fitting in with the crowd". We came to know one another better too. Thanks, Susanna for gathering a community from many churches in Southwestern Ontario and all the short summary videos you put together! It is joyful to meet other United Church folks in the region. These are a few of our small group faces.



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

All Youth are welcome!

Youth Group Leaders:
Chris Ross
& Jean Fletcher





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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*



Community Events

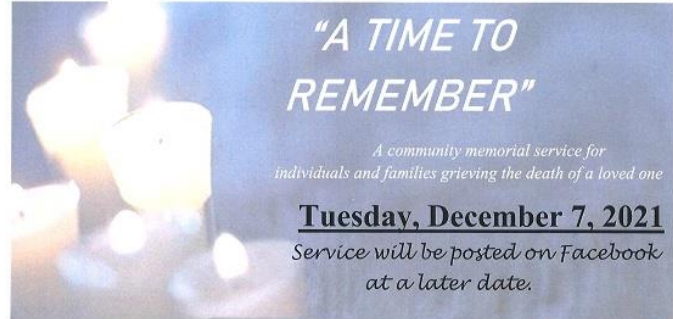
The London Centre RCCO will be presenting their annual Carol Service online again this year.

The service will be live streamed from Metropolitan United Church on Sunday, November 28 at 7:30 p.m.

The link below will reach the service, or it can be found afterwards through the website <http://www.londonrcco.com>

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

