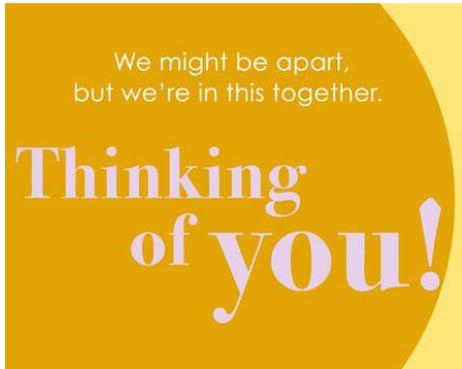




Greetings from First United Church

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.



Reminder! Friday is the last day for additions/changes to the Church Directory! Contact Sherry @ sjohnstone1959@gmail.com



We continue to meet online Sundays at 10:30am for our Joint Worship Service with our own First family, as well as friends from Central, St. Andrew's & New Vision. We'd love it if you joined us - even if you've never done so before! This new season is a great time 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).

Also, our sanctuary is open with 28 spots available. Please RSVP if you are planning on attending in person (email office@1stunitedchurch.ca or call 519-631-7570 x21 & leave a message)



If you would like to sign up for worship leadership participation that would be great. We are in great need of volunteers to read scripture or offer as worship host. Send an email to the church office if you would like to help.



Greetings from First United Church



Coffee & Conversation Time Monday Mornings at 10:30am

(link to join is in the weekly email).

Last week we fell in love with Eugene Peterson, author of The Message. So now we find out about what Eugene 's life as a Pastor and as a person in a congregation meant to him. In this video he speaks about the gift of a congregation being the gift to be yourself. Join us in watching and join us in conversation with Eugene!

link: <https://matthewzcapps.com/2016/09/02/eugene-peterson-and-the-pastoral-imagination/>

Coming Soon...



Confirmation Classes
with Rev. Paul (Central)
assisted by Rev. Daryl (First).



First will be hosting another Drive Thru **FOOD DRIVE**

Saturday, October 17: 10am-1pm

The Food Bank truly appreciates ALL donations during this time.

They are currently low on:

- *Full-size Juices & Juice boxes
- *Pudding cups
- *Peanut-free snacks for children
- *Snacks bags (baggies)
- *Pasta Sauce
- *Canned Pastas (Alpha-getti, Zoodles, Ravioli, etc.)
- *Canned Chunky Soups, Stews and Chili for single clients
- *Kraft Dinner/Mac'N Cheese/Sidekicks
- *Fresh potatoes, onions & apples are also a great idea!

Thank you for caring & sharing!



Sharing is Caring



Greetings from First United Church



Remember!
Our 2nd Online Auction is Fast Approaching!

You are invited to start thinking about what you can donate to make this Auction a HUGE Success!

We hope EVERYONE will participate!
You can donate items, time, talent or service for this auction.

(The Auction is open to everyone, donations will be accepted from those outside the First Church Family as well!)

Items must be new or in like-new condition.

Donation ideas

- * Gift Cards
- * Family Movie Night basket
- * Snack Basket (granola bars/snacks)
- * Homemade pie(s)
- * Homemade Meal delivered to home for family of 4
- * 1 dozen homemade cookies every month for a year
- * Jewelry
- * Garden lovers basket
- * Lottery ticket arrangement in vase
- * Coffee or Tea Lovers gift basket

Auction continued...

- * Birds lovers basket (seed, bird feeder)
- * Dog/ Cat lovers basket (treats, toys)
- * Wine lovers gift pack
- * Assortment of baked goods
- * Local brewery Tour/Tasting
- * Food
- * Christmas cookie boxes
- * Squares,
- * Hand crafts
- * Christmas crafts

Deadline for submission of donations, at latest, is Friday October 23, 7 pm.

Please email all donation information to Sherry Johnstone
sjohnstone1959@gmail.com





Greetings from First United Church

An Update & An Invitation From Your Finance Committee



Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Dear First Church Friends,

We hope this finds you and yours healthy, safe and well!

With the onset of this pandemic we are indeed in the midst of a different time and reality. Yet, as always, we are not alone, God is with us! Remember that if you are in need of support, please reach out to the Church through a phone call or email and someone would be happy to speak to you.

First United Church continues to be a place where everyone can easily and openly experience God's great love. Our priority remains "being the Church" by providing pastoral care and maintaining relationships in our community of faith and beyond. Calls are being made, people are being cared for, Worship continues online each Sunday and we host 'Coffee & Conversation' online each Monday morning. We are trying to "keep in touch" & "make a difference" during this time of physical distancing.

As for the church's financial position, unfortunately, we are continuing to suffer losses. To date, our operating loss for this year has reached \$55,000. Had it not been for Wage Subsidies received from the federal government, our loss would total over \$70,000. This of course puts our Church in a difficult position. Your Official Board is working hard to find solutions to this problem but we need everyone to help to the extent they can.

First and foremost, **thank you to everyone who has been sending in their donations** online through Email Transfers & Paypal, those who have dropped their offerings off in the church mail slot, and those who are giving through PAR. **Your gifts are GREATLY appreciated** and **DIRECTLY** contribute to sustaining the ministry at First United Church during this most difficult time. We invite you to continue to make your donations to First so that we can stay 'afloat" and provide ongoing ministry to our Church community. It takes many people, lots of talents, creativity and vision to make God's love real. And we want to **THANK YOU** for helping us to make God's love real!

That being said, making God's love real also requires funding. Today we are asking each of you to please reflect on what First United Church means to you ...and also your ability, whatever it may be, to make a commitment of financial support. At a time when some may have to reduce their level of giving, others may be able to increase their giving. We aren't asking those who can share more to "make up" for those who must out of necessity reduce their giving, but to share more, cheerfully, because this is how the First Church Family cares for each other and those around them. Within the church, **ALL gifts are a sign of faith and an act of generosity to be celebrated.**

So again, we **THANK YOU** for giving what you can. Please keep the faith. Working together, our Church can survive in these difficult times and flourish into the future.

