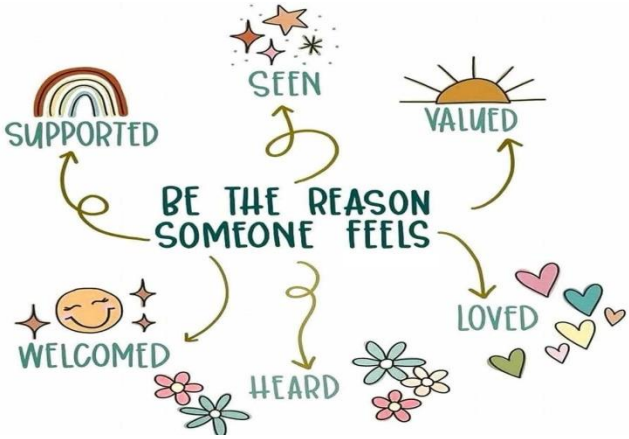
Weekly Update from First – January 22, 2026



Join us for

Worship

AT FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, January 25th

9:30 am

Rev. Paul will lead worship

Heather Tales will be the Lay Leader

Mike Hardman & Rev. Scott will serve Communion

Scripture: Matthew 4:18-25

Sermon: Rev. Paul "Life is a Team Sport"

TRUST.... show RESPECT ... LISTEN ... then SPEAK.

Thank you for supporting the ministry of First United Church.

Weekly Update from First – January 22, 2026

UPDATE FROM FIRST PLACE EARLY LEARNING CENTRE INC

First Place Early Learning Centre INC (FPELC)

January Update

We are excited to share our monthly update! Each month we will provide updates on the FPELC and we have also set up a bulletin board outside the Fellowship room with this key information. Please bring forward any questions and we will follow up and also include in our updates.

A special shout to Dave, Mark, Justin and Richard for helping us work through all the logistics with the construction start up!

CONSTRUCTION	The "OTHER STUFF"

• Asbestos Abatement & Air Testing is completed!
• Demo continues, mainly in the gymnasium area
• End of January, will begin making the holes in the walls that is required for new ductwork.
• Bi-weekly construction meetings-initiated January 14, 2026 (Minutes posted on the bulletin board)
• Building permit applications submitted
• Required edits on the site & architectural plans re-submitted to Ministry of Education
	▪ Finalizing legal documents
	▪ *Lease Agreement* (between the Church, FPELC, City)
	  ▪ Once finalized to be submitted to Regional Council
	  ▪ Provide to City of St. Thomas (required for funding)
	▪ *Indemnity Agreement* (between the Church & FPELC)
	  ▪ Outlines loan repayment expectations
	▪ *Toronto United Church Council Loan ($1.5M)*
	  ▪ Submit all legal documents (listed above) to fulfill loan requirements
	  ▪ Register mortgage
	✓ *City of St. Thomas start up agreement*- COMPLETED ☺
	• FPELC Board Logistics and set up of financial processes & recruitment

DESIGN	**WHAT'S NEXT?**
• Check out the FPELC design and outdoor space! • Drawings can be found on the easel (in Fellowship Room)	• Require approval by Ministry of Education of our site and architectural plans • Once approved they issue a letter which allows the site plan approval and building permits to be issued by the City of St. Thomas • Construction will begin to move forward, with plan to have renovations completed by October 31, 2026 • FPELC Annual General Meeting & Tours!

Mark your Calendars!!!

Sunday March 1st following our anniversary service, we will have a short meeting (FPELC AGM & Church Updates) Followed by tours of the space!

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Weekly Update from First – January 22, 2026

Share the Love
Feel the Love
Spread the Love

We are collecting donations of:

HATS, MITTS & GLOVES
SOCKS
TOILETRIES &
TIM HORTON'S GIFT CARDS
($5 or $10)

to make 'Spread the Love' Bags
for Grace Cafe.

Donations can be placed in the boxes
in the Coffee Room on or before
Sunday, February 8th. THANK YOU!

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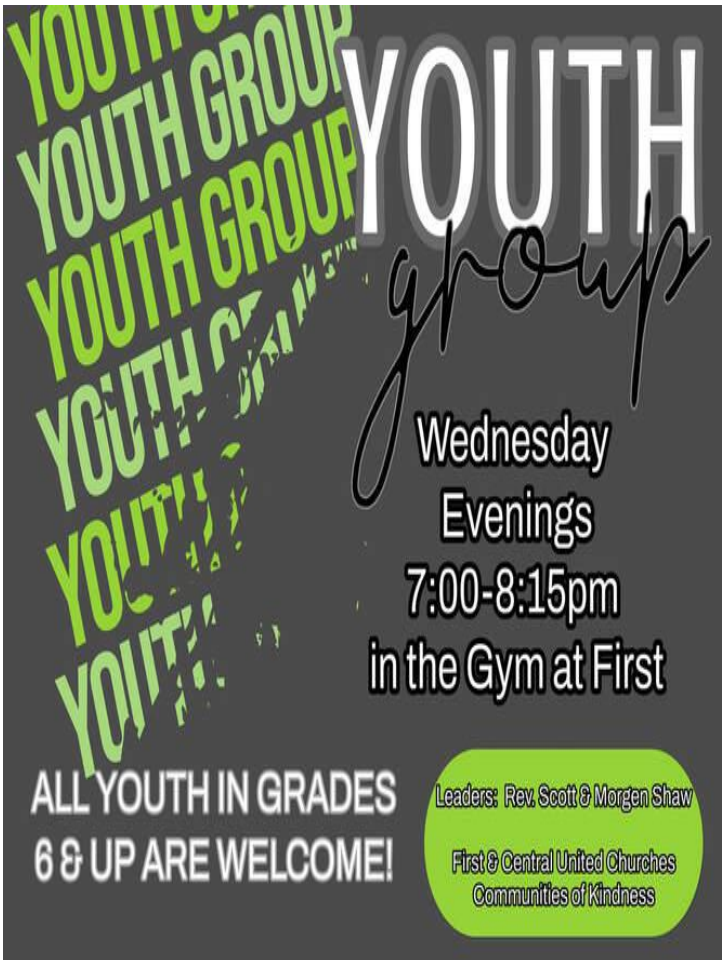

* Kindness * Respect * Fairness *

Happy Birthday to:
Benjamin Turvey, Wayne Smith,
Michael Kingswood & Geoff Auckland

Celebrations

TRUST.... show RESPECT ... LISTEN ... then SPEAK.

Thank you for supporting the ministry of First United Church.

Weekly Update from First – January 22, 2026

Central & First United Churches Present...

ALL WELCOME!

We hope you'll join us... and bring a friend!

MOVIE NIGHT with Rev. Scott

Held in the Rainbow Room at Central United Church (135 Wellington St.)

UPCOMING MOVIES...

February 2nd
"Just Mercy" (2019)

March 2nd
"Everything, Everywhere, All at Once" (2022)

April 13:
"The Prestige" (2006)

Doors open at 6:30pm
Movie followed by discussion: 7-9:30pm

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Weekly Update from First – January 22, 2026

You are invited to join

FIRST PLACE EARLY LEARNING CENTRE INC.

FOR THEIR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, March 1st at First United Church following worship

- Board of Directors will be installed
- Exciting Updates re: Construction & Projects
- Refreshments will be served

Following the Meeting there will be tours of the facility to show what's been done so far!

FPELC Inc. is located in the lower level of First United Church 7 Curtis St., St. Thomas

* *Kindness* * *Respect* * *Fairness* *

EarlyON Child and Family Centre

DID YOU KNOW THAT EARLYON HOSTS LOTS OF DIFFERENT GROUPS HERE AT FIRST DURING THE WEEK??

THEY ARE LOCATED IN THE OLD MUSIC ROOM :)

ALL ARE WELCOME!

PROGRAM INFO CAN BE FOUND ON THEIR WEBSITE: HTTPS://WWW.YMCASWO.CA/EO-FC-ST-THOMAS

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Weekly Update from First – January 22, 2026

Debit & Credit now accepted at the church!

You can make a donation through or Square machine any time the Church Office is open.

Contact Lori for more details!
office@1stunitedchurch.ca
519-631-7570 ext. 21

GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER

2 Corinthians 9:7

* Kindness * Respect * Fairness *

SAVE YOUR POP TABS

First Church Friends!

Please save your pop tabs to help 16 year old, Dallas Reisenweber, to get a wheelchair.

There is a container in the Fellowship (Coffee) Room to collect your donations.

If you have an Upcoming Date / Event / Meeting you'd like included in the slides for our

weekly ANNOUNCEMENTS

please have it to Lori at First (office@1stunitedchurch.ca) by Wednesday at noon. Thank you!

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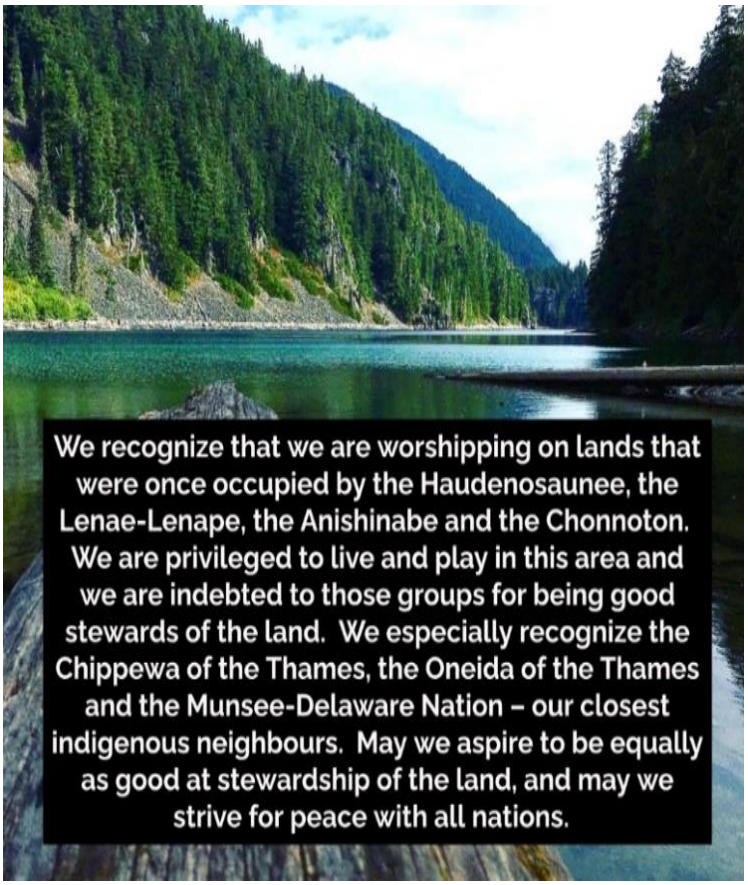

First United Church

7 Curtis Street, St. Thomas, ON N5P 1H3

Rev. Scott Beckett
Phone: 519-631-7570 ext. 22 (office)
226-582-9422 (emergencies)
Email: scott@sharedministry.ca

Rev. Paul Browning
Phone: 519-631-7570 ext. 23 (office)
519-681-3521 (emergencies)
Email: paul@sharedministry.ca

Lori Hoffman (church office)
Phone: 519-631-7570 ext. 21 (office)
Email: office@1stunitedchurch.ca

1stunitedchurch.ca

firstunitedchurch

@firstunited1834

@FirstUnitedStT

First United Church, St. Thomas

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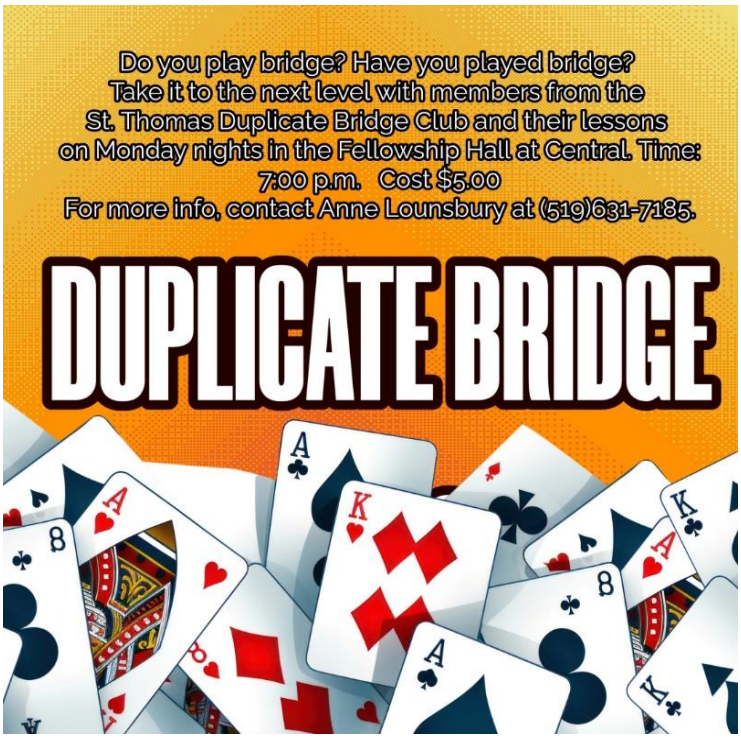
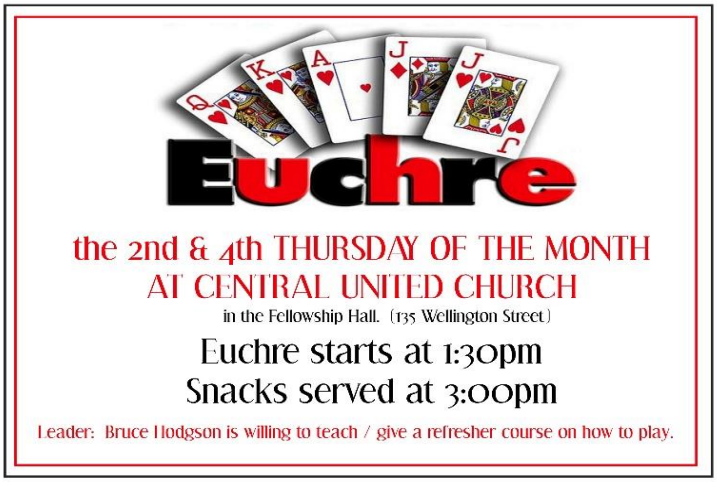
Weekly Update from First – January 22, 2026

* * * * CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH EVENTS* * * * *





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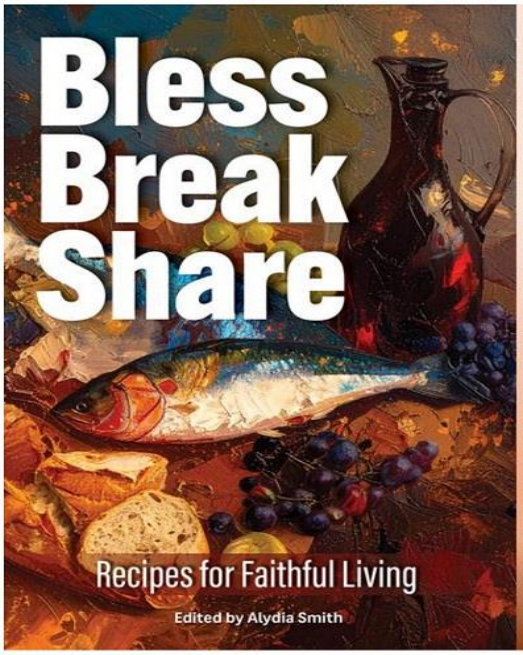
* * * * CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH EVENTS* * * * *



Lenten Devotional Book

For personal or group study.
This devotional invites you to reflect on food and hunger as a spiritual practice. What do you hunger for? What feeds your soul? How do you feed others? Every meal and every table can provide an opportunity to grow in faith.

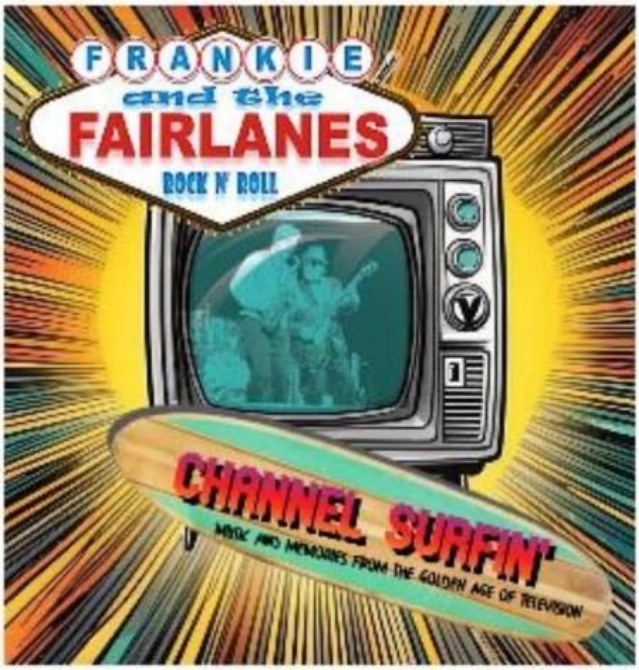
Contact Kathryn Fletcher at fletcherfamily@rogers.com or 519-633-1902 to purchase a softcover book (by Feb 1st at a group discount) or for the Zoom link for evening group study. Ebooks available at https://united-church.ca/united-church-bookstore

Group Study

Weekly during Lent starts

Monday February 23rd at 1 pm at Central United
or February 25th at 7 pm by Zoom

Are you wondering what to buy a loved one or a 'hard to buy' for person? Here's an idea for a Christmas gift!



Saturday, May 9th @ 7:00pm
Central United Church

Tickets for Frankie and the Fairlanes will be on sale this Sun. Dec. 14th in the Fellowship Hall.

You will also be able to purchase tickets in the office during the week.Tues to Fri. 8am – 1pm

Adults - $25
Children 12 & under - $10.00

*** Cash only please ****

50% of tickets sales come back to Central provided we sell enough to cover the the performer's costs.

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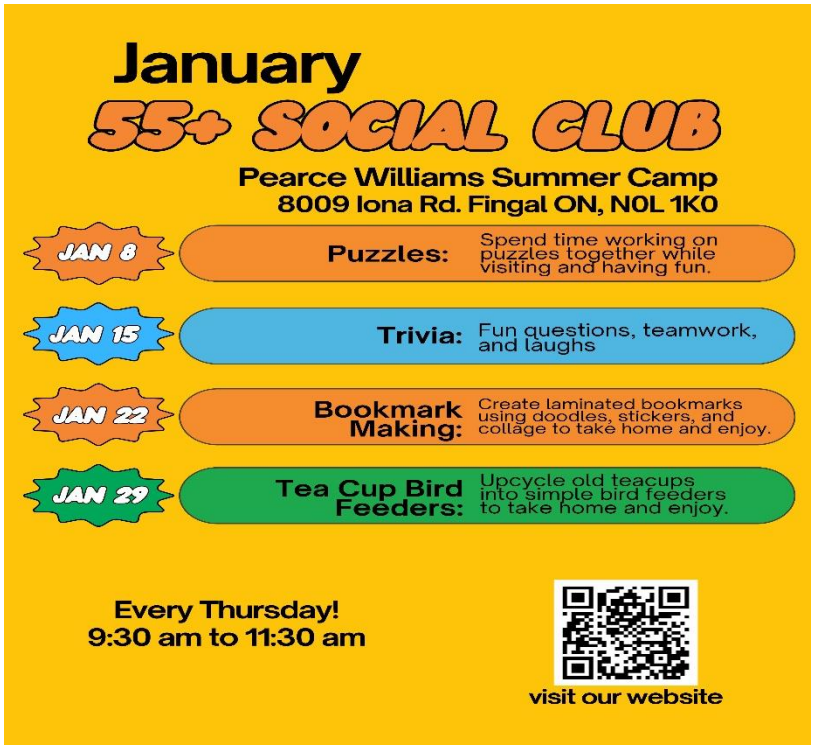
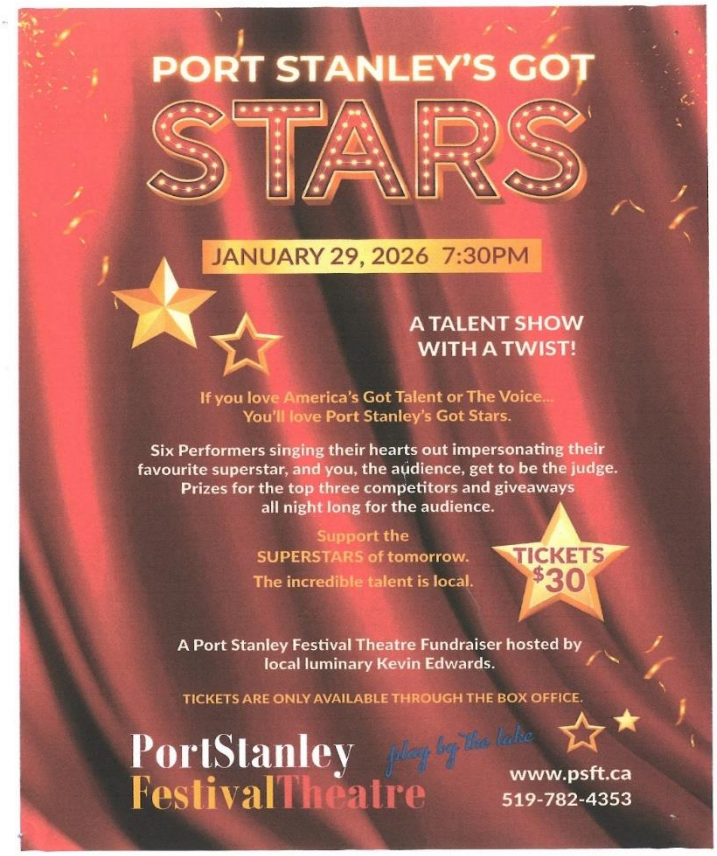
Weekly Update from First – January 22, 2026

* * * * COMMUNITY EVENTS* * * * * *





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