



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Summer Newsletter 2023

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“From the Desk of Reverend Ian”

Dear Members and adherents of this Community of Faith:

I never get tired of sharing stories of the generosity that you have shown through your gifts to this First United Church of ours. You are making a difference here in Mount Pearl and around the world through Mission & Service.

This month, I'd like to tell you about our Peace Garden that will provide an outdoor space for worship, meditation, and a place to sit and just "be". The garden will include a "peace pole" erected in the centre. One thing that all humanity has in common, is the ground on which we stand. Our peace pole with the words, "May Peace Prevail On Earth" will be placed in the ground linking our pole with some 250,000 poles all over the globe offering the same prayer.

The overall cost of the Garden is approximately \$27,000. We are asking all members and adherents to consider making a special donation towards funding this project. You can read more about the garden in this newsletter.

Together, we are helping transform lives, one gift at a time. Thank you.

Blessings,

Rev. Ian

70TH ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 25, 2023 11 am Service by the Youth Group followed with a Family Time
- Sept. 24, 2023 11 am Dedication Service with guest speaker Rev. Amanda Barnes, President of First Dawn Eastern Edge followed with a Fellowship Hour
- Oct. 21, 2023 6 pm Anniversary Dinner and Silent Auction at Cowan Heights United Church Auditorium
- Oct. 22, 2023 11 am Anniversary Service with guest Speaker Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, followed with a Fellowship Hour

Our Church's Anniversary



PEACE GARDEN



The **70th Anniversary Committee** has recently announced the Plan to create a Peace Garden on the street side of the church entrance. The Committee is fundraising for the garden. **Verazzo Stones for the retaining wall** can be purchased at \$100 each in memory of loved ones or in celebration of anniversaries, graduations and birthdays etc. **All five benches** have already been donated. **General Donations** of any amount towards the project are gratefully accepted and can also be made in memory or celebration of loved ones or events. All donations will be acknowledged. **Stop and take a look at the drawings posted in the Church!**



70th Anniversary Fundraiser: We are having an on-line auction for our 70th Anniversary Peace Garden Project. We are looking for new items, large or small, to be donated and dropped off at the Church during office hours or Sunday mornings during our 11 am church services. An update will be announced during church services, posted on our website and Facebook page regarding when the auction will go on-line.



**Come Join Us on June 25th
for
'FAMILY TIME'
with our Youth Group**



Please join us for our 11 am service on Sunday, June 25th when the Youth Group will be doing the service followed by a Family Time with food and games. We will be having a BBQ with hot dogs and hamburgers!! If anyone would like to bring a salad or two, it would be most appreciated. Cake will be served. So round up all the family, bring your flexible muscles for some fun games that will be sure to perk up your day and make memories!! Mark the date!! Look forward to seeing everyone there!!



UCW NEWS



The UCW has tried to carefully transition to an active post Covid world. Since January of this year, we have had monthly luncheon meetings, hosted several after church fellowships, held the World Day of Prayer Service, the Good Friday Service, hosted the first 'in person' UCW fundraiser since Covid, the 70th Anniversary Morning Coffee and Cakewalk.

We wish to express our thanks to the members of the congregation who have continued to support us with encouragement as well as with their donations. We also thank our UCW members and the Men's Club members who make these events happen. Because of the support received, the UCW has been able to make the following donations so far this year.

- Burry Heights - \$200
- Chaplaincy - \$200
- Bridges to Hope - Smart Snacks Program, in memory of Elaine Butt - \$150
- Daily Bread - \$150
- M & S - \$500
- Peace Garden - \$500
- First - Local Fund - \$1500

The UCW has just had their closing dinner catered by the Men's Club. We plan to start up again in September. Membership is open to all ladies of the congregation so keep an eye out for the announcement of our meeting time in September. Have a safe and happy summer!

FIRST UCW

From the Stewardship Committee



Stewardship, of course, includes the administration, governance and operation of our church. We have our Minister, our Office Administrator, our Official Board with several board committees who are doing their best to promote the mission and ministry of First United. Included and equally important is every individual in our congregation who give of their time, talents and financial resources towards making our Mission Statement a reality.

In our tradition the main focus of our Stewardship Committee is financial matters. We receive funds, create and maintain detailed contribution and accounting records, make bank deposits and ensure that our church's financial obligations are met. We also feel an obligation to periodically, at least in a general sense, inform our church members just how we're doing.

We believe that in many ways we are recovering from the challenges of Covid while another challenge is approaching. Summer is the time when people travel more, take vacations, make better use of cottages etc. – all good things which help us re-energize after the winter and enjoy life to a greater degree. The other side of this is that when folks are out of town both church attendance and revenues are significantly less. At this time you probably know the different ways to contribute; i.e. Pre- Authorized Remittance, post- dated cheques, church drop-box and E-transfer.

Here is our financial position for the period January 31, 2023 to May 31, 2023 which we hope will be helpful to you.

Operating expenses	\$101,364.34	Operating revenue	\$ 81,185.70	Deficit \$20,178.64
Building fund expenses	\$ 18,376.86	Building Fund revenue	\$ 14,066.50	Deficit \$ 4,310.36

We are thankful every day for all those people who give so generously in many ways and we fully realize that everyone is just not able to support our church at the same level. Our request is that you prayerfully consider what you can do to help our church in (as part of our Mission statement says) "spreading the love of God through worship , caring, sharing and outreach".

Memorial Services

Mount Pleasant Cemetery

- Hamilton Avenue Extension
- Monday, July 3, 2023 at 7 PM

General Protestant Cemetery

- Topsail Road
- Monday, July 17, 2023 at 7 PM

Memorial Gardens Cemetery

- 25 Beaumont Hamel Way
- Monday, July 31, 2023 at 7 PM

Please Note:

In the event of inclement weather, the services will move ahead to 7 PM the next evening.

COVID RESTRICTIONS UPDATE: Please be advised that all Covid restrictions at First United Church have been lifted. Hand sanitizer and face masks will still be available for anyone who wishes to use them.



Summer
Office Hours

Please be advised of the **CHURCH SUMMER OFFICE** hours for July and August months:

Thursday	10 am to 12 noon
Friday	10 am to 12 noon



The Youth Group continues to collect beverage containers. They must be clean and without caps. Note this is only beverage containers for which deposits are paid. Donations can be dropped off at the church or at any Evergreen Recycling location using the automated system and the church phone number. (Closest locations are Waterford Hospital or Blackmarsh Road.)



Donating to First United

First United is now able to accept donations through e-transfer right from your bank account to firstunited@nf.aibn.com

If making a donation through e-transfer, please indicate your Envelope # (if you have one) and how you wish the funds to be used, i.e., Local Expenses, Building Fund, Mission & Service, Food Bank or Other. If you need to provide more detailed information, please send us an email. The different ways you can contribute are: Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR), post-dated cheques, church drop-box and E-transfer.

Have you checked out our Website and our Facebook Page??

Weekly bulletins are posted online including upcoming events. Remember to sign up for constant contact, so we can email information directly to your inbox and keep you informed of what is currently happening at First United.

- Our website: www.firstunitedchurchmp.ca
- Our email: firstunited@nf.aibn.com

