



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Fall Newsletter 2023



From the Desk of Reverend Ian



We have some exciting news. We are going to be restarting our Sunday School, beginning October 15th during the 11am worship. We invite all children from 3 to 11 years of age to participate in our Sunday School. In the coming weeks, we will update the congregation on the nursery. If you can spare some time to help out with the children, please contact Rev. Ian. We need teachers and a volunteer for snacks, and together we will provide a safe, fun place for children to learn about God and Jesus. Registration forms are available on our website: firstunitedchurchmp.ca or in the foyer at the rear of the sanctuary.

And more exciting news is that our Youth Group is back in action. If you are between 12 and 18 years of age, or if you know of someone in that age range, then this announcement is for you! Most Sunday nights we meet in Trinity Hall between 7 and 9 pm. There are times when we will be meeting outside of the church, like October 15th when we will meet at 5pm in the church parking lot, and we will travel to Topsail Beach for a fire, hot dogs and games. Faith talks, fun and friends, are what we are all about!

Fall is upon us. The changing of the seasons from Summer to Fall is a beautiful time of year. God's colours of creation paint the world in an array of reds, browns, oranges, and many more shades and tints. It's also a time when cabins are closed up and prepared for Winter months. As that happens, we would love to see everyone back in church. Our programs, groups and clubs are starting up again, and we are excited about the possibilities. Our Peace Garden has been dedicated. There have been many positive comments on the garden and how it changes the whole entrance to the church in a good way.

Fall is also a time to reflect on budget and expenses. Our deficit is quite large, and we will have to make some important decisions if we cannot cover that expected shortfall. The price of oil has made an impact as well as the remnants of Covid 19, and a general increase in all our costs has affected our financial position. Please prayerfully consider your givings to your church at this time.

Blessings to all!



First United Church—Upcoming Services



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| ◆ October 8th | 11 am | Thanksgiving Sunday |
| ◆ October 15th | 11 am | Worship Service |
| ◆ October 22nd | 11 am | Anniversary Service |
| ◆ October 29th | 11 am | Worship Service |
| ◆ November 5th | 11 am | Remembrance Day Service/Communion |
| ◆ November 12th | 11 am | Worship Service |
| ◆ November 19th | 11 am | Worship Service |
| ◆ November 26th | 11 am | Worship Service |
| ◆ December 2nd | 6:30 pm | Decorate the Tree/Fun and Fellowship |
| ◆ December 3rd | 11 am | 1st Sunday of Advent/ Communion |
| ◆ December 3rd | 7 pm | UCW Christmas Lights Service |
| ◆ December 10th | 11 am | White Gift Service |
| ◆ December 10th | 7 pm | Vesper Service |
| ◆ December 17th | 11 am | Senior Choir Cantata |
| ◆ December 24th | 11 am | Advent Service |
| ◆ December 24th | 7 pm | Christmas Eve Service |
| ◆ December 31st | 11 am | New Years' Eve Worship Service |



UNITED CHURCH WOMEN NEWS



First United UCW meets one Monday night per month in Trinity Hall. The ladies each bring a bagged lunch and the meetings begin at 12:30 with lunch and a social time, followed by a brief worship and business. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend. Our next two meetings will take place on October 16th and November 13th.

The UCW is sponsoring a Bakeless Bake Sale on November 4th. Please consider supporting this event. All proceeds will go directly to the Church.

At the November 13th meeting, the UCW will be having their Annual Shower of personal care items for Carew Lodge and Emmanuel House. If members of the congregation would like to support the UCW in this endeavour, items can be dropped off during the November 13th meeting between 1:30 and 3 pm at the Churchill Avenue entrance or during regular church office hours.

Personal care items include some of the following:

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| Towel and facecloth | Brush and comb |
| Toothpaste and toothbrush | Hats, gloves, scarves |
| Deodorant, razors, shaving cream | Socks, slippers |
| Shampoo, conditioner, soap | Dish clothes and dish towels |
| Body wash, body sponge | Tissues |
| Hand cream | Little treats like candy or chocolate |



First United Church 70th Anniversary Year 2023



ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Our Anniversary Dinner and Basket Walk will be held on October 21st at Cowan Heights United Church. Tickets are \$30 each and can be purchased at the church office Wednesday, Thursday and Friday between 10 am and 1 pm. The last day to purchase tickets will be October 12th. Supper will consist of Turkey Supper with Cheesecake for dessert. Doors open at 5:30 pm and supper will be served at 6 pm.

ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

The 70th Anniversary Service will be held on October 22nd, 2023 at 11 am. Guest speaker for the service will be Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, former minister of First United Church and Executive Minister of First Dawn Eastern Edge. Please join us for a Fellowship Hour after the service hosted by the UCW.

PEACE GARDEN UPDATE

On Sunday, September 24th, the Peace Garden was officially dedicated by Rev. Amanda Barnes, President of First Dawn Eastern Edge. If you are out around the church stop by the garden, have a look around and take a moment to reflect! All the benches, peace pole and Verazzo stones have been donated. Thank you to all who have donated! We are still accepting donations to the general fund for the garden and all donations will be acknowledged. We have received \$11,456.42 in donations so far, but we still have to reach \$27,000. We will be starting a gardening group for the garden soon. If you have interest in gardening or want to learn, please stay tuned!



‘TOGETHER WE CAN PROJECT’: Just a reminder that cans for our Youth Group Can Project fundraiser are now due back. Great chance to get rid of those extra coins hanging around in your pockets or window sills, etc. The Youth Group thanks you in advance for all your donations!

Property Committee Roof Report

As some of you know, the church roof shingles were in very poor condition. In fact, we've been trying for the last two years to have them replaced. Finally, on August 2nd and 3rd, the shingles were replaced. The completed project had at cost of \$31,000 or \$250 per bundle of shingles. If you would like to help “keep the roof over our heads”, please consider donating a bundle or part bundle of shingles. All contributions, regardless of size, are graciously appreciated.





Christian Development Committee Report Fall 2023

Happy Fall!!! Welcome back to our regularly scheduled programs! Youth Group started up again on October 1st and we have some exciting nights planned for this year. We are meeting Sunday nights from 7 to 9 pm in the church basement and are welcoming new members ages 13 to 18 years of age. We are having a fire on Topsail Beach on October 15th at 6 pm and are preparing for our annual pumpkin carving night and 'Trunk or Treat' on October 29th from 5 to 7 pm. Everyone is welcome. Bring your best decorated trunks!

The Book Club meets the last Wednesday of the month and the Quilting Club meets three Monday's each month. To join in helping with projects for the church and our community, please contact Pam Morgan @ 709-691-0214.

Sunday school should be starting up again soon! We are still looking for volunteers for our Sunday School teachers to help lead our program. Please reach out to Allison @709-765-3050 if you are interested in helping us get started!

We are starting a Grief Support Group here at First United. Contact Rev. Ian if interested.

We hope to see you all soon!

From Allison Randell
Chair, Christian Development Committee



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP HERE AT FIRST UNITED

Grief is a normal emotional response to significant loss. The abnormality of grief is frequently a consequence of the refusal to grieve or the inability of the grieving person to find those willing to care. Grief is universal and inescapable. Grieving is the intentional work grief stricken persons engage in enabling them to return, eventually, to full and satisfying lives. Guilt, shame, loneliness, anxiety, anger, terror, bewilderment, emptiness, profound sadness, despair, helplessness, are all a part of grief, and all are common to being human. To explore these feelings, we are starting a Grief Support Group here at First United. The first meeting will be held on October 10th at 7:30 pm in Trinity Hall.

\$\$\$ \$ Donating to First United \$\$\$ \$

The different ways you can contribute are: Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR), post-dated cheques, church drop-box and E-transfer. 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.

How to Contact/Connect with First United:

- Drop by the church office during regular office hours: **Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 am to 1 pm**
- Call the church office at **709-368-2194**/Fax us at **709-368-2195**
- Email us at: **firstunited@nf.aibn.com**
- Visit our website: **www.firstunitedchurchmp.ca**
- Sign up for **Constant Contact** so we can email information directly to your inbox
- Mail us at: **221 Park Avenue, P.O. Box 921, Mount Pearl, NL A1N 3C8**

