



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Winter Newsletter 2025

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“From the Desk of Reverend Karen”

Easter Sunday is April 20th this year, close to the latest date it can be in any year, given year. That allows us to spent more time in the season of Epiphany, the time between Christmas and Ash Wednesday. We get to contemplate scripture readings in worship which are omitted when Easter is early.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the forty-day period (Sundays are not counted) which invites us to reflect on the sacrifice that Jesus made for our sake. Many of you may wish to make personal gestures during Lent to remind yourselves of his suffering. You may give up a habit or pleasure, devote time to a worthy cause, or take time for daily devotion. There are many resources available to inspire you.

I have offered to lead a Bible Study on the Wednesdays during Lent. Those who attended the Fall study on ‘Parables’ suggested it be on ‘The Book of Revelation’. So, we will delve into its wonders in an introductory, survey-type Bible study beginning at 10:30 am on March 5th. No previous knowledge or experience is necessary, but you may want to read through the book if you have time. You can check how different translations deal with any particular texts on the free Bible Gateway site.

As you can see from the schedule of events and services, there are many other opportunities for worship and fellowship in the coming months. I trust you will find fulfillment and joy in those you are able to attend.

It is my hope and prayer that Rev. Ian will soon be restored to health and service, and I can rejoin you in the pews before the next newsletter.

I want to thank all of you who serve on committees and boards, those who help with worship and those who volunteer at various events. I might be the most visible member of the congregation on many occasions, but the church is composed of all our efforts. Every gift, no matter how big or small, makes a difference!

May God bless you in the coming year.



First United Church—Worship Schedule

- ◆ February 9th 11 am Worship Service/5th Sunday after Epiphany
- ◆ February 16th 11 am Worship Service/6th Sunday after Epiphany
- ◆ February 23rd 11 am Worship Service/7th Sunday after Epiphany
- ◆ March 2nd 11 am Communion Sunday/Transfiguration Sunday
- ◆ March 9th 11 am Worship Service/1st Sunday of Lent
- ◆ March 16th 11 am Worship Service/2nd Sunday of Lent
- ◆ March 23th 11 am Worship Service/3rd Sunday of Lent
- ◆ March 30th 11 am Worship Service/4th Sunday of Lent
- ◆ April 6th 11 am Communion Sunday/5th Sunday of Lent
- ◆ April 13th 11 am Worship Service/Palm-Passion Sunday
- ◆ April 18th 10:30 am UCW Good Friday Service
- ◆ April 20th 8 am Easter Sunday Communion Service
- 11 am Easter Sunday Celebration



**** Some other important services outside of First United

- ◆ **Gospel Hymn Sing:** February 9th at 6:30 pm at the Salvation Army Citadel, Ashford Drive
- ◆ **Frosty Festival Ecumenical Service:** February 16th at 3 pm at Park Ave Pentecostal Church
- ◆ **Easter Vigil:** April 19th at St. James United Church



Our Annual Congregational Meeting is tentatively scheduled for **March 23rd**. We are always looking for new members to help out on the Board. We are asking all committee chairs to have their Annual Reports to the office by February 28th. Any questions about helping out on our Board, please speak to our Board Chair, Joan Winsor. Thanking everyone in advance!



An Evening with *Kevin Collins* with special guests *'The Right Fit'* on Saturday, April 12th at 7:30 pm here at First United Church. Tickets \$30 and will go on sale on March 16th. Tickets can be purchased at the church office during office hours. Join us and be encouraged, uplifted and entertained by one of the most successful independent artists in the country.



Shrove Tuesday 'PANCAKE SUPPER'

March 4th from 5 to 7 pm

Please join us here at First United Church in Trinity Hall for a delicious meal of pancakes, bologna, sausage, dessert, juice, tea and coffee. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. No pre-sale tickets, pay at the door.



UCW NEWS



First United UCW meet one Monday per month in Trinity Hall. The ladies each bring a bagged lunch, tea and coffee is provided. The meetings are at 12:30 with lunch and socialization. After lunch, meetings consist of a brief worship and a business meeting. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.



Some upcoming events

- March 2nd - **UCW Centennial Service** - Celebrating 100 Years of the United Church of Canada. Held at Wesley United Church at 3 pm
- March 7th - **UCW World Day of Prayer Service** at 7:30 pm at Salvation Army Citadel on Ashford Drive
- March 17th - **UCW Lunch Meeting** at 12:30 (Wear Green for St. Patrick's Day)
- April 14th - **UCW Lunch Meeting** at 12:30
- April 18th - **Good Friday Service** at 10:30 am
- April 26th - **First UCW will host the Regional UCW AGM** in Trinity Hall, 9 am
- May 10th - **UCW Cakewalk and morning coffee**

UCW PLATE PROJECT UPDATE - The UCW Plate Project went out this time last year and is now due back. We hope you have enjoyed joining the UCW following along special dates of the year. Many thanks to those who have already sent in their project donations. Just drop your envelope in the collection plate or into the church mailbox. Thank you for your continued support.

Quilting Group



The Quilting Group normally meets the first, third and fifth Mondays of the month at 7:30 pm in the Multipurpose Room. We do a variety of individual and group projects. All levels of quilters are welcome. Contact Pam Morgan for more information at 709-691-0214 or email pmorgan@mun.ca

Book Club

The Book Club meets the last Wednesday of each month. Contact Pam Morgan for more information.



The Youth Group continues to collect beverage containers. If you would like to drop off your beverage recycling at the church, here's what can be recycled: aluminum can; plastic containers; glass bottles; steel cans; drink boxes (tetra); mini sips (drink pouches) etc. (Please wash out all bottles and remove all caps before dropping them off.) The Youth Group thanks you for your support. 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.)



Our Website/Facebook Page/Office Hours

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



Office Hours are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 am to 2 pm.