

First United Church

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2018

Worship Leaders Cheryl Perry, Donald Schmidt
Music Alleluia Ringers, Alleluia Singers, Nikki Attwell,
..... Frances Chiasson, Children's Choir, Jessica Crawford, Christine Moore
Greeters Benjamin Seethaler, Charlotte Seethaler, Bobbie Tough
Ushers..... Alyssa Campbell, Maggie Craig, Joan Grahl
Sound System..... Carl Stef
Projectionist Carol Drury
Coffee Hour Joa Lazarus, Judy Valks
Minute Person..... Beryl Itani

Welcome Table in the hall after worship - Information about activities and services we offer at First United.

Prayer Cycle - This Sunday we join with other churches to pray for Zion United Church in Armstrong and Heather Burton.

Offering Counters Today – Maggie Craig, Ron Green, Edna Rennie.

Peace & Justice Table in the hall after worship - Environmental issues, urgent actions & Fair-Trade items.

Healing Ministry - Please contact Judy at 250-862-0712 for appointment.

Here we gather to seek, know and express God's love in an open community which embraces diversity. Through the use of language, imagery, and metaphors that are inclusive of gender, sexual orientation, race and ability, we affirm that all of creation bears the image of God. While we are not always successful, this remains an important goal.

Gathering

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell, Welcome, Announcements

The Peace

Advent Prayer and Candle lighting (Burke/Seethaler family)

Prayer **(unison)**

Thank you, God, for your promise of joy. As we prepare for Christ's coming, help us to recognize the moments of joy in our lives and to live joyfully so that others may come see the joy that comes from following in your way.

Sung response "Come, Lord Jesus"

(Carey Landry, The Rainbow Songbook)

**Our hearts are open, our hearts are open,
Our hearts are open: come and be born in our hearts.**

Children leave for Sunday school

Cantata: Festival of Carols by Joseph Martin

Choir and Bells: "A Christmas Processional"

- O Come All Ye Faithful vs. 3

First Reading: Genesis 1 (Janet Watson)

Choir: "Lo, How a Rose e're Blooming" (soloist: Tom Kemp)

Second Reading: Micah 4 (George McKinney)

Choir & Congregation: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Third Reading: Isaiah 9 (Liz Kozuska)

Choir: "Celtic Advent Carol"

Fourth Reading: Isaiah 11 (Tom Kemp)

Choir & Congregation: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Fifth Reading: Luke 1 (Margaret Newbury-Jones)

Choir: “My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord” (soloist: Liz Kozuska)

Sixth Reading: Luke 2 (Mike Chiasson)

Children’s & Adult Choir: “Cradle Carols”

- including Congregational Singing: Silent Night vs 1 & 2

Seventh Reading: Luke 2 (Ralph Milton)

Children’s & Adult Choir: “A Noel Celebration”

Eighth Reading: Matthew 2 (Shelley McLeod)

Choir: “A Christmas Invitation”

- including Presentation of Our Offering

Ninth Reading: John 1 (John Powell)

Choir: “A Christmas Thanksgiving” (soloist: Janet Watson)

Prayer of Intercession

The Lord’s Prayer (spoken)

Sending Forth

Blessing

Choir & Bells “A Christmas Recessional”

Postlude

Next Week’s Lectionary Readings:

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55

Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

Ministry Team

Donald Schmidt (*Minister for Worship & Leadership Development*)

Cheryl Perry (*Minister for Families & Social Justice*)

Frances Chiasson (*Minister of Music*)

Jessica Crawford (*Accompanist*)

Karen Kranabetter (*Liturgical Artist*)

Rachel Anweiler (*Youth Co-ordinator*)

Pat Totton (*Parish Nurse*)

Rev. Beverley Milton (*Minister Emeritus*)

Tanya Pritchard (*Office Administrator*)

Vivian Dunne (*Assistant Administrator*)

Keith Crawley (*Bookkeeper*)

Fikrije & Mahmut Kacuri (*Custodians*)

Office Hours: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Monday – Thursday, Fridays 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

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With Ringing and Singing for Christmas Joy Our own Alleluia Ringers and Alleluia Singers will present a concert December 16 at 2pm in the sanctuary. Admission by donation at the door, suggested amount \$12.

Advent Giving Bags Turn your “want list” into someone else’s “need list” as you focus this Advent season on the journey to Bethlehem. Pick up a set of bags at the Peace & Justice Table. Follow the instructions to fill and return these to the church each Sunday of Advent.

Rising to the Challenge Capital Fund year end drive! On November 18 the congregation met and decided overwhelmingly to support the recommendation of FirstUP! to proceed towards the replacement of the church hall with a new building. Terms of reference for this fund were approved by the Official Board in the spring. Now we’d like to kick off this ambitious project with a year-end drive to raise an initial \$50,000. Look for the table in the hall after worship where you’ll find more information!

New Year’s Day Dinner: Food Donations Needed We still need donations of food for the New Year’s Day Dinner including all meats, ham, roast beef, and turkey. We also need salads and veggie trays and desserts. Look for the table in the hall this week or phone Nancy @ 250 765-8776 email nancy.hillmer1@gmail.com. Thank you!

Reading Circle From 2010 to 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission documented the experiences of anyone personally affected by the Indian Residential School Experience. In June 2015 they published their final report, which outlined 94 Calls to Actions for Canadians. Okanagan Regional Library will be hosting a Reading Circle at the Downtown Library. The Reading Circle will read the **Executive Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission: Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future**. The Circle will gather the second Tuesday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 for a total of five months: January 8: February 12, March 12, April 9 and May 14. Debbie Hubbard a member here at First United will be one of the Circle facilitators. Pre-registration prior to January 8 is required as there is some pre-reading for the 8th If you are interested in learning more about or registering for the Reading Circle contact Debbie Hubbard at 250-469-4468 or at sowingseedsofpossibilities@gmail.com or check it out on Eventbrite: <https://areadingcircleforreconciliation.eventbrite.ca>

One day Women's Retreat Brochures are now available in the office for this retreat on Saturday, January 26, 2019. 9am-5pm in Glenmore.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED DECEMBER 16 - 23, 2018

Today	8:30AM Informal worship: 14
	10:00AM Worship - Cantata: Sanctuary
	11:15AM Coffee Hour: Hall/Kitchen
	2:00PM Christmas Joy concert: Sanctuary
Monday	10:00AM Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: 14
Tuesday	10:00AM Coffee Hour & Outreach Ministry: Hall
Wednesday	1:00PM Book Study: 14
	6:30PM Book Study: 14
Thursday	8:30AM Healing Ministry: Vestry
	10:00AM Coffee Hour & Outreach Ministry: Hall
Next Sunday	8:30AM Informal Worship: 14
	10:00AM Worship: Sanctuary
	11:15AM Coffee Hour: Hall/Kitchen
	3:00PM Alleluia Ringers rehearsal: Belfry
	5:00PM Blue Christmas service: 14