

Welcome to First! We're glad you are here!

Rev. Hoeun Lee will be in the office Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 9 am to 3 pm. Phone: 519-745-8487 (ext. 208)  
Cell: 519-722-5990  
Email: [rev.hoeun.firstunited@gmail.com](mailto:rev.hoeun.firstunited@gmail.com)



Sunday, January 19 – Second after Epiphany

**Lectionary Readings:**

Isaiah 62: 1-5, Psalm 36: 5-10 (VU p. 762), 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11,  
John 2: 1-11



**Deadline for submission to the weekly updates is Tuesday by 12:00 p.m.**

**CONTRIBUTIONS:**

To get your offering to the office you can use PAR, e transfer to [firstunitedchurch@rogers.com](mailto:firstunitedchurch@rogers.com), website donation [www.firstunitedchurch.ca](http://www.firstunitedchurch.ca) or send a cheque. Cheques can be dropped off at the church mailbox which is located at the Entrance on the William Street side of the building.

**Also**, you may send your cheque to  
First United Church  
16 William St. West  
Waterloo ON  
N2L 1J3

Reminder, credit card companies have a fee of around 3-5%. If you wish First to get the full amount, then please add that percentage to your contribution.

**ANNUAL REPORT INFORMATION**

**PREPARATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT**

All groups and committees preparing information for the Annual Meeting on March 9, 2025, are reminded of the following timelines:

**Friday January 17, 2025** All reports must be in Word Document format, are to be sent electronically to the **new address only** (not the church office). [firstunited.annualreport@gmail.com](mailto:firstunited.annualreport@gmail.com)

Please submit Financial reports to treasurer, Paul Miller  
[pmiller0324@rogers.com](mailto:pmiller0324@rogers.com)

**TUESDAY NOON HOUR CONCERTS**

**47th SEASON!** Join us on **Tuesday Jan. 14th** for the opening of our 47th season of FREE Noon Hour Concerts! **Larry Larson (trumpet) and Lori Gemmell (harp)** will thrill us with a performance you won't want to miss. Remember to pre-order your lunches by Thursday Noon at [firstunitedconcerts@gmail.com](mailto:firstunitedconcerts@gmail.com). (egg, ham, salmon or tuna on whole wheat \$6; butter tart, nanaimo or date square \$2; tea or coffee \$2) See you there!

**FRIDAYS AT FIRST**

Our weekly Fridays at First program which operates during the winter months (November 1 to mid-April) to serve people who need a time for socializing and a nutritious meal, is in need of money. The program depends on donations, and we have not asked for help in the past year or so.

The group also provides meals to Better Tent City. The Food Bank provides boxes of ingredients, and Cathie Stewart-Savage and her faithful volunteer crew prepare about 100 meals (40-50 for Fridays at First, 60 for Better Tent City). Other volunteers come in to serve, and others to clean up. Guests begin to arrive about 2:00 for socializing and snacks, dinner is served at 6:00, and the doors close about 7:30, when the clean-up crew takes over.

As we all know, food is very expensive, and even with the Food Bank donation, there is much to purchase--between \$800-\$1,000 per month. Boxes from the Food Bank arrive on Thursday, and from that Cathie plans a menu and purchases what is needed, always with good nutrition in mind.

There are envelopes available for donations. In order to receive a tax receipt, cheques should be made out to First United Church, with Fridays at First in the allocation line. Any amount will be greatly appreciated. If a tax receipt is not required, the cheque can be made to Out of the Cold, First United Church.

Shirley Irish, Treasurer, on behalf of Fridays at First.

**THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

**(JANUARY 18-25, 2025)**

During the Week for Prayer for Christian Unity in 2025, we will have a pulpit exchange with St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Kitchener. Rev. Sebastian will preach at First United on January 19th(Sun) as our guest preacher, while Rev. Hoeun will preach at St. Matthew's Lutheran. Let us come together in prayer and unity as we celebrate our shared faith.

**MESSY CHURCH RETURNS!**

In collaboration with Trillium Lutheran Church, our Messy Church program resumes on Saturday, January 18, at 4 PM. This month's theme is "Jesus Heals Bart" and features fun crafts, engaging activities, stories, hymn singing, and a shared meal.

Explore the story of Bartimaeus through interactive tools like vision simulators, a cane, braille items, and games like goalball. It's a hands-on, family-friendly experience you won't want to miss!

**JOINT YOUTH GROUP**

Hello Friends!

Wednesday, January 8th is our first youth group meeting of the new year! We will be holding a craft night, so bring along any craft you are working on, or make use of the supplies we will provide! In addition, get ready to hear about Moses and how he was a unique kind of guy. We will meet at Parkminster United Church from 7-8:30pm in the youth room.

**Our next dates:**

Wednesday, Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>, Wednesday, Feb 5<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, Feb 19<sup>th</sup>

We'd like to kindly remind everyone to fill out our registration forms if you have not done so this fall. This is essential as we enter into another year of safely running youth group!

Come as you are! We strive to create a brave space for all of you by being an explicitly 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusive and neurodiverse accepting group! We also recognize that youth group can be intimidating for Indigenous and racialized youth, and we are committed to building a welcoming and inclusive group. Please feel free to contact us at [bethany.mcmullen@parkuc.ca](mailto:bethany.mcmullen@parkuc.ca) if you have any questions.

YOU ARE LOVED. YOU MATTER TO US. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

Blessings,  
Bethany McMullen and Rebecca Whiting

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### SPEAKER SERIES:

#### **United Against Hate: Racism, Religion & Conflict in the Middle East and at Home**

You are invited to join Islington United Church on Sunday, January 19, 26 and February 2, 2025 at 1 pm for a Speaker Series entitled United Against Hate: Racism, Religion & Conflict in the Middle East & at Home. *Virtual or In-person in Toronto.*

The Anti Racism Working Group of Islington United Church is hosting this three part education and information speaker series and the talks will take place in the sanctuary of the Church. The speakers are passionate experts who will help shed some light on these important and urgent issues.

**Speakers include** Dr. Karen Mock, whose talk will focus on Antisemitism; Amira Elghawaby, who is Canada's first special representative on Combatting Islamophobia; and Brian Carwana of Encounter World Religions, who will help us understand the historical causes of the Israeli Palestinian conflict. We invite everyone to join us in person or online by zoom for all three dates. Registration is at [islingtonunited.org](http://islingtonunited.org).

### CONRAD GREBEL EVENTS:

#### **LOOKING FOR MORE PURPOSES IN YOUR LIFE?**

Whether you are interested in exploring vocations of ministry and service, deepening your understanding of Christianity and the church, or seeking personal enrichment, the Master of Theological Studies program at Conrad Grebel University College could be a great fit for you. Apply by February 1<sup>st</sup>. Full tuition scholarships available for full-time Canadian students. [www.uwaterloo.ca/theological-studies](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/theological-studies)

#### **MASTER OF PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES (IMPACS) PROGRAM**

Create meaningful impact with the Master of Peace and Conflict Studies (IMPACS) program at Conrad Grebel University College, University of Waterloo. Combine interdisciplinary scholarship and experiential learning with a focus on nonviolent peacebuilding and community-led change. Apply by February 1. Discover more at [www.uwaterloo.ca/impacs](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/impacs) or register for an upcoming information session.

<b>Sunday, Jan 12</b>		
10:30 am	Worship – The Baptism of Jesus	Sanctuary
12:00 pm	MTSpace (Homecoming)	Chapel
2:30 pm	MTSpace (Ukrainian Dance)	Labyrinth Room
4:00 pm	MTSpace(Cinema Club)	
<b>Monday, Jan 13</b>		
9:00 am	Baileys Foods	Hilliard Hall/Kitchen
5:00 pm	KWYO – Sinfonia	Sanctuary
7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Parlour
7:00 pm	Scouts	Hilliard Hall
<b>Tuesday, Jan 14</b>		
8:00 am	Noon Hour Concert Prep	Hilliard Hall/Kitchen
10:00 am	MTSpace (BID)	Chapel
12:15 pm	Noon Hour Concert	Sanctuary
5:00 pm	KWYO – Strings	Sanctuary
5:15 pm	KWYO – Preludium Strings	Chapel
<b>Wednesday, Jan 15</b>		
10:00 am	MTSpace (BID)	Chapel
6:30 pm	Sparkes	Chapel
6:30 pm	Embers	Hilliard Hall
<b>Thursday, Jan 16</b>		
10:00 am	Bell Choir	Sanctuary
12:45 pm	Musicians	Parlour
1:00 pm	Sr Sing-A-Long	Chapel
4:00 pm	Family Choir	Chapel
7:00 pm	Gallery Choir	Chapel
<b>Friday, Jan 17</b>		
1:00 pm	Fridays at First	Hilliard Hall/Kitchen
<b>Saturday, Jan 18</b>		
9:00 am	Knitting Group	Parlour
1:00 pm	MTSpace(Ukrainian Dance)	Chapel
1:00 pm	Dundgeon & Dragons	Labyrinth Room
2:00 pm	Messy Church	Hilliard Hal/Kitchen/ Labyrinth Room
<b>Sunday, Jan 19</b>		
10:30 am	Worship – 2 <sup>nd</sup> after Epiphany	Sanctuary.
11:30 am	Refreshments & Conversation	Hilliard Hall
2:00 pm	MTSpace (Ukrainian Dance)	Chapel

## WEEKLY UPDATE

of happenings, events and concerns of our  
**First United Church Family**



**January 12, 2025**

Minister	Rev. Hoemun Lee
Music Director	Kathleen King Martin
Church Administrator	Sheena Curwood
AV Technician	Harold Arnett
Custodian	Jay Brooker
Assistant Custodian	Craig Lennox

16 William Street West  
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 1J3  
Office: 519-745-8487 x201  
Office Hours: Mon-Thu 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**email:** [office@firstunitedchurch.ca](mailto:office@firstunitedchurch.ca)

**website:** [firstunitedchurch.ca](http://firstunitedchurch.ca)

#### **Chair of the Board**

**email:** [firstunitedboardchair@gmail.com](mailto:firstunitedboardchair@gmail.com)

Greeters: Ken & Nola Mott

Readers: Douglas Facey

Serving refreshments this month: UCW