

Welcome to First! We are glad you are here!

**For Emergency Pastoral Care please see below:**

Until Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup> – contact Rev. Fred Monteith 519-575-6407; [fwmonteith@gmail.com](mailto:fwmonteith@gmail.com)  
 From December 25<sup>th</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup> 2026 – contact Rev. Roz Vincent Haven Phone: 519-741-6098

**REMINDER TO ALL GROUPS** – Please ensure that **ALL Windows are closed, ALL lights are off and ALL doors are securely locked before leaving the Church.**



**Wednesday December 24 – Christmas Eve**

Isaiah 9: 2-7; Psalm 96 (VU p.816); Titus 2: 11-14;  
 Luke 2: 1-14 (15-20)

Regional Council Prayer Cycle  
 Belwood-Metz Pastoral Charge



**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.

**DONATIONS TO BE INCLUDED IN 2025 TAX RECEIPT**

Donations to be included this year by Monday December 29 by 10:00 am to ensure the deposit is made that day.

**CONTRIBUTIONS ENVELOPES FOR 2026**

Please contact the office at 519-745-8487 Ext 201 or email at [office@firstunitedchurch.ca](mailto:office@firstunitedchurch.ca) if you would like pre-printed contribution envelopes for 2026.

**FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY**

The flowers in the Sanctuary are placed by Cathie Stewart Savage and family in memory of Michael Savage and also in honour of what would have been their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.



**PREPARATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT**

All groups and committees preparing information for the Annual Meeting on March 1, 2026, are reminded of the following timelines:

**Sunday January 18, 2026** 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)

**STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2026**

First United Church Waterloo Stewardship appeal 2026  
**Have YOU returned your Commitment Response Form??**

We are grateful for those of you who have returned your completed response forms including indicating areas you are offering to volunteer your time.

It's not too late  
 Although we asked to have them returned by Nov 30, we believe the saying "Better Late than Never" and strongly encourage you to give us your best indication of how you are planning to support our Ministries at First, by returning a Commitment Response Form before the end of December.

(Copies can be found on the table or shelves in the Narthex, and returned to the office)

**HOLIDAY MEAL**

First United's Holiday Meal will be served on Boxing Day, Friday December 26<sup>th</sup>. St. John's Kitchen will be closed that day to allow the people who regularly serve there a well-deserved day off. We help out this one day a year so that no one has to go hungry over the holiday season. It has become a great tradition for many of us at First to take part in this joy filled service to the community.

We welcome your help to provide dessert or juice, to prep food ahead of the event or to help during the event. Financial donations are also welcome. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Cathie Stewart Savage at 519-589-2303 or email [css2303@gmail.com](mailto:css2303@gmail.com)

1. If donating a dessert please drop off at the church December 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am
2. If donating juice you can drop off anytime. Please mark it is for the Holiday Meal.
3. Helping in person the shifts are: 9:00 am to 11:30 am; or 11:00 am to 1:30 pm or 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm.

Thank you to all of you who take time in this busy season to help serve our neighbors and friends each year.

**ARTISANS AT FIRST 2025**

Thanks to the many hands that made Artisans at First 2025 a successful event netting \$4053. for First United. The Bake Sale flew even higher this year, netting \$1985! The Lunch Room also exceeded last year. Unfortunately the craft table had few new items this year so brought in only \$98. I guess the message is "Stick to the baking, not the sewing/knitting/crocheting". Coordinators Alice Bieman, Cathie Stewart Savage, Lynne Blake- Dickson and Muriel Omand-Naylor were key to a smooth running day.

Joan Westcott

UPCOMING EVENTS AT FIRST FROM DECEMBER 21 TO DECEMBER 28		
EVENT	DATE	TIME
Joint Service at Westminster – Longest Night	Sunday December 21	7:00 pm
Christmas Eve Service at First	Wednesday December 24	7:00 pm
Intercultural Christmas Potluck Dinner	Thursday December 25	5:00 pm
Holiday Meal (Lunch)	Friday December 26	11:30 am
Joint Service at Emmanuel	Sunday December 28	10:00 am

**KNITTING GROUP**

The Knitting Group will be cancelled Saturday December 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>. We will resume knitting, chatting, crocheting, chatting, card making and of course chatting in the new year on Saturday January 10<sup>th</sup> in the Parlour. Have a wonderful Christmas and all the best for the coming year.

Joanne (The Knitting Elf)

**CHURCH OFFICE CHRISTMAS HOURS**



**The Church Office will be CLOSED:**  
 Thursday December 25<sup>th</sup>  
 Friday December 26<sup>th</sup>  
 Wednesday December 31<sup>st</sup>  
 Thursday January 1<sup>st</sup>

**The Church Office will be OPEN:**  
 Monday December 22<sup>nd</sup> – Regular Hours  
 Tuesday December 23<sup>rd</sup> – Regular Hours  
 Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup> – Closing at 1:00 pm  
 Monday January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – Regular Hours



	<b>Sunday Dec 21</b>	
10:30 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:30 am	Sunday School	Parlour/Labyrinth Room
11:30 am	Refreshments	Hilliard Hall
<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Longest Night Service</b>	<b>Westminster</b>
	<b>Monday, Dec 22</b>	
	<b>Tuesday, Dec 23</b>	
9:00 am	Baileys Foods	Hilliard Hall/Kitchen
	<b>Wednesday, Dec 24</b>	
<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURES</b>	
7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary
	<b>Thursday, Dec 25</b>	
9:00 am	<b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	
10:00 am	Intercultural Christmas Potluck Dinner	Hilliard Hall/Kitchen
	<b>Friday, Dec 26</b>	
9:00 am	<b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	
<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>HOLIDAY MEAL</b>	<b>Hilliard Hall/Kitchen/Parlour</b>
	<b>Saturday, Dec 27</b>	
1:00 pm	Dungeons & Dragons	Labyrinth Room
	<b>Sunday, Dec 28</b>	
<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>4 CHURCHES WORSHIP SERVICE</b>	<b>Emmanuel</b>



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



**December 21, 2025**

Minister	Rev. Hoeun 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  
**website:** firstunitedchurch.ca

**Chair of the Board**  
**email:** firstunitedboardchair@gmail.com

Guest Minister:	Rev. Fred Monteith
Greeter(s):	Pauline Williams
Reader(s):	Joanne MacPhail
Lay Leader:	Sharon Gowland
Serving Refreshments this week:	M & P Committee