

Welcome to First! We are glad you are here!

We welcome Rev. Eva Mezo this morning.

February 17 to 23, 2026 please contact Rev. Joe Gaspar (Parkminster United Church) at 519-504-9835 or revjoe@parkuc.ca.
Rev. Hoeun is taking study leave this week.

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.**



Sunday February 22, 2026

Genesis 12:1-4a, 3:1-7; Psalm 121 (VU p.842);
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

Tottenham-Rich Hill 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

Etransfer to firstunitedchurch@rogers.com,
Website donation www.firstunitedchurch.ca
or 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

Please make cheques payable to – **FIRST UNITED CHURCH**

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.

CURRENCY FOR KIDS

If you have any leftover coins from trips to other countries, you are encouraged to donate them to this U.C.W. project. The coins are given to Family & Children Services of Waterloo Region to help kids in need. The green container can be found on the table just outside the sanctuary.

TUESDAY NOON HOUR CONCERTS

Join us on **Tuesday Feb 24th** for our FREE Noon Hour Concert here at First, featuring **Phoenix Trio Wendy Wagler(Flute), Cathy Anderson(Cello), Beth Ann de Sousa (Piano)**. The Concert runs from 12:15 to 12:45. Please remember to pre-order your lunch by Thursday NOON at firstunitedconcerts@gmail.com. Menu: egg, ham, salmon or tuna sandwich on whole wheat (\$6); butter tart, nanaimo or date square (\$2); tea or coffee (\$2). Donations are also very welcome. Copies of the full schedule are available in the Narthex or at firstunitedchurch.ca.

ANNUAL MEETING

Join us **Sunday, March 1**, following Service
The Nominating Committee could use your help filling these 2026 positions: Vice Chair of the Board and Chair of the Ministry and Personnel Committee.
Also, two committees would like 2 new members: Property Committee that looks after our building and Faith Development Committee that is mainly responsible for children and youth programs as well as other spiritual development opportunities for all ages such as book studies.
If you are interested or know of someone you would like to suggest please speak to Nominating Committee members Marg Dickson, Muriel Omand-Naylor or Mary Joan Brooker. We are still hoping to develop an Affirming/Inclusion Team because we are an Affirming Congregation. Speak to Hoeun if you would like more information.

YOUTH

Join us for Youth Group at First United Church on March 4th!
This week is going to be fun (and delicious!) because we are having a DIY food night. We will be making – mini naan pizzas, quesadillas, parfaits. There will be lots of toppings and choices so everyone can create something they love. It's going to be a relaxed evening of cooking, laughing, and spending time together. If you have any food preferences or dietary needs, please let us know ahead of time so we can make sure there are options for you!
FUTURE DATES: March 11th and March 25th

KITCHEN CONVERSATIONS WITH THE MODERATOR

This is a friendly reminder that we are continuing with the Lenten series entitled 'Kitchen Conversations with the Moderator' on Tuesdays at 9:00 am via Zoom. The link for the gathering is on our website in the Event section for 'Praying with Scripture'. We watched the first video and had a good conversation afterwards sharing our thoughts on the question: 'What nourishes your soul?'

Please email me at macphail@golden.net to let me know if you will be joining us on Tuesday at 9:00 am, so I know who to let in to our Zoom meeting. I hope you will join us – all are welcome!

If you want to watch the first video it's on the YouTube channel for United Church of Canada.

Joanne MacPhail

We invite you to join us at Coffee Time following the worship service on **Sunday, March 8th** as we acknowledge and thank Sheena Curwood for her service to First United Church as Church Administrator. The Ministry and Personnel Committee

On **Sunday, March 15th** First United Church will host a screening of the award winning documentary *Sugarcane*.

Doors Open - 1pm, Show Starts - 2pm.

SUGARCANE, the award-winning debut feature documentary from Julian Brave NoiseCat and Emily Kassie, is a groundbreaking investigation into an Indian residential school, shedding light on years of forced separation, assimilation and abuse that Indigenous children experienced at the hands of Church and government. This urgent and timely film brings the hidden story of cultural genocide to audiences worldwide while celebrating the resilience of Native people as they work to overcome cycles of intergenerational trauma.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

DaCapo Chamber Choir

Enchant, Directed by Leonard Enns
February 28th – 7:30pm & March 1st – 3:00pm
Trillium Lutheran, 22 Willow St, Waterloo
Featuring Grandmother Moon and The Passing of the Year
Tickets: Adults \$30, Seniors \$25, Post Secondary Students \$15, Youth & Children (18 & under) \$5
Tickets and full details at www.dacapochoir.ca or call 519-725-7549

Wesley Presents

Mill Race Folk Traditions featuring- **Portage**
February 28th – 7:30pm

Wesley United Church, 6 Cambridge St, Cambridge

Portage is a Canadian 'super-group' of five fiddler/multi-instrumentalist/singers: high energy fiddling from many traditions meets innovative arrangements with vocals, guitar, cello, piano, accordion, and more!!

World Day of Prayer 2026

March 6th – 10:30

St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 54 Benton St, Kitchener

GRAND PHILHARMONIC CHOIR

Martin Palmeri's Misatango

Saturday, March 7th, 7:30pm, St Matthews Centre, Kitchener

Imagine a music experience that combines the traditional beauty of the Latin Mass with the emotional intensity and rich, dramatic colours of Argentinian tango!

Tickets: \$40, \$20 for students and under 30s, \$10 for high school and younger)

Bach Vespers in Lent

March 8th, 4:00pm

St John the Evangelist Anglican Church, 23 Water St N

Admission by Donation

Bach, Cantata 161, Komm, du Süße Todesstunde

Harris, Bring us, O Lord God

Purcell, Thou Knowest, Lord

Friday Lenten Organ Recitals

Church of the Holy Saviour, 12:15pm

33 Allen Street East, Waterloo

Soup Luncheon following recitals (Suggested Donation \$10)

February 27th – Bradley Moggach

March 6th – Emma Allan, Cello

Mark D. Himmelman, Organ

	Sunday Feb 22	
10:30 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:30 am	Sunday School	Parlour/Labyrinth Room
11:30 am	Refreshments	Hilliard Hall
	Monday, Feb 23	
5:00 pm	KWYO – Youth Sinfonia	Sanctuary
	Tuesday, Feb 24	
7:30 am	Noon Hour Concert Prep	Hilliard Hall/Kitchen
12:00 pm	Noon Hour Concert	Sanctuary
5:00 pm	KWYO – Youth Strings	Sanctuary
5:00 pm	KWYO – Preludium Strings	Chapel
5:00 pm	KWYO – Sectionals	Parlour/Labyrinth Room
7:00 pm	SHOW – Board Meeting	Parlour
	Wednesday, Feb 25	
6:30 pm	Embers	Hilliard Hall
6:30 pm	Sparks	Chapel
	Thursday, Feb 26	
9:30 am	Bell Choir	Sanctuary
4:00 pm	Family Choir	Chapel
7:00 pm	Gallery Choir	Chapel
	Friday, Feb 27	
1:00 pm	Fridays at First	Hilliard Hall/Kitchen
	Saturday, Feb 28	
9:00am	Knitting Group	Parlour
1:00 pm	Dungeons & Dragons	Labyrinth Room
1:00 pm	Coldest Night of the Year	Hilliard Hall/Kitchen
	Sunday, Mar 1	
10:30 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:30 am	Sunday School	Parlour/Labyrinth Room
11:30 am	Refreshments	Hilliard Hall

WEEKLY UPDATE

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



February 22, 2026

Minister
Music Director
Church Administrator
AV Technician
Custodian
Assistant Custodian

Rev. Hoemun Lee
Kathleen King Martin
Carla Drake
Harold Arnett
Jay Brooker
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. Eva Mezo
Greeter(s):	Shirley Irish
Reader(s):	Nancy Lennox
Lay Leader:	Vern Hall
Serving Refreshments this month:	UCW