

Welcome to First! We are glad you are here!

We welcome Rev. Andrea Allan

EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE

Sunday, March 22nd, please contact
Rev. Joe Gaspar (519) 885-0935 (ext 23)

March 23rd thru March 29th, please contact
Rev. Hoen Lee 519-745-8487 (ext 208)

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 March 29, 2026

Liturgy of the Psalms

Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (VU p. 837);

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16 (VU p. 758)
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

Elmvale: St. John’s 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. Please make cheques payable to –

FIRST UNITED CHURCH

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.

PAINTING OF FIRST UNITED

Thanks to all who purchased cards or prints of Debbie Ellis’ painting of First United Church. This fundraiser netted \$202 income for First United. Joan Westcott

VERY LAST TUESDAY NOON HOUR CONCERT

Join us on **Tuesday Mar 24th** for our **Very Last Free Noon Hour Concert** here at First, featuring **Lucy Zhang (Violin) and Murasaki Matsutani (piano)**. **Murasaki is a 6 year old child prodigy who has performed with our Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony**. 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.

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’. Please join us for the next few videos and good discussion.

Tuesday March 24 - Episode 6 – Alydia’s Bulla
If you want to watch previous videos they are located on the YouTube channel for United Church of Canada.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES



March 29 th	Palm Sunday	10:30 am	First United
April 2 nd	Maudy Thursday	7:00 pm	First United
April 3 rd	Good Friday	10:00 am	Parkminster
April 5 th	Easter Sunday	10:30 am	First United

YOUTH GROUP ANNOUNCEMENT

Join us March 25th at First United Church at 7:00 – 8:30pm to learn about Palm Sunday and do tapestry making. We also are wanting to start thinking about our outreach project for the year, come with good ideas!

FUTURE DATES: April 8th & April 22nd

BOARD UPDATE

First’s Board met March 9th. Our top concerns are finances, governance, and what is First’s direction. The Board will be holding a leadership retreat on April 18th, facilitated by Rev. Greg Smith-Young to assist the Board in envisioning First’s future. Rev. Smith-Young will preach on April 19th and will facilitate a congregational conversation after the service with the congregation. Please mark the date in your calendars and come share your thoughts and ideas. The Board also approved engaging a consultant to lead us in a process to make strategic choices for First, to create a right-sized system of governance, and to make plans for implementation of the strategy and governance selected. Cognizant of the financial issues First has, funds for the engagement will come from Trustee funds appropriate for this project and not from the church’s general fund. The congregation will be consulted throughout the process as we need your support to be successful!

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA SURVEY

The United Church of Canada has launched a short survey inviting anyone connected to the life of the church to share their awareness and experiences with Toward 2035, the framework introduced in 2025 to guide our shared direction for the next decade. You can read more about the Call and Vision behind this work on *The Call and Vision* webpage. You will find a link to the survey in the Reflections and Ripples & Weekly Update sent out on Friday. Survey Deadline – March 31, 2026
Thank you for taking a few minutes to add your voice.
Kristin Snell, Chair of the Board.

UCW PALM SUNDAY LUNCH



Please join us for a Crockpot Soup Lunch in Hilliard Hall on **March 29 at 12:00pm**. There will be 9 different crock pot soups to enjoy. The soups will be served with Buns/Crackers, Cake & Ice Cream, Coffee, Tea & Juice. Free will donations would be appreciated.

WATERLOO WAYSIDE

Interested in joining our Board of Directors?
 Wayside is a registered charity program operating at Emmanuel United Church that offers support to those experiencing housing and income instability including
 Bridgeport Café lunch program (Tuesday to Friday)
 Sharewear clothing exchange (Tuesday to Friday)
 Food Bank food bag distribution (Thursday afternoons)
 Wayside is seeking new volunteer directors. The deadline for applications has been extended. Anyone interested should visit the website <https://waterloowayside.org/join-our-board/>

SAVE THE DATE - ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

First United Church Garage & Plant Sale – May 1 & 2
 Friday 12pm – 5:30pm Saturday 9am – 11am
 Thursday, April 30 - Please bring your donations of clothing, linens, shoes, boots, books, purses, jewelry, records, CDs, DVDs, bikes, small appliances & electronics, kitchenware, toys, games, puzzles, baby items and decorative items for the house to Hilliard Hall.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

FRIDAY LENTEN ORGAN RECITALS

Church of the Holy Saviour, 12:15pm
 33 Allen Street East, Waterloo
 Soup Luncheon following recitals (Suggested Donation \$10)
 March 27th – Maria Gajraj

SING IN SOLIDARITY

Sunday, March 22, 4pm – 5pm
 Trillium Lutheran Church, 22 Willow St
 Feeling anxious or powerless? Unsure of how to respond to increased intolerance towards our neighbours, both near and far? Are you looking for a way to respond to cultural division with LOVE and INCLUSION? Come and use your voice!
 Inspired by the *Singing Resistance* movement in Minneapolis, citizens from all walks of life are invited to sing in solidarity on March 22 at 4pm. We will be learning songs of LOVE, RESISTANCE and HOPE together. No experience necessary. All ages are welcome.
 This event is being hosted by Trillium Lutheran Church, but is being organized by a collaboration of churches, schools, community choirs and concerned citizens. For additional information, please refer to the website <https://trilliumwaterloo.ca/events/>
 Or contact Sara Wahl – sarajwahl@gmail.com

	Sunday Mar 22	
10:30 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:30 am	Sunday School	Parlour/Labyrinth Room
11:30 am	Refreshments	Hilliard Hall
	Monday, Mar 23	
5:00 pm	KWYO – Youth Sinfonia	Sanctuary
	Tuesday, Mar 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
	Wednesday, Mar 25	
6:30 pm	Embers	Hilliard Hall
6:30 pm	Sparks	Chapel
	Thursday, Mar 26	
9:30 am	Bell Choir	Sanctuary
4:00 pm	Family Choir	Chapel
7:00 pm	Gallery Choir	Chapel
	Friday, Mar 27	
1:00 pm	Fridays at First	Hilliard Hall/Kitchen
4:00 pm	MTSpace	Chapel
6:00 pm	Conrad Grebel Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	Saturday, Mar 28	
9:00am	Knitting Group	Parlour
1:00 pm	Dungeons & Dragons	Labyrinth Room
7:30pm	Conrad Grebel Concert	Sanctuary
	Sunday, Mar 29	
10:30 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:30 am	Sunday School	Parlour/Labyrinth Room
11:30 am	UCW Crockpot Soup Lunch	Hilliard Hall

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



March 22, 2026

Minister	Rev. Ho Eun Lee
Music Director	Kathleen King Martin
Church Administrator	Carla Drake
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. Andrea Allan (She/Her)
Greeter(s):	Jean MacLean
Reader(s):	Rick Chambers (he/him)
Lay Leader:	Ren Yeats (they/he)
Serving Refreshments this month:	Stewardship/Finance