

**Welcome to First United Church
We are glad you are here!**

**EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE
Rev. Hoeun Lee
Phone 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 September 20, 2026

**Exodus 16:2–15; Psalm 105:1–6, 37–45
Philippians 1:21–30; Matthew 20:1–16**

Walkerton: St Paul'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

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.

UPDATE FROM THE BOARD FINANCIAL SITUATION

Following our realization of how serious our financial situation
is, the Board had a meeting, Monday, August 24 by zoom to
discuss possible short term solutions – 2 actions were decided
on.

1. Two Capital applications were submitted to the
WOW Region, one to recover costs for the roof repairs
(\$10,174) and one to recover costs for the boiler
repairs (\$17,993).
2. An application was made to apply for a bridging loan
for (\$40,000) which has a 3 year payback plan with 4%
interest. The first 6 months with 0% interest.

There are no promises that any of the applications are going to
be successful but we are hopeful.

The congregation will need to have some serious discussions
in September and October as this issue will affect all of us and
what our future together might be.

**We ask you to prayerfully consider this and attend as
many of the fall meetings as possible with open and
caring minds and hearts.**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH**

The Very Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, former Moderator of
the United Church of Canada will lead our worship service.
Following the service, after a light lunch, Rev. Lansdowne will
be with us for a congregational conversation when we will
explore options for our future as a church. We hope all who
are able will attend this important session.

FUTURE PLANNING TIMELINE

Apr 19 – All Day Board Retreat with Rev. Greg Smith-Young
Apr 20 – Worship & Congregational Conversations that Matter
with Rev. Greg Smith-Young
Apr 21 – Jun 12 Envisioning Team and individuals working
with Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne
Jun 13 - All Day Board Retreat with Right Rev. Dr. Carmen
Lansdowne
Jun 20 – Half Day Board Retreat with Right Rev. Dr. Carmen
Lansdowne
Jun 21-Aug 9 – Envisioning Team & Board Members working
with Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne
Aug 10 – Board Meeting following new format
Sep 13 - Worship & Congregational Conversations that Matter
with Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne
Sep 13-Oct – Congregational Conversations that Matter led by
Envisioning Team
Late Oct - Congregational Meeting to make decisions on the
future of First United

**WELCOME TO OUR 48TH / 49TH SEASON OF FREE NOON
HOUR CONCERTS!**

A very exciting season of 21 concerts is ready, featuring many
favourite ensembles as well as some newcomers. The half-
hour concerts run from 12:15 – 12:45 with lunches ready for
pickup in Hilliard Hall from 11:30. Remember to pre-order your
lunches by THURSDAY NOON at
firstunitedconcerts@gmail.com

The menu offers egg, ham, salmon or tuna on whole wheat
bread(\$6); butter tart, date or lemon square(\$2); coffee or tea
(\$2). Pickles are FREE! (Cash only please) DONATIONS are
also very welcome and necessary to allow us to continue.
Hard copies of the schedule are available in the Narthex and
or at firstunitedchurch.ca

Here are the first 2 concerts:

Tuesday September 15

Andrew Sords – violin, Cheryl Duvall - piano

Tuesday September 22

Mary-Catherine Pazzano Jazz Trio

Mary-Catherine – vocals, Nancy Walker – piano, Pat Collins –
double bass

WE ARE HAVING A POTLUCK PICNIC!

Where: Westminster United Church, 543 Beechwood Dr

When: following the 10:30am service

Emmanuel, First and Westminster congregations will have a
joint worship service at Westminster celebrating Truth and
Reconciliation Sunday, followed by a potluck picnic. The
Parkminster congregation will join in following their own
service.

Participants are encouraged to bring a dish to share, a lawn
chair, wear their orange shirt for Truth and Reconciliation
Sunday and their church name tag. If your dish contains
common allergens, please mark it on the container (ie
contains: nuts, shellfish, dairy, etc) Coffee, tea, juice, paper
plates and cutlery will be provided.

Weather permitting tables will be available outside for people
to sit at to enjoy their lunch. Shade tents will be available. In
case of poor weather, the tables will be set up inside. Anyone
with mobility issues will be able to use tables inside if desired.

Activities are being planned for children of all ages following
lunch. If you have an activity to share, please bring it along.
Please label it with your name so that it makes it back home.

Any questions please contact the Collaboration Team –
Waterloo.UC.Collaboration@gmail.com

THE CHOIR SEASON HAS BEGUN!

All choirs welcome new participants. See Kathleen King Martin for more information.

Gallery Choir rehearses Thursdays, 7:00 – 8:30 pm in the Chapel. This SATB choir sings weekly at Sunday services and other events.

Family Choir for children, their parents and caregivers, and other friends begins Thursday, Sept. 17, 4:15 to 5:30 pm with snacks, singing and music games.

Handbell Choir will begin in October.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

GAZA FUNDRAISER – ‘OPEN MIC’ NIGHT

When – Friday, September 19, 2026 at 7:00pm

Where – Rockway Mennonite Church
47 Onward Ave., Kitchener

Come and display your talents! There will be some scheduled performances, but plenty of time for anyone to get up and sing, play a musical instrument, do a comedy monologue – whatever your talent is, come and display it.

Singalongs! Even if you don’t want to perform, join the group in singing along to a few popular songs. Or, create your own singalong!

This fundraiser is – Donate What You Can

For additional information, contact Bob Fantina at 226-339-1981 or bfantina@gmail.com

MT Space & Unwrap Theatre Presents: Mixed(er)

When: Thursday October 1 thru Saturday, October 3

Where: Centre in the Square, 101 Queen St N, Kitchener

mixed(er) is a comedic coming-of-adulthood story about Sam, a biracial woman who returns to her parents’ home in Kitchener-Waterloo after completing her undergrad. What she thought was going to be a low-key homecoming quickly spirals into chaos when she learns they are throwing her a surprise birthday party, including her White friends and only Black friend. Family wounds surface, cultural tensions flare, and a jerk chicken casserole is the final straw of her fractured identity’s back.

Between bedroom fights, hair tangles, a secret unconscious boyfriend, and a Mennonite bakery heist, Sam confronts what it means to belong – to her Black Caribbean heritage, her White mother, her friends, her city, and herself.

For additional information, please visit -

<https://centreinthesquare.com/event/mixeder-by-unwrap-theatre/>

	<i>Sunday, September 13</i>	
10:30 am	Worship Service at First	Sanctuary
11:30 am	Refreshments	Hilliard Hall
12:00 pm	Conversations that Matter	Hilliard Hall
	<i>Monday, September 14</i>	
11:15 am	Piano Tuning	Sanctuary
5:00 pm	<i>KWYO - Sinfonia</i>	Sanctuary
5:30 pm	<i>MT Space TELL!</i>	Chapel
	<i>Tuesday, September 15</i>	
7:30 am	Noon Hour Concert Prep	Hilliard Hal/Kitchen
12:00 pm	Noon Hour Concert	Sanctuary
5:00 pm	KWYO – Youth Strings	Sanctuary
	<i>Wednesday, September 16</i>	
	<i>Thursday, September 17</i>	
9:00 am	Unwrap Theatre	Chapel
4:00 pm	Family Choir	Parlour
7:00 pm	Gallery Choir	Sanctuary
	<i>Friday, September 18</i>	
9:00 am	Unwrap Theatre	Chapel
	<i>Saturday, September 19</i>	
9:00 am	Unwrap Theatre	Chapel
1:00 pm	Dungeons & Dragons	Parlour
	<i>Sunday, September 20</i>	
10:30 am	Worship Service at First	Sanctuary
11:30 am	Refreshments	Hilliard Hall

WEEKLY UPDATE

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



September 13, 2026

Minister	Rev. Hoeun Lee
Music Director	Kathleen King Martin
Church Administrator	Carla Drake
AV Technician	Harold Arnett
Custodian	Jay Brooker
Assistant Custodian	Craig Lennox

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email: firstunitedchurch@rogers.com

website: firstunitedchurch.ca

Chair of the Board

email: firstunitedboardchair@gmail.com

Guest Minister: The Very Rev. Carmen Landsdowne (she/her)
Greeter(s): Pauline Williams
Reader(s): Frank Watty
Lay Leader: Cathie Stewart Savage (she/her)
Serving Refreshments this month: Outreach