

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

Rev. Hoeun will be away from the office
Monday, November 2nd – Sunday, November 8th

EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE
Joe Gasper
revjoe@parkuc.ca
Phone 519-885-0935 x35



Sunday, November 8, 2026

Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25; Psalm 78:1–7 (VU p. 792 Part One)

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Matthew 25:1–13

Durham Pastoral Charge



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.

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.

RESULTS FROM CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday October 25, 2026, the congregation voted on the pathway for the future of our church. We had a good attendance by both in-person and those on a Zoom link. The decision was clear and was made on the first secret ballot with a majority of over 50%. It was decided that the pathway we would take for the future of our church is: **Pathway B – Collaboration Leading Toward Amalgamation**. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this decision please contact Cathie Stewart Savage, Acting Chair of the Board (email: css2303@gmail.com) and Marilyn Gerriets, member of the Envisioning Team (email: mgerriet@stfx.ca).

As next steps the Board decided to schedule Special Board meetings with specific topics as we plan for collaboration leading towards amalgamation for each meeting. The first two special Board meetings would focus on the process for amalgamation and setting timelines. The dates selected for the first of these meetings is: Monday November 9 (which is also a regular Board Meeting) Monday November 16 and Monday November 30. Each of these Board meetings begin at 7:00pm and are held in the Parlour. All Board meetings are open to anyone who wants to attend. If you are able, we encourage you to attend the Special Board meetings to assist us in our discussions.

The Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council has on their website a tool kit that will assist us with these Discussions. The name of the tool kit is Tool Kit #7 (<https://wowrcc.ca/toolkits/>) – if you would like to review this ahead of the meetings.

As we move forward in this lengthy process, we will need assistance from as many participants as possible. If you would like to volunteer your time to participate, please contact Cathie Stewart Savage (email: css2303@gmail.com) or Mary Joan Brooker (email: mjwbrooker@me.com).

We would like to thank all of you who were able to participate in the Congregational Meeting whether in-person or via Zoom. For those of you who were unable to attend we hope you will assist us by your commitment to support the decision that was made and perhaps participate as we move forward in planning for our future.

Cathie Stewart Savage, Acting Chair of the Board

REV. HOEUN LEE FAREWELL

Sunday November 22nd will be the last time Rev. Hoeun Lee will be worshipping with us. We will be having a reception after the service in Hilliard Hall.

We would also like to collect for a farewell gift for Hoeun. In order to contribute to this gift you can:

E-transfer funds to giftingatfirst@gmail.com with a note “Gift for Hoeun”, or

Make a cheque out to First on Stage with a note on the cheque “Gift for Hoeun”,

Place cash in an envelope labelled “Gift for Hoeun” and drop off at the church office or put in the collection plate or mail to the church. These envelopes will be available in the Narthex each Sunday.

We would like to have all contributions collected by Sunday November 15th.

Thank you, Joanne MacPhail, on behalf of the M&P Committee

TUESDAY NOON HOUR CONCERTS

Join us on **Tuesday November 3rd** for our FREE Noon Hour Concert here at First, featuring **the Gemmell and Smith Duo with Corey Gemmell (violin) & Ben Smith (piano)**. Please order your lunch 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). 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

FROM JUSTICE TEAM

The Ontario Government continues to neglect natural habitats and the environment by prioritizing infrastructure projects that worsen green house gas emissions and environmental degradation.

Today there will be a petition at coffee hour to acknowledge the climate crisis.

Thank you, Shirley Irish

DONATION OF SECURITIES

There may be people who want to sell securities to make a donation to First United Church. When you make a gift of stocks or mutual funds, through the United Church Foundation, you are making a larger gift than if you sold the securities yourself and donated the resulting money to the church. There are some major tax advantages to doing this. Two advantages are:

- Zero Capital Gains Tax: you will not trigger a tax bill that would result if you sold the shares yourself.
- Full Tax Credit: You will get an official tax receipt for the full current market value of the securities

The securities are transferred to the United Church Foundation, who will sell them and then transfer the resulting funds to First United Church.

This is quite clearly explained on the United Church Foundation website. The following is the link to that part of the Foundation's website.

<https://unitedchurchfoundation.ca/giving/immediate-giving/gift-of-securities/>

Basically the Foundation does all of the work for us.

If you would like to discuss this with anyone, feel free to contact Vern Hall at vern.hall@rogers.com.

NEIGHBORING UNITED CHURCHES

WESTMINSTER SPAGHETTI SUPPER & BAKE SALE

Mark your calendar! Westminster United Church's annual Spaghetti Supper & Bake Sale will take place on Thursday, November 12, 2026 from 5:00pm – 7:00pm. Enjoy all-you-can-eat spaghetti with your choice of sauce, salad, rolls, and beverages. Meat, vegetarian, and gluten-free options are available. You can dine in or take out. Delicious home-baked desserts will be available for purchase at the bake sale.

Pay what you are able! Everyone is welcome.
Westminster United Church, 543 Beechwood Dr, Waterloo

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TRILLIUM LUTHERAN CHURCH SING-ALONG

Do you enjoy singing? Do you enjoy music? All ages are invited to come and sing songs from the 40's to the 90's. Trillium Lutheran Church invites you to weekly sing-along on Wednesdays starting November 4th thru December 23rd from 1:30pm – 3:30pm. (22 Willow Street)
The program is led by Kento Stratford.

	<i>Sunday, November 1</i>	
10:30 am	Worship Service and	Sanctuary
11:30 am	Refreshments	Narthex
	<i>Monday, November 2</i>	
5:00 pm	KWYO – Sinfonia	Sanctuary
6:00 pm	Engaging Men Program	Youth Room
	<i>Tuesday, November 3</i>	
7:30 am	Noon Hour Concert Prep	Hilliard Hall Kitchen
12:00 pm	Noon Hour Concert	Sanctuary
5:00 pm	KWYO – Youth Strings	Sanctuary
6:30 pm	Girl Guides	Youth Room
	<i>Wednesday, November 4</i>	
9:00 am	English at First	Parlour
6:30 pm	Embers	Hilliard Hall
6:30 pm	Sparks	Chapel
	<i>Thursday, November 5</i>	
9:30 am	Bell Choir	Sanctuary
11:00 am	Baileys Local Foods	Hilliard Hall/Kitchen
1:30 pm	UCW Meeting	Parlour
4:00 pm	Family Choir	Chapel
7:00 pm	Gallery Choir	Chapel
	<i>Friday, November 6</i>	
1:00 pm	Fridays at First	Hilliard Hall/Kitchen
	<i>Saturday, November 7</i>	
8:30 am	Knox Presbyterian	Chapel
9:00 am	Knitting Group	Parlour
1:00 pm	Dungeons & Dragons	Parlour
	<i>Sunday, November 8</i>	
10:30 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
11:30 am	Refreshments	Hilliard Hall

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



November 1, 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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Office Hours: Mon-Thu 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

email: firstunitedchurch@rogers.com
website: firstunitedchurch.ca

Chair of the Board
email: firstunitedboardchair@gmail.com

Greeter(s):	Jan Maillette
Reader(s):	Paul Miller (he/him)
Lay Leader:	Cathie Stewart Savage (she/her)
Serving Refreshments this month: Pastoral Care	