

First United Church

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First United Church

May 12, 2024

Minister: Rev John van Vliet
Ministers Emeritus: Rev Clayton Parsons
Rev Harry Whitehorne
Music Director: Cindy Sheppard
Office Manager: Trixie Robertson

Office Hours

Monday & Tuesday: closed
Wednesday & Thursday: 9 am – 3.30 pm
Friday: 8 am – 12 noon

We're able to receive bulletin info until **Thurs at 2**

Rev van Vliet's email is firstministercb@gmail.com

His phone is **632-7129**. He tries to take Fridays off

Washrooms

Upstairs: through the door to the right of the stage

Downstairs: through the exit between the coat racks

First United strives to be a **scent free** facility



“Oh! Isn’t it stunning? I love the way Van Gogh used the interplay between darkness and light! The church steeple is just barely breaking free of earthly constraints as it reaches toward heaven! It’s so beautiful!”

“Meh. It’s just paint spread onto a 74 x 92 cm piece of canvas and surrounded by a wooden frame.”

May 12, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

Silent Prayer

Call to Worship: (adapted from Ephesians 2)

L: By God's grace we have been saved through faith.

P: This is not our own doing. It is a gift of God.

Hymn: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* VU 220

Prayer of Thanksgiving for God's Presence

Responsive Reading (see insert)

Reading: John 20: 19-29

Message: Not as *un*reasonable as it's portrayed...

Hymn: *Jesus, You Have Come to the...* VU 563

Offertory Hymn: *Now Thank We All Our...* VU 236 v.1

Offertory Prayer

Community Prayer/ LORD's Prayer

Hymn: *Blessed Now, O God, the Journey* VU 633

Blessing

Postlude

Why we're *technically* all agnostics

Most Christians tend to divide the faith spectrum into three groups: those with faith in God, those who say they're atheists, and some in the middle who call themselves agnostics.

But the fact is that, technically, we're all agnostics. The word 'agnostic' literally means that the existence of God is unknowable because there is no visible or measurable phenomena either directly proving or disproving God's existence.

This means that in a strict, literal sense we're all agnostics – because no one can prove the existence of an ineffable God through measurable criteria. Of course, in terms of everyday speech agnosticism is often used to describe a position that is on the fence between belief and atheism.

Join us for **coffee, tea** and **refreshments** downstairs after the service today.

The **Men's Club** dinner is on Thursday, **May 23**. Stuffed chicken, potatoes, veggies, tea, coffee and dessert. \$18. We're extending a special invitation to the Humber Men to join us.

The **UCW** has set their **Spring Used Clothing Sale** for Saturday, May 25, 9 am – 2 pm. Clothing and household linens only please. Sort through your closets and dressers to pass on items you no longer wear or use and spread the word to your friends and relations! Sorting and set up on Friday, May 24th.

Paul Rumbolt is retired United Church clergy living in Woody Point. He's also an accomplished musician, with entries in *More Voices*, and a wide repertoire that includes old Newfoundland, along with modern tunes with a folky bent. His band **Tuff** will be at the Rotary Arts Centre on June 22. Tickets are on sale at the RAC box office.

Rev van Vliet is on **Study Leave** this week. If you have any questions or pastoral needs, please contact Jeff Follett at: jefffollett@icloud.com or call 709-640-4171. Or call the Church Office. Rev van Vliet will be back on May 21.

Responsive Reading (adapted from Hebrews 11)

L: Faith is the reality of what we hope for – the proof of what we *don't* see.

P: The elders in the past were approved because of their faith.

L: By faith Noah responded with godly fear when he was warned about events he hadn't seen yet. He built an ark to deliver his household.

P: By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. He went out without knowing where he was going.

L: By faith he lived in the land he'd been promised as a stranger. He lived in tents along with Isaac and Jacob, who were co-heirs of the same promise – looking forward to a city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

P: By faith Sarah received the ability to have a child, though she herself was past the age for having children, because she believed that the one who promised was faithful.

L: By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning their future.

P: By faith Jacob blessed each of Joseph's sons as he was dying.

L: By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, foretold the exodus of the Israelites, and gave instructions about burying his bones in the Promised Land.

P: By faith Moses was hidden by his parents when he was born, because they weren't afraid of Pharaoh's orders.

L: By faith Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter when he grew up, choosing instead the plight of God's people.

P: By faith Moses left Egypt unafraid of Pharaoh's anger. He kept on going as if he could see what is invisible.

L: By faith the Israelites crossed the Red Sea as if on dry land, but when the Egyptians tried it, they were drowned.

P: All these people died without receiving the promises, but through faith they saw the promises from afar – and welcomed them.

L: What more can I say? I would run out of time if I told you about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets! Through faith they conquered kingdoms, brought forth justice, realized promises, shut the mouths of lions, put out raging fires, escaped from the edge of the sword, found strength in weakness, were mighty in war, and routed foreign armies.

For the sake of their faith some of our ancestors experienced public shame. They were taunted, whipped, put in chains, and in prison. They were stoned to death and murdered with swords. They wandered around in deserts, mountains and caves, and wore the skins of sheep and goats – needy, oppressed, and mistreated.

P: All these forebearers in the faith didn't live to see what was promised – though they were given approval for their faith in something better yet to come, through the grace of God.

All: AMEN

West Haven: Next Sunday, May 19, will be West Haven Camp Sunday. If you wish, come dressed for camp! This is West Haven's 60th anniversary year! There will be a celebration on Sunday June 23rd from 2-5 pm at the camp in Pasadena on the shore of Deer Lake. We welcome former campers, counsellors and staff, as well as people new to West Haven who might want to attend or volunteer this summer.

There will be donation envelopes available. Our current greatest need is getting our own water well – a big project. All along we have accessed Pasadena town water supply via a line across the brook, unable to be connected until June and vulnerable to disruption. We are losing out on potential May bookings.

The **UCW Used Clothing Sale** is on Saturday May 25, 9 am - 2 pm. Donations may be dropped off the week prior. There is a sign-up sheet for volunteers at the back of the church with four time slots to fill: Friday 9 am and on / Saturday 8:30-11:30 / Sat. 11:30-2:30 / Sat. 2 pm until clean up is done. We especially need volunteers for the last time slot. Many hands make light work!

Memorials

Local: In loving memory of mother Mary Rowsell, by Judy, Derrick, Linda, Keith, Cathy & families

Local: In loving memory of mother & grandmother Eva Rowsell by Robert, Jeanette & Joseph

Local: In loving memory of mother & grandmother Elizabeth Laite by Jeanette, Robert & Joseph

Local: In loving memory of mothers and grandmothers Mary Follett & Rosemary Crewe by Jeff, Emeline, Jason, Matthew & families

Local: In loving of mother and grandmother Bride Pretty by Calvin, Sandra & family

Local: In loving memory of mother & grandmother Margaret Taylor by Bert, Sandra & Brad

Local: In loving memory of our mothers and grandmothers Lillian Penney and Miriam Wiltshire by Judy, Winston, Kara, Ryan & their families

Local: In loving memory of daughter Katherine Tavenor by Kitty & Edgar Stratton

Local: In loving memory of mothers Myrtle Yates & Jessie Stratton by Kitty & Edgar Stratton

Local: In loving memory of mother, grandmother & great-grand mother Mary Gardner by Brad & Daphne Gardner & family

Local: In loving memory of grandmother & great-grand mother Myrtle Yates & Jessie Stratton by Daphne & Brad Gardner & family

Local: In loving memory of sister & aunt Katherine Tavenor by Daphne & Brad Gardner & family

Local: In loving memory of a dear friend Jeanette Preston by Daphne & Brad Gardner & family

Local: In loving memory of Elaine Bailey love Irene, Phyllis, Ted, Joan & families

Local: In loving memory of dear friend Brenda Giles by Joan Rowe

Local: In loving memory of mothers, grandmothers & great grandmothers Mary Short & Florence Robertson by Trixie, Brian & families

Redevelopment: In loving memory of mother Mae Penney by son Jerry, Linda & family

Redevelopment: In loving memory of mother Mae Penney by son Bruce, Sharon & family

Redevelopment: In loving memory of mother Mae Penney by son Brian, Janice & family

Redevelopment: In loving memory of mother Mae Penney by daughter Aune & Fred Colbourne & family