



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

August 6, 2017

9th after Pentecost

Leading Worship: Adele Heise

Reading: Eva Molyneux

Organist: Patti McCleary

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

Prayer for me became the way I lived, loved, and struggled, the way I dared to be. Preparation for prayer was the time I spent... recalling who I am... Prayer for me is living. Bishop John Shelby Spong

Welcome and Announcements

Greetings: The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Response: And also with you.

Opening Hymn: MV #30 It's a Song of Praise to the Maker
(please stand as you are able)

Call to Worship – in unison

We gather in this place – to be still and pay attention.

We come willing to listen, attentive to the voice speaking inside us.

May our minds rest, just as our bodies are stilled.

May the aches and longings of our hearts

be met by the quiet love found here in community.

Let us breathe out all that distracts us

and breathe in all that calms us.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

ONE: As we light the Christ candle we are reminded that Christ is the light of the world, that Christ is light; He came to give us light, so that we might, in turn, give light to others.

Summer Worship Schedule

Aug 13	Friends	- Norma Hain
Aug 20	Joseph & His Brothers	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Aug 27	Baby in a Basket	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Sep 3	The Burning Bush	- Rev. Annette Taylor



One year ago, [Embracing the Spirit](#) was officially launched at the [2016 Skylight Festival](#).

Since then, more than 180 initiatives across Canada have received a total of \$581,470 funding, with grant sizes ranging from \$500 to \$27,000.

This funding allows congregations to try new and innovative forms of ministry. These efforts are not just gimmicks or one-time experiments — they are real and tangible new ways of “being church.”

Embracing the Spirit includes a [learning network](#), with more than 300 people receiving guidance from more than 80 mentors. These mentors include retired professionals who are willing to lend their skills and expertise to help others. Another part of the program is the [Social Innovation Challenge](#), where participants can develop a concept, discover new partners, and compete for start-up funding.

These efforts to connect to younger Canadians are being noticed. A recent article in *The Globe and Mail*, titled “[United Church Embrace Startups as it Updates its Social Mission to Engage Millennials](#)”, focused on St. Andrew’s United Church in Markham, Ontario, which has opened its doors to 12 small business owners and social entrepreneurs. In addition an article about how the [church is supporting start-ups](#) was put on *Forbe’s* “must read” list.

In 2017, funding for Embracing the Spirit is set at \$750,000. Next year, its budget is expected to be in excess of \$1 million. To keep abreast of the growth of Embracing the Spirit, anyone can subscribe to the [Embracing the Spirit online newsletter](#). Or to read about new approaches to ministry that the program supports, go to the [Round the Table](#) blog and click the [Embracing the Spirit](#) tag at the top.

Prayer

Hymn: VU #355 For the Crowd of Thousands verses 1-3
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time

Hymn: VU #355 For the Crowd of Thousands verses 4-5
(please remain seated)

WORD

Scripture Reading: Matthew 14: 13-21

ONE: We read this text so that in it we may find wisdom for life.
ALL: May we be open to the Wisdom we understand and hear.

Reflection: Feeding the Multitude

RESPONSE

Hymn: MV #1 Let Us Build a House
(please stand as you are able)

Minute for Mission: You Visited Me

Offering: VU #540 Grant Us, God, the Grace
(please stand as you are able)

Prayers of the People and Jesus' Prayer

Hymn: VU #710 Shall We Gather at the River
(please stand as you are able)

Blessing

Choral Closing: VU #649 Walk with Me (refrain sung twice)

Postlude

**A warm welcome to all
who are worshipping with us today!**

If this is your first time with us,
please be sure to sign one of our guest books.

First United Church, Swift Current, SK
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email: firstunitedchurch@sasktel.net
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FirstUnitedSC/>
Minister: Rev. Annette Taylor
email: annette.firstunited@sasktel.net
Choir Director: James McLauchlan
Office Managers: Patti McCleary & Rhonda Lotochinski
Sunday School Coordinator: Jacqueline Orola-Ravino
Youth Coordinator: Staci Schaitel

Upcoming Meetings & Activities

- Wednesday, August 9 – Prayer Group, 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel.
- Thursday, August 10 – Come-and-Go Coffee Time, 10:30 a.m. in the Cypress Lounge.

Please Note:

- Annette will be away on vacation August 5 to 18.
- Lectionary Bible will be cancelled August 9 and 16

United Church Women's Retreat,

August 26-28, 2017

at Camp Tapawingo, Candle Lake;

Theme "Take Time to Be Holy"

meals, cabins, workshops all included.

Golfing available available at \$32.50.

More info - contact Donna Barber 773-6081.

Recent Events:

Thursday, August 3 – Beverley Heiser Funeral Service

Friday, August 4 – Dorothy Hill Memorial Service

Sunday School and Youth Group have now ended for the season; however, we will have **babysitting available** during worship throughout the summer.

Your children can leave the sanctuary after the Community Learning Time and enjoy supervised play.

Children and youth are also welcome to stay in the sanctuary for the entire worship service. There is a colouring table at the front of the worship space and a small nursery is available just outside the sanctuary where you can hear what is happening in worship.