



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

July 30, 2017

Leah & Rachel

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Reading: Shirley Wilson

Pianist: Mary Anderson

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

“Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are.”

— Benjamin Franklin

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

— Martin Luther King Jr.

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Peace/Prelude

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: VU #381 Spirit of Life

(please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: We come to celebrate God's presence

ALL: to praise, to pray.

ONE: We come in all our humanness

ALL: to lament, to hope.

ONE: We come as God's beloved children

ALL: to be renewed and restored

to our place in God's creation.

Adapted from: Lynda Goy-Flint, *Gathering* Summer Autumn 2010, page 36.

Summer Worship Schedule

A Journey through Genesis

Aug 6	Feeding the Multitude	- Adele Heise
Aug 13	Friends	- Norma Hain
Aug 20	Joseph & His Brothers	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Aug 27	Baby in a Basket	- 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.

Opening Hymn: VU #260 God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness
(please stand as you are able)

Morning Prayer and Jesus' Prayer

Creator God, you have given us so much:
joy, freedom, beauty, and friendship,
tools to do our work, and toys to play with.
Today we gather to
express our thanks
and to energize our spirits.
Open our hearts so that we may be filled
with your creative, healing presence.

WORD

Hymn: MV #157 I Am a Child of God *(verses 1, 2 & 3)*
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time

Hymn: MV #157 I Am a Child of God *(verses 4 & 5)*
(please remain seated)

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 29:15-28

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: Leah & Rachel

Hymn: VU #697 O For a World
(please stand as you are able)

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: Skylight Festival

Offering

Offertory Hymn: VU #540 Grant us, God, the Grace
(please stand as you are able)

Prayer of Dedication:

We bring our gifts to you, God.
Here is the work of our hands,
and here is the love of our hearts.
May they be accepted and used
in your work of peace and justice.
Amen

Adapted from: Celebrate God's Presence, page 50.

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: MV #120 My Soul Cries Out
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

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.

Lectionary Readings for August 6, 2017

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalm 17:1-7,15 (VU p.739)

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

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Minister: Rev. Annette Taylor
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Choir Director: James McLaughlan
Office Managers: Patti McCleary & Rhonda Lotochinski
Sunday School Coordinator: Jacqueline Orola-Ravino
Youth Coordinator: Staci Schaitel

Upcoming Meetings & Activities

- Wednesday, August 2 – Prayer Group, 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel.
- Thursday, August 3 – Come-and-Go Coffee Time, 10:30 a.m. in the Cypress Lounge.

Please Note:

- Annette will be away on vacation August 5 to August 18.
- Lectionary Bible will be cancelled August 2, 9 and 16

United Church Women's Retreat, August 26-28, 2017 at Camp Tapawingo, Candle Lake; Cost \$30. Theme "Take Time to Be Holy" meals, cabins, workshops all included. Golfing available at \$32.50. More info - contact Donna Barber 773-6081.

Sunday School and Youth Group have now ended for the season; however, we will have **babysitting available** 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