



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

May 28, 2017

### Graduation Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Reading: Maxine Olmsted

Pianist: Mary Anderson

Organist: Patti McCleary

### GATHERING

#### Moment for Reflection:

*“We have all known the long loneliness and  
we have learned that the only solution is love and  
that love comes with community.”*

— Dorothy Day

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### Sharing of Peace/Prelude

#### Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Gathering Hymn: MV #122 This is the Day** (*sung twice*)  
(*please remain seated*)

#### Call to Worship

ONE: We have gathered to celebrate God’s presence.

**ALL: We have come seeking comfort,  
inspiration, community and insight.**

ONE: We have come to open ourselves  
to the power of the Spirit in our midst.

**ALL: We have come to offer up the seasons  
and the turnings in our lives,  
and to ask God’s help  
in our learning and in our growing.**

Adapted from: *Celebrate God’s Presence*, page 21.

## Worship Schedule

May 28	Graduation Sunday - with communion	- Rev. Annette Taylor
June 4	UCW 55 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	- First UCW
June 11	In the Beginning - Potluck following Worship	- Rev. Annette Taylor
June 18	Hagar & Ishmael	- Rev. Annette Taylor

#### Recent Events:

Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> - Alice Reimer Funeral Service at First U.C.  
with Karen Messer officiating

Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup> - Jean Carleton Memorial Service at First U.C.  
with Rev. Annette Taylor officiating

## Statement on Medical Assistance in Dying



At its May 6–7, 2017 meeting, the Executive of the General Council adopted a [report on medical assistance in dying](#) as an official statement of the United Church.

The Theology and Inter-Church Inter-Faith Committee, which drafted the report, acknowledged their challenge was to take into account the range and complexity of the issues.

You can find a [summary of the May 6-7 meeting](#), including a look at the new logo for General Council 43 and an overview of a discussion on the church and white privilege, in United Church Commons.

[Photo: Simon Cocks, Flickr (CC BY 2.0)]

**Opening Hymn: VU #402 We Are One**  
*(please stand as you are able)*

**Morning Prayer and Jesus' Prayer**

ONE: As we worship together,

**ALL: may we live together.**

ONE: As we live together,

**ALL: may we witness together.**

ONE: As we witness together,

**ALL: may we journey together.**

ONE: As we journey together,

**ALL: may we meet together.**

ONE: As we meet together,

**ALL: may we worship together.**

ONE: And may our worship be in God,

**ALL: as God is in us.**

Adapted from: *Seasons of the Spirit™* SeasonsFUSION Lent • Easter 2017,  
page 176.

**WORD**

**Hymn: MV #106 I Am the Dream** *(verses 1 & 2)*  
*(please remain seated)*

**Recognition of Graduates** *(see insert)*

**Hymn: MV #106 I Am the Dream** *(verse 3)*  
*(please remain seated)*

**Scripture Readings:** John 17:1-11

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

**Reflection: Be One, as We Are One**

**Choral Offering: We Are One with You, O Lord**  
*- Jay Althouse*

**RESPONSE**

**Minute for Mission: London Community Chaplaincy**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offering**

**Offertory Hymn: MV #191 What Can I Do?**  
*(please stand as you are able)*

**Prayer of Dedication:**

**For all the gifts we have been given, we give thanks:**  
**the gift of your love,**  
**the gift of Jesus,**  
**the gift of life itself.**

**We acknowledge our mission to serve and so**  
**we bring what we can**  
**that others may know**  
**the transforming power of your love. Amen.**

Adapted from: *Seasons of the Spirit™* SeasonsFUSION Lent • Easter 2017,  
page 178.

**Celebration of Communion**

*Chant: MV #194 Bread of Life, Feed My Soul (vs 1&2 repeated)*

**Closing Hymn: VU #639 One More Step Along the World I Go**  
*(please stand as you are able)*

**Commissioning & Benediction**

**Choral Closing: VU #958 Halle, Halle, Halle**  
*(sung at least three times)*

**Postlude** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lectionary Readings for June 4, 2017:**

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11 :24-30

Psalms 104 :24-24, 35b (VU p, 826 Part Two)

1 Corinthians 12 :3b-13

John 20 :19-23 or John 7 :37-39

## Social Capital Is our Most Important Asset



I think one of the most influential books of the last 20 years is *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* by Robert Putnam. Putnam, a sociologist at Harvard University, describes how traditional forms of community have been on the decline in American – and I think

we can say, Canadian – society since World War Two. He shows how people have become increasingly disconnected from family, friends, neighbors, and democratic structures. The title of his book comes from the fact that while more people are going bowling, membership in bowling leagues has plummeted. People are literally “bowling alone.”

*Bowling Alone* helps to explain what is happening to our churches. Churches are one of those forms of social participation that is in serious decline. The drop in attendance, disappearance of Sunday school, and aging congregations can be seen as part of a massive social change in which an increasing individualism is undermining the groups and organizations that our parents and grandparents relied on to give structure and meaning to their lives.

Read the full article on Waterloo Presbytery's ["Mission Health Vitality"](#) blog.

—Paul Miller at Waterloo Presbytery

[Photo: whizchickenonabun, Flickr (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)]

### **Annette will be Away**

Annette will be away for a week of vacation  
from June 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>.

Please contact the church office,  
in the case of a pastoral emergency.