



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK  
September 10, 2017

### Welcome Back Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor  
Reading: Colleen MacBean  
Pianist: Joan Williamson  
Organist: Patti McCleary

### GATHERING

#### Moment for Reflection

*“One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals.”*

— Jean Vanier

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### Sharing of Peace/Prelude

#### Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Gathering Hymn: MV #14 Where Two or Three Are Gathered**  
*(please remain seated)*

#### Call to Worship

ONE: It is good to be back in this holy sanctuary after a restful and relaxing summer.

**ALL: It is good to gather with family and friends to listen for God's word and enjoy our community together.**

ONE: Let us give thanks to God with our hearts, our hands, our minds and our voices.

**ALL: Let us give thanks to God for the good gifts we have been given – the gifts of summer, family and friends.**

ONE: Let us celebrate God's presence in our lives.

Adapted from: Alan Warren, *Worship for All Seasons II*, page 233.

## Worship Schedule

Sept 17	Crossing the Sea	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Sept 24	Food in the Wilderness	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Oct 1	World Communion Sunday	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Oct 8	Thanksgiving Sunday	- Rev. Annette Taylor

### Recent Events

September 8, 2017 – Ella Blyth Funeral Service

September 8, 2017 – Rhoda Morrison Memorial Service

September 9, 2017 – Neil Gordon Memorial Service

## Re-commit to Racial Justice and Equity a message from The United Church of Canada

In the aftermath of the march by White supremacists and White nationalists in Virginia, the United Church calls its members to recommit themselves to challenging the systemic racism and



accompany those working for racial justice and equity.

The United Church remains firmly committed to racial justice, equity, and intercultural engagement. The events in Charlottesville have only emphasized

the imperative for these commitments.

A new blog post by Rev. Paul Douglas Walfall of Fort Saskatchewan Pastoral Charge calls the church to ["hold up a candle in the presence of racism."](#)

It is time to re-commit to racial justice, equity, and to confronting White privilege and all of its manifestations. The church has [many resources](#) for people who want to become more involved in mending the world.

[Find out more](#)

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

**Morning Prayer and Jesus' Prayer**

**Ground of our Being,**  
we gather today in this sacred place  
grateful for your presence among us.  
**We gather as a community of faith**  
to worship you with word, prayer and song.  
**May we be nurtured and inspired**  
as we acknowledge  
the hopes and dreams,  
the tears and laughter, and  
the moments of grace  
that have built this house in which we gather.  
**Amen.**

## **WORD**

**Hymn: The Whole People of God** (*verses 1 & 2*)  
*- Jim Strathdee (please remain seated)*

**Community Learning Time**

**Hymn: The Whole People of God** (*verse 3*)  
*- Jim Strathdee (please remain seated)*

**Scripture Readings:**  
Matthew 18:15-20

**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: When Two or Three are Gathered**

**Choral Offering: Love Grows Here**  
*- Don Besig*

## **RESPONSE**

**Minute for Mission: A Vibrant Youth Program**

**Offering**

**Offertory Hymn: MV #182 Grateful**  
*(please stand as you are able)*

**Prayer of Dedication:**

**In this gift**  
is our promise of faith;  
**In this time**  
is our response to your call;  
**In this prayer**  
is our search for hope.

**Amen.**

From: Don Uhryniw, *Gathering Pentecost 2* 2107, page 38.

**Prayers of the People**

**Closing Hymn: We Are Your People**  
*- Brian Wren & Ron Klusmeier*  
*(please stand as you are able)*

**Commissioning & Benediction**

**Choral Closing: MV #215 Peace Be with You**

**Postlude**

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**Lectionary Readings for September 17, 2017**

Exodus 14:19-31

Exodus 15:1b-11,20-21 or Psalm 114

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35



[Embracing the Spirit](#) is a learning network and innovation fund. It offers funding and support for innovation ideas hatched out of faith communities and communities in ministry.

If you have an idea that you want to launch, reach out and tell us about it! The next application date is **October 15, 2017**. Find out [more](#).

Here's one example of an idea that is underway:

The village of Wellington in Ontario's Prince Edward County is experiencing tremendous growth. But with growth comes other implications. There is a rising cost of living that has impacted the cost of going out for dinner to housing. Many seniors who have lived in Wellington all of their lives are now being forced out of their homes to lower-cost options.

[Wellington United Church](#) is in the heart of all of this change and seeing the evolving needs of the community through this transition. And they have embraced it!

The municipality had recently issued a request for proposal (RFP) for the arena that was in disrepair and had minimal use. The RFP asked developers to consider how to redevelop the land. Wellington United Church realized that they were in a unique position to use the arena for the community's evolving needs. With that purpose in mind, they submitted a proposal.

They won the RFP and are being given the land! The municipality and the church are now in discussions of how to transfer the land and get the redevelopment underway. Who knows what's next?