

Announcements

Sunday, December 17, 2023

First United Church Swift Current, SK

Church Office – 306-773-9353 www.firstunitedsc.ca

email: firstunitedchurch@sasktel.net

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FirstUnitedSC/>

e-transfer: give.firstunited@sasktel.net

Minister: Rev. Annette Taylor email: annette.firstunited@sasktel.net

Choir Director: James McLaughlan

Office Managers: Patti McCleary & Rhonda Lotochinski

Upcoming Meetings & Activities

- Tuesday, December 19 – Advent Study, 2:00 p.m. in the Chinook room & on Zoom
- Wednesday, December 20 – Lectionary Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. in person & on Zoom
- Wednesday, December 20 – Choir practice, 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- Thursday, December 21 – Coffee Time, 10:30 a.m. in Cypress Lounge

Christmas Hampers

In your Christmas letter, you should have received a special green offering envelope for monetary donations to purchase Co-op gift cards for our “Christmas Hampers”.

This year we have 16 families (**43 people in total**) who are in need of a hamper.

Please consider donating to this very worthwhile project.

(Deadline is this Sunday, December 17th)

Melodies of Christmas is Back!

Sunday, December 17 at 7pm

You are invited to join the First United Church Choir for an evening of music featuring some of Swift Currents finest musicians.

Reception to follow.

A Silver collection will be taken for First United Church Refugee Sponsorship & our General Fund.

Care Home Service

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Prairie View Lodge at 3:00 p.m.

Please come and join in the singing!

Blue Christmas Service

Thursday, December 21, 2023

at East Side Church of God at 7:00 p.m.

This service is offered by the Swift Current & Area Ministerial to provide an honest and reflective time of worship for those who are struggling with loss during this Christmas season

A Winter Book Study

is planned for **Thursday afternoons starting January 18, 2024.**

It will be "in-person" sessions at the church and will study Praying Our Goodbyes by Joyce Rupp.

Melanie Davis will be our facilitator.

More information will be shared in the coming weeks.

If you are interested, please register with the church office.

Financial Request from the Refugee Sponsorship Group

Rising financial pressures for our sponsorship family in Egypt and a backlog of immigration cases at Immigration Canada have prompted the Refugee Sponsorship Group to commit to offering some private financial support to subsidize the family for the next six months, at which point we will assess the need to continue or not. If you feel that you are also able to give some financial help, whether large or small, that would be much appreciated. *This would be over and above our other fundraising efforts, and these monies would not be eligible for tax receipts.*

Maxine Olmsted will be collecting the funds for deposit in a designated banking account, and funds will be transferred monthly to the family. The goal is to provide the equivalent of \$400.00 US each month. Donations in the form of cash or a cheque (payable to Maxine Olmsted) can be dropped off at the church office, or you can e-transfer using Maxine's email address, olmsted.maxine66@gmail.com.

With much gratitude,

First United Church Refugee Sponsorship Group

THANK YOU

to everyone who donated items
to the children's **Christmas Shopping Day** and
to all those who helped with the wrapping!

Thank You!

to Diane Minogue, Kelly Minogue, Mavis Jenson,
Wally Bateman and Ila Wilms
for the beautiful

Advent/Christmas decorations

in our church building.

Thank you for sharing your time and
your amazing creativity and artistry.

The Outreach Committee & Creation Station would like to

thank everyone

who supported their

Baking, Preserves, Greeting Cards and

Christmas decorations Sale

on Sunday, November 19th and 26th.

**A total of \$1131.50 was raised
for Mission & Service!**

Thank you to everyone for supporting our

Christmas Tea and Bake Sale

on Saturday, December 2.

We raised \$1,447.90 for our General fund.

The church office will be closed

on December 25th, December 26th

and January 1st

for the Christmas Holidays.

Offerings for 2023:

Please have all donations

into the church office by

noon on Friday, December 29th

so they can be receipted for 2023.

Annette will be Away

Monday, December 25 to Monday, January 1

Please call the church office with any pastoral emergencies.

Hearing Assist Devices

are available at the soundboard

(located at the center back of the sanctuary)

in order that all might participate in our worship service.

If you would like to try out one of these devices

please feel free to approach our sound technician

or one of the ushers.

Can You Help Us Out?

Our Social Convenors are looking for

empty **ice cream pails** to use in the kitchen and

Earthcare Partners are looking for

empty **4 litre vinegar jugs** for the Living Wall.

If you have any to spare

please drop them off at the upstairs kitchen.

Thanks!



<https://giftswithvision.ca/>

The United Church of Canada

developed Gifts with Vision in response

to requests to be able to give gifts to relatives, friends, and

loved ones that directly support projects developed by the

church's Mission & Service partners

DID YOU KNOW?

Shopping locally keeps the local economy strong.

For each \$100 spent at a locally owned business at least \$68 will stay in the community.