



First United Church Annual Report 2023



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FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Our Mission Statement

We at First United Church
guided by the Spirit,
are striving to be an
Open and Diverse Community of Faith.
Through words and action
we pursue the values of
Spiritual Growth,
Compassionate Outreach,
Social Justice and Care of the Earth.



Affirming Vision Statement



We, the congregation of First United Church, declare publicly our commitment to creating a community that welcomes and values all people –
people of all ages, abilities, genders, racial identities, sexual orientations,
gender identities, family configurations, cultural backgrounds, and
economic circumstances, and
people who have had any other experiences that have led to exclusion,
marginalization, or oppression within church or society.

We invite and honour the participation of all in every aspect of church life.

We acknowledge the challenges diversity brings and embrace them fully because we also celebrate the richness of its gifts. We pray for God's grace to guide us as we work for equity and justice for all persons in both church and society.

2023 Funerals

1. January 11, 2023 – June Gladys Wittrock* (*Date of death: January 6, 2023*)
2. January 16, 2023 – Lucille Sorensen* (*Date of death: December 27, 2022*)
3. February 25, 2023 – Verna Ingrie Howlett (*Date of death: February 15, 2023*)
4. March 24, 2023 – Shirley Mae Philp* (*Date of death: March 16, 2023*)
5. April 3, 2023 – Bohdan Harry Ciona (*Date of death: March 17, 2023*)
6. April 8, 2023 – Frederick Joseph Switzer (*Date of death: September 5, 2021*)
7. April 8, 2023 – Margaret Switzer (*Date of death: January 26, 2023*)
8. April 13, 2023 – Leslie Spencer Allan MacDonald (*Date of death: March 28, 2023*)
9. April 24, 2023 – Irene Isabella Buck (*Date of death: April 6, 2023*)
10. May 20, 2023 – Carl William Parchman (*Date of death: January 3, 2023*)
11. June 10, 2023 – Roy Farnsworth (*Date of death: February 18, 2023*)
12. June 16, 2023 – Kenneth Benson* (*Date of death: June 8, 2023*)
13. June 17, 2023 – Peter Rymes* (*Date of death: April 3, 2023*)
14. June 23, 2023 – Maria Teresa Stewart (*Date of death: May 9, 2021*)
15. July 4, 2023 – Harvey Hurrell (*Date of death: June 26, 2023*)
16. July 5, 2023 – Eva Molyneux* (*Date of death: June 22, 2023*)
17. July 6, 2023 – Ethel McMullen* (*Date of death: January 20, 2023*)
18. July 12, 2023 – Elsie Selander (*Date of death: July 5, 2023*)
19. July 28, 2023 – Nathaniel Gavril Orola (*Date of death: July 22, 2023*)
20. July 31, 2023 – Cindy Gorrill (*Date of death: July 24, 2023*)
21. August 12, 2023 – Murray Gordon Robertson* (*Date of death: August 5, 2023*)
22. September 26, 2023 – Betty Grant (*Date of death: September 4, 2023*)
23. October 16, 2023 – GERALDEAN ANN COWAN* (*Date of death: October 7, 2023*)
24. November 3, 2023 – Sharon Dunham (*Date of death: October 26, 2023*)
25. November 10 – Nicole Therese Loeppky (*Date of death: November 3, 2023*)
26. November 14, 2023 – Rodney Alden Murphy (*Date of death: November 7, 2023*)
27. December 8, 2023 – Thurza Jane Hayes (*Date of death: November 30, 2023*)

Members *

Other Members who died in 2023

1. March 13, 2023 – Leone Newton
2. August 1, 2023 – Lois Davidson
3. August 13, 2023 – Abram Hamm
4. August 29, 2023 - Lawrence Kalmakoff
5. December 30, 2023 – Susan Spenst

2023 Baptisms

1. April 9, 2023 – Avery Jane Burnett, daughter of Kent and Jeneen Burnett
2. April 9, 2023 - Emmy Hope Keenleyside, daughter of Gordon and Brittany Keenleyside
3. November 19, 2023 – Jake Glenn Lesiuk, son of Austin and Camille Lesiuk

Life Elders as of December 31, 2023

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Jean Allen | 16. Janet Keene | 31. Gestur Sigurdson |
| 2. Florence Anderson | 17. Colin King | 32. Violet Sigurdson |
| 3. Donna Barber | 18. Marilyn King | 33. Allan Smith |
| 4. Betty Bateman | 19. Colleen MacBean | 34. Murray Smith |
| 5. Wally Bateman | 20. Jean Macnab | 35. Pat Smith |
| 6. Lorraine Bloye | 21. Thelma Marsh | 36. Shirley Terlson |
| 7. Ray Bunnell | 22. Karen Messer | 37. Kae Waters |
| 8. Harold Casselman | 23. Patricia Mierke | 38. Shirley Wilson |
| 9. Marjorie Casselman | 24. Christine Newton | |
| 10. Glenna Cory | 25. Carol O'Donnell | |
| 11. Melanie Davis | 26. Larry O'Donnell | |
| 12. Sharyn Erne | 27. Jean Pearson | |
| 13. Val Goodfellow | 28. Betty Pribyl | |
| 14. Eileen Hayes | 29. Betty Roberston | |
| 15. Jim Hayes | 30. Gerry Rya | |

2023 Marriages

1. June 24, 2023 – Blaine Thomas Wilson and Alyssa Renee Cote

2023 Members by Confirmation, Profession of Faith and Transfer of Memberships

Baptism/Profession of Faith - none

Transfer of Membership to First United Church

1. May 16, 2023 – Matthew Peters from Lancer Trinity United Church
2. May 16, 2023 – Alison Nagy from Whitmore Park United Church, Regina, SK

Transfer of Membership from First United Church – none

Membership Report

Total Confirmed Membership as of Jan. 1, 2023	239
Members Received by Profession of Faith	0
Members removed by death	13
Members received by Certificate of Transfer	2
Members removed by Certificate of Transfer	0
Members removed otherwise *	0
Total Confirmed Membership as of Dec. 31, 2023	228

* Removed at their request.

Staff

Minister: Reverend Annette Taylor
Office Manager: Patti McCleary
Office Manager: Rhonda Lotochinski
Choir Director: James McLauchlan
Custodian: Michael Orola
Pianist: Mary Anderson
Organist: Patti McCleary

Chair of Leadership Team

To quote our new Mission Statement, during the 2023 year, our church was guided by the Spirit, striving to be an open and diverse community of faith. Through word and action we pursued the values of spiritual growth, compassionate outreach, social justice and care of the earth.

Major undertakings

- A new Governance Model was adopted, replacing our Church Council with a smaller Leadership Team (Keepers of the Vision). Decision-making has been streamlined, with fewer meetings and a need for fewer Committee Chairs. (Refer to Organizational Chart on p.70.)
- Our new House Group system is encouraging more people to participate in Sunday worship by greeting, ushering, reading Scripture, planning Communion, or serving coffee in the foyer. Marie Andrews has capably assumed the role of House Group Coordinator.
- A budget review process was implemented. Twenty panelists completed questionnaires, supplemented by input from the congregation. Many recommendations for short-term budgeting were offered, some of which have been implemented.
- Establishment of an Autonomous Indigenous National Organization within the United Church of Canada is a decision facing us. The Leadership Team has been studying and deliberating, and has invited congregational feedback in preparation for voting in early 2024.
- Dan Olmsted completed an Energy Audit of our building, including an inventory and noting ways to reduce energy consumption. This information will be critical when planning for maintenance or renovations, as well as applying for grants.

Our Values

In this Annual Report, you will read about the impressive work carried out by our Staff, Committees, and Interest Groups. I will highlight some of our efforts in 2023 to pursue our Values.

Spiritual growth:

Our Faith Formation Committee ensured that Sunday School was available to children. They also provided adults with opportunities for spiritual growth through book studies, an Advent Study, a Lenten Study, Friday matinees, and an Art Journalling workshop led by Eva Stanley. With the purchase of a camera and microphone, the hybrid option allowed people to join studies (including weekly Lectionary Bible Study) from their homes, while away from home, or in-person. Our Worship & Music Committee, in collaboration with our Minister, Choir Director, and choir, provided music for our worship services, mindful that music is integral to nurturing our spirits. With Livestreaming, our Sunday worship services reached others in faraway places.

Compassionate outreach:

Visits and phone calls made by our Pastoral Care & Membership volunteers offered immeasurable comfort and blessing. Our Outreach Committee organized contributions of baking to the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) drop-in centre. To support Dorie's House and the Family Resource Center, items on their wish lists were donated. On Wednesdays, community members can be seen bustling into our church to shop at the Third Avenue Boutique and Garage Sale Room. Our Creation Station regularly hosted friends from both SaskAbilities and the CMHA, and shared art materials with the SW Pride drop-in Centre. Our Refugee Sponsorship Group worked tirelessly to bring Syrian family members to Swift Current.

Social justice:

Striving for an open and diverse community, our Affirming Ministry Interest Group took the lead in responding to the issues of gender identity. The Leadership Team sent letters to politicians and school division officials about inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in school curriculum, supporting LGTBQ students, involving parents, opposing the passage of the Parents' Bill of Rights legislation and use of the Not Withstanding Clause, and educating the public. We are proud to be the Swift Current church with the rainbow steps.

Care of the earth:

Our Earthcare Partners Interest Group raised the consciousness of the congregation about environmental issues, maintained our Living Wall for the second year, and initiated a gardening project.

Losses

- The decision made by the UCW to disband was painful. Out of gratitude for the many years of service by these women and their predecessors, a closing ceremony and celebration was held in June. The good news is that many of the UCW projects are being carried on by Interest Groups. i.e. Third Avenue Boutique, Garage Sale, Social and Funeral Convenors.
- Jackie Orola Ravino resigned as Sunday School Coordinator and was honoured in February for more than ten years of service. She remained active as a House Group Leader and member of the choir. The good news is that Deb Fletcher assumed the role of volunteer Sunday School Coordinator, and several individuals stepped up to teach Sunday School.
- Loose Change Suppers were discontinued after ten years. Perhaps we will find another way to reach out to those who are disadvantaged, find groceries very expensive, and have few social outlets.

Crossroads

Friends, in my view, we are approaching a crossroads, a point at which a crucial decision must be made that will have far-reaching consequences. We have been in this place before, back in 2014 when the MEWS Corp completed an assessment of our property. At that time we decided to maintain the status quo, but we knew then that we'd have to revisit that decision.

If energy efficiency is important to us, replacing our boilers and upgrading our windows and doors would require an ambitious fundraiser. If we could raise a large amount of money, would spending it on our building align with our Mission Statement?

The Leadership Team plans to invite people from different sectors of the community to offer fresh ideas for the use of our building. We will step up our marketing to look for new renters. We are open to changing some rooms, repurposing them to suit other activities.

It is uncomfortable to stand at a crossroads. We must be realistic. Thankfully, we averted a projected large deficit in 2023.

~ How long will we choose to operate with a deficit budget?

~ Can we afford our building?

First United Church is a suitable place to ask these hard questions.

We are blessed

In my view, our congregation is healthy. Annette leads uplifting worship services. Our musicians inspire us. We care for each other. We hold up one another in times of sorrow. We honour the wisdom of our elders. We are passionate about our ministry as volunteers. We embrace new ideas and are open to differences of opinion. We reach out into the neighbourhood, partnering with other churches and social agencies. We are a people of faith. We believe in prayer.

May I reassure you that First United Church is in good hands, with a strong and cohesive Stewardship Committee, Board of Trustees, Building & Property Committee, and Leadership Team.

THANK YOU to all of you who contributed to the ministry of First United Church in 2023.

And finally, on behalf of the congregation, may I express heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Annette Taylor, Rhonda Lotochinski (Office Manager), Patti McCleary (Office Manager and organist), James McLauchlan (Choir Director), Michael Orola (Caretaker), and Mary Anderson (Pianist). We are blessed by these conscientious people.

In faith,
Peggy Worrell
Chair of Leadership Team

Minister

2023 was an eventful year for our congregation! At our Annual General Meeting last March, we introduced a leaner governance structure and a new house group system. We have spent the last nine months living into this new organization and, thanks to our dedicated volunteers, it has been a very successful transition.

The Leadership Team began their work with a retreat on April 1, 2023. Since then they have worked with the congregation to create a new mission statement, led us through a budget review process and have begun work to increase the usage of our church building. I want to extend a special thank you to our chair, Peggy Worrell, for her exceptional leadership during this time.

The new house group system has meant that every person on our list was contacted by phone or email and, if able, were given the opportunity to volunteer at a Sunday service. It has been wonderful to reconnect with some of our members as they have greeted, ushered, and read scripture on Sunday morning. Thank you to all the house leaders and to Marie Andrews for coordinating this work.

During this year we have also had some difficult goodbyes. Jackie Ravino, our Sunday School Coordinator, resigned from her position and was thanked for her years of hard work and dedication. We are very grateful that Deb Fletcher has stepped into a volunteer coordinator position and that several members of the congregation have offered to teach Sunday School.

In 2023, the United Church Women made the difficult decision to disband their organization. On the first Sunday of June they held a Service of Closure in which we celebrated sixty-one years of their mission and service. I want to express my personal thanks to all the women of the UCW who have supported each other, this congregation, and the wider church for so many years.

Along with organizational changes and goodbyes, this year also brought with it areas of growth and new life! I am excited to report that during the fall of this year our Sunday worship attendance was consistently over 100 people (averaging 75-85 in person and another 25-30 online). This brings us back to our pre-COVID numbers! We also experienced a rise in our financial givings and enjoyed new voices in our choir. Even more exciting, is our continuing work to reach out into the community to make new connections and partnerships.

It seems appropriate that our Stewardship Committee chose to lead us through a campaign of gratitude this fall. From Welcome Back Sunday to Thanksgiving, our worship services included a time where we highlighted the ministries mentioned in our mission statement—pastoral care, hospitality, spiritual growth, outreach, etc.—and expressed our gratitude to the volunteers who make those ministries possible.

We do have much to be grateful for, and I would like to express my personal gratitude for the dedication and hard work of our staff team, our Leadership Team, committees, interest groups and all the volunteers that make it possible for this congregation to live out its mission in this community and in the world.

As previously mentioned, we now have a new mission statement that will take us into 2024 and beyond. With this mission statement to guide us, our Leadership Team and congregation have important decisions to make over the next few years as we consider the future of our ministry. Foremost in our minds is whether we will be able to make our church building financially sustainable. This will not be an easy task, but our Leadership Team is already doing the groundwork to make sure that all possibilities are considered.

I look forward to 2024 as, guided by the spirit, we continue strive to be an open and diverse community of faith.

Blessings,
Annette Taylor



Office Managers

Patti McCleary and Rhonda Lotochinski

It is hard to believe that 2023 has already come and gone, the years seem to fly by. Thankfully, most of our rentals and fundraisers have returned to normal activity. Some of our committees have returned to meetings at the church, while a few find it more convenient to meet over Zoom.

The office was very busy again as we were able to hold a few fundraiser suppers such as the Irish Stew supper in March, the Spring ham supper in April and the Fowl supper in October. They were all successful and we made sure to offer take out options for those who were not able to attend in person. We also kept busy with weddings, funerals, other fundraising projects, plus the return of Loose Change suppers (from January to May) and potluck lunches.

Patti continued working full days Monday to Thursday, and Rhonda worked Monday mornings to count the offering, Tuesday mornings to fulfill all the website duties, and worked full days Thursday and Friday performing regular office duties. Their total hours add up to a 39 hour work week.

Patti was the chair for the Fundraising Interest Group and was a member on the Worship & Music committee, and the Fowl Supper and Loose Change Interest Groups. Patti also continued playing the organ for Sunday worship services and funerals as needed.

Rhonda continued to take part in running the sound system for church services, funerals and weddings. Rhonda was also a member of the Membership & Pastoral Care, and Sunday School committees and the Archives, Fundraising and Loose Change working groups.

We would like to thank Rev. Annette Taylor and the Ministry & Personnel committee for their continued support and guidance. We would also like to thank our wonderful volunteers who graciously give up their own personal time to cover in the office for us when needed.

We both enjoy working at First United and always look forward to meeting everyone in the congregation as they stop by the office. It is wonderful to see how busy our church is both as a congregation and also as an outreach vehicle to those in need in Swift Current and surrounding area.

Blessings

Patti McCleary and Rhonda Lotochinski, Office Managers

Choir Director

Hi Folks!

Welcome to 2024! Given all the challenges we have faced together these past few years, it is nice to see First United bouncing back! I am on the transplant list and fortunate to have a good health team behind me. I also have been working with SW Crisis Services these past few years and am enjoying that work as well. Thank you, in particular, to the choir for your support this year!

With the exception of July and August, I am here for at least 14hrs/week. Most of that time has been working from home and the office. I am generally in the office on Wednesdays. During this time I complete the following tasks:

- Plan and implement choir rehearsals.
- Coordinate with internal and external worship leaders. This includes assistance in choosing music that is accessible and valued by the congregation here at First.
- Select an anthem that fits with the appropriate theme of service.
- Choose and implement music for the Sunday School program.
- Maintain healthy communication with other church staff and volunteers regarding the worship service.
- Coordinate and arrange musical accompaniment of pianists', the Gospel Band or individual performers.
- Work to find opportunities for others within the church that would like to share their musical gifts.
- Meet with Worship and Music once a month to discuss worship ideas regarding the music program here at First.
- Maintain and report copyright obligations with respective holders.

I want to send a big Thank You to Ministry & Personnel for their continued support!

James McLauchlan BMT MTA
Choir Director

Building and Property Committee

The Building & Property Committee consisted of Wally Bateman, Ken Newton, Wally Pearson, Brent Molyneux, James Declare Mae Lake and Annette Taylor.

A special thank you goes out to the following people:

Michael Orola continues to take care of the cleaning and sanitizing of our building. His work is very much appreciated.

Wally Bateman keeps an eye on the heating system, in particular the boilers. He continues to work to keep the sanctuary and other parts of the building operating as they should. Wally does this with the able assistance of Ken, Brent and Jim.

Brent Molyneux maintains the sound and video equipment. He enables the church services to be live streamed and this allows the members to log in to the Sunday Services.

During the year the following work was carried out:

- Renewed the Elevator contract for five years with Otis
- The front steps of the church were lightly repaired and painted- thanks to Deb and Jim Fletcher.
- Black candle holders were discarded thanks to Jim
- Tripping issue in front of the church was repaired
- Members of the Committee rotate the opening and closing of the church for Sunday Services.

Red River Mutual Insurance sent a list of required changes and those were carried out. The committee looked at Premium options between the United Protect Insurance and the Red River Mutual Insurance Company. The Premium for Red River Mutual Insurance Co. was less than the UCC premium so will stay with the Red River Mutual Insurance Company.

Dan Olmsted provided an energy audit summary to Peggy Worrell on January 16, 2023.

Faithful Footprints offers Grants for Faith Buildings which could possibly assist with the expenses connected to replacing a boiler. Our committee will make final plans regarding the heating and cooling of the buildings once the Leadership committee and the congregation have made decisions as to the future of the Church and buildings.

Building and Property Committee
Mae Lake, Secretary

Faith Formation Committee

During 2023, the Faith Formation Committee strived to invite persons of all ages and stages to explore and grow in their relationship with God, as revealed through Jesus Christ, within the community of faith and with the world.

Sunday School

In February 2023, Jackie Orola Ravino tendered her resignation as Sunday School Coordinator. The Faith Formation Committee is deeply grateful for her excellent work and dedication as Sunday School Coordinator over the past 10 years.

The committee was tasked with looking at options for this role which included hiring a new coordinator, no replacement (which might have meant potentially no Sunday School) or using volunteers. In May 2023, the Faith Formation Committee submitted a proposal to the Leadership team for a volunteer Sunday School Coordinator. The proposal was accepted and a call for interest was sent out to the congregation. The committee was pleased to welcome Deb Fletcher to this new role. (Refer to separate Sunday School report)

Book Studies

Two book studies were held this year:

- 1 *The Gospel of Trees* by Apricot Irving– facilitated by Deb Fletcher in May 2023
2. *Praying Our Goodbyes* by Joyce Rupp – facilitated by Melanie Davis in January / February 2024

Lenten Study

Annette Taylor and Mary Anderson co-facilitated the study using *Henri Matisse and the Colours of Lent* to guide discussions. These sessions were held over Zoom.

Advent Study

The Advent Study was co-facilitated by Annette Taylor and Mary Anderson. The poetry of Maya Angelou was used as the guide and the meetings were held in a hybrid mode (Zoom and in-person).

Lectionary Bible Study

This group meets on Wednesday mornings for a lively discussion, led by Annette. In November 2023, the format of their meetings changed from Zoom only to a hybrid mode.

Membership classes

Annette offered Membership Classes in 2023, but there were no expressions of interest.

Friday Matinees

The following films were shown during Lent:

- Everything, Everywhere All At Once
- The Banshees of Inisherin
- The Fablemans
- Tar

- Women Talking

Hosts: Dixie Green, Karen Messer, Linda Stumpf, Peggy Worrell.

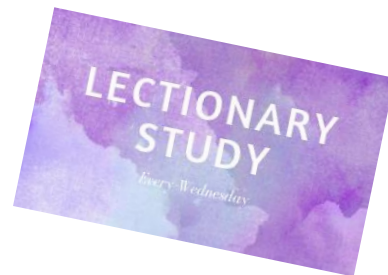
Art Journalling Workshop

A workshop was held on October 15, 2023 with Rev. Eva Stanley facilitating. Nine women attended for a day of spiritual bonding and creativity.

Thank you to the many volunteers who made the ministry of the Faith Formation Committee possible.

Faithfully submitted,

Mary Anderson (Chair), Karen Messer (Secretary), Pat Dyck-Bunkosky, Kimberly Bilanski, Joevey Perrera, Rev. Annette Taylor



Sunday School Coordinator

Attendance

Sunday School attendance has been small but steady with usually 6-7 students attending and up to 10 children (ages 3 to 15).

Programming

Teachers have been great at signing up to this important work. They are resourceful and very caring. Without an actual United Church curriculum, teachers have sourced other options which we ensure reflect the United Church beliefs and values.

For curriculum, we thought Rotation.org would be satisfactory as it is set up to provide small Sunday Schools with a flexible program. It uses a certain story from the Bible and for a month will present the story through arts and crafts one week, cooking another week, science or similar, and drama another week. The concept is wonderful in working with small and fluctuating attendance and we reference it often when teachers need help, but we have found following the lectionary works beautifully. When Melanie Davis does Community Learning time, it sets the stage for a rich, educational lesson in Sunday School. Rev. Annette Taylor forwards her communication with Melanie about the upcoming Sunday theme to the Sunday School so we can continue the discussion. I have been in touch with Lindsay Mohn (Living Skies Regional Council) in regards to the proposed upcoming curriculum, "I Am a Changemaker"...The title is great and we hope it will come out soon!

Activities:

December 3, 2023 – Gift giving Sunday where the children shopped for gifts for family and then wrapped them.

January 21, 2024 – the Sunday School children led the church service. The children also taught the congregation "Jesus Loves Me" in sign language.

Teachers for the 2023-24 Church Year (Bless Their Good Hearts)

Kimberly Bilanski

Lynda Stumpf with Fran Jackson

Rhonda Lotochinski

Sarah Allin

Needs:

The Sunday School has two rooms available for use...one for younger students and one for older students. Future plans include being able to divide the group for age-appropriate discussions and activities. At present, the number of teachers allow First United to offer one multi-age class of students. We hope to be able to encourage older students to become teachers for the younger aged group with guidance.

There is a small table in the Sunday School room which we use as an invitation. It is a work in progress as we are trying to gather supplies to display the theme of the lectionary. For example, we had an advent candle with a wreath set up during Advent. When we started to talk about Jonah and the Big Fish, we opened the Children's Bible to the story of Jonah. "Invitation" should be intriguing with manipulatives and visual education.

On behalf of the Sunday School, Blessings from Deb Fletcher

Sunday School 2023 in Pictures



House Group Coordinator

This being the inaugural year of the House Group System I'm pleased that things went as smoothly as they did. There were learning curves and a few obstacles along the way however our very capable House Group Leaders managed every situation with aplomb.

Our House Group Leaders are: Eileen Elkington, Fran Jackson, Judy Killaby, Loretta Korven, Diane Minogue, Maxine Olmsted, Jackie Orola-Ravino, Pat Palmer, Janet Strain, Linda Stumpf and Charlotte Thingvold.

In 2024 we will be tweaking some of the instructions for coffee, communion, etc. Gathering statistical information is another area we are working on. We are hoping that with each year our sense of community grows and develops further.

I would like to thank the House Group Leaders and every person who helped with the Sunday morning duties.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Andrews



Living Skies Regional Council



Living Skies Regional Council exists within the provincial boundaries of Saskatchewan. It has about 170 Pastoral Charges and about 230 congregational communities of faith. It also contains other communities of faith including 5 outreach ministries and 5 camps. We also have St. Andrew's College within our Regional Council and a special relationship with several ecumenical partners.

Vision and Mission

We believe God is calling Living Skies Regional Council, as a court of The United Church of Canada:

to nurture, support, and oversee Christ's ministry within the life and work of communities of faith

to be a spirit-filled people of God who seek to journey in Christ's way;

to acknowledge our differences as well as that which we hold in common;

to love and serve others;

to seek justice and peace in relationship with all humanity and the earth;

to fulfill the requirements of a Region of The United Church of Canada as laid out in the Manual.

Living Skies Regional Meeting: Discerning a Good Path Together

May 25-28, 2023 Prince Albert, SK

Delegates Colleen MacBean, Dixie Green, Linda Stumpf and minister, Annette Taylor joined 160 other delegates from across the province for worship, celebration, learning and decision making. Throughout the meeting the focus of the national church was always before us: **Bold Discipleship/ Deep Spirituality/ Daring Justice**. President **Darrell Reine** presided.

Theme speaker Chief Cadmus Delorme spoke to the theme of Discerning a Good Path together: We have all inherited the challenges that have resulted from the clash of Indigenous and Western world views. No one here is responsible for the Indian Residential School, or the 60s Scoop, or the Indian Act — but we have inherited the mess that these have created. When we feel guilt or shame about these things, we mustn't let these feelings in us; instead we need to let them motivate us to do better in the future. The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action are about our obligation to take what we have inherited and correct it and make sure we do better going forward. Indigenous people just want the agreements embedded in the Treaties to be honoured so that we can travel together as equals and friends with mutual respect. Chief Cadmus used the image of two canoes traveling side by side.

United Church delegates joined 3,500 area school children attending the Youth Community Pow Wow and were given a delicious lunch of moose stew and bannock.

REMIT - Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization (It will have its own mechanisms to make any future changes to its structure and processes.) **Passed**

Proposal - that living Skies Regional Council Applies to become an Affirming Region
Passed

Committee reports were heard, 18 tables with displays from various church related organizations were set up to be viewed including a book display of books by indigenous authors. Time was given for networks and clusters to meet. A memorial service was held for those we have lost and faith communities that have closed. A celebration of ministry banquet was held to recognize significant ministry anniversaries, retirees and ordinands. Sunday's ordination service also recognized Lay Worship Leaders for the first time.

For answers to your questions, the best person to call is Bev Diebert bdiebert@united-church.ca 306-704-0181. She also puts out a bi-weekly newsletter, **The Regional Rambler**. Let Bev know if you would like to receive it. There is a Facebook page: Living Skies Region of the UCC /Facebook and the website is <https://livingskiesrc.ca>.

Your delegates: Linda Stumpf, Colleen MacBean, and Dixie Green

Membership and Pastoral Care Committee

Purpose of this committee:

- To provide pastoral care for the congregation
- In cooperation with the Roll Clerk, to keep current the membership roster of the church
- To actively support and work with the Minister(s) in pastoral care of the congregation

Members of this committee: Rev. Annette Taylor, Sharyn Erne (Chair), Fran Jackson, Charlotte Thingvold, Rhonda Lotochinski, Deb Fletcher, and Rose Lis.

Visiting Group: Sharyn Erne, Colleen MacBean, Diane Sarson, Fran Jackson

Accomplished in the year 2023:

- Assisted Rev. Annette Taylor with Care Home Services and Fran Jackson with communion.
- Thursday morning coffee breaks continue on a regular basis. Fran has added birthday cake once a month and personal invitations to those that have a birthday.
- We had 6 graduates this year that were recognized on May 28, 2024 during our Sunday service. Not all were able to attend.
- Matthew Peters from Lancer and Allison Nagy from Regina had their memberships transferred to First United Church.
- Fran Jackson, Colleen MacBean, Donna Barber and Sharyn Erne have attended two Pastoral Care Education sessions offered by Living Skies Regional Council. These were very well done and very informative.

We have 65 people on our visiting list. The frequency of visits is dependent on individual people and their need for a visit. It would be safe to say that people that are shut-in would be visited once a month at least. Annette is always kept informed of our visits and if we see the need for her to visit – she is made aware of that need and the reason. We count as a visit, a chance meeting in a grocery store where a meaningful conversation has taken place. In such a situation, we can see and hear how this person appears to be and schedule a follow up visit in their home if they are receptive to this.

I would personally like to thank everyone that has been involved with this committee. Everyone has such great ideas that are benefiting our congregation - especially those that are shut in or not well. You are so valuable to this congregation and also to the city of Swift Current and area.

Blessings

Sharyn Erne
Chairperson of Membership & Pastoral Care Committee

Ministry and Personnel Committee

The Committee members for 2023 were Brenda Warder (chair), Mavis Jensen, Linda Thompson, and Ann Wiebe.

This committee meets once a month at the church, and more as required. We are always available to meet with the staff or congregation members as needed.

Our primary role is to be a constructive and supportive committee for staff and adherents of the congregation.

Our committee conducted staff annual reviews in October and November of 2023.

We met with Rev. Annette Taylor as requested by her. We acknowledged Rev. Annette Taylor's mother's passing (Jean Taylor), with a donation to her Mother's church Eldad United Church in Ontario.

Our committee was pleased that Rev. Annette was able to attend Education leave and take her vacation this year. Rev. Annette was also able to attend her Mother's funeral.

We requested Cost of Living Increase for our staff this year of 6.3 %, and the Leadership team came back with an agreed increase of 3.1 %. We requested an increase to the discretionary fund of \$400 this year.

We wish to thank our staff for their continuing dedication. We also thank the congregation for their continued support.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Warder

Nominations Committee

LEADERSHIP TEAM		Year/ 1st Term	Year/ 2nd Term
Chairperson	Peggy Worrell	2/3	
Vice Chairperson			
Secretary			
Treasurer	Charles Lotochinski	3/3	
Member-at-Large	Kevin Hanna	2/3	
Member-at-Large	Colleen MacBean	2/3	
Member-at-Large	Kim Bilanski	2/3	
Member-at-Large	Dave Zacharias	1/3	
Ministry Personnel	Rev. Annette Taylor		
<p>CHURCH COMMITTEES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister is an ex-officio member of all committees, except Ministry and Personnel, Search and Nominations • Corresponding Members contribute to the work of the Committee but are not expected to attend meetings 			
REQUIRED COMMITTEES			
MINISTRY & PERSONNEL		Year / 1st Term	Year/ 2nd Term
	Chair + 3-5 members		
Chairperson	Linda Thompson	3/3	
Secretary			
	Mavis Jenson	3/3	1/3
	Ann Wiebe	2/3	
	Brenda Warder	3/3	
	Rose Lis	1/3	
TRUSTEES		Year / 1st Term	Year/ 2nd Term
	5 lay members, including Chair		
Chairperson	Karen Bender	3/3	3/3
	Joanne Feil	3/3	
	Shirley Wilson	3/3	3/3
	Darliss Tallman	3/3	
	Gayleen Turner	1/3	

OTHER COMMITTEES			
BUILDING & PROPERTY COMMITTEE	Chair + 4-6 members	Year/ 1st Term	Year/ 2nd Term
Co-Chair	Brent Molyneux	3/3	1/3
Co-Chair	Ken Newton	3/3	1/3
Secretary	Mae Lake	3/3	
	Jim Declare	3/3	1/3
	Dan Olmsted	1/3	
Corresponding member	Wendell Andrews		
Corresponding member	Jerry Ruehs		
Corresponding member	Wally Bateman		
FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE	Chair + 3-5 members	Year/ 1st Term	Year/2nd Term
Chairperson	Mary Anderson	3/3	1/3
Secretary	Karen Messer	3/3	1/3
	Pat Dyck Bunkosky	3/3	2/3
	Melanie Davis	1/3	
Sunday School Coordinator	Deb Fletcher		
MEMBERSHIP & PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE	Chair + Roll Clerk + 4-5 members	Year/ 1st Term	Year/ 2nd Term
Chairperson	Rhonda Lotochinski	3/3	3/3
	Charlotte Thingvold	3/3	
	Cindy Herring	1/3	
	Fran Jackson	3/3	
Corresponding member	Colleen MacBean		
Corresponding member	Sharyn Erne		
Corresponding member			
Roll Clerk- ex-officio	Patti McCleary/Rhonda Lotochinski		
OUTREACH COMMITTEE	Chair + 4-6 members	Year/ 1st Term	Year/ 2nd Term
Chairperson	Jennifer Bingham	2/3	
Secretary	Lynn Anderson	3/3	3/3
	Brenna Stolhandske	3/3	4/3
	Fran Jackson	3/3	1/3

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE	Chair + 3-5 members	Year/ 1st Term	Year/ 2nd Term
Chairperson	Charles Lotochinski	3/3	
	Brenda Gruetzner	3/3	
	Eileen Elkington	2/3	
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE	Chair + 3-5 members		
Co-chair	Eileen Elkington	3/3	
WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE	Chair + 4-6 members + Choir Director	Year/ 1st Term	Year/ 2nd Term
Chairperson			
Choir Director	James McLauchlan		
Secretary	Barbara Foster	3/3	2/3
	Faye Jordan	3/3	1/3
	Diane Sarson	2/3	
LIVING SKIES REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES	3 Representatives	Year / 1st Term	Year/ 2nd Term
	Linda Stumpf	3/3	3/3
	Colleen MacBean	3/3	2/3
	Dixie Green	2/3	
HOUSE GROUP COORDINATOR			
	Marie Andrews	2/3	

OTHER GROUPS IN THE CHURCH
(not elected at Annual General Meeting)

INTEREST GROUPS			
3rd Ave Boutique			
Contact Person	Judy Corbett		
	Donna Schwartz		
Affirming Ministry			
Contact Person	Stacie Noble-Wiebe		
	Sharon Veer		
	Deb Fletcher		
	Annette Taylor		
Archives			
Contact Person	Jean Pearson		
	Rhonda Lotochinski		
	Fran Jackson		
Creation Station			
Contact Person	Linda Stumpf		
	Fran Jackson		
Decorations Group			
Contact person	Diane Minogue		
	Mavis Jenson		
	Ila Wilms		
	Amanda Polsfut		
Earth Care Partners			
Contact Person	Linda Stumpf		
	Peggy Worrell		
	Karen Messer		
	Ann Wiebe		
	Dixie Green		
	Tommy Kirk		
Fowl Supper Group			
Contact Person	Janet Keene		
	Shirley Terlson		
	Maxine Olmsted		
	Pat Palmer		
	Rhonda Lotochinski		
Fundraising Group			
Contact Person	Rhonda Lotochinski		

	Fran Jackson		
Garage, Toy & Christmas Room Sales			
Contact Person	Donna Barber		
	Charlotte Thingvold		
	Brenda Warder		
	Cindy Herring		
	Leonard Stumpf		
	Maxine Olmsted		
	Palma Miller		
	Shirley Wilson		
Kitchen Supplies			
Contact Person	Kathy Bolton		
Prayer Group			
Contact Person	Fran Jackson		
	Betty Bateman		
	Colleen MacBean		
Prayer Shawl Group			
Contact Person	Sharyn Erne		
	Jean Pearson		
	Fran Jackson		
Refugee Sponsorship Group			
Contact person-rotating	Amy Popick		
	Janet Keene		
	Maxine Olmsted		
	Marilyn Durant		
	Marie Andrews		
	Catherine Christie		
	Annette Taylor		
Community member	Heba Etmeh		
Community member	Faris Sadden		
Social & Funeral Lunch Convenors			
Chair	Judy Killaby		
	Rose Lis		
	Kathy Bolton		
	Janet Keene		
	Chris Newton		
	Sharon Pollock		
	Pat Palmer		

HOUSE GROUP – Faith			
Leader	Charlotte Thingvold		
HOUSE GROUP - Generosity			
Leader	Diane Minogue		
HOUSE GROUP - Gentleness			
Leader	Loretta Korven		
HOUSE GROUP - Joy			
Leader	Linda Stumpf		
HOUSE GROUP - Kindness			
Leader	Charlotte Thingvold		
HOUSE GROUP - Knowledge			
Leader	Pat Palmer		
HOUSE GROUP - Serenity			
Leader	Janet Strain		
HOUSE GROUP - Strength			
Leader	Jacqueline Orola Ravino		
HOUSE GROUP - Understanding			
Leader	Judy Killaby		
HOUSE GROUP - Wisdom			
Leader	Eileen Elkington		

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee would like to recognize and thank the congregation for their generous support in what was once again, a very successful year of outreach. We were able to support a variety of charities, organizations and individuals locally, across Canada and around the World.

Our committee members for 2023 were Fran Jackson, Jennifer Bingham, Brenna Stolhandske, Carisma Toles, Annette Taylor and Lynn Anderson.

The Outreach projects we worked on together were:

- Monthly baking for Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)
- Canadian Food Grains Bank service in October and donations
- the Outreach Refugee Sponsorship Silent Auction
- A Spring and Fall Donation Drive was started to support Dorie's House and the Family Resource Center
- Our local Benevolent Fund requests
- Christmas in July - supporting CMHA, Salvation Army and Southwest Crisis Services with donations of money and items
- Christmas Hampers were put together for 16 hampers and 43 people

The Outreach Committee raised \$20000 for the Mission and Service Fund through:

- The M&S Easter Envelope Campaign
- A special service on September 24, 2023
- Greeting cards, baking, ornaments and preserve sales after church
- Care home service offerings
- Offerings designated to M&S (including pre-authorized remittance)
- \$4412.70 from Planned Giving



We raised money for Camp Shagabec by having a special Camping Day Service in May at which \$2105 was raised and a cheque for \$2895 was sent from the Planned Giving account to reach our goal of \$5000.

We also held a special service in April to raise awareness and funds for St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon \$3360 was collected in total which exceeded our goal of \$3000.

Guided by the Spirit, this congregation has continued to work hard to show their caring and desire to enhance the lives of others in the world, wherever they are. Thank you to the congregation for your continued support and generosity and allowing the Outreach Committee to play a supporting role in your admirable endeavor of helping those in need.

Blessings from the Outreach Committee

Stewardship Committee

Greetings and Blessings to all.

Another year has passed and it is once again time to write an annual report. This year saw a couple of major changes in our church; the first was the move to a new governance model and the second was the closure of the UCW. Both changes will affect our committee going forward. The new governance model will be impacting our future direction, including funding issues. The loss of the UCW will impact our budgeting as we used to rely on their annual commitment in the budgeting process. This commitment should be offset by bringing their previous activities into the main budget.

In regard to budgeting this year saw a fantastic year. We had a budget deficit over \$46,000 and our final deficit was just \$3,227. So close! Local giving was up nearly \$18,000, which is wonderful to see. Our main funding is you, the congregation, and Stewardship would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued financial support.

Looking at 2024, we are currently finalizing the budget. So far it is looking to be similar to 2023, with a significant deficit over \$36,000. This is due to many reasons; the loss of the Cheer group, who were a major contributor to our rental income, the increase in our staff costs, increasing building costs and the continuing pressure on our fundraising and interest groups finding people to help with their work. These are issues that the Leadership team is currently working on.

This year Brenda Gruetzner and I were joined by Eileen Elkington on the committee. Although this allows us to function, it is not optimal. If even one person cannot attend a meeting, we can not pass any motions. If you are interested in participating in this crucial committee, please consider joining the Stewardship committee as a way you can participate in the running of our church. I promise it is not daunting or frightening at all!

Lastly, I would like to thank the entire Stewardship team for their support and work through a challenging and exciting 2023, and am looking forward to continuing our work through 2024.

Blessings



Charles Lotochinski
Treasurer

Trustees

The Trustee committee members for 2023 were Marlene Reidle (Chair), Shirley Wilson, Darliss Tallman, Karen Bender and Joanne Feil. Rev. Annette Taylor is also a member of the committee in an ex officio capacity. The Board of Trustees did not hold any meetings in 2023 as there were no significant changes to the operating processes or to the assets held by the church.

The signing authorization policy on the Church's term deposits, is set that any 2 of the 3 authorized members acting together must sign all documents. The term deposits are held at the Innovation Credit Union. Signing authority remains the same as in 2022. The three authorized members in 2023 were Marlene Reidle, Karen Bender, and Shirley Wilson.

During 2023, the term deposits which matured during the year, were renewed as per recommendations from the stewardship committee.

Marlene Reidle
Trustee Committee Chair

Worship and Music Committee

Our present committee members are Rev Annette Taylor (minister), James McLauchlan (music director), Barbara Foster, (secretary), Patti McCleary, Faye Jordan, and Diane Sarson. We did not have a chairperson this year, so members took turns chairing the meetings.

We are very grateful to continue to live stream our Sunday services on Boxcast. This allows those unable to attend in person to still be connected to our church family. Although in person attendance at services increased throughout the year (average of 75 this fall), those watching on line each Sunday has stayed steady at about 24 households.

Some of our highlights this year were:

- Once again having the worship service and potluck lunch at the South Side Park on June 11, 2023.
- James McLauchlan and the choir were able organize and bring back the Melodies of Christmas on December 17, 2023 which was so enjoyed by not only our church family but others from the community.
- Pot Luck lunches following our church services were enjoyed throughout the year. Thanks to the Social Convenors for organizing these events.
- The Christmas Eve service, a very special service that is looked forward to each year was well attended.

Some of the Committee work involved reviewing and revising the Communion, Usher and Reader instructions, reviewing our committee's section in the Policy Manual and completing the Budget Review Questionnaire including our Action Plan. Two budget saving recommendations from our committee that have been implemented were discontinuing the radio broadcast as of November 1, 2023 and stopping the printing of bulletins as of July 1, 2023.

The choir has been strengthened with the addition of several new singers and we are all enjoying the fuller, richer sound. We thank James, Mary, Patti and the choir for their gift of music that so enriches our worship services. We urgently need a backup pianist to support Mary Anderson so we are hopeful a candidate can be recruited in the next few weeks. The United Church of Canada is preparing a new music resource which will provide more inclusive and contemporary music. The choir has been using a few of the selections in recent services. This new resource will be available online and in book form.

Submitted by
Barbara Foster, on behalf of
The Worship and Music Committee

Choir

During 2023-24, we have been fortunate to welcome some new choir members. Welcome to Harold, Jackie, Jennifer and Ruth!

I also want to thank Mary Anderson, Sharon Veer and Patti for being such dependable and solid musicians to work with this year. First United Choir is looking for fill-in accompanist, anyone who is interested in the possibility is welcome to reach out to either myself or Mary Anderson for more information.

The First United Choir planned a successful Melodies of Christmas this past year which raised approximately \$1700 towards our Refugee Sponsorship and General Funds.

Thank you to Kim Bilanski, Deb Fletcher and Peggy Worrell for your continued work with the kids! We are very fortunate to have you here!

Thank you to Patti and Rhonda for your support this year!

I also need to say a special thank-you to Rev. Annette for being great to work with. We are very fortunate to have you here!

Respectfully submitted,

James McLauchlan MTA
Choir Director

UCW

At our regular meeting in January 2023, a lengthy discussion was held regarding the disbandment of the General UCW at First United Church. We tabled the vote on this issue until our next meeting in March, and at that time we voted to disband the General UCW on June 30, 2023. After 60 plus years, it was a hard decision to make but we felt that the time was right. A Service of Closure for the UCW was held on Sunday, June 4, 2023 with Reverend Annette Taylor and Donna Barber preparing the order of service, and Norma Hain acting as Service leader with past and present members taking part in the service. The Leadership Team very kindly offered to serve cake at coffee time which was enjoyed by all.

Before we were officially finished it was decided that a new fridge for the upstairs kitchen should be purchased, and as well, 3 new stoves were purchased, two for the upstairs kitchen and one for the downstairs kitchen.

The UCW did host the Plant, Bake and Muffin Sales on May 24, 2023 for the last time.

At our May meeting it was decided that we cash out our Term Deposits and any Equity we have accumulated and as well any funds we have in our chequing account and turn over all funds to the main church. The Innovation Credit Union helped with this process and issued a final cheque to the First United church in the amount of \$34,137.34.

In closing the General UCW would like you to know that it was our privilege and pleasure to work for the First United church and we thank all members of First United for supporting us for the last 60 years. It was so appreciated and we were humbled by your generosity.

Thank you again.

Respectfully submitted by:
Shirley Terlson, U.C.W Secretary/Treasurer

UCW Audit Statement

Statement of Income and Expenses - January 1 to December 31, 2023

Balance Forward – January 1, 2023 = \$34,232.63

INCOME

Catering	4,432.50
Boutique Sales	5,038.74
Garage Sales	8,497.13
Muffin & Plant Sale	827.00
Donations	300.00
Rentals	45.00
Misc	64.75
Float	745.00
Interest	19.33
Terms	12,164.36

TOTAL 32,133.81

EXPENSES

Catering	1,399.71
Local Church	20,000.00
Donations	4,400.00
M & S	300.00
Kitchen Supplies	580.05
Misc	4,542.75
Float	745.00
Terms	261.59

TOTAL 32,229.10

DEBIT 2023 - \$95.29

BALANCE SHEET – July 31, 2023

Bank Balance 34,137.34

*Official cheque issued by
Innovation Credit Union*

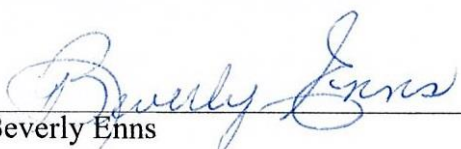
TO: First United Church -34,137.34

Bank Balance: 0

I have reviewed the financial records for the First United Church Women (UCW), for the months of January 1, 2023 to July 31, 2023.

I believe they accurately present a summary of all activities.

Dated: September 19, 2023


Beverly Enns

Interest Groups

3rd Avenue Boutique

The 3rd Avenue Boutique is coordinated by Judy Corbett and Donna Schwartz. We have two afternoons a week that we work in the clothing area. Tuesday afternoon we have on average 4-5 regular volunteers that sort through the donated items. They replenish the racks and tables, store the seasonal items and send on what we don't think will sell. Wednesdays we are open for business from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with two volunteers managing the sales. On average we have 6-8 volunteers for the Wednesday sales, each working about once a month.

The public is encouraged to bring in their items on Monday and Wednesday mornings. In our area we accept clean and gently worn clothing, jackets, footwear, accessories, bedding towels, tablecloths, suitcases and small baby needs. It is all very much appreciated.

On average the sales have been going very well. Some days are slower than others but that is normal with any venture.

Submitted by Judy Corbett



Affirming Ministry Group

In 2023, the members of the Affirming Ministry Working Group were Stacie Noble-Wiebe (Chair), Sharon Veer, Deb Fletcher, and Annette Taylor.

Highlights from 2023 included:

- Visible signs that First United Church is an Affirming Ministry:
 - Installing signage on the main and second floor re accessible washrooms, gender-inclusive washrooms, and family washrooms with change tables.
 - Repairing our rainbow stairs and refreshing them with a new coat of paint.
 - Constructing a portable flag stand so that a Pride flag can be on year-round display within the church and can be moved to a variety of locations as needed/desired.
 - Updating our bulletin board and our webpage.
- Planning and/or co-leading the following services and sessions:
 - January 29, 2023: Land Acknowledgements Service – what they are, what makes them meaningful, and why it’s important we do them.
 - March 12, 2023: For PIE Day – Community Learning Time skit re: what PIE means and then coming together to share pie after the service.
 - June 25, 2023: Pride Service – focus on allyship and providing support to the 2SLGBTQ+ community in light of increasing societal demonstrations of transphobia. Laura Budd was our guest speaker via a videorecording.
 - October 1, 2023: Truth and Reconciliation Service – focus on the United Church of Canada’s General Council 44 Remit 1 regarding establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization.
 - December 3, 2023: Information session and discussion re Remit 1.
- Members of First United Church riding on the Southwest Saskatchewan Pride float in the Frontier Days Parade. A Southwest Saskatchewan Pride member shared that they valued having the visible support from our church members and the multigenerational aspect that the presence of those members added.
- Supporting the 2SLGBTQ+ community in light of the Saskatchewan government’s pronoun policy and subsequent "Parents' Bill of Rights" legislation by:
 - Writing letters (signed by our Minister, Chair of the Leadership Team, and Chair of the Affirming Interest Group) to:
 - the Chinook School Division requesting that they distribute information to counter the various sources of disinformation re pronoun usage in schools.
 - the Premier, Minister of Education, Education Critic, Education Associate Critic, and our local MLA expressing our deep concerns regarding the Premier’s decision to use the notwithstanding clause of the Constitution to pass legislation that undermines the rights of 2SLGBTQIA+ students in Saskatchewan.
 - Donating \$200 to the Pride Drop-in Centre.

I would like to thank Deb, Sharon, and Annette for all they do, all they give, and how much they care. I am honoured to serve on this Interest Group with them. I also appreciate our Leadership Team, the other church committees and interest groups, and our congregation for the many ways that all of us have lived into being an Affirming Ministry throughout the year.

Thank you!
Stacie Noble-Wiebe
Chair of the Affirming Ministry Group



Creation Station

If God is creator, and we are made in God's image, then we are, in our essence, creators. We are, in our essence, artists. Therefore, when we open ourselves to the expression of creativity, we also open to the movement of the Divine within us.

(Christine Valters Paintner and Betsy Beckman)

Creation Station is a place where folk are invited to come and explore their creativity, to make use of the mostly donated resources and relax and see what happens. The room is bright and spacious and contains resources for painting, gelli printing, coloring, making manadalas, zentangle, card making, collage, creating with beads, stickers, yarn, and other recycled or found materials. We have a large supply of scrapbooking paper, stamps, and inkpads and a corner for junk journaling or art journaling. It has been operating for over 5 years and is open on Wednesdays from 1 - 5pm when the Garage Sale and Boutique are open except November and December when it becomes the Christmas Room.

We have had from 4 to 14 people come each Wednesday. Three to five folk from the Mental Health Drop In and their supervisor continue to come twice a month. Four to five folk from the Abilities Centre and one of their supervisors came every Wednesday with big smiles on their faces before we took our summer break. We try to have suggested activities to offer them but they are free to choose what they will do. We have occasional drop ins (several the week of the school holiday), and a few "regulars". We had 8 come when we opened one day in July.

We have been sharing materials with the Pride Drop In and encouraging them to use the space. Welcome Centre folk come to check us out and occasionally return. The Sunday School have been invited to Creation Station on a monthly basis.

We have had cardmaking bees in the spring and the fall with well over 100 cards made each time and around \$200 in donations for M&S each time as well. We hope to have card making be a monthly gathering in the winter months.

Thank you to all who have made donations to Creation Station and come by to help or to create. Please give us a call if you would like to make use of the room on a day other than Wednesday and we'll make a plan.

Submitted by Linda Stumpf and Fran Jackson

Earthcare Partners

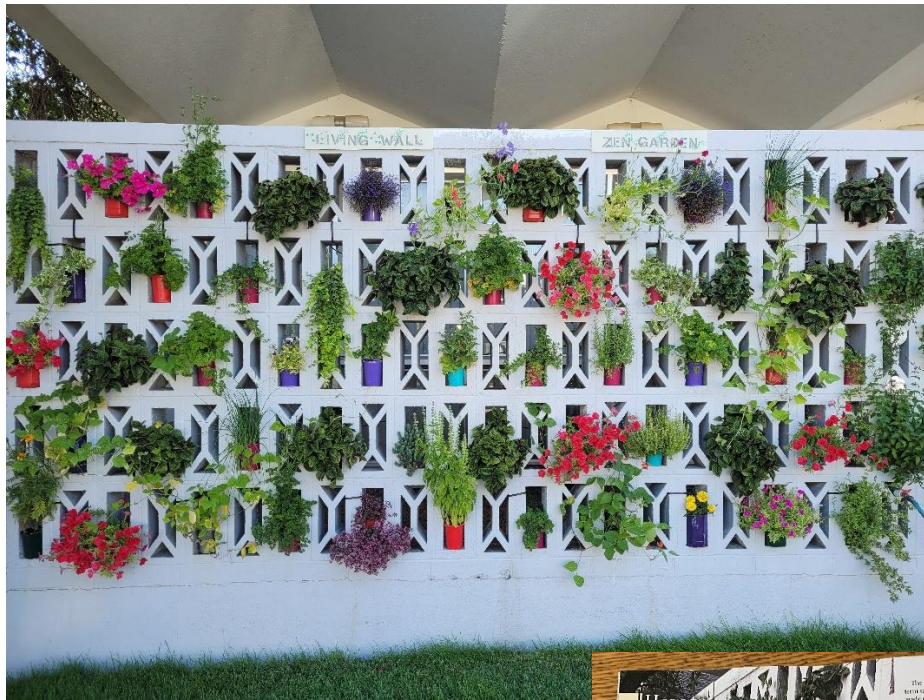
A group named Earthcare Partners was created in February 2022, with Linda Stumpf and Peggy Worrell as Co-chairs. Its purpose is to develop ideas related to care of the earth as individuals and as a church.

- The concrete breeze wall that was transformed into a “Living Wall”, a bold public statement about greening the planet, was once again stocked with 78 pots with plants. The Zen Garden behind it was maintained.
 - Thank you to Rose Lis for her leadership and dedication.
 - Thank you to Ron Elkington for his maintenance of the drip irrigation system.
 - Thank you to all of the donors of pots, plants, and other materials and those who participated in the planting bee.
 - There was a “Plant Giveaway” on Sunday, September 17, 2023. Many plants were left so plans will be made to further distribute some of those leftover plants in the future.
 - None of the \$200 budget was needed.
 - The project was recognized by the Prairie Post. A photo of our Living Wall appeared in "Cool Things", *Broadview* magazine, April/May 2023 and an article submitted by Peggy Worrell was printed in *The Gardener* magazine.
 - New signs for both wall and garden were made by Tommy Kirk from wood from an old church pew and will be unveiled in the spring
- A “Did You Know?” section with environmental information continues to appear in the bulletin which is now distributed weekly by email.
- DIY Energy Audit of the church was done by Dan Olmsted. Thanks for your work on that, Dan!
- Training for Building Managers forwarded to Building and Property
- "Deep Energy Retrofits" - A video by Matt Dipple, Airtight Engineering, Regina was viewed and Matt was contacted about possibly coming as a resource, which he would be willing to do. (<https://www.kairoscanada.org/neverabettertime>)
- Solar Power Presentation March 19, 2023 after worship. Thank you to Dixie Green and Lynden Shaw from Shaw's Electric. Very informative. Attendance 11.
- Janie and Helen Rempel Community Garden - 3 garden boxes rented. Thanks to Melanie Davis and Karen Messer for donating the rental and cover fees. Thanks to volunteers Karen and Doug Messer, Melanie Davis, Rose Lis, Ann Wiebe, and Elma Engel for their work caring for and maintaining the gardens. Produce from the gardens and from other members' gardens was offered after church for several Sundays. Thanks to all who gave donations for produce. \$278.55 was raised for the general fund. Leftover produce was taken to Salvation Army Foodbank and CMHA Drop in Centre. Thanks to volunteers, Peggy Worrell, Ann Wiebe, Fran Jackson, and Linda Stumpf.
- Plant and Muffin Sale Wednesday, May 24, 2023 - Thanks to volunteers Rose Lis, Fran Jackson, Karen Messer, Peggy Worrell, Ann Wiebe. \$150.00 was taken in for plants.
- City Clean Up - Green Up - 4 square blocks in vicinity of church. Thanks to volunteers Peggy and Jim Worrell, Fran Jackson, Karen Messer, James McLauchlan, and Seth Polsfut.
- UCC Faithful Footprints carbon reduction for faith buildings webinar, December 15, 2023 over Zoom information forwarded to Stewardship.

- New Mission Statement for First United Church to include "care of the earth".
- Plans for 2024 include presentation by Dwight and Carol Lemon re expansion of irrigation at Duncairn Reservoir, SMR Presentation (Small Nuclear/ Modular Reactors Pros and Cons), Care for the Earth Tour - a self guided walking or driving or scheduled bus tour (a Swift Current version of a Jane's Walk), a Lunch 'n Learn at the Museum, Riverhurst Wetlands/ Sage Creek Prairie School Field Trips.

You are invited to join Earthcare Partners, which meets monthly over Zoom.

Linda Stumpf & Peggy Worrell



Fundraising Group

The Fundraising Interest Group concentrates on ideas that are expected to raise a minimum of \$1000. The congregation is encouraged to submit their ideas.

The objectives of the Fundraising Interest Group are:

1. Fundraising
2. Building community within the congregation

In 2023, we had a very successful fundraising year with all proceeds going to the church's General Operating Fund.

Event	Date	Details	Income	Expenses	Net Income
Christmas Puddings	February/2023	Betty Bateman made 155 jars of pudding	\$2,160.00	\$302.29	\$1837.71
Irish Stew <i>Seats in gym & takeout meals</i>	March 19/2023	119 meals sold (out of 150) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 69 in gym • 50 take outs 	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Spring Ham Supper <i>Seats in gym & take out meals</i>	April 30/2023	138 meals sold (out of 150) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85 in gym • 53 take outs 	\$2,903.00	\$288.80	\$2,614.20
Mother's Day Card/Bake/Carnation Sale	May 7 & 14/2023	Cards: \$283.25 Bake sale: \$671.35 50 pink Carnations: \$260	\$1,214.60	\$82.70	\$1,131.90
\$23 for 2023 campaign	June 1-15/2023	31 people donated	\$3,356.00	\$0.00	\$3,356.00
Fowl Supper	October 29/2023	314 meals sold - 236 in gym (2 settings) - 78 take outs	\$7,225.08	\$660.69	\$6564.39
Christmas Tea/Bake Sale	December 2/2023	106 attended Cards: \$41.00 Bake Sale: \$871.90 Admission: \$535	\$1,447.90	\$0.00	\$1,447.90
			TOTAL INCOME	TOTAL EXPENSES	NET INCOME
			\$20,306.58	\$1,334.48	\$18,972.10

- Social Convenors/Fundraising Interest Group
- Fundraising Interest Group project
- Fowl Supper Interest Group project
- Social Convenors project

Please contact any of us if you have an idea for a fundraiser or if you would like to join our group. Thank you to everyone who made these fundraisers such a huge success!

Respectfully submitted,

Patti McCleary (Chair), Fran Jackson, Rhonda Lotochinski, Ila Wilms and Eileen Elkington

Garage, Toy and Christmas Room Sales

These rooms are coordinated by Donna Barber with the dedicated help of Charlotte Thingvold, Cindy Herring, Brenda Warder. We have eleven others who come to help either on Monday mornings or Wednesday sale days. Mondays - we are sorting, pricing and putting out new items or packing them to be shipped out. Wednesdays are sale days from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We sell the items and help our customers. Sometimes we have new donations to deal with too. The items we ship are picked up by the Diabetes truck.

We accept good, clean, working small household/kitchen items, electric appliances, jewelry, children's toys, games, small tools, small electronic items and books, etc. These donations may be brought to the church preferably on Monday or Wednesday mornings.

We are very grateful for all the donations we receive from our church members and the wider community, for without these donations we would not have a sale. Most sale days are very successful. Thank you to everyone for their help and dedication to keep this worth while project going. A big thank you to Rhonda Lotochinski for advertising our sales on Swift Current Online, Garage Sale Junkie and First United Church's Website.

Submitted by Donna Barber



Loose Change Supper Group

We are grateful to the Sask Abilities who send us volunteers to help set up for the suppers. A special thank you to Sharon Pollock who volunteered at all our suppers in 2023.

Three suppers were held in 2023 (January, March and May). The total income for these suppers amounted to \$2029.30 and our total expenses were \$881.77. The profit of \$1147.53 was donated to the Christmas Hamper project again this year.

At our organizational meeting held in the fall, it was decided to discontinue providing the Loose Change Suppers. It was decided that our group would pursue outreach in the wider community by volunteering at the Salvation Army suppers held on Wednesday evenings. Our first volunteer opportunity will be in early 2024.

Committee Members: Diane Minogue, Rhonda Lotochinski, Patti McCleary, Judy Corbett, Maxine Olmsted, Sharyn Erne and Janet Keene.

Submitted by Janet Keene



Meals on Wheels Group

A group of people from First United Church have been delivering Meals on Wheels through the Cypress Health Region for one month every year. In the year 2023, we delivered meals in the month of April.

This practice began many years ago when Dot and Bis Wiskar still lived in Swift Current. This has been another of those ministries that brings an enormous amount of satisfaction to everyone involved.

We pick up the meals at the hospital at about 11:30 a.m. every day in April and work as a team. One person drives while the other gets the meals ready for the next drop off. While we are doing this, we are visiting, getting acquainted with the city and the people in it that are in need of meals. Those receiving the meals are so grateful for the delivery and love the moment of visiting from the person delivering.

If this is something you would enjoy participating in, please phone Sharyn Erne at 306-741-7346 or the office at 306-773-9353 and they can get in touch with me

Submitted by Sharyn Erne

Prayer Shawl Group

The purpose of this group is to make shawls and present them to people that are going through life changing times in their lives. This can include death or serious illness. The shawls are knit or crocheted with loving thoughts and prayers. Other events may include baptism, confirmation, graduation, wedding. Shawls have also been given to immigrants to remind them they are not alone in this country.

Prayer shawl ministry is not just in Swift Current. The term prayer shawl will be recognized almost any place where there are people in need of comfort

We began our Prayer Shawl Ministry in 2009. Constant members of this group have been Fran Jackson, and Sharyn Erne. Jean Pearson has become our most faithful and talented shawl maker in the last few years. Before Jean joined us was Myrtle Johnston and Marlene Martinoski both very talented shawl makers. I would like to thank everyone that has contributed to this very important part of ministry. If you have given us yarn, made even one shawl, helped with the delivery of shawls, made cards, made labels, provided us with names of people that should receive shawls. All of these little details make for a very successful ministry and we thank you.

In the year 2023, we have given 12 shawls to adults, babies, and teenagers. Since 2009, we have given hundreds of shawls. Some of the shawls remained in the families if the person passed away, some were returned to us to regift and one that I know of the shawl was buried with the recipient. This was the one given to my sister.

I have many shawls in my home and would appreciate hearing names of anyone that would like to have one of them.

Blessings

Sharyn Erne, Fran Jackson & Jean Pearson

Refugee Sponsorship Group

Hello from the members of the Refugee Sponsorship Group!



Our dedicated members remain - Rev. Annette Taylor, Maxine Olmsted, Janet Keene, Heba Anouz, Marie Andrews, Faris Sadden, Marilyn Durant, Catherine Christie and Amy Popick. We continue to rotate chair and secretary roles – what an awesome team!!

Looking back at 2023, it has been another incredible year of growth for our Refugee Sponsorship fund, and we continue to receive donations of household items that will be required to outfit two dwellings. Our members have also been committed to advocating in various ways this past year to speed up sponsorship, knowing circumstances are so very difficult and the health status is precarious for members of the family we are sponsoring.

We started in January of 2023 at \$86,881.00, and by the Grace of God and the continued overwhelming generosity of many, as of January of 2024 we have now climbed to \$92,913.10!! Through various donations from congregation and community members, pastoral charges, and events such as Melodies of Christmas, we are getting even closer to our goal of \$95,000 to financially support a family of 6 for a year!!

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Swift Current Masonic Lodge who have donated space in their lodge building for us to store household items for the families, free of charge. This has been a huge help as we continue to work at gathering the necessities for two households to be fully furnished. We have been overwhelmed with the generosity and creativity of folks who have donated household items. Some pastoral charges have put on a shower of sorts to gather items to donate! How fun is that?! We did a work bee in the fall to organize the many donated items and update our list of what we still needed. See the wonderful Janet Keene for inquiries and to request the list.

The challenges of unprecedented back logs in Refugee Sponsorship processes coupled with the continuing unsafe and difficult living conditions of the family we are working to sponsor led us to continue to advocate throughout the year, requesting for faster processing and acknowledgment of serious health issues for the senior member of the family. Our group members have advocated through repeated letter writing, phone calls and visits to our local MP's office with the intention of speeding the process in some way. We will continue to work to push for the family we are sponsoring to get here as soon as possible to receive the medical care and safety they require and deserve.

In closing, please receive our sincere thanks for your continued support for this Refugee Sponsorship and Family Reunification initiative. This sponsorship process, long and winding as it is, is so very important and we will continue to work and pray for the safe arrival of Heba's family of 6 as soon as possible, acknowledging the delays and slowness of the system we are working within.

Thank You and may your New Year be blessed!

With Gratitude and Joy,

The Refugee Sponsorship Group

First United Church Operating Fund

First United Church Balance Sheet As of 31 December 2023

31 Dec 23

ASSETS

Current Assets

Chequing/Savings

Cash Account

900 - Petty Cash 43.15

901 - Church Float 200.00

902 - Garage Sale Float 240.65

Total Cash Account 483.80

General Operating Accounts

1100 High Interest Accounts

1102 - General Operating-200302354785 64,931.51

1105 - B & P - 830510791122 48,327.56

Total 1100 High Interest Accounts 113,259.07

1000 - Chequing Account - 100202354785

1002 - General Operating 96,722.06

1015 - Senior Choir 1,629.62

1045 - Worship Circle-Chinook Pres. 7,875.54

1050 - Memorial Fund 18,248.97

1075 - Refugee Sponsorship 92,613.10

**Total 1000 - Chequing Account -
100202354785 217,089.29**

Total General Operating Accounts 330,348.36

Total Chequing/Savings 330,832.16

Accounts Receivable

Accounts Receivable

1401 - GST Receivable 556.82

Total Accounts Receivable 556.82

Total Accounts Receivable 556.82

Other Current Assets

1011 - Credit Union Member Rewards 9,820.09

Total Other Current Assets 9,820.09

Total Current Assets 341,209.07

Other

Assets

Long Term Investments

1016 - Term #1-04/20/24 - 830511584914 80,000.00

1017 - Term #2-04/22/24- 830512487612 50,000.00

1018 · Term #3-04/22/24 - 830512487596	80,000.00
1019 · Term #4-04/22/24 - 830511584948	80,000.00
1023 · ChoirTerm-04/21/24-830512361635	2,191.69
1024 · ChoirTerm-04/21/24-830512361643	2,219.72
1025 · ChoirTerm-04/21/24-830512361668	2,271.65
1026 · ChoirTerm-04/21/24-830512361684	<u>2,318.55</u>
Total Long Term Investments	<u>299,001.61</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>299,001.61</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>640,210.68</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
3000 · Opening Bal Equity	142,053.80
3001 · Equity Adjustments	-29,613.55
3100 · Retained Earnings	488,349.59
Net Income	<u>39,420.84</u>
Total Equity	<u>640,210.68</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>640,210.68</u>

First United Church
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 January through December 2023

	<u>Jan - Dec 23</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Administration Income			
4001 · Local	113,908.29	121,150.00	94.02%
4001-1 · Local - offering not receipted	7,683.05		
4001-2 · Local - PAR	74,682.00	78,850.00	94.71%
4002 · Loose Offering	524.30	1,000.00	52.43%
4007-1 · Christmas - Loose	356.00		
4007 · Christmas Offering	7,830.00	9,000.00	87.0%
4008-1 · Easter - loose	130.00		
4008 · Easter Offering	5,215.00	5,000.00	104.3%
4025 · UCW Unit Envelope Givings	250.00		
4050 · UCW - Local	20,000.00	16,000.00	125.0%
4051 · Broadview	390.00	400.00	97.5%
4060-1 · Thanksgiving - Loose	40.00		
4060 · Thanksgiving	3,345.00	5,500.00	60.82%
4070 · Church Calendars	120.00	50.00	240.0%
4090 · GST Rebates	1,363.06	1,500.00	90.87%
4091 · Co-op Equity	11.61	50.00	23.22%
4092 · Credit Union Equity	1,060.97	750.00	141.46%
Total Administration Income	<u>236,909.28</u>	<u>239,250.00</u>	99.02%
Faith Formation Income			
4101 · Sunday School	1.00	75.00	1.33%
4103 · Sunday School Xmas Shopping Day	40.00		
4110 · Adult Education	852.75	200.00	426.38%
Total Faith Formation Income	<u>893.75</u>	<u>275.00</u>	325.0%
Fundraiser Income			
4600 · Fundraising Income	0.00	20,000.00	0.0%
4605 · Spring Supper	2,903.00		
4610 · Christmas Puddings	2,160.00		
4614 · Fowl Supper	7,225.08		
4616 · Mother's Day Card/Bake Sale	1,214.60		
4620 · Irish Stew Supper	2,000.00		
4628 · \$23 for 2023	3,356.00		
4640 · Christmas Tea/Bake Sale	1,447.90		
Total Fundraiser Income	<u>20,306.58</u>	<u>20,000.00</u>	101.53%

Interest Groups Income			
4700 · Garage Sale room	2,445.80		
4701 · Toy Room	1,266.70		
4702 · Christmas room	1,087.90		
4703 · 3rd Avenue Boutique	3,292.65		
4705 · Earthcare Partners Donations	362.75		
4706 · Earthcare Partners Veggie Table	374.50		
4707 · Creative Art	65.35	50.00	130.7%
4709 · Loose Change Supper Income	2,029.30	3,000.00	67.64%
4711 · Social Convenors Catering	1,322.80		
4712 · Funeral Catering	4,212.50		
Total Interest Groups Income	16,460.25	3,050.00	539.68%
Interest Income			
4801 · General Operating Chequing	184.60	125.00	147.68%
4807 · General Operating High Interest	1,089.93	500.00	217.99%
4809 · Term Deposits Interest	6,537.88	10,000.00	65.38%
4820 · B & P High Interest Account	777.39	300.00	259.13%
Total Interest Income	8,589.80	10,925.00	78.63%
Outreach Income			
4201 · Canadian Food Grains Bank	600.00	500.00	120.0%
4203 · Christmas in July	1,800.00	1,500.00	120.0%
4205 · Christmas Hampers	5,177.11	3,500.00	147.92%
4206 · Fair Trade Sales	0.00	500.00	0.0%
4211 · Camp Shagabec	1,075.00	2,500.00	43.0%
4211-1 · Camp Shagabec - unreceipted	1,000.00		
4212 · Camp Shagabec - loose	30.00		
4213 · Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal	575.00		
4216 · Outreach Fundraiser Supper	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%
4217 · Outreach Fundraiser Auction	0.00	1,500.00	0.0%
4218 · Outreach Fundraiser Donations	0.00	500.00	0.0%
4219 · St. Andrew's College	340.00		
4219-1 · St. Andrew's College - Loose	20.00		
4219-2 · St. Andrew's - unreceipted	3,000.00		
4261 · Benevolent Fund	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4262 · Benevolent Fund Gift-In-Kind	200.00		
Total Outreach Income	13,817.11	12,500.00	110.54%
Building & Property Income			
4301 · Room Rentals	27,966.00	20,000.00	139.83%
4310 · Weddings	200.00	400.00	50.0%
4315 · Funerals	5,050.00	2,000.00	252.5%
4325 · Donation	1,233.33		
Total Building & Property Income	34,449.33	22,400.00	153.79%

Sundry Income			
4910 · Wages - Weddings	300.00	350.00	85.71%
4915 · Wages - funerals	4,225.00	1,300.00	325.0%
Total Sundry Income	4,525.00	1,650.00	274.24%
Worship & Music Income			
4510 · Radio	520.00	600.00	86.67%
4520 · Melodies of Christmas - loose	1,589.00	2,500.00	63.56%
4521 · Melodies of Christmas	70.00		
4550 · Livestream Income	600.00		
Total Worship & Music Income	2,779.00	3,100.00	89.65%
Total Income	338,730.10	313,150.00	108.17%
Expense			
Administration Expense			
5001 · Accounting & Audit	200.00	200.00	100.0%
5003 · Bank Charges	342.00	350.00	97.71%
5005 · Computer	945.06	2,000.00	47.25%
5010 · Office Supplies	682.96	1,000.00	68.3%
5012 · Postage	552.00	700.00	78.86%
5014 · Broadview Subscriptions	390.00	450.00	86.67%
5025 · UCW Unit Envelope Givings	250.00		
5040 · Web Page	164.98	550.00	30.0%
5050 · General Council Allocation	13,237.00	13,237.00	100.0%
5070 · Church Calendars	112.35	100.00	112.35%
5075 · Council Expenses	358.99	500.00	71.8%
5085 · Copier Usage	2,337.91	2,250.00	103.91%
5090 · GST	230.97	500.00	46.19%
5091 · PST	158.39	300.00	52.8%
Total Administration Expense	19,962.61	22,137.00	90.18%
Building & Property Expense			
5101 · Equipment Leases	4,798.94	5,500.00	87.25%
5102 · Equipment Purchases	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
5104 · Alarm System Monitor Fee	419.40	425.00	98.68%
5106 · Property Insurance	21,653.00	21,653.00	100.0%
5108 · Licences	537.00	550.00	97.64%
5112 · Janitorial Supplies	1,204.11	1,200.00	100.34%
5114 · Organ Maintenance	600.00	1,000.00	60.0%
5116 · Snow Removal	2,767.50	2,500.00	110.7%
5118 · Lawn Care	2,025.00	2,000.00	101.25%
5130 · Electricity	7,627.00	7,000.00	108.96%
5131 · Recycling fee	48.00	50.00	96.0%
5132 · Gas & Heat	18,727.08	15,000.00	124.85%
5134 · Water & Sewer	2,069.01	2,200.00	94.05%

5136 · Waste Removal	1,193.67	850.00	140.43%
5140 · Telephone	1,862.88	2,000.00	93.14%
5150 · Building Repair & Maintenance	3,312.62	8,000.00	41.41%
5152 · Equipment Repair & maintenance	3,044.78	3,000.00	101.49%
5156 · Furniture	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
5175 · Parking Lot	0.00	500.00	0.0%
5190 · GST	2,374.08	2,250.00	105.52%
5191 · PST	2,658.48	3,350.00	79.36%
Total Building & Property Expense	76,922.55	81,028.00	94.93%
Faith Formation Expense			
5210 · Sunday School	98.70	500.00	19.74%
5230 · Youth Group	0.00	200.00	0.0%
5235 · Adult Education	1,299.49	600.00	216.58%
5240 · Vacation Bible School	0.00	150.00	0.0%
5290 · GST	23.55		
5291 · PST	28.26		
Total Faith Formation Expense	1,450.00	1,450.00	100.0%
Fundraising Expense			
5400 · Fundraising Expenses	0.00	1,750.00	0.0%
5405 · Spring Supper Expenses	288.80		
5414 · Fowl Supper Expenses	659.65		
5416 · Mother's Day Expenses	82.70		
5440 · Christmas Pudding Expenses	302.29		
5490 · GST	0.47		
5491 · PST	0.57		
Total Fundraising Expense	1,334.48	1,750.00	76.26%
Membership & Pastoral Care			
5304 · Pastoral Care	67.01		
5305 · Baptismal Supplies	82.40	100.00	82.4%
5320 · Communion	0.00	50.00	0.0%
5330 · Confirmation	0.00	100.00	0.0%
5370 · Educational Events	0.00	100.00	0.0%
5390 · GST	4.12	15.00	27.47%
Total Membership & Pastoral Care	153.53	365.00	42.06%
Ministry & Personnel Expense			
5500 · Salaries			
5501 · Minister			
55011 · Salary	73,293.96	73,294.00	100.0%
55013 · Travel Expense	476.72	500.00	95.34%
55014 · Telephone	360.00	360.00	100.0%
55015 · Continuing Education	679.93	1,543.00	44.07%
Total 5501 · Minister	74,810.61	75,697.00	98.83%

5505 · Office Manager	48,149.10	49,249.00	97.77%
5508 · Pianist	6,139.75	6,590.00	93.17%
5510 · Organist	2,317.90	3,209.00	72.23%
5512 · Choir Director	19,899.96	19,898.00	100.01%
5513 · Wedding Staff & Expenses	300.00	350.00	85.71%
5514 · Funeral Staff	4,225.00	1,300.00	325.0%
5515 · Sunday School Coordinator	1,521.60	7,988.00	19.05%
5518 · Janitor	15,294.09	14,564.00	105.01%
5525 · Staff Recognition	300.00	300.00	100.0%
5540 · Staff Training & Development	168.95	2,000.00	8.45%
Total 5500 · Salaries	173,126.96	181,145.00	95.57%
5550 · Payroll Expense			
5550-1 · CPP - Company	7,826.69	7,400.00	105.77%
5550-12 · Workers Compensation	278.76	275.00	101.37%
5550-14 · Employer Indemnity	102.60	120.00	85.5%
5550-2 · EI - Company	3,279.81	3,200.00	102.49%
5550-4 · Church Pension	13,840.83	14,000.00	98.86%
5550-6 · Group Health Plan	11,949.25	12,000.00	99.58%
5550-8 · Restorative Care	2,076.23	2,100.00	98.87%
5585 · Payroll Charges	209.05	350.00	59.73%
Total 5550 · Payroll Expense	39,563.22	39,445.00	100.3%
5590 · GST	11.37		
5591 · PST	13.60		
Total Ministry & Personnel Expense	212,715.15	220,590.00	96.43%
Outreach Expense			
5600 · Committee Expense	0.00	250.00	0.0%
5601 · Canadian Food Grains Bank	600.00	500.00	120.0%
5603 · Christmas in July	1,800.00	1,500.00	120.0%
5605 · Christmas Hampers	5,177.11	3,500.00	147.92%
5606 · Fair Trade Sales	0.00	500.00	0.0%
5611 · Camp Shagabec	2,105.00	2,500.00	84.2%
5613 · Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal	575.00		
5616 · Outreach Fundraising Supper	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%
5617 · Outreach Fundraising Auction	0.00	1,500.00	0.0%
5618 · Outreach Fundraising Donations	0.00	500.00	0.0%
5619 · St. Andrew's College	3,360.00		
5661 · Benevolent Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	100.0%
5662 · Benevolent Fund Gift-In-Kind	200.00		
5672 · Loose Change Supper - hampers	1,147.53	1,500.00	76.5%
5690 · GST	3.00		
5691 · PST	3.60		
Total Outreach Expense	15,971.24	15,250.00	104.73%

Interest Group Expense			
5704 · Affirming Ministry	333.00	800.00	41.63%
5705 · Earthcare Partners	206.27	200.00	103.14%
5707 · Creative Art	0.00	100.00	0.0%
5708 · Decorations	0.00	200.00	0.0%
5709 · Loose Change Supper	881.77	1,500.00	58.79%
5711 · Social Convenors Catering Exp.	167.61		
5712 · Funeral Catering expenses	1,717.45		
Total Interest Group Expense	3,306.10	2,800.00	118.08%
Sundry Expense			
5806 · Living Skies Regional Council	1,176.94	1,000.00	117.69%
5820 · Swift Current Ministerial	1,150.00	1,150.00	100.0%
5825 · Kitchen Supplies	332.59		
5890 · GST	4.00		
5891 · PST	4.80		
Total Sundry Expense	2,668.33	2,150.00	124.11%
Worship & Music Expense			
5904 · Senior Choir Music	0.00	200.00	0.0%
5908 · Radio Broadcasts	910.00	1,300.00	70.0%
5910 · Pulpit Supply	2,148.40	2,000.00	107.42%
5914 · Worship Supplies	115.00	300.00	38.33%
5930 · Advertising	65.75	160.00	41.09%
5932 · Licence & Copyrite	354.00	400.00	88.5%
5940 · Melodies of Xmas	829.50	2,500.00	33.18%
5950 · Video/Audio Equipment/Supplies	1,682.96	1,800.00	93.5%
5955 · Sound System Operator	1,300.00	1,400.00	92.86%
5990 · GST	59.25	150.00	39.5%
5991 · PST	8.58	50.00	17.16%
Total Worship & Music Expense	7,473.44	10,260.00	72.84%
Total Expense	341,957.43	357,780.00	95.58%
Net Ordinary Income	-3,227.33	-44,630.00	7.23%
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
M & S Income			
6000 · M & S Special Service	850.00	1,000.00	85.0%
6002 · Care Home Offering	248.30	200.00	124.15%
6004 · PAR - Designated to M & S	6,118.00	6,300.00	97.11%
6005 · Cards/Bake Sale/Preserves	1,131.50	1,200.00	94.29%
6006 · Offerings Designated to M & S	5,126.25	4,750.00	107.92%
6008 · M & S jar	60.25	50.00	120.5%
6010 · Lenten Pigs	1,053.00	1,500.00	70.2%
6011 · Other M & S Fundraisers	0.00	0.00	0.0%

6015 · M & S - unreceipted	1,000.00		
Total M & S Income	15,587.30	15,000.00	103.92%
Other Income			
6100 · Memorial Fund Income	2,010.00		
6101 · Refugee Sponsorship	2,550.00		
6103 · Refugee Supper Facebook Auction	1,435.00		
6104 · Refugee Supper Donations	1,330.00		
6107 · Refugee - Melodies of Christmas	829.50		
6108 · Refugee Sponsorship - Chuffed	200.00		
6116 · Senior Choir Term Interest	217.79		
6140 · Building & Property - PAR	845.00		
6160 · UCW Final Donation	34,377.99		
Total Other Income	43,795.28		
Total Other Income	59,382.58	15,000.00	395.88%
Other Expense			
M & S National Expense			
7000 · M & S Special Service	850.00	1,000.00	85.0%
7002 · Care Home Services Offering	248.30	200.00	124.15%
7004 · PAR - Designated to M & S	6,118.00	6,300.00	97.11%
7005 · Greeting Cards/Cookies	1,131.50	500.00	226.3%
7006 · Offering Designated to M & S	5,126.25	4,750.00	107.92%
7008 · M & S Jar	60.25	50.00	120.5%
7010 · M & S - Lenten Pig	1,053.00	1,500.00	70.2%
7011 · Other Fundraisers	0.00	700.00	0.0%
7015 · M & S - unreceipted	1,000.00		
Total M & S National Expense	15,587.30	15,000.00	103.92%
Other Expense			
7200 · Memorial Expense	148.89		
7201 · Refugee Sponsorship Expenses	609.29		
7210 · Senior Choir Expenses	65.76		
7245 · Worship Circle-Chinook Pres.	299.00		
7290 · GST	15.29		
7291 · PST	8.88		
Total Other Expense	1,147.11		
Total Other Expense	16,734.41	15,000.00	111.56%
Net Other Income	42,648.17	0.00	100.0%
Net Income	39,420.84	-44,630.00	-88.33%

First United Church Planned Giving Funds

Balance Sheet

As of 31 December 2023

	<u>31 Dec 23</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
Available Interest	22,861.49
Chequing Account	1,308.89
High Interest Account	<u>20,556.93</u>
Total Chequing/Savings	<u>44,727.31</u>
Total Current Assets	44,727.31
Other Assets	
Investments	
Term - 01/20/24 - 830511146615	60,000.00
Term - 04/20/24 - 830513499707	60,000.00
Term - 01/22/24 - 830511146599	60,000.00
Term - 01/19/25 - 830511146524	60,000.00
Term - 05/16/26 - 400902354785	28,591.92
Term - 07/18/24 - 408702354785	<u>6,447.30</u>
Total Investments	<u>275,039.22</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>275,039.22</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>319,766.53</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	
Equity Adjustments	<u>21,250.58</u>
Total Opening Bal Equity	21,250.58
Retained Earnings	298,650.22
Net Income	<u>-134.27</u>
Total Equity	<u>319,766.53</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>319,766.53</u>

First United Church Planned Giving Funds

Profit & Loss

January through December 2023

	<u>Jan - Dec 23</u>
Income	
Bequests	1,500.85
Interest	<u>5,672.58</u>
Total Income	7,173.43
Expense	
Camp Shagabec	2,895.00
UCC - Mission & Service Fund	<u>4,412.70</u>
Total Expense	<u>7,307.70</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-134.27</u></u>

A planned gift is a gift made from the accumulated assets of the donor rather than regular income. This may include bequest from an estate or gifts of property such as real estate, insurance or money.

The purpose of the Planned Giving Fund is to build a financial reserve for future years when our congregation may experience difficulties meeting its financial commitments.

The fund is intended to be separate and distinct from all other Church funds.

When a donor designates a specific purpose for a gift, such gifts may be exempt from the Planned Giving Fund.

There will be no disbursement of principal from this account unless approved by a Congregational meeting. Interest or capital gains earned may be spent annually.

In the event that earnings in any year are greater than expenditures, the earnings will remain in the account and be available for future years. However, unused earnings may be deemed to be principal if directed by a Congregational meeting.

Disbursements may be used to:

- Enable members or adherents to grow in faith through courses, training or conferences
- Award scholarships or grants for the purpose of attending theological or music training
- Make capital improvements or major building maintenance
- Undertake outreach into community programs and projects of the United Church of Canada
- Initiate other expenditures as approved by a Congregational meeting

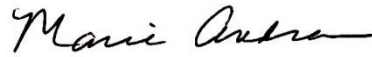
Reviewer Report

The purpose of our review is to determine that monies donated or paid to First United Church have been deposited to the bank and properly recorded. First United Church has a procedure in place wherein two people receive and count the weekly donations. The Office Manager has been authorized to pay invoices for supplies or maintenance that are a regular occurrence, however each committee reviews large or special expenses. In addition, payments to individuals must be authorized by a committee chairperson through a cheque requisition form.

With the above checks and balances in place and after reviewing the records, we are confident the financial statements present a valid summary of operations at First United Church during the 2023 calendar year.



Betty Bateman



Marie Andrews

First United Church 2024 Budget – Short Form

2024 General Budget						
	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Income						
Regular givings for operations	217,739	196,971	179,267	196,798	201,000	205,500
Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving givings	12,090	20,935	18,620	16,916	19,500	19,500
Other givings (donation receiptable)	4,552	6,925	17,346	13,757	9,675	13,150
Fundraising/Fees/Sunday School	28,202	22,432	27,748	41,010	29,700	42,500
Givings from UCW for operations	30,980	8,370	8,250	20,250	16,000	0
Rentals and Other Income	57,492	49,777	29,832	41,410	26,350	28,425
Interest Income	8,245	8,139	6,273	8,590	10,925	16,950
Total Income	359,300	313,549	287,336	338,730	313,150	326,025
Expenses						
Administration	32,168	26,628	26,125	29,543	26,837	33,032
Building and Property						
Building Upkeep	8,492	10,662	5,624	7,315	12,075	9,025
Property Upkeep	3,987	4,005	5,830	4,793	5,000	4,750
Equipment and GST/PST	9,761	15,523	14,875	14,739	18,100	16,600
Utilities	21,622	20,018	26,488	28,423	24,200	27,700
Insurance	15,025	15,482	18,938	21,653	21,653	24,297
Subtotal B&P	58,885	65,689	71,755	76,923	81,028	82,372
Faith Formation	1,217	1,536	1,486	1,656	1,750	1,650
Membership and Pastoral Care	120	151	63	154	365	415
Worship and Music	8,096	9,825	6,540	6,644	7,960	6,710
Outreach (fundraising expenses)	674	0	358	888	1,750	0
Charitable Givings						
M&S National (Historical)	7,000	7,000	0	0	0	0
Directly to Charities	845	2,943	12,565	5,910	11,500	9,000
Hampers, Benevolent fund	5,058	5,080	6,760	7,525	6,000	5,500
Subtotal Charitable Givings	12,903	15,023	19,325	13,434	17,500	14,500
Ministry and Personnel						
Minister	68,949	71,825	73,704	74,811	75,697	80,412
Office Managers	40,082	42,737	47,353	48,149	49,249	50,771
Music Staff	24,372	24,359	26,984	28,358	29,697	30,414
Janitor, Communications, Funeral	15,664	14,149	17,387	19,819	16,214	19,281
Children Programming Staff	7,097	7,253	7,544	1,522	7,988	0
General staff and payroll expenses	31,507	34,497	39,002	40,057	41,745	42,725
Subtotal Ministry and Personnel	187,671	194,820	211,974	212,715	220,590	223,603
Total Expenses	301,734	313,672	337,626	341,957	357,780	362,282
Net Income	57,566	-123	-50,289	-3,227	-44,630	-36,257

First United Church 2024 Budget - Detailed

2024 General Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	2024 Budget vs 2023 Actual
Total Income	359,300	313,549	287,336	338,730	313,150	326,025	-12,705
Total Expenses	301,734	313,672	337,626	341,957	357,780	362,282	20,325
Net Ordinary Income or Loss	57,566	-123	-50,289	-3,227	-44,630	-36,257	-33,030
Net adjusted without CEWS Subsidies	14,415	-36,629					
INCOME							
Administration Income							
4001 - Local including PAR	217,288	196,674	178,775	196,273	200,000	205,000	8,727
4002 - Loose Offering	451	297	492	524	1,000	500	-24
4007 - Christmas Offering	7,105	8,740	8,575	8,186	9,000	9,000	814
4008 - Easter Offering	3,535	4,700	6,040	5,345	5,000	5,500	155
4009-1 - St. Andrews Unreceipted			3,000				
4050 - UCW Local, Special and Envelope Historical	30,980	8,370	8,250	20,250	16,000		-20,250
4051 - Broadview Magazine	400	405	350	390	400	400	10
4060 - Thanksgiving	1,450	7,495	4,005	3,385	5,500	5,000	1,615
4070 - Church Calendars	7	56	110	120	50	50	-70
4090 - GST Rebates	1,252	1,357	1,399	1,363	1,500	1,500	137
4091 - Co-op Equity	24			12	50	25	13
4092 - Credit Union Equity	674	522	686	1,061	750	1,000	-61
Total Administration Income	263,166	228,616	211,681	236,909	239,250	227,975	-8,934
Faith Formation Income							
4101 - Sunday School	159	4	7	1	75	0	-1
4103 - Sunday School Shopping Day		48	158	40		50	10
4110 - Adult Education	794	819	640	853	200	200	-653
Total Faith Formation Income	953	870	805	894	275	250	-644
Fundraisers Income							
4600 - General Fundraisers	22,975	18,102	20,253	20,307	20,000	15,000	-5,307
Total Fundraisers Income	22,975	18,102	20,253	20,307	20,000	15,000	-5,307
Interest Groups Income							
4700 - Garage Sale Room				2,446		6,000	3,554
4701 - Toy Room				1,267		3,000	1,733
4702 - Christmas Room				1,088		1,000	-88
4703 - 3rd Avenue Boutique				3,293		7,500	4,207
4704 - Affirming Ministry			260				

4705 - Earthcare Partners Donation			289	363		150	-213
4706 - Earthcare Partners Veggie Table				375		150	-225
4707 - Creative Art	31		175	65	50	50	-15
4708 - Decorations							
4709 - Loose Change Supper Income	1,296		813	2,029	3,000		-2,029
4710 - Prayer Shawls						0	
4711 - Social Convenors Catering				1,323		1,500	177
4712 - Funeral Catering				4,213		3,500	-713
Total Interest Groups Income	1,327	0	1,537	16,460	3,050	22,850	6,390
Interest Income							
4801 - General Operating Chequing	135	112	137	185	125	150	-35
4807 - General Operating High Interest	72	107	638	1,090	500	1,000	-90
4809 - Term Deposit Interest	7,904	7,876	5,198	6,538	10,000	15,000	8,462
4820 - B&P Savings Account Interest	134	44	300	777	300	800	23
Total Interest Income	8,245	8,139	6,273	8,590	10,925	16,950	8,360
Outreach Income							
4201 - Canada Food Grains Bank	400	450	5,550	600	500	500	-100
4203 - Christmas in July	275	1,625	1,425	1,800	1,500	1,500	-300
4205 - Christmas Hampers	3,444	4,080	5,035	5,177	3,500	4,500	-677
4206 - Fair Trade Sales	174	719	982		500	500	500
4211 - Camp Shagabec		150	2,740	2,105	2,500	2,500	395
4214 - Ukrainian Appeal			1,520				
4213 - Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal				575			-575
4215 - Cards for Ukraine			348				
4216 - Outreach Fundraiser Supper					2,000	0	
4217 - Outreach Fundraiser Auction					1,500	1,500	1,500
4218 - Outreach Fundraiser Donations					500	500	500
4219 - St. Andrew's College				3,360		3,000	-360
4261 - Benevolent Fund			250	200			-200
4275 - M & S Allocation - General Oper.	2,700	2,900					
Total Outreach Income	6,993	9,924	17,849	13,817	12,500	14,500	683
Rentals & Sales Income							
4301 - Room Rentals	6,433	9,993	20,498	27,966	20,000	17,500	-10,466
4310 - Weddings	400	100	1,500	200	400	800	600
4315 - Funerals	1,050	700	2,450	5,050	2,000	4,200	-850
4314 - Donations				1,233			-1,233
Total Rentals & Sales Income	7,883	10,793	24,448	34,449	22,400	22,500	-11,949
Sundry Income							
4910 - Wages Weddings	375		1,600	300	350	700	400
4915 - Wages Funerals	675	600	1,700	4,225	1,300	2,700	-1,525
4945 - Payroll Reimbursement	4,438						
4970 - Miscellaneous (COVID 19 Subsidies etc.)	42,171	36,505					

Total Sundry Income	47,660	37,105	3,300	4,525	1,650	3,400	-1,125
Worship & Music Income							
4510 - Radio Broadcast Income			940	520	600		-520
4512 - Decorations			250				
4520 - Melodies of Xmas	100			1,659	2,500	2,000	341
4450 - Livestream Income				600		600	
Total Worship & Music Income	100	0	1,190	2,779	3,100	2,600	-179
EXPENSES							
Administration Expenses							
5001 - Accounting & Audit	200	200	200	200	200	200	
5003 - Bank Charges	341	354	362	342	350	350	8
5005 - Computer	270	619	320	945	2,000	2,000	1,055
5010 - Office Supplies	1,002	1,085	1,107	683	1,000	500	-183
5012 - Postage	791	644	695	552	700	500	-52
5014 - Broadview Subscriptions	425	450	425	390	450	400	10
5025 - UCW Local, Special and Envelope Historical	980	3,370	250	250			-250
5040 - Web Page	803	20	548	165	550	550	385
5050 - General Council Allocation	16,326	16,496	12,867	13,237	13,237	14,407	1,170
5051 - Regional Council Allocation	3,265						
5070 - Church Calendars	31	75	136	112	100	75	-37
5075 - Council Expenses		222		359	500	500	141
5085 - Copier Usage	1,431	1,517	2,400	2,338	2,250	2,000	-338
5090 - GST	2,503	179	324	231	500	250	19
5091 - PST	2,759	166	296	158	300	150	-8
Total Administration Expenses	31,127	25,397	19,930	19,963	22,137	21,882	1,919
Building & Property Expenses							
5101 - Equipment Leases	5,692	5,471	5,639	4,799	5,500	5,500	701
5102 - Equipment Purchases					1,000	500	500
5104 - Alarm System Monitor Fee	419	419	419	419	425	425	6
5106 - Property Insurance	15,025	15,482	18,938	21,653	21,653	24,297	2,644
5108 - Licenses	520	537	537	537	550	550	13
5112 - Janitorial Supplies	845	655	1,187	1,204	1,200	1,200	-4
5114 - Organ Maintenance				600	1,000	600	
5116 - Snow Removal	2,425	2,280	3,890	2,768	2,500	2,750	-18
5118 - Lawn Care	1,562	1,725	1,940	2,025	2,000	2,000	-25
5130 - Electricity	5,759	5,207	7,003	7,627	7,000	8,000	373
5131 - Recycling fee	48	48	48	48	50	50	2
5132 - Gas & Heat	12,081	12,770	17,555	18,727	15,000	17,500	-1,227
5134 - Water & Sewer	3,782	2,040	1,930	2,069	2,200	2,200	131
5136 - Waste Removal	1,153	751	1,022	1,194	850	1,200	6
5140 - Telephone	2,329	1,988	1,882	1,863	2,000	2,000	137
5150 - Building Repair & Maintenance	4,405	8,251	2,411	3,313	8,000	5,000	1,687
5152 - Equipment Repair & Maintenance	1,740	3,468	2,825	3,045	3,000	3,000	-45

5156 - Furniture					1,000	500	500
5161 - Night Clerk	1,101						
5175 - Parking Lot Upkeep					500		
5190 - GST		2,163	2,231	2,374	2,250	2,350	-24
5191 - PST		2,433	2,298	2,658	3,350	2,750	92
Total Building & Property Expenses	58,885	65,689	71,755	76,923	81,028	82,372	5,449
Faith Formation Expenses							
5204 - Confirmation							
5210 - Sunday School	534	344	361	99	500	500	401
5225 - Children/Youth Library Books	52						
5230 - Youth Group			150		200		
5235 - Adult Education	631	1,173	439	1,299	600	600	-699
5240 - Vacation Bible School			70		150		
5290 - GST		18	72	24			-24
5291 - PST		0	23	28			-28
Total Faith Formation Expenses	1,217	1,536	1,115	1,450	1,450	1,100	-350
Fundraising Expenses							
5400 - General Fundraising Expenses	415	506	1,958	1,334	1,750	1,000	-334
Total Fundraising Expenses	415	506	1,958	1,334	1,750	1,000	-334
Membership & Pastoral Care Expenses							
5304 - Pastoral Care				67		100	33
5305 - Baptismal Supplies	120	151		82	100	100	18
5320 - Communion					50	50	50
5330 - Confirmation					100	100	100
5370 - Educational Events			60		100	50	50
5390 - GST			3	4	15	15	11
Total Membership & Pastoral Care Expenses	120	151	63	154	365	415	261
Minister Expenses							
55011 - Salary	68,468	69,974	72,773	73,294	73,294	77,912	4,618
55013 - Travel Expense	34		136	477	500	500	23
55014 - Telephone	360	360	360	360	360	360	
55015 - Continuing Education	87	1,491	435	680	1,543	1,640	960
Total Minister Expenses	68,949	71,825	73,704	74,811	75,697	80,412	5,601
Salaries Expenses							
5505 - Office Manager	40,082	42,737	47,353	48,149	49,249	50,771	2,622
5508 - Accompanist	5,589	5,852	6,013	6,140	6,589	6,589	450
5510 - Organist	649		1,724	2,318	3,209	3,309	991
5512 - Choir Director	18,134	18,507	19,246	19,900	19,898	20,516	616
5513 - Wedding Staff	375		1,600	300	350	700	400
5514 - Funeral Staff	675	600	1,700	4,225	1,300	2,700	-1,525
5515 - Sunday School Coordinator	7,097	7,253	7,544	1,522	7,988		-1,522
5517 - Communication Coordinator	1,354						
5518 - Caretaker	13,260	13,549	14,087	15,294	14,564	15,881	587
5525 - Staff Recognition	173	227	190	300	300	400	100
5540 - Staff Training and Development	220			169	2,000	1,000	831

Total Salaries Expenses	87,608	88,725	99,458	98,316	105,448	101,866	3,550
Total All Salaries Expenses	156,557	160,550	173,162	173,127	181,145	182,278	9,151
Payroll Expenses							
5550-1 - CPP - Company	5,928	6,491	7,313	7,827	7,400	8,000	173
5550-12 - Workers Compensation	250	236	255	279	275	300	21
5550-14 - Employer Indemnity	82	98	102	103	120	120	17
5550-2 - EI - Company	2,810	2,900	3,119	3,280	3,200	3,350	70
5550-4 - Church Pension	12,595	12,901	13,658	13,841	14,000	14,500	659
5550-6 - Group Health Plan	7,553	9,332	11,791	11,949	12,000	12,500	551
5550-8 - Restorative Care	1,566	1,935	2,049	2,076	2,100	2,150	74
5585 - Payroll Charges	330	326	473	209	350	350	141
5590 - GST		24	24	11		25	14
5591 - PST		28	28	14		30	16
Total Payroll Expenses	31,114	34,270	38,812	39,588	39,445	41,325	1,737
Total All Ministry and Personnel Expenses	187,671	194,820	211,974	212,715	220,590	223,603	10,888
Outreach Expenses							
5600 - Committee Expense					250	0	
5601 - Canadian Food Grains Bank	400	450	5,550	600	500	500	-100
5603 - Christmas in July	275	1,625	1,425	1,800	1,500	1,500	-300
5605 - Christmas Hampers	3,444	4,080	5,135	5,177	3,500	4,500	-677
5606 - Fair Trade Sales	170	718	982		500	500	500
5611 - Camp Shagabec		150	2,740	2,105	2,500	2,500	395
5613 - Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal				575			-575
5614 - Ukrainian Appeal			1,868				
5615 - Cards for Ukraine							
5616 - Fundraising Supper					2,000	0	
5617 - Fundraising Auction					1,500	1,500	1,500
5618 - Fundraising Donations					500	500	500
5619 - St. Andrew's College			3,000	3,360		3,000	-360
5661 - Benevolent Fund	992	1,000	1,150	1,200	1,000	1,000	-200
5672 - Loose Change Supper - Hampers	622		475	1,148	1,500		-1,148
5674 - Loose Change Supper - M & S							
5690 - GST			9	3			-3
5691 - PST			11	4			-4
Total Outreach Expenses	5,903	8,023	22,345	15,971	15,250	15,500	-471
M&S National Expenses							
5700 - Allocation - General Operating	7,000	7,000					
Total M&S National Expenses	7,000	7,000	0	0	0	0	
Interest Groups Expenses							
5704 - Affirming Ministry		100	587	333	800	800	467
5705 - Earthcare Partners Expenses			298	206	200	500	294
5707 - Creative Arts			73		100	50	50
5708 - Decorations		49	386		200	200	200

5709 - Loose Change Supper Expenses	674		337	882	1,500		-882
5710 - Prayer Shawls						50	50
5711 - Social Convenors Catering Expenses				168		500	332
5712 - Funeral Catering Expenses				1,717		2,500	783
Total Interest Groups Expenses	674	149	1,681	3,306	2,800	4,600	1,294
Sundry Expenses							
5806 - Living Skies Regional Council				1,177	1,000	1,200	23
5809 - Presbytery Expenses							
5820 - Swift Current Ministerial & Chaplaincy	625	625	650	1,150	1,150	1,150	
5825 - Kitchen Supplies				333		1,000	667
5890 - GST				4			-4
5891 - PST				5			-5
Total Sundry Expenses	625	625	650	2,668	2,150	3,350	682
Worship & Music Expenses							
5904 - Senior Choir Music	94				200	200	200
5908 - Radio Broadcasts	5,000	4,830	1,255	910	1,300	0	-910
5910 - Pulpit Supply	864	1,768	1,052	2,148	2,000	2,000	-148
5914 - Worship Supplies	168	276	59	115	300	300	185
5930 - Advertising		72	118	66	160	160	94
5932 - License & Copyright	260	337	337	354	400	400	46
5940 - Melodies of Xmas				830	2,500	2,000	1,171
5950 - Video/Audio/Live Streaming			1,705	1,683	1,800	1,800	117
5955 - Sound System Operator	1,650	2,225	1,550	1,300	1,400	1,400	100
5960 - Miscellaneous	60						
5990 - GST		257	71	59	150	150	91
5991 - PST		10	7	9	50	50	41
Total Worship & Music Expenses	8,096	9,775	6,154	7,473	10,260	8,460	987
Total Expenses	301,734	313,672	337,626	341,957	357,780	362,282	20,325

First United Church 2023 M&S Budget

2024 M&S Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	% Budget	2024 Budget	2024 Budget vs 2023 Actual
M & S National Income								
6000 - M&S Special Service	245		903	1,000	850	85.0%	1,000	150
6002 - Care Home Services Offering	75	85	203	200	248	124.2%	200	-48
6004 - PAR Designated to M&S	5,010	5,170	6,018	6,300	6,118	97.1%	6,300	182
6005 - Greeting Cards/Cookies	243		804	500	1,132	226.3%	1,200	69
6006 - Offerings Designated to M&S	1,186	699	4,221	4,750	5,126	107.9%	4,750	-376
6008 - M&S Jar	26		45	50	60	120.5%	50	-10
6010 - M&S Lenten Pigs	962	1,559	1,400	1,500	1,053	70.2%	1,000	-53
6011 - Other M&S Fundraisers			219	700		0.0%	500	500
6015 - M&S Unreceipted					1,000			-1,000
Total M & S National Income	7,747	7,513	13,814	15,000	15,587	103.9%	15,000	-587
M&S National Expenses								
7000 - M&S Special Service	245		903	1,000	850	85.0%	1,000	150
7002 - Care Home Services Offering	75	85	203	200	248	124.2%	200	-48
7004 - PAR - Designated to M&S	5,010	5,170	6,018	6,300	6,118	97.1%	6,300	182
7005 - Greeting Cards/Cookies	243		804	500	1,132	226.3%	1,200	69
7006 - Offering Designated to M&S	1,186	699	4,221	4,750	5,126	107.9%	4,750	-376
7008 - M&S Jar	26		45	50	60	120.5%	50	-10
7010 - M&S - Lenten Pig	962	1,559	1,400	1,500	1,053	70.2%	1,000	-53
7011 - Other M&S Fundraisers			219	700		0.0%	500	500
7015 - M&S Unreceipted					1,000			-1,000
Total M&S National Expenses	7,747	7,513	13,814	15,000	15,587	103.9%	15,000	-587
M&S National Historical Giving								
From Operating Fund	7,000	7,000						
From Planned Giving Fund	10,000	10,000		5,000				
Total Givings to M&S - all sources	40,365	24,747	24,513	20,000				

First United Church Annual General Meeting March 5, 2023

Members/Adherents Present: 42 (See list of attendees Appendix 1)

1. Call to order and welcome: Charles Lotochinski called the meeting to order at 12:42 p.m.
A quorum was present
2. Opening Prayer: Reverend Annette Taylor
3. No additional items were added to the agenda
4. Adoption of agenda
Motion: Sharyn Erne/Kevin Hanna
“That the agenda be adopted as presented” Carried
5. Extending full voting privileges to adherents for the purpose of this meeting
Motion: Mary Anderson/Kevin Hanna
“That we grant full voting privileges to adherents for the purpose of this meeting as allowed in the 2023 Manual (B.3.7.2)” Carried
6. Approval of minutes of the March 6, 2022 Annual General Meeting
Motion: Shirley Wilson/Rhonda Lotochinski
“That we approve the minutes from the 2022 Annual General Meeting as presented” Carried
7. Approval of minutes of October 30, 2022 Governance Model Congregational Meeting
Motion: Gayleen Turner, Janet Keene
“That we approve the minutes from the October 30, 2022 Governance Model Congregational Meeting as presented” Carried
8. No new business arising from the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting
9. Report from the Minister: Reverend Annette Taylor
10. Report from the Chair of Council: Kevin Hanna
11. Reports from the staff, committee and working group chairs, excluding the Nominations Report
Motion: Sharyn Erne/Fran Jackson
“That we approve all staff, committee and working group reports as presented” Carried
12. Review of the new Governance Model: Governance Ad-Hoc committee: Peggy Worrell
Marie Andrews spoke about the House Groups
13. Elections of 2023 Council and Committee members
 - a. Nominations Report: Eileen Elkington
 - b. There were no nominations from the floor**Motion: Eileen Elkington/Peggy Worrell**
“That we accept the Nominations Report as presented” Carried
14. Approval of 2022 Financial Statements
Motion: Marie Andrews/Mary Anderson

“That we approve the 2022 Financial Statements as presented” Carried

15. Approval of 2023 Financial Budget

Motion: Charles Lotochinski/Melanie Davis

“That we approve the 2023 Financial Budget as presented” Carried

16. Appointment of reviewers for 2023 finances

Motion: Kevin Hanna/Janet Keene

“That the Stewardship Committee appoint reviewers for the 2023 Finances” Carried

17. Donations from the Planned Giving Fund by the Outreach Committee.

a) **Motion: Fran Jackson/Peggy Worrell**

“The Outreach Committee’s goal for fundraising for M and S for 2023 will be \$20,000 with no more than \$5,000 coming from Planned Giving Fund to reach the goal.” Carried

b) **Motion: Fran Jackson/Rhonda Lotochinski**

“The Outreach Committee would raise money for St. Andrew’s College by inviting a speaker to come to a special service to explain their needs and then collecting donations from the congregation. The Planned Giving Account would supplement the amount for a total of \$3,000 in 2023.” Carried

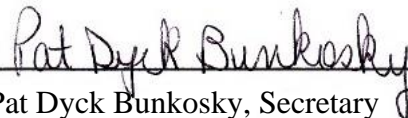
c) **Motion: Fran Jackson/Sharyn Erne**

“The Outreach Committee would raise money for Camp Shagabec by collecting donations at Camping Sunday service and then the Planned Giving Account would supplement the amount for a total of \$5,000 in 2023.”

18. Meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.



Charles Lotochinski, Congregational Chair



Pat Dyck Bunkosky, Secretary

42 Members/Adherents in attendance:

1. Shirley Terlson
2. Sharyn Erne
3. Fran Jackson
4. Pat Palmer
5. Wally Pearson
6. Jean Pearson
7. Marilyn Szakacs
8. Tina Carey
9. Shirley Wilson
10. Eva Molyneux
11. Linda Stumpf
12. Karen Messer
13. Maxine Olmsted
14. Eileen Elkington
15. Norma Hain
16. Marg Wiebe
17. Verdella Zacharias
18. Dave Zacharias
19. Jennifer Bingham
20. Mary Anderson
21. Betty Bateman
22. Vern Letkeman
23. Marie Andrews
24. Elma Engel
25. Kevin Hanna
26. Charlotte Thingvold
27. Shirley Dyck
28. Wally Derkach
29. Judy Killaby
30. Stacie Noble-Wiebe
31. Rose Lis
32. James McLauchlan
33. Pat Dyck Bunkosky
34. Peggy Worrell
35. Rhonda Lotochinski
36. Annette Taylor (Minister)
37. Janet Keene
38. Brenda Gruetzner
39. Charles Lotochinski
40. Diane Sarson
41. Gayleen Turner
42. Melanie Davis

Appendix I - Organizational Chart

- Interest Groups
- Committees
- House Groups

