



**FIRST UNITED CHURCH**  
Swift Current, SK  
Sunday, April 28, 2024  
**Camping Sunday**



Leading Worship: The Outreach Committee  
Music Director: James McLaughlan  
Pianist: Mary Anderson  
Organist: Patti McCleary

**GATHERING**

**Moment for Reflection**

*“And into the forest I go,  
to lose my mind and find my soul.”*  
— John Muir

**Land Acknowledgement & Announcements**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Gathering Hymn: VU #289 *It Only Takes a Spark***  
(please remain seated)

**Call to Worship**

*Leader:* At some camps, a bell rings to signal the beginning.  
Let's begin Camping Sunday the same way. (*Bell Rings*)

First Group: The bell is ringing.  
**Second Group: We gather for instruction.**  
First Group: Let's go to the warmth of the campfire.  
**Second Group: Can we bring smores?**  
First Group: Of course!  
We will all share the warmth of God's love!  
**Second Group: Let's get started!**

**Opening Hymn: VU #187 *The Spring Has Come***  
(please stand as you are able)

**Prayer of Approach:**

**Creator God,**  
**We thank you for bringing us together in this place,**  
**to celebrate the recreation, the re-creation,**  
**of enjoying the fun and community of camping.**  
**We thank you for all the people in our lives,**  
**and especially those who have gathered with us.**  
**We also thank you for all of creation;**  
**the hills and trees, the rocks, the water,**  
**the animals of field and forest.**

We thank you for your love for us;  
the love that we in turn share with one another.  
Open our hearts to receive your word,  
to learn more about creation and your love.  
Guide us in your love and the spirit of creation  
so that we might be examples for others to follow.  
Amen.

## The Lord's Prayer

### WORD

**Hymn:** MV 156 *Dance with the Spirit* (verses walk, move, sing)  
(please remain seated)

## Community Learning Time – *Camp Shagabec Video*

**Hymn:** MV 156 *Dance with the Spirit* (verse: camping)

**Scripture Reading:** John 15:1-9 (The Inclusive Bible)

ONE: We read this text so that in it we may find wisdom for life.

ALL: **May we be open to the Wisdom we understand and hear.**

## Reflections:

*Nurturing the Branches* (an introduction) - Annette

*Experiences of Shagabec* - Jim & Deb Fletcher

*Shagabec Board Member* - Jill Buye (by video)

**Choral Offering:** *It Takes a Whole Village*

– Words & Music by Jim Strathdee

### RESPONSE

**Minute for Mission:** *United Church Camps—But Make Them Year-Round!*

## Offering Invitation

### Prayer of Dedication

Holy Mystery,

you transform lives:

the hungry are fed;

the lonely are befriended; and

the broken are restored to wholeness.

May these gifts

be part of the transformation.

**We offer them with humility and hope. Amen.**

Adapted from: Laura J. Turnbull,

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/blessed-healer-you-transform-lives>

## Prayers of the People

**Closing Hymn:** MV #92 *Like a Rock*  
(please stand as you are able)

## Commissioning & Benediction

**Choral Closing:** *Day is Done*

## Postlude

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Prayers in today's service written by: David Root and Nancy Rouble,  
Board members for Camp McDougall in Northern Ontario  
[https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/pass-it-on\\_camping-sunday.docx](https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/pass-it-on_camping-sunday.docx)

## Worship Schedule

May 5	<i>Red Dress Sunday</i>	- Affirming Ministry Group
May 12	<i>Christian Family Sunday</i> (with communion)	- Rev. Annette Taylor
May 19	<i>Pentecost</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
May 26	<i>Children's Sunday</i> (at the park with potluck lunch)	- Sunday School

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## Prayer Cycles

### Ministerial

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

### Living Skies Regional Council

Kelliher: St. Paul

Kindersley: St. Paul's

Kipling

Regina: Knox Metropolitan

## Lectionary Readings for May 5, 2024

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98 (VU p. 818)

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

# Gaza Ceasefire: What YOU Can Do



The United Church joins a global movement for peace in Gaza. Here's how you can make a difference:

**Lift your voice in prayer:** Find [powerful prayers for ceasefire and justice](#).

**Take action for peace:** Walk a [pilgrimage for peace](#) (individually or with your congregation) by May 13. [Write your MP](#) urging support for the Gaza Ceasefire demands. Wear white with your congregation on April 28 or May 5. Take a photo and [share it with KAIROS](#) and your MP.

**Give for peace:** [Donate](#) to support humanitarian aid in Gaza.

## **Week of Action (May 15-22):**

- Plant a tree in memory of Palestinian and Israeli children lost to violence.
- Observe Nakba Day (May 15) with a local strike (if possible).
- Hold a vigil or prayer service for peace at your MP's office.
- Join the National Church Leaders' Pilgrimage in Ottawa on May 22. Wear white, carry photos of your peace actions, and stand united.

**Together, we can create change!**

[Image credit: KAIROS]