



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

Sunday, June 9, 2024

UCC 99th Anniversary

Leading Worship: Leadership Team

Music Director: James McLaughlan

Pianist: Mary Anderson

Organist: Patti McCleary



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

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.*

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: VU #376 *Spirit of the Living God*
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: From deep soil comes bold and daring growth.
From the seeds of our past will come fresh new growth.
We come today to marvel at what has been harvested
and prepare for what will come.
We come to celebrate where we are and where we have been.
We come rejoicing with our ancestors in faith across generations:
The Methodists, Congregationalists, and Presbyterians,
the Evangelical United Brethren, and Local Union Churches,
and our full communion partners across this world:
The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea,
The United Church of Christ,
The United Church of Christ in the Philippines,
and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

All: **We give thanks to God for the blessings of past, present, and future,
and dare to plant these seeds of faith anew!**

Opening Hymn: VU pg. 820 *Psalm 100 – Make a Joyful Noise*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer – VU #959 (*sung version*)

WORD

Community Learning Time “*Have You Filled a Bucket Today?*”

Prayer of Confession

ONE: Loving God, in the fields of our lives and the life of our church,
not all of the ground is ready to receive your seeds of hope.

ALL: Let us make room for love.

ONE: There are places where the soil is so rocky
that the good life you intended is choked.

ALL: Let us make room for love.

ONE: As we prepare for your new seeds,
help us to clear the rocks and tend the ground
on which we live.

ALL: Let us make room for love.

ONE: Receive our silent prayers
(*a time of silence*)

ONE: We are mindful of obstacles that have prevented the seeds of love from flourishing.

**ALL: Gracious God, allow the fields of our hearts and lives
to be gardens of your new hope and love.
All of this we pray, in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Hymn: VU #703 *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: Psalm 33 (new words – refrain from VU pg. 760)
John 12:20-28 (The Inclusive Bible)

ONE: We read these texts so that in them we may find wisdom for life.

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

A Brief History of First United Church

“Friends” – a poem

**Reflection: *Openness, Diversity, Spiritual Growth, Compassionate Outreach,
Social Justice, Care of the Earth***

Choral Offering: *Seeds*
– words & music by Mark Burrows

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Advocating for Sexual and Gender Minorities in Other Countries*

Offering Invitation

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God,
we believe that you are calling us forward into a new day.
We believe that you have a future for First United Church
and The United Church of Canada
that is rooted in your abundant life,
and we trust you with this future,
even though it's beyond the horizon of our dreams.
So, we offer you the blessings you have already given us—
our time, our talents, our finances, and our hopes—
so that you might use them and transform them
for the good of your whole world.
May these gifts be a blessing to the people of Swift Current
and beyond!
All this we pray, in Jesus' name.
Amen!

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: VU #420 *Go to the World*
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: VU #649 *Walk with Me (refrain X2)*

Postlude

This worship service was created using a 99th Anniversary resource prepared by The UCC.

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Worship Schedule

Jun 16	<i>Choir Sunday</i>	- First U.C. Choir
Jun 23	<i>Eve – The First Woman</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Jun 30	no service on the long weekend	
Jul 7	<i>7th after Pentecost</i>	- Norma Hain

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

Trailview Alliance Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Little Cutarm (Atwater)

Luseland

Maple Creek

LIVING SKIES AFFIRMING CELEBRATION,

THURSDAY JUNE 13, 2:00PM, Saskatoon Travelodge and conference centre,
106 Circle Dr W, Saskatoon, Galaxy A and B Conference rooms.



Having finished the formal requirements of the Affirming process, Living Skies now moves into new commitments to living into being Affirming. All are welcome to the Affirming celebration, [online via YouTube](#), and in person, **Thursday June 13 at 2:00PM**, at the Living Skies Regional Council meeting opening worship. Absolutely everyone is welcome!

You do not need to be a meeting delegate to attend, and the space is accessible. Free parking is available. [Use this link to invite people.](#)

REGIONAL SERVICE OF PRAISE,

SUNDAY JUNE 16 10:00AM- NOON PLUS RECEPTION



Knox United Church, 838 Spadina Cres. E., Saskatoon, and [online via YouTube](#), beginning at 10:00AM sharp.

Message: Moderator Rt Rev Dr Carmen Lansdowne.

Our service includes admitting, commissioning, honouring retirees, ordaining, recognizing LLWLs, and sharing in communion. Thanks to the Saskatoon churches, we will share in a light lunch after.