



**FIRST UNITED CHURCH**  
Swift Current, SK  
Sunday, September 8, 2024



## **Welcome Back Sunday**

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor  
Music Director: James McLauchlan  
Pianist: Mary Anderson  
Organist: Patti McCleary  
Reader: Colleen MacBean

## **GATHERING**

### **Moment for Reflection**

*"Our ability to reach unity in diversity  
will be the beauty and the test of our civilization."  
— Mahatma Gandhi*

*"Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word." (MV #1)*

### **Land Acknowledgement & Announcements**

### **Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Gathering Hymn: MV #15 Holy Sacred Spirit**  
(please remain seated)

### **Call to Worship**

ONE: We are one.

**ALL: We are many.**

ONE: We are one in the Spirit.

**ALL: We are different.**

ONE: We are one in the kin-dom of God.

**ALL: We are unique.**

ONE: We are one in the body of Christ.

**ALL: Even with our differences?**

ONE: Even with our differences.

**ALL: God invites us to the table.**

ONE: The Holy Mystery invites us home.

Adapted from: Richard Bott, Pacific Spirit P.C., Vancouver, B.C.

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/we-are-one-spirit>

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

## Opening Prayer

Holy Mystery,  
Ground of our Being,  
you assure us  
that there is a place for all  
in your loving embrace.  
May we lean into that tender care,  
confident and trusting.  
Remind us again that your way  
is full of compassion.  
Open our hearts  
to the ever-present opportunities  
to widen our embrace and  
bring hope and comfort to your people.

Adapted from: Laura Turnbull, 2019.

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/world-filled-noise-you-are-place-quiet-god>

## The Lord's Prayer

### WORD

Hymn: MV #62 *There is Room for All* (sung twice)  
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV #62 *There is Room for All* (sung once)  
(please remain seated)

Scripture Readings: Mark 7:24-30 (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.

Reflection: *Room for All*

Choral Offering: *Family of Faith*  
– words & Music by Valerie MacKenzie

### RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *It Starts with Education*

Offering Invitation

Prayer of Dedication

Holy Mystery,  
whose love knows no boundaries,  
work in us  
to remove the limits of our love.  
Bless what we offer,

that it may bring healing to those who have been  
repelled as untouchable,  
rejected as undeserving, and  
dismissed as incomprehensible.

Expand our love and our offering  
so that others may experience  
your love in the world and  
we may serve you in our lives. Amen.

Adapted from: Gill Le Fevre, Walton Memorial U.C., Oakville, Ont., 2023

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/generous-god-whose-love-knows-no-boundaries>

## Prayers of the People

**Grace for Lunch:** VU #552 *For Food In a World*

**Closing Hymn:** MV #145 *Draw the Circle Wide*  
(please stand as you are able)

## Commissioning & Benediction

**Choral Closing:** *Go Now and Pass it On*  
– Words by Don Besig & Nancy Price  
Music by Don Besig

## Postlude

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## Worship Schedule

Sep 15	<i>Creation Sunday</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Sep 22	<i>Mission &amp; Service Sunday</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor & Outreach Committee
Sep 29	<i>St. Andrew's College Sunday</i>	- Rev. Shawn Sanford Beck
Oct 6	<i>World Wide Communion Sunday</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor

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## Prayer Cycles

### Ministerial

First United Church

### Living Skies Regional Council

Springwater, Spy Hill  
Moose Jaw: St. Andrew's  
Yorkton: St. Andrew's  
Saskatoon: St. David's Trinity

## Scripture Readings for September 15, 2024

Proverbs 1:20-33  
Psalm 19 (VU p. 740-741)  
James 3:1-12  
Mark 8:27-38

## Connect, Learn, Share: Disability and Accessibility Network Meeting



Join the [Disability and Accessibility Network meeting](#) on October 9, at 3:00 p.m. EDT.

This network meeting will highlight the Leadership Counts project, which surveyed The United Church of Canada's ministry personnel, staff, and national committee members about their self-identification, including in terms of disabilities. Join us for a networking session to connect with others and discuss how to build a more inclusive church.

*“Since God’s image includes disability, and this image dwells in all human beings, the church is summoned into a radical kind of belonging, as if welcoming each other is to welcome the divine in our midst.” (Theologies of Disabilities Report, 2015)*

Open to persons living with disabilities and interested in advancing disability rights and accessibility within The United Church of Canada and beyond. [Register today!](#)

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]

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## September Events Are Calling for Your Solidarity!



Taking action for justice is an essential part of how we live into our faith at The United Church of Canada. September events are calling for your solidarity! Parliament returns on September 16th, and that week will be a critical time for several justice issues.

- [Migrant Justice Days of Action](#) (Sept 14–15): Stand against racism and demand Status for All for undocumented workers.
- [Grassy Narrows River Run](#) (September 18): Show solidarity with the people of Grassy Narrows in their fight for Indigenous and environmental justice.
- [Guaranteed Livable Income Bill](#) (September 19): Support Bill C-223 and ensure it moves forward in Parliament to help everyone put food on their tables.

[Contact your MP](#) to urge them to take action on these important issues.

[Image credit: Canva]

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