



**FIRST UNITED CHURCH**  
Swift Current, SK  
Sunday, June 1, 2025



## **Affirming Ministry Sunday**

Leading Worship: Affirming Ministry Group  
with Rev. Annette Taylor  
Music Director: James McLauchlan  
Pianist: Mary Anderson  
Reader: Amanda Polsfut

### **GATHERING**

#### **Moment for Reflection**

*We, the congregation of First United Church, declare publicly  
our commitment to creating a community  
that welcomes and values all people...*

#### **Land Acknowledgement & Announcements**

#### **Lighting the Christ Candle**

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

#### **Call to Worship**

ONE: May the love of God be with you all.

**ALL: And also with you.**

ONE: Come all you people of God,

**ALL: come and worship the God of all creation!**

ONE: Young and old, and every age in between,

**ALL: we are all the children of God!**

ONE: People of every race, culture, gender, sexual orientation,  
ability, gender identity, economic condition,  
or family configuration,

**ALL: God calls us to be one family,  
living, breathing gifts of God's grace.**

ONE: We are all called to fulfill God's dream  
of one world bathed in love.

**ALL: Let us celebrate all that God is doing  
within and among us!**

Adapted from: Jim Tenford, *Gathering A/C/E* 2021-2022, page 84.

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

## **Opening Prayer**

**Holy Mystery,  
Ground of our Being  
today, as we celebrate  
being an Affirming Ministry,  
may we reflect  
on what that means.  
May we open ourselves  
to the wisdom and the grace  
we need to build a house  
where love can dwell  
and all can safely live.**

Written by Annette Taylor, 2025.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **WORD**

**Hymn: MV #145 *Draw the Circle Wide* (verses 1 & 2)**

## **Lighting the Rainbow Candles**

**Hymn: MV #145 *Draw the Circle Wide* (verse 3)  
(please remain seated)**

## **Scripture Reading: John 17:20-26**

**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: *One in Love***

**Choral Offering: *Love Grows Here*  
– by Don Besig**

### **RESPONSE**

**Minute for Mission: *Stories of The United Church of Canada***

## **Offering Invitation**

## **Prayer of Dedication**

**Generous God,  
whose love knows no boundaries,  
work in us to remove the limits of our love.  
Bless all that 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.

Written by: Gill Le Fevre, Walton Memorial U.C., Oakville, Ont.

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

## Prayers of the People

**Closing Hymn:** MV #138 *My Love Colours Outside the Lines*  
(please stand as you are able)

## Commissioning & Benediction

**Choral Closing:** *Celtic Blessing*

– Traditional, transcribed by Pete Seeger,  
Choral Arrangement by James McLauchlan

## Postlude

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## Worship Schedule

June 8	100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The UCC - Rev. Annette Taylor (with communion)
June 15	<i>Spirit of Truth</i> - Rev. Annette Taylor
June 22	3:30 p.m. <i>Annette's De-covenanting Service</i> - Rev. Pam Thomas followed by potluck Retirement Supper (note: morning service has been cancelled)
June 29	service cancelled (July long weekend)

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## Prayer Cycles

### Ministerial

Community Baptist Church

### Living Skies Regional Council

New Venture (Kincaid, Ponteix)

Outlook

## Lectionary Readings for June 8, 2025

Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:14-17

John 14:8-17, (25-27)

## Call to Act: Love, Faith, and Bold Action during Pride 2025



This Pride 2025, we urge you to take action by joining our [Love, Faith and Bold Action letter-writing campaign](#) and ensure your Member of Parliament makes sure that the Government of Canada upholds and advances the rights of

gender-diverse, Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ people at home and globally.

Stand in solidarity with The United Church of Canada, Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ communities in Canada and around the world, and global movements for human rights as we gather with courage and clarity to affirm human dignity for all. [Learn more, and read the full news story.](#)

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]

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## Moderator's Pride 2025 Message Welcomes Everyone with A Place at the Table



Leading into Pride Month, Moderator Carmen Lansdowne shares a [powerful message of welcome and affirmation](#), emphasizing that there's truly a place at the table for everyone within The United Church of Canada. As we prepare to celebrate the diversity and resilience of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community throughout June, Moderator Lansdowne honours the humanity, value, and right to love of 2S and LGBTQIA+ people, while

acknowledging the severe global realities and attacks now being faced. This message connects with our ["A Place at the Table" campaign](#), reflecting the deep sense of belonging found within the church.

To learn more about this important message, [read the full news story](#) and [download](#), watch, or share the [Moderator's 2025 Pride Message](#).

Happy Pride!

[Video still credit: The United Church of Canada]