



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Fall Newsletter 2026



From the Desk of Reverend Ian



Dear Friends,

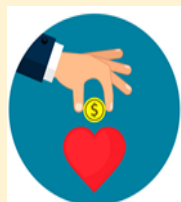
As we move through this season together, our congregation is facing a rising deficit. This is not easy news to bring, and I share it with you because we are a community built on trust, transparency, and shared responsibility.

Our church has always been sustained by the faithfulness and generosity of its people—by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your commitment to the ministry we share. We have weathered challenges before, and each time we have done so by leaning on one another and remembering that God walks with us in every circumstance.

I invite you to join me in prayer as we discern our next steps. I ask you to reflect on how you might support the church in this moment—whether through financial giving, renewed engagement, or simply by holding our leadership and our mission in your prayers. Every contribution, in whatever form it takes, strengthens the foundation of our ministry.

Together, we can meet this challenge with faith, hope, and a deep sense of community.

God is good, all the time.



Donating to First United

The different ways you can contribute are: Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR), post-dated cheques, church envelopes, church drop-box and E-transfer. If making a donation through e-transfer, please indicate your Envelope # (if you have one) and how you wish the funds to be used, i.e., Local Expenses, Building Fund, Mission & Service, Food Bank or Other. If you need to provide more detailed information, please send us an email.



GARDEN CAFÉ!

Don't forget to join us in the Garden Café for tea/coffee before church service from 10 -10:45 am. It is so nice to get together before our 11 am service for camaraderie while enjoying a hot brew.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10 am to 2 pm

First United Church—Upcoming Church Services, etc.



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| ♦ October 10th | 6:30 pm | Decorate for Thanksgiving |
| ♦ October 11th | 11 am | Thanksgiving Service led by Rev. Karen |
| ♦ October 18th | 11 am | Worship Service led by Rev. Karen |
| ♦ October 25th | 11 am | Anniversary Service with Rev. Susan Sheppard/
Bologna and Beans Lunch to follow in Trinity Hall |
| ♦ November 1st | 11 am | Worship Service/Communion |
| ♦ November 8th | 11 am | Remembrance Day Service |
| ♦ November 15th | 11 am | Worship Service |
| ♦ November 22nd | 11 am | Worship Service |
| ♦ November 28th | 6:30 pm | Tree trimming party in Sanctuary/Decorate for Christmas |
| ♦ November 29th | 11 am | 1st Sunday of Advent |
| ♦ December 2nd | 11 am | Wednesday morning Advent Service |
| ♦ December 6th | 11 am | 2nd Sunday of Advent/Communion |
| ♦ December 6th | 7 pm | UCW Christmas Lights Service |
| ♦ December 9th | 11 am | Wednesday morning Advent Service |
| ♦ December 13th | 11 am | 3rd Sunday of Advent/White Gift Service |
| ♦ December 13th | 7 pm | Youth Vesper Service |
| ♦ December 16th | 11 am | Wednesday morning Advent Service |
| ♦ December 20th | 11 am | 4th Sunday of Advent/Choir Cantata |
| ♦ December 23rd | 11 am | Wednesday morning Advent Service |
| ♦ December 24th | 4 pm | Christmas Eve Family Service |
| ♦ December 24th | 7 pm | Christmas Eve Evening Service/Communion |
| ♦ December 27th | 11 am | Worship Service |



‘DECORATING CHURCH FOR THANKSGIVING’

Saturday, October 10th, 6:30 pm

Come out on Saturday, October 10th and help us decorate the church for the Thanksgiving Season and get in the mood for the Fall season. Many hands make light work.

‘TRUNK OR TREAT’

Date TBA

We will be having our ‘Trunk or Treat’ again this year. Last year we had a record turnout. Start planning now to decorate your car or van, get your costume all ready and pick up some treats to hand out to all the excited kiddies. It is sure to be a great time!!



ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY - October 25th. Please join us for a special anniversary service. Guest speaker will be Rev. Susan Sheppard, President of the Regional Council. We will also be revealing our new crest for First United Church. After the service all are welcome for a Bologna and Beans Lunch in Trinity Hall. Cost for lunch is \$10 per person.





UNITED CHURCH WOMEN NEWS

First United UCW meets one Monday per month in Trinity Hall. The ladies each bring a bagged lunch with tea and coffee provided. The meetings begin at 12:30 with lunch and social time. After lunch, the meetings consist of a brief worship, any business and occasionally a special guest! All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.

Next meetings:

October 19th - UCW Lunch Meeting at 12:30 - Rev. Karen will lead us in a Bible Study

November 16th - UCW Lunch Meeting at 12:30 - Carew Lodge Shower

Save the Date!



**The UCW are having a Fall Afternoon Tea with Entertainment
Saturday Afternoon, November 7th, 2 to 4 pm**

Tickets are \$15 per person

Available beginning October 4th

after worship service on Sundays, from UCW Members and during office hours

Memory Lane Choir including our own Gloria Gosse will be there to entertain us. There will be a door prize as well as a 50/50 draw. The Quilting Group will have chances available on a quilt. Gather your family and friends, fill a table and come out for an enjoyable afternoon.



Advance Notice

The UCW will be having their Annual Shower of personal care items for Carew Lodge and Emmanuel House during their November 16th meeting. If members of the congregation would like to support the UCW in this endeavour, items can be dropped off during the November 16th UCW meeting between 1:30 and 3 pm at the Churchill Avenue entrance. If you are unable to drop off at that time, feel free to drop off during church or during regular office hours up to November 22nd.

Personal care items include some of the following:

Towel and facecloth

Toothpaste and toothbrush

Deodorant, razors, shaving cream

Shampoo, conditioner, soap

Body wash, body sponge

Hand cream

Brush and comb

Socks, slippers

Dish clothes, Dish Towels

Tissues

Hats, gloves and scarves

Little treats eg. candy/ chocolate



Men's Fellowship

MEN'S CLUB: Our First United Men's Club usually meet the first Monday of the month. Our meetings are held at 5:30 pm in Trinity Hall. All men of our congregation are welcome to attend for fellowship, topics of interest and a home-cooked meal! Notices for meetings are posted in our weekly bulletin and/or included in Sunday announcements. For more information, please contact Kevin Martin at 709-727-2709 or Mark Rice at 709-682-7544.

How to Contact/Connect with First United:

- Drop by the church office during regular office hours or call the church office at **709-368-2194**
- Email us at: **firstunited@nf.aibn.com**
- Visit our website: **www.firstunitedchurchmp.ca**
- Sign up for **Constant Contact** so we can email information directly to your inbox
- Mail us at: **221 Park Avenue, P.O. Box 921, Mount Pearl, NL A1N 3C8**



UPCOMING FUNDRAISING CONCERT HERE AT FIRST UNITED



“PETER HALLEY & SHELLEY NEVILLE” will be performing a concert here at First United Church on **Thursday, November 26th at 7 pm.** Come join us for an evening of memorable Irish, Newfoundland and Contemporary song selections, including a few Christmas songs. Tickets are \$25 and are available at the church office Wednesday, Thursday and Friday between 10 am and 2 pm. For more information, please call the church office at 709-368-2194.



RECIPES BOOKS

First United Church has put together a collection of favourite recipes which have been submitted by members of our congregation. Books just cost \$15, large print books cost \$20. If you do not need one for yourself, these make great gifts. Some fantastic recipes in the book. A great keepsake! Books can be purchased from the church office on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday from 10 am to 2 pm or call the church office at 709-368-2194. Thanks to everyone for your support.



PURDY'S CHOCOLATES FUNDRAISER

We will be selling Purdy's chocolates again this year. The deadline to order is November 18th and orders should be available for pick up around December 8th. Orders can be placed online. To order please go to the following website:

<https://fundraising.purdys.com/1600222-118825> and follow the instructions to sign in or to register. Then click on **Join a Campaign, First United Church**, and start shopping! The customer number is 73726 for ordering. Catalogues will be arriving soon. Any questions, please call Joan Winsor at 709-687-2147.



From The Stewardship Committee

While the weather during our past summer season has not been the best ever, we hope that everyone have been able to enjoy their favourite activities. Certainly, the images on our TV screens showing freshly harvested crops and others ripe in the fields continue to remind us of our need to ever be a thankful people.

As our church returns to a full schedule of activities, the Stewardship Committee believes that our congregation both wishes and needs to be aware of just how we are doing financially.

During some years in the past, contributions have allowed us to show a small surplus and this has allowed us to absorb the deficits of recent years. That small pool of money has now been used up. In fact, as of September 30th, the cash balance of our operating account sits as \$8,197.16. In order to pay just the basics, i.e. utilities, salary and benefits, we need approximately \$16,000 per month. Church groups and individuals are fundraising. However, our aging demographic and the amount of our shortfall make it impossible to raise what's required. For the first nine months of 2026 our deficit is \$57,295.41. This is not saying we're in trouble; we believe that we can manage this together.

Everyone does not have the ability to increase church givings, especially in consideration of the rising cost of living and other community needs; some can. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you can continue to support the mission and ministry of our church.