

Welcome to First! We are glad you are here!

We WELCOME Rev. Emily Gordon  
along with our Siblings from  
Emmanuel United and Westminster United

Rev. Hoeun will be in the office Thursday and Friday from  
9:30am to 12:30pm

**EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE**

Please contact:  
Rev. Hoeun Lee 519-745-8487 x 208

**REMINDER TO ALL GROUPS**

Please ensure that ALL Windows are closed, ALL lights are  
off and ALL doors are securely locked before leaving the  
Church.



**Sunday May 31, 2026**

**Genesis 1:1—2:4a; Psalm 8 (VU pp. 730–732)  
2 Corinthians 13:11–13  
Matthew 28:16–20**

Paisley Pastoral Charge



**Deadline for submission to the weekly updates is Tuesday  
by 12:00 p.m.**

**CONTRIBUTIONS:**

To get your offering to the office you can use PAR  
Etransfer to [firstunitedchurch@rogers.com](mailto:firstunitedchurch@rogers.com),  
Website donation [www.firstunitedchurch.ca](http://www.firstunitedchurch.ca)  
or cheque.

Please made cheques payable as follows –

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH**

Cheques can be dropped off at the church mailbox which is located at  
the Entrance on the William Street side of the building. **Also**, you  
may send your cheque to

First United Church  
16 William St. West  
Waterloo ON N2L 1J3

Reminder, credit card companies have a fee of around 3-5%. If you  
wish First to get the full amount, then please add that percentage to  
your contribution.

**UPDATE FROM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT**

Kindred Works Update

Since The AGM in March, the Property Development  
Committee has met 3 times with staff from Kindred Works and  
a 4<sup>th</sup> meeting is booked for June 3.

We have received considerable information from research they  
have done about population growth in Kitchener-Waterloo,  
average rental rates and a rental market analysis of purpose  
built rental buildings close to First United. They have also  
provided information on nearby proposed development  
applications for condominiums including the number of storeys  
and units and whether the application is approved or under  
review. Six applications have been approved and 3 are under  
review including the 2-tower (33 and 37 storeys) proposal for  
the Erb and Good property.

We have asked for and received details about the decrease in  
our income from the rental units if we take some of the  
residential space in the new building for community space  
(1000, 2000 or 3000 square feet). We would be responsible  
for management of that space. The residential units which  
include 30% affordable housing will be managed by a separate  
management company.

We have a preliminary proposal for the project overview of  
units in a 25-storey building on our property: studio, 1, 2 and  
3-bedroom units, with and without the purchase of the bridal  
shop beside us.

At this point the committee has been gathering information  
about the breakdown of our present rental income between the  
sanctuary side and proposed residential side. We are also  
considering how the sanctuary side might be changed and  
upgraded for better use as community and church space.

We have shared the Observations about First United from  
Rev. Greg Smith-Young and the letter from the board chair to  
the congregation about our Conversation on May 31 led by the  
Envisioning Team. Joh Neff, Congregational Support Minister,  
WOW Region, has joined us for 2 of our meetings.

We have had conversations with Kindred Works staff about  
relocation during construction and how the sanctuary side will  
be returned to being fully functional and up to code again, but  
it is too soon in the process to know about those details. They  
are aware of and are monitoring the water shortage issue in  
Waterloo Region. A business plan could be available in 2026  
if the congregation feels ready for it.  
Property Development Committee: Vern, Teresa, Matthew,  
Lee, Mary Joan

**COVENANTING SERVICE**

You are invited to the covenanting service of Rev. Brenda Torrie's  
call to Emmanuel United Church.  
When: May 31 – 3:00pm,  
Where: Emmanuel United Church Sanctuary  
Preaching: Rev Jenny Stephens  
Presiding: Rev. Roz Vincent-Haven  
There will be a cake reception following the service. Rev. Brenda  
looks forward to celebrating this milestone with you.

**UPCOMING SERVICES**

EVENT	DATE	TIME
Communion Sunday at First	Sunday, May 31	10:30 am
Joint Service at Westminster	Sunday, June 7	10:30 am
Joint Service at Emmanuel	Sunday, June 14	10:00 am

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**FOURTH CLIMATE JUSTICE VIGIL**

The Fourth Climate Justice Vigil will take place on:  
DATE: Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm  
LOCATION: St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Kitchener,  
56 Duke Street West, Kitchener.

The speaker Gary Whetung (an Anishinaabe Catholic  
and member of Curve Lake First Nation) will speak about  
Laudato Si', an encyclical by the late Pope Francis about the  
care of creation.

**MTSPACE – TELL!**

After an exhilarating World Theatre Day, we're back for  
another edition of TELL! Join us for a chill relaxing evening as  
we gather for a community potluck. This is also the space to  
share with the wider community just about anything you feel  
like sharing.  
Bring your talents, recipes, stories and calls to action to the  
community. Regardless of whether it's a finished work or a  
work-in-progress, this is your space to experiment and play.  
We love to see it. **NOTE:** Please include an ingredients list if  
you decide to bring any dishes for the potluck.

**DATE:** Monday, May 25, 2026

**TIME:** 7:00 pm

**WHERE:** Chapel, First United Church

**MOHAWK INSTITUTE & WOODLAND CULTURAL CENTRE**

On September 8 there will be a guided trip to the Mohawk Institute and Woodland Cultural Centre sponsored and subsidized by the three regions (Antler River Waterways, Horseshoe Falls, and Western Ontario Waterways). There will be space for 20 people from each region (60 total). If you are interested in finding out more or in applying to join the trip, please check out the link below - [https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/files/08bd3e95-3f9c-0dac-57a3-6b55e56f658f/INVITATION to WCC Museum and Mohawk Institute Tour.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/files/08bd3e95-3f9c-0dac-57a3-6b55e56f658f/INVITATION_to_WCC_Museum_and_Mohawk_Institute_Tour.pdf)

The deadline to get your name in is May 30<sup>th</sup>.

**COMMUNITY SUPPER – CEDAR HILL UNITED CHURCH**

When: May 30, 2026 5pm – 7pm

Where: Cedar Hill United Church, 241 Cedar St, Cambridge

Cedar Hill United is hosting a Community Supper and will be serving pulled pork on a bun. You can choose to eat-in or take out.

Cost: \$15 per person

**TRAVEL BACK IN TIME**

When – Saturday, May 30 at 5:30pm

Where – All Saints’ Anglican Church, 400 Northfield Dr W Waterloo

Come and listen to an evening of music with guest artists Simone Lemieux and Natalia Sawyer. The performance includes music by Drew Aarssen, Olivia Dean, Chapel Roan, Stephen Sondheim, Scott Joplin, Puccini, Handel, Monteverdi and more.....

Pay what you can.

**EMMANUEL UNITED - INTER-GENERATIONAL TRIVIA**

When – Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 7pm

Where – Hearth Room, Emmanuel United Church

Come and join in on the fun! Rev. Torrie and Melodie Anne are planning an Intergenerational Trivia Night in Emmanuel’s Hearth Room. Kids and adults are all welcome.

**DANCE CAMP – CEDAR HILL UNITED CHURCH**

Get Ready to move, groove and praise through dance this summer!

Join us for an inspiring week of Christian Contemporary Dance led by instructor Kirk Easy in a fun & supportive environment for children & youth. Light refreshments will be provided each day. Participants will take part in a finale dance performance during the church service on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Each participant will receive a Certificate of Completion following the performance.

To register call 519-623-1820, or visit [cedarhillchurch@bellnet.ca](mailto:cedarhillchurch@bellnet.ca)

Registration fee \$30 per participant.

When – July 6 – 10th

Ages 6 – 12 11am – 12:30pm

Ages 13-19 1pm – 2:30pm

Where – Rice Hall, Cedar Hill United Church  
241 Cedar St, Cambridge

<b>Sunday, May 24</b>		
10:30 am	Joint Worship Service at First	Sanctuary
10:30 am	Sunday School	Parlour/Labyrinth Room
11:30 am	Refreshments	Hilliard Hall/Kitchen
1:00 pm	MTSpace	Chapel
<b>Monday, May 25</b>		
9:00 am	MTSpace	Parlour
10:00 am	KW Montessori School	Hilliard Hall
5:30 pm	MTSpace	Chapel
<b>Tuesday, May 26</b>		
9:00 am	MTSpace	Parlour
5:00pm	KWYO – Auditions	Labyrinth Room
7:00 pm	SHOW Board Meeting	Parlour
<b>Wednesday, May 27</b>		
9:00 am	MTSpace	Parlour
6:30 pm	Embers	Hilliard Hall
6:30 pm	Sparks	Chapel
<b>Thursday, May 28</b>		
9:00 am	MTSpace	Chapel
11:00 am	Baileys Foods	Hilliard Hall/Kitchen
3:00 pm	MTSpace	Parlour
4:00 pm	Family Choir	Chapel
7:00 pm	Gallery Choir	Chapel
<b>Friday, May 29</b>		
9:00 am	MTSpace	Parlour
11:00 am	MTSpace	Chapel
<b>Saturday, May 30</b>		
9:00 am	Knitting Group	Parlour
1:00 pm	MTSpace	Chapel
1:00 pm	Dungeons & Dragons	Parlour
<b>Sunday May 31</b>		
10:30 am	Worship Service with Communion	Sanctuary
10:30 am	Sunday School	Parlour/Labyrinth Room
11:30 am	Refreshments	Hilliard Hall/Kitchen

**WEEKLY UPDATE**  
of happenings, events and concerns of our  
**First United Church Family**



**May 24, 2026**

Minister	Rev. Hoeun Lee
Music Director	Kathleen King Martin
Church Administrator	Carla Drake
AV Technician	Harold Arnett
Custodian	Jay Brooker
Assistant Custodian	Craig Lennox

16 William Street West  
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 1J3  
Office: 519-745-8487 x201  
Office Hours: Mon-Thu 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**email:** [office@firstunitedchurch.ca](mailto:office@firstunitedchurch.ca)

**website:** [firstunitedchurch.ca](http://firstunitedchurch.ca)

**Chair of the Board**

**email:** [firstunitedboardchair@gmail.com](mailto:firstunitedboardchair@gmail.com)

Guest Minister:	Rev. Emily Gordon (she/her)
Greeter(s):	Edith Coyle
Reader(s):	Rick Chambers (he/him)
Lay Leader:	Kate Markwart (she/they)
Serving Refreshments this month:	Property