

BULLETIN NOTATIONS

VU-Voices United Hymn Book | **MV**-More Voices Hymn Book
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* *Indicates to please stand, if able*

Lent, the period leading up to Easter, gives us the opportunity to remember Jesus' life, death and resurrection. To look with wonder and awe at his life on earth and to sit with the discomfort of his sacrifice on the cross, so when it comes to Easter morning, we are ready to rejoice in the Resurrection.

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Then Jesus said to his disciples, **"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."**

Take up your cross the Saviour said, (sung) VU 561
If you would my disciples be.
Take up your cross with willing heart
And humbly follow after me.

We extinguish the first candle on the cross this morning to remember that taking up our cross in service to Jesus seems to put us in the shadow of His cross that grew darker as events led Him to Calvary.

But we know that His love is more powerful than any cross.

Amazing Love How Can It Be (sung) HWC 203
that thou my God shouldst die for me!

Let us worship. **Let us pray.**

"Heavenly Father, as we enter this Lenten season, help us to fast from those things that keep us far from You and feast on the things that draw us closer to You. Grant, we pray, that our penances will purify us to receive the power of Christ's resurrection. We come, trusting in Your mercy and love, longing to know You better and to learn more about Your ways.

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We come, to be guided in the ways of Your truth— aware of Your steadfast love helping us to overcome the trials and temptations which can descend on us at any time.

Lead us, O God, to do what is right in your eyes and teach us to follow the humble way of Christ, Your beloved Son, In His Name we pray. Amen .

HYMN: Lift High the Cross VU 151

TIME OF REFLECTION and CONFESSION

Let us pray together:

Most merciful God,
whose Son Jesus Christ was tempted in every way, yet without sin,
we confess before you that we have sinned;
we have hungered after that which does not satisfy;
we have compromised with evil;
we have doubted your power to protect us.
Forgive our lack of faith; have mercy on our weakness.
Restore in us such love and trust that we may walk in your ways
and delight in doing your will.

Silent reflection

Still the Small Inward Voice to Hear Tune HWC 203
that whispers all my sins forgiven.
Still the atoning blood is near
that quenched the wrath of hostile heaven.
I feel the life His wounds impart.
I feel the Saviour in my heart.

RESPONSIVE READING: VU pg. 781 "Psalm 63"

READER: Keith Rae

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 15:1-6, 17:1-9, 22:1-14

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of

Damascus?’ And Abram said, ‘You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.’ But the word of the Lord came to him, ‘This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.’ He brought him outside and said, ‘Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, ‘I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.’ Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ‘As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God.’ God said to Abraham, ‘As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations.

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, ‘Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ He said, ‘Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.’ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, ‘Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.’ Abraham took the wood of the

burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, ‘Father!’ And he said, ‘Here I am, my son.’ He said, ‘The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?’ Abraham said, ‘God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.’ So the two of them walked on together. When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, ‘Abraham, Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ He said, ‘Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.’ And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place ‘The Lord will provide’; as it is said to this day, ‘On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.’

Let us hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: “Without His Cross” ~ by: J. Martin

INVITATION TO OFFERING

***SUNG RESPONSE:** VU 540

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.**

Let us pray.

***OFFERING PRAYER:** *(in unison)* **Giver of every good and perfect,
bless and use what we offer, and use us to share the good news, in
word and action. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

PASTORAL PRAYER: *(Lord hear our prayer, and in your love, answer).*

HYMN: VU 108 "Throughout these Lenten Days and Nights" vs 1-3

MESSAGE: "Abraham's Cross"

***CLOSING HYMN VU 108:**

"Throughout these Lenten Days and Nights" vs 4-6

***BENEDICTION**

Please join us in the Friendship Room after you grab coffee for a look at Paul's Letter to the Philippians. "Finding Hope in a Difficult World" Copies of The Lenten Challenge for 2025 are available if you missed them last week or don't wish to print them off from the email on your computer.

AFTER WORSHIP, everyone is invited to stay for refreshments and fellowship on the lower level.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS, HYMNS and RESPONSIVE READINGS are available on the pew as you enter the sanctuary.

PRAYER LIST

As we face life's challenges, we are encouraged by those who surround us with their prayers. If you would like your name to appear on the prayer list, please tell the minister or a member of the Pastoral Care Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDER: Everyone is asked to please wear your name tags at church on Sundays, to make it easier for newcomers to remember your name.

BIRTHDAYS: If you are new to the congregation and would like to be included in the monthly birthday acknowledgements in the bulletin, please contact Sandra in the office so she can add you to the list.

BIBLE STUDY FOR LENT: Following the worship service. Those interested are invited to gather in the Friendship Room with your coffee at 11 for a look at Philippians. "How to Have Hope in Difficult Times". Beginning this Sunday, March 9th.

EUCHRE & GAMES DAY: Starting on Tuesday, March 4th at 2pm and continuing every Tuesday following. Tea/Coffee served at 3pm. Dominoes, euchre, and more, your choice. Bring your game faces and enjoy the fellowship that playing games inspires.

THE WALKING GROUP: Calling all people! Come walk with us on Thursdays at 10am at the Meridian Centre followed at 10:45am at McDonald's for a coffee and conversation. If you can't come for the walk, come for the talk! We look forward to seeing you there!

FREE ST. PATRICK'S SKATING: with Fenwick United on Friday, March 14th at the Meridian Community Centre in Fonthill. Change rooms open at 7pm, skating from 7:30-8:30pm Are you new to Canada or the Pelham area and looking to get to know people in the community? This event is made possible through Fenwick United Church and a generous grant from the Erwin Taylor Charitable Foundation.

BOOK SALE: Join St. David's Church on Friday, March 14th from 1-4pm and Saturday, March 15th from 9-12pm for their book sale. Books, Magazines, Puzzles, Games, and Music! Located at 369 Thorold Rd., Welland, beside Food Basics. Donations welcome and appreciated!

WELCOME HOSPICE NIAGARA!: Open to all men and women! On Wednesday, March 19th at Pelham Community Church (461 Canboro St., Fenwick). Coffee starting at 9:30am and welcoming Carol Nagy

from Hospice Niagara starting at 10am. For more information contact the office at: office@pelham.cc.

CHORALIS CAMERATA: W.A. Mozart Requiem. Sunday, March 23rd at 2pm at the Trillium United Church (415 Linwell Rd., St. Catharines). Tickets: Adult \$25, Senior \$22, Student \$10, advance tickets: choraliscamerata@gmail.com. Website: www.choraliscamerata.com (905) 931-9225.

SENSIBLE WAY TO WELLNESS: This event is taking place on March 27th at 10:30am. The sign-up sheet is located in the narthex. Please sign up if you are interested in attending.

“MAYBE ONE?”: A play by Scott Douglas (adapted by Cathie Ellarby, new ending by Diane Walker) presented by Central United Church (located at 30 Delhi St., Port Colborne) on Saturday, April 5th at 2pm. “Where we came from – how we got here”. Part of the 100th Anniversary celebration. Light refreshments to follow.

FENWICK UNITED: invites you to Afternoon Tea on Saturday, April 12 from 1-3pm (doors open at 12:30pm) at 1050 Church St, Fenwick. Join us for a 3 course afternoon tea (including sandwiches, scones, clotted cream, jam and desserts. Gluten free options are available but must be indicated at the time of booking. \$35/pp. no tickets at the door, no refunds. Please call Julie at (289) 820-9657 or email: gvalleyjean@gmail.com and payment can be made by e-transfer. All proceeds go to the Fenwick United Church Women’s Outreach.

TAIZÉ: services will be held at Fenwick United Church during Lent on March 27, April 3, 10, 17. All services will begin at 6:30 and last about 30 minutes. Taizé services are quiet, contemplative services of music, scripture and prayer. Everyone is invited to attend.

OPEN ARMS MISSION FUNDRAISER: Join us for an evening of songs, special music and more! Who?: Barn Boyz and Friends, When?: Friday, March 21st at 7pm, Where?: First Baptist Church, 165 Sydney Place, Welland. Support Open Arms Mission with a Free Will Offering!

FREE EVENT – NAVIGATING THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM WITH A LONG-TERM ILLNESS: 7 keys for more choice and control. Join Dr. Sammy Winemaker and Dr. Hsien Seow for a FREE event to learn the 7 keys to take charge so you can be hopeful and prepared every step of the way. Designed to help individuals and their caregivers navigate the healthcare system for those living with a long-term illness. Ask questions and gain valuable insights. Held at Club Italia Event Centre, 2525 Montrose Rd, Niagara Falls. Thursday, April 10th 4-8pm. 4-6pm, the chance to check out other booths with other providers and organizations will be available to speak with and ask questions as well as offering pizza for dinner. Speakers start at 6-7pm, Book signing at 7-7:30pm. Register at: waitingroomrevolution.com/events.

UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

Mar 16 – 9:30 am	Sunday Service
Mar 23 – 9:30 am	Sunday Service
Mar 30 – 9:30 am	Sunday Service

**TO MAKE A DONATION TO FONTHILL UNITED CHURCH,
YOU ARE WELCOME TO:**

- 1) Mail a cheque to the church at: Fonthill United Church, Box 926, Fonthill ON L0S 1E0.
- 2) Drop your cheque donation, anytime, through the mail slot in the exterior office door at the church.
- 3) Bring cash donations into the office when the church office is open.
 - 4) Send an e-transfer to: fonthilu@vaxxine.com.
 - 5) Sign up for the pre-authorized remittance program (PAR). Contact the church office to register.

Donations on Sundays may be placed in the offering plate at the entrance to the sanctuary. We thank you for your support!

THE WEEK AHEAD AT FONTHILL UNITED

-March Break-

Monday Mar 10	6:30 pm	Pickle Ball
Tuesday Mar 11	9:00 am	Badminton
	2:00 pm	Games & Social
Wednesday Mar 12	1:00 pm	UCW Mtg
	1:30 pm	Pickle Ball
	6:00 pm	A Cappella Practice
Thursday Mar 13	9:00 am	Badminton
	3:00 pm	Choir Practice
	5:00 pm	Wedding Rehearsal
Friday Mar 14	6:30 pm	Pickle Ball
Sunday Mar 16	9:30 am	Sunday Service – Lent 2

Please note that these rentals while happening in the church, are not to be attended by the congregation (as they are not put on by the church) unless there is an express invite.

Fonthill United Church

March 9, 2025

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MISSION STATEMENT

Words inspire us. Music uplifts us.
United in God’s love,
we strive to be an inclusive community,
learning together and supporting others with compassion.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office 905 892-6433
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 Church address 42 Church Hill, Box 926, Fonthill ON L0S 1E0
 Website www.fonthillunited.com
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