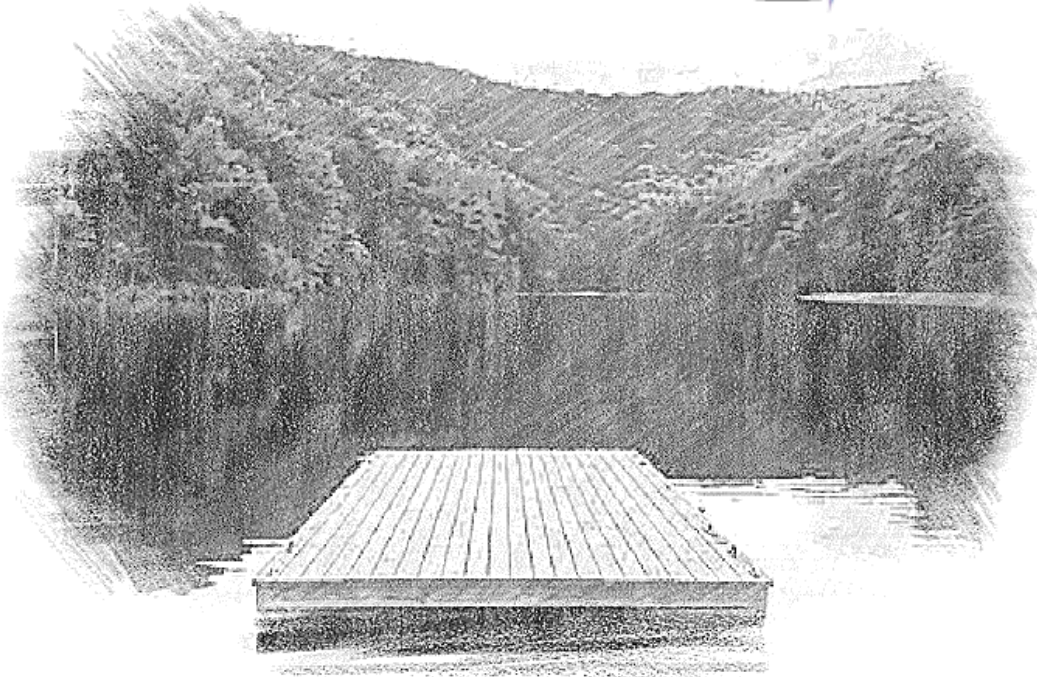


Welcome to First-St Andrew's UNITED CHURCH



May 17, 2026 “The Courage to Remain” Jazz Service 10:30 am



350 Queens Avenue, London, ON N6B 1X6
TEL (519) 679-8182
www.fsaunited.com

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



First-St. Andrew's United Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence Minister of Worship and Congregational Life

Rev. Anne-Louise Jannaway Minister of Pastoral Care

Chris Fischer Minister of Music

Christina Lindsay Children's & Youth Program Coordinator

Rev. Dr. David McKane Minister Emeritus

Dr. Jo Ann Silcox Designated Pastoral Care Volunteer

Kathryn Skelly Office Manager

Rev. Karen Low Voluntary Associate Minister

Paul Merritt Organist Emeritus

Steve Elson,

George Jolink,

David Wardlaw Co-Chairs of Council



Welcome



Together we all make up the family of First-St. Andrew's.
If you are new to the family, please know that
you are always welcome here.

*Hymn and anthem texts reprinted under
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unless otherwise indicated*

Bold type indicates congregational response. * indicates to stand in body or spirit

Gathering Music: What a Friend We Have in Jesus Charles C. Converse
Jazz Ensemble: Sonja Gustafson, vocals; Nevin Campbell, piano;
Larry Ernewein, bass & Sandy Mackay, drums

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee;
thou wilt find a solace there.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Karen Low (she/her)

Acknowledging the Traditional Territory

Susan McKane (she/her)

Lighting the Candles

Candle Lighting Music: VU #400 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying - sung 3 times
CHILDREN PRAYING

Call to Worship:

Rev. Karen Low

One: Come, not because you have all the answers, but because you are willing to be present.

ALL: We come as we are.

One: Come with the fullness of your life – the questions, the tensions, the quiet hopes.

ALL: We bring what is true in us.

One: Come, not to resolve every difference, but to remain in relationship.

ALL: We come to remain.

One: For God meets us here – not in certainty, but in connection.

ALL: In our gathering, God is near.

One: So let us worship – with open hearts and steady presence.

ALL: We come to worship God.

Opening Prayer:

God of presence, we come as we are – not fully certain, not fully settled, carrying more than we can always name. Some of us come with sturdy faith. Some with fragile hopefulness. Some simply because we needed to be somewhere that invites us to pause and to breathe. However we arrive, You meet us here – not in perfection, but in presence. Not because we have all the right words, but because we came willing to turn to You.

In a world that feels so fractured, draw us again into Your way of being – not a unity that erases difference, but a love that holds us in relationship. Teach us how to remain – with You and with one another, and even with ourselves. Quiet what needs quieting in us. Stir what needs stirring. And in this time of worship, gently reshape our hearts in the pattern of Your love.

We offer this prayer not because we have it all together, but because we trust that You do. In Your many names we pray. Amen

***Hymn:** VU #646 Siyahamba / We Are Marching

SIYAHAMBA

Children & Youth leave for Worship and Wonder.

Scripture: Acts 1: 6-14

Don Jones

One: A Word of God for all people,

ALL: thanks be to God.

Musical Reflection: You've Got a Friend
Jazz Ensemble

Carole King

***Scripture:** John 17: 1-11

Rev. Karen Low

Sermon: "The Courage to Remain: Prayer, Unity, and Life in the In-Between"

***Hymn:** VU #670 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

SINE NOMINE

Prayers of the People:

Rev. Karen Low

Prayer of Jesus: (A Contemporary Rendering of the Lord's Prayer)

Unison

Our God, who is closer to us than we can name,
Holy is your presence among us.
Your way of love – may it take root in us.
May it shape our lives, as it is already shaping the world
beyond what we can see.

Give us today what we need – for this moment, for this day.
And forgive us – for the ways we turn away,
for the ways we wound one another,
for the ways we fail to remain in love.
As we, too, are learning to forgive –
slowly, imperfectly, one step at a time.

Lead us away from what diminishes life and draw us toward what is whole
and true.
In the midst of all that unsettles and divides, hold us steady.
For the life we long for, the love that sustains us,
and the hope that carries us,
all belong to you, now and always. Amen

Musical Offering: Bridge Over Troubled Water
Jazz Ensemble

Paul Simon

Gratitude:

Rev. Karen Low

***Hymn:** VU #642 Be Thou My Vision - omit vs. 3

SLANE

Benediction:

Rev. Karen Low

Blessing:

**The light of God surrounds us;
The love of God enfolds us;
The power of God protects us;
The presence of God watches over us;
Wherever we are, God is!**

Sending Music: Brighten the Corner Where You Are
Jazz Ensemble

Charles H. Gabriel

Do not wait until some deed of greatness you may do,
Do not wait to shed your light afar;
To the many duties ever near you now be true,
Brighten the corner where you are.

Brighten the corner where you are!
Brighten the corner where you are!
Someone far from harbor you may guide across the bar;
Brighten the corner where you are!

Just above are clouded skies that you may help to clear,
Let not narrow self your way debar;
Though into one heart alone may fall your song of cheer,
Brighten the corner where you are.

Brighten the corner where you are!
Brighten the corner where you are!
Someone far from harbor you may guide across the bar;
Brighten the corner where you are!

Here for all your talent you may surely find a need,
Here reflect the bright and Morning Star;
Even from your humble hand the Bread of Life may feed,
Brighten the corner where you are.

We extend our gratitude to

Rev. Karen Low

and our

Jazz Ensemble:

Sonja Gustafson

Nevin Campbell

Larry Ernewein

&

Sandy Mackay

for sharing their gifts with us today!



The Leadership in Today's Service Includes:

Welcoming Ushers: David Flynn, Pat & Dale Pettit

Narthex Co-ordinator: Pat Pettit

Service Support: George Jolink

Tech Team: Robin Neaves, Jim Silcox, Kathryn Skelly and Chris Wood

Coffee & Conversation: United Church Women (UCW)

Gift Card Table: Pauline Schlegel Shank and Margaret Wardlaw

We thank God for all those who share their gifts and talents.