

THIS WEEK IN ACTIVITIES

Sunday **Worship Service at 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.**
Prayer Time between services

Monday Alanon at 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday Baptism Seminar at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m.

FOR THE CHILDREN...We welcome children of all ages to worship with us. We offer Sunday School for children and youth, from age 2 ½ through High School, following Children's Time in the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Younger children are welcome to remain with their parents during the service, or families may use the unstaffed nursery (toy room) found on the main floor, which includes audio for hearing the service. A change table is also available (in the main floor washroom).

**PRAYER FOR OUR CONGREGATION AND OUR CHURCH...**

You are invited to join with others from our congregation in a regular time of prayer. The main goal of this time of prayer is to discern where God would lead us here at Central United Church. Please join us in the **Choir Room downstairs** on Sundays between services at 10:45 a.m.



MOTHER'S DAY...is on SUNDAY, MAY 11TH and you are welcome to come a little early to church that day and bring a fresh cut flower in honour or in memory of a Mom. We will join together to make a beautiful floral cross (on the front sidewalk) as a tribute to mothers everywhere.



GOOD NEWS!...Our Lenten Project this year was to buy bedkits for Sleeping Children Around the World. The challenge issued to the congregation was to buy 200 kits and thanks to your generosity, we are very pleased to report that funds have been donated to purchase **244 kits!!!** Thanks to all of you for your support. All bedkits purchased by Central will be delivered in Sri Lanka this July by Katie Sandiford (with 100% of funds used to better the lives of the children!).



BEGINNING SUNDAY, MAY 18TH...we will change to our Summer Schedule when we will gather as one congregation for worship at **10:00 a.m.**



A NEW PRAYER CHAIN!...Since the earliest days of the Christian Church, one of the most important functions of congregations has been prayer (Acts 2:42). Research has shown that prayer promotes healing even when recipients are unaware of the prayers offered in their name. It is also well-known that congregations that engage in regular and faithful prayer grow in strength and numbers. Prayer Chain volunteers regularly pray for individuals who have special needs (illness, bereavement, job challenges, etc.). After many dedicated years of ministry, our existing Prayer Chain members have retired. We are therefore forming a new group and need new members so that we can continue to provide spiritual support for our congregation. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Karl Burden at kburden@centralunitedchurch.com or 905-471-2116.



COMMUNION SERVINGERS NEEDED...to assist with the Sacrament of Communion in June, July and August. Please check out the dates and sign up at Sally's desk today!



FAMILY FOCUSED WORSHIP...One of the themes that was commonly heard at our first Town Hall in early March was the need to focus certain of our Church activities on young families, as a way of attracting and retaining more families to Central and grow our Congregation. There were several good ideas discussed as initiatives, one of which was to find ways to conduct our worship services and other church activities with a young family focus. The outcome of this meeting was a decision to develop a young family focused worship service to be held on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m., beginning on SEPTEMBER 13TH. We will be forming a design team to build the program for this new service, and will be seeking more congregational involvement on this design team. Stay tuned for the launch of this important and exciting initiative.



2014-2015 SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM...Our Sunday School attendance has been in decline for several years, and at this point we do not have a Sunday School program in place for the upcoming school year. Given our objective is to continue to be a family focused congregation, it is critical that we engage with all of our families with Sunday School aged children and collectively rebuild our Sunday School program in the year ahead. All families with school aged children, and others wishing to assist in determining our way forward with this critical program, are asked to join this meeting at the Church on Wednesday May 14th at 7:00 p.m.



SECOND CONGREGATIONAL TOWN HALL...At this meeting we will reflect on the outcomes of the Family Focused Worship and 2014-15 Sunday School program discussions, and consider the implications of these outcomes on our way forward as a congregation. A light lunch will be served after the worship service on SUNDAY, MAY 25TH and we will start the meeting at 11:15 a.m. This will be a decision making meeting and all members of the congregation are encouraged to attend.



CALL FOR LAY VISITORS...Many years ago, elders fulfilled an important role by visiting our members several times each year. Since we no longer have elders, any visitation has been done by the ministers, and a small group of Lay Visitors who visit shut-ins. With a view to expanding our pastoral support, we require more Lay Visitors. If you would be interested in participating in this important work, contact Rev. Karl Burden (kburden@centralunitedchurch.com).



YOUR CHURCH FINANCES...A summary of our receipts and expenditures relating to the operations of the church are as follows as of April 30, 2014:

	Year to Date <u>Actual</u>	Year to Date <u>Budget</u>	Year to Date <u>Last Year</u>
Receipts	\$ 88,269	\$ 90,669	\$ 87,003
Expenditures	\$ 90,600	\$ 96,035	\$104,196
(Deficit)	(\$ 2,331)	(\$ 5,366)	(\$ 17,193)

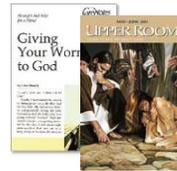
Thank you for your prayerful and continued support to the life and work of your church.

“PAR” (PRE-AUTHORIZED REMITTANCE)...is available to help you contribute to your church on a regular basis. It also helps the church maintain a regular and dependable flow of contributions to support its ongoing commitments. If you are not already on PAR, please consider making your offering in this way. Speak to Sally for more information.



GIVE TO THE FOOD BANK...We encourage you to donate non-perishable food items throughout the year. You may deliver food to any local fire hall, many grocery stores and to our donation basket here at the church.

UPPER ROOM & CARE NOTES...Check out our literature table for the latest issue of the Upper Room daily devotional guide and a selection of Care Notes. Help yourselves!



UCW PIES...There was a problem with the apple pies sold at the first of two UCW Pie Sales on March 30th. If you bought an apple pie(s) that day, you may pick up a replacement. They will be in the freezer off the main hall by Friday, May 2nd. Our apologies for the inconvenience this has caused.



NAME TAGS...So that we may be a welcoming congregation we remind you to wear your name tag on Sunday mornings. For those of you who don't yet have one, just let Sally know and she will make one up for you for next Sunday. (Name tags can be found in the file boxes in the display cabinet in the narthex.)



PASTORAL CARE... Should you become aware of any illness, bereavement, hospitalization, etc., among people of our church; please notify the minister and/or church office by email or phone (905-474-0183) as soon as possible so that we may respond with pastoral care, and, if desired, Sunday prayers.

