



FIFTH AVENUE MEMORIAL
UNITED CHURCH

FAMily News

Fifth Ave Memorial United Church
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Hello FAMily and welcome back to the fall semester! It's an exciting and challenging time for us at FAM as we navigate the world of being church without an on-staff minister. But we are really fortunate to have the immensely talented Rev Bill Doyle to help guide and correct us, and to lead us with communion services.

We had a chance to test-drive something called Together We Worship over the summer, and the Worship Committee decided to move ahead with this in a bigger way. About the only real change you noticed - or will notice - is the sermons-on-video. We won't be doing video sermons every week. Rev Bill will still lead us in communion services, and we have at least 5 in-person sermons already in our pocket between now and the end of the year. Add to that the usual choir-led service in the lead-up to Christmas, and the Sunday School's Christmas offering. One of the really great things about the video sermons that come with Together We Worship is how we get to hear from a wide variety of speakers with a wide variety of viewpoints, all carefully curated to fit squarely within the United Church of Canada's sensibilities. We get a guest speaker every time!

Completely aside from what you see from the pews on Sunday mornings, Together We Worship cuts the amount of work we have to do in the background. Brenda has been creating the worship services since Easter - all of the prayers, readings, scriptures, ... everything except the sermons and music selections. Together We Worship cuts her time spent every week by 79%, and yes, we did actually measure that. Geoff no longer has to seek out and schedule someone to deliver the sermon every week, and that "volunteer" no longer has to spend the considerable time needed to write, rehearse and deliver the sermon. Even for Jen - Together We Worship comes with a suggested set of hymns, which she can use or not, but she doesn't have to start from scratch every week. It's a time and effort saver all around. And did I mention we get a guest speaker every time?

And because I know we have a few engineer brains in the crowd, yes, we do have a backup plan for the time when the computer or projector, or sound system pack it in. Don't worry - we're on it!

Collen recently scrambled the Sacred Service teams so don't forget to check in with that. Team leaders - please remember to contact your new people. We built some great

Creating Connecting Caring

bonds with our teams over the last couple years, and those bonds will continue when we forge new relationships with people we may not have known very well. It's a great community builder.

Finally, the Chinook Winds project for shared ministry in Southeast Alberta is picking up steam. At the Region level, they are drafting job descriptions for positions to hire to jointly serve all of our congregations, and the working group with members from each church will soon be working with them on it.

Autumn 2026 is looking like a great, positive time, with exciting possibilities for the future. What exactly will that future look like? I've never heard of anyone who can reliably predict the future. Certainly not me. But I'm looking forward to whatever it turns out to be.

Geoff Coley
FAM Board Chair

Back to church dates

Sunday School registration starts on **September 13th** – your Sunday School team is looking forward to seeing you again. All families are requested to complete the registration form for 2026/7.

Bible Study at Chinook Village starts 10am **September 16th**
All are welcome.

Prayer Shawl knitters start again on **Sept 16th** 1 – 3pm
Everyone is invited, come and chat and learn

Monday Morning coffee starts on **September 21st** 10am in FAM Memorial Salem Room. Come with your refreshment and enjoy the company of other FAMily

FAM Bells starts sometime soon on Wednesdays



Congratulations to Jire and Fezenia on their nuptials on August 29th.



**Men's Luncheon on
September 10th, 11.30
Paradise Valley Golf Course
RSVP to Gary at 587 936 1430
All guys welcome**

**Ladies' Luncheon
September 17th, 11.30
Paradise Valley Golf Course
RSVP to Launa 403 502 3419
All ladies welcome**

**Sept 27th, FAM will be
recognizing Truth and
Reconciliation. Everyone is
encouraged to wear their
Orange Shirts that Sunday**

**Sign kids up for Sunday School
Check out Sacred Service Teams
Donate to the food cupboard**



You are invited to join

FAM CHURCH CHOIR

**Do you have a passion for singing and music?
Do you want to be uplifted and inspired?
Are you looking for something fun to do on Thursday nights?**

If so, please consider joining FAM Church Choir! The choir rehearses every Thursday from 7-8:30pm. Together, we learn, grow, and create musical moments that resonate within the worship service. A church choir is a special place fostering connections that go beyond music. At FAM, we are so fortunate to have a choir that is a supportive community offering fellowship, laughter and a sense of belonging.

Martin Luther, the Reformer of the Catholic Church quoted that:

*"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music
is the greatest treasure in the world."*

**Rehearsals begin September 10, 2026
Can't wait to see you there!**

**YOUR
HELP
NEEDED**



The church office is looking for people to be on the funeral committee. It entails making coffee, tea, getting cold refreshments ready. Getting the prepared lunch ready, plus serving. If you would like to be on this committee, please email the church office at office@famunitedchurch.ca.

Please join us in thanking Barry W, Piehl, Carrie, Brenda Mc, Steve, Annabel for painting the CE doors and windows.

Also, thanks to Geoff for varnishing the Sanctuary and handicap doors.

Everything looks fantastic!



FAM food cupboard

Can you donate some food items to fill the FAM food cupboard?

Current needs: spaghetti and spaghetti sauce and items that do not need cooking eg snack bags of almonds, packages of cheese and crackers. Bring your items to the church and place in the wagon in the foyer, all donations welcome. See Sharon Hunter for more information



Consider giving FAM your **Canadian Tire dollars** by using the **church phone number (403-526-2237)**



Use the

FAM membership number 2501
at any South Country Co-op
location



When you buy gift cards through FAM, we receive a commission from each card purchased. Since starting this program FAM has made over \$4,000. Orders will go in the third Wednesday of every month. To see the full list of partners and get an order form visit our webpage or stop by the church office or the office can email you the form.



We encourage everyone to wear their name tags during Sunday Services. The office can provide a soft plastic holder with your name in it or you can order through the office, hard plastic name tags for \$15 plus GST.

FAM Office hours

1-4pm by appointment,
Sept 8, resuming usual hours
Monday to Thursday
11am to 1pm

Piehl will be on holidays until
Sept 21st. Joanne Clark will be
manning the office while she is
gone.

Our Sacred Service team model, where everyone in the congregation is invited to partake in Sunday morning responsibilities, has been very successful since its inception in May 2024. Check out the team shuffle for 2026/7.

Sacred Service team leaders for September are Annabelle and Steve Welling, see the end of this newsletter for the new team lists

A big thank you to all those who lead and volunteer.

Hats off to our Sunday service leaders and helpers.

Great job and huge thank you!

Check out the FAM webpage for updated information about happenings going on at FAM and the Community. Also, make sure to like our Facebook page, Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church, and please share our events.

FAMily Calendar

September

Every Sunday	Sunday service & fellowship	10am	Fifth Ave Memorial United Church
Sept 10	Men's luncheon Paradise Valley Golf Course	11.30am	RSVP Gary 587 936 1430
Sept 13	Sunday School Registration	10am	Please complete the registration form
Sept 17	Ladies luncheon Paradise Valley Golf Course		RSVP Launa 403 502 3419
Sept 27	Truth and Reconciliation Sunday	10am	Wear your orange shirts

Regular activities

Sundays	Services followed by fellowship and goodies	FAM 10am
Mondays	Morning Coffee 10am Begins Sept 21st	FAM Memorial Salem Room (bring your coffee)
Wednesdays	Bible Study 10am Begins Sept 16	Chinook Village
Wednesdays	Prayer Shawl Crafters 1-3pm Begins Sept 16th	FAM Memorial Salem Room
Wednesdays	Hand bells	Wesley Hall
2 nd Thursday of each month	Men's Luncheon 11.30am	Gary 587 936 1430
3 rd Wednesday of each month	Funscrip orders submitted	Order at FAM office
3 rd Thursday of each month	Ladies Luncheon 11.30am	Launa 403 502 3419

Sacred Service Teams

September	2026			
Team Lead - Annabel & Steve Welling			November	
Faryna	Katherine		Dietrich	Pat
Drysdale	Penny		John	John
Drysdale	Keith		Moston	Bob
Fischer	Kaila		Watson	Launa
Ruff	Marlene		Watson	Gary
Torrie	Elaine		Gue	David
Hoefling	Debi		Gue	Martha
Kobley	Kendra		McLeod	Sheila
Dynes	Jan		McLeod	Grant
			Westgarth	Robyn
October			Westgarth	Megan
Team Leads - Carole & Brendan				
Ingabire	Pacifique		December	
Ingabire	Daniella		Team Leads - Cheryl and Miles	
Ingabire	Jeremy		Dickie	Judy
Griffith	Helen		Britt	Mary Ann
Cook	Margaret		Simpson	Bonnie
Cook	Ivan		Adesanba	Esther
			Kirkham	Della
			Bjarnason	Sam
			Duguid-Grooters	Cassandra, Adelayo & Adekola
			Thorson	Meagan
			Levesque	Lisa