

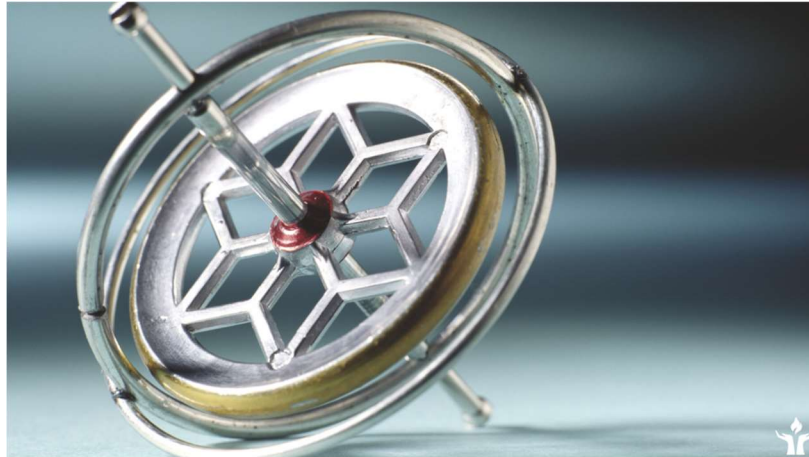
# Weekly e-UU Newsletter ~ Friday, January 27, 2023

We acknowledge that our campus is located on traditional, unsundered and unceded Algonquin Anishinaabeg Territory; and that the work of [reconciliation is a responsibility of our congregation](#), and of all Canadians.

**Sunday, January 29, 2022**

**Online AND In Person (masks required)**

**Starts at 10:00am EST**



## Will the Centre Hold?

~ Reverend Eric Meter

To close out this month's theme of Finding Our Centre, let's take on the question that for many may feel like the elephant in the room, Will, or does, the centre hold? Are the foundations of our faith worthy of our trust?

~\*~

### Sunday Service Announcements

If you would like an announcement made during the livestreamed Sunday Service, please email the Board of Directors at [bod@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:bod@firstunitarianottawa.ca) by Friday at 10am. Do allow for time in case there are questions with regard to the announcement. Also note that announcements may need to be edited for length and that time-sensitive announcements may be prioritized.

### Joys and Sorrows

If you would like a stone placed in the water for you during the Joys and Sorrows portion of an upcoming Sunday Service, please email [spiritualcare@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:spiritualcare@firstunitarianottawa.ca) by Friday at 10am.

~\*~



## What Does Our Chalice Mean?

This Sunday, children will start service upstairs and then move downstairs for programming. Our Chalice Play kids will learn about the chalice and what it means. All participants will have the opportunity to make a chalice out of clay or draw a picture of a chalice.

- Anyone above 12 will need to have been vaccinated
- Health checks will be conducted on site, but don't forget to [use the passive screening criteria on Sunday morning](#), to ensure that everyone who wants to attend is able to do so
- Questions? Please email [dre@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:dre@firstunitarianottawa.ca)

## Religious Exploration and Lifelong Learning

### Coming of Age - For 12-14 Year-Olds

**Registration deadline is January 30!**

We have four enthusiastic facilitators who are excited to guide participants through CoA.

The first session will be on February 12 and sessions will run on Sunday evenings through the end of April, with a few bonus all-day retreats planned. [Click HERE to register for Coming Of Age](#)

NOTE: The CoA family potluck and orientation for youth and their parents will be held **on February 5 from 6 pm to 9 pm**.

Feel free to bring younger siblings.

[Learn more HERE. Youths can register themselves by clicking HERE.](#)



### It's Time for Mystery Pals

Mystery Pals is a fun, intergenerational group activity composed of pairs of pals - one young person and one adult. The idea is to get to know each other by exchanging notes, crafts, cards, riddles, puzzles and books. This is a great way for our congregation to build connections between younger and older members.

**Exchanging will begin in February.** In the end, we will have a Discovery Breakfast, where Pals will meet face to face.

**Sign kids up for Mystery Pals in Room 4 on Sunday!**



## Congregational Focus: Climate Action



This week, the EAG brings you information on the new Alliance for a Livable Ontario, along with upcoming events including a local protest against the Ontario government's Bill 23.

Check them out here: <https://www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/climate-action.html>

~\*~

## Caring Contacts for January

[Maureen Sly](#) - 613-728-7610

[David Hudson](#) - 613-402-5744

## Caring Contacts for February

[Evelyn Algar](#) - 613-728-5761

[Agnes Davis](#) - 613-737-6527

*We are all interconnected, interdependent and minister to each other in many ways. Our monthly Caring Contacts take your phone calls and emails when you wish to alert us to a need or a concern or have a joy to celebrate. We try to ensure no one is forgotten and that appropriate help is provided when requested.*

~\*~

## Read All About It



### A Note from your Privacy Officer

As our Privacy Policy states, *"We are committed to protecting the privacy, confidentiality, accuracy and security of Personal Information that we collect, use, retain, and to ensuring that we follow both legal and ethical standards in handling the personal information and data that people share with us. All congregational staff, members and other volunteers are responsible for the security of any personal information to which they have access."*

I would like to remind everyone that careful record retention and destruction is very important and to please remember to shred old directories, tear up messages containing personal information such as email addresses or phone numbers before discarding, and to bring to the church premises any documents that contain personal information that you no longer need off-site. We will take care of them in the office.



### Welcoming Kirk Adsett, Our Interim Music Director

We are very pleased to announce that Kirk Adsett has joined FirstU as our Interim Music Director while Jenn Berntson is on maternity leave. Kirk earned his Bachelor of Music degree from Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo, and holds a Master of Sacred Music degree from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. He has held numerous organist/choirmaster church positions in Canada and the United States. He was privileged to have been founding director of an after-school program called Reaching Out Through Music which continues to offer free or subsidized music lessons to immigrant children in the St. Jamestown project in Toronto. Kirk's hobbies and joys include reading, travelling, socializing with family and friends, and walking his blue standard poodle, Max. You can reach Kirk at [music@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:music@firstunitarianottawa.ca)



### Parkway Spire - Submissions Due by February 15!

It's that time again! We're looking for essays, newsy articles, and photos for the March edition our quarterly newsletter. Poetry, photos, personal articles...all are welcome. Email submissions (max 450 words) to [spire@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:spire@firstunitarianottawa.ca) by **February 15**. If you have a longer piece (max. 900 words) for our Feature Article, please send it along for consideration. We look forward to hearing from you!



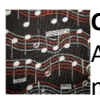
### Registration for CUC Symposium and Related Events

Registration opens **January 30th** for the Canadian Unitarian Council Symposium, youth and young adult events to be held in Ottawa, May 19-21. As the host congregations, FirstU and UUFO can provide free registration to a limited number of people, which we will do based on need and merit. **To be considered for one of the free registrations, please email [uuconnections@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:uuconnections@firstunitarianottawa.ca) by January 31st. It is important to not register until you get a response.** If you do not receive free registration, you will be able to choose from the sliding scale of fees for the events.



### Seeking delegates for Canadian Unitarian Council AGM on May 19 - Deadline Coming Soon!

The CUC Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, May 19, from 1pm-4:30pm. It will be a hybrid meeting, but we encourage our delegates to attend in person at Algonquin College. If YOU are a member of FirstU and are interested in serving as one of our six voting delegates, please contact [uuconnections@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:uuconnections@firstunitarianottawa.ca) by **February 20th**.



### Choirs Seeking New Members

All three of our choirs (Chalice, Three Rivers, Fusion) are now meeting at their regular weekly times and are welcoming new members. You can learn more about each choir and when they practice and perform here. Please email Kirk at [music@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:music@firstunitarianottawa.ca) if you are interested in learning more.



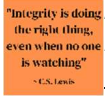
### Ajashki Garden Project Recognized Again!

We're excited to announce that the Ajashki Garden Project has received an award from the Green Green Space Recognition Program! [Click HERE to download the certificate.](#) Kayoki Whiteduck, the Ajashki Gardener, will be a presenter for the Greener Green Spaces webinar series.



### Non-Fiction Reading Group - Formerly on Mondays NOW on Thursday Evenings!

The Monday Reading for Growth Group is now the **Non-Fiction Reading Group** and will run at a time more accessible by all! Our Non-Fiction Reading Group will be discussing Laughing with the Trickster: On Sex Death and Accordions, by Tomson Highway. **If you've wanted to join us, but haven't been able to due to scheduling, now's your chance!** We meet on zoom, on the second Thursday of the month, at 7pm. [Contact Katharine Elliott by email](#) to get the zoom link for our next meeting!



### A Gentle Reminder

A **plea** to anyone using the kitchens, specifically the downstairs kitchen, to **please, please** clean up and wash your dishes. It's just not cool to leave a mess for others to clean up on your behalf. There are really no excuses. Thank you.

~\*~

## Upcoming Events

### Reading for Growth

Friday, January 27 - 1:30pm

#### On Zoom

Join us as we discuss *One Drum: Stories and Ceremonies for a Planet* by Richard Wagamese (copies available at Public Library). [Contact Clea Derwent to get the Zoom link.](#)



### FirstU Virtual Discussion Circle

Thursday, February 2 - 1:30pm

#### On Zoom

Discussion circles are held weekly, with a different topic each week. No pre-registration is required, just drop in by clicking on the link. We look forward to seeing you! This week, our topic is "**Fear**".

If you have ideas for future discussion topics, please [email Andrew.](#)

[ZOOM LINK](#) Meeting ID: 638 009 136 Password: 897007



### Online Bridge

Friday, February 3 - 7pm

#### On Zoom (and BridgeBase)

Join us for a round of Online Bridge (using Zoom and BridgeBase.com) this evening! New members are always welcome! Contact [bridgehost@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:bridgehost@firstunitarianottawa.ca) for details and to sign up for future online bridge games.



### Messy Church

Sunday, February 5 - 10:00am in Room 4

Kids under eight (and their parents and grandparents) are invited to join us in Room 4, for a themed UU church service that centers the youngest among us.



|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>Friday, January 27, 2023</b>              |                 |
| Men's Breakfast                              | 08:00a - 10:00a |
| Z-Friday Reading for Growth                  | 01:30p - 03:00p |
| <b>Sunday, January 29, 2023</b>              |                 |
| Religious Exploration for Children and Youth | 09:00a - 12:00p |
| Hybrid Worship Service                       | 10:00a - 11:00a |
| Fellowship Hour                              | 11:30a - 01:00p |
| <b>Tuesday, January 31, 2023</b>             |                 |
| Fusion Choir                                 | 01:00p - 03:00p |
| <b>Wednesday, February 1, 2023</b>           |                 |
| Knitters' Group                              | 01:00p - 03:00p |
| Three Rivers Choir                           | 01:00p - 03:00p |
| <b>Thursday, February 2, 2023</b>            |                 |
| Ajashki                                      | 08:00a - 06:00p |
| Z-Virtual Discussion Circle                  | 01:30p - 03:00p |
| Chalice Choir                                | 07:00p - 09:00p |
| <b>Friday, February 3, 2023</b>              |                 |
| Z-FirstU Bridge Group                        | 07:00p - 09:00p |
| <b>Saturday, February 4, 2023</b>            |                 |
| Z-Spirituality and Philosophy                | 10:30a - 12:15p |
| Harmony Concert Series-Grouyan Gombo         | 02:00p - 10:00p |
| <b>Sunday, February 5, 2023</b>              |                 |
| Religious Exploration for Children and Youth | 09:00a - 12:00p |
| Hybrid Worship Service                       | 10:00a - 11:00a |
| National Sharing our Faith Service           | 10:00a - 11:00a |
| Kindergarten-Grade One OWL                   | 10:00a - 11:30a |
| Fellowship Hour                              | 11:30a - 01:00p |
| Coming of Age Parent Orientation             | 05:30p - 09:00p |

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## Save the Date

### Town Hall for Master Concept Plan

Monday, February 13 - 7pm on Zoom

Members of FirstU are invited to a Town Hall for our Master Concept Plan, to be held on Monday, February 13, on zoom.



Details and relevant documents will be provided closer to the date.

[ZOOM LINK](#) Meeting ID: 860 2024 0465 Passcode: 568754

### Trivia Quiz Night

**Monday, February 27 - 7pm on Zoom**

Join us for our Trivia Quiz! Questions are diverse, fun, and taken from several sources, and there is no need to feel embarrassed about getting an incorrect answer: players score themselves! All you need is a pen or pencil, paper and your "thinking cap".

Play alone or team up with a partner or two! For more information, [email Andrew](#).

[ZOOM LINK](#) Meeting ID: 841 2565 4674 Passcode: 222371



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## Unitarian Universalist nUUs



**Seminary for a Day with First Unitarian Portland**

**Saturday, January 28 - 12:30pm EST**

**Virtual Tickets: \$35 (scholarships available)**

Join First Unitarian Portland for a hybrid Seminary For A Day featuring keynote speaker Rev. John Buehrens plus a workshop on "god optional" UU theologies. [Click HERE for details and advance registration](#).



**Uncolonizing Democratic Processes**

**Saturday, February 12:30pm on Zoom**

Congregations that choose to take up the challenge of actively welcoming greater diversity may need to reconsider some of their long-term practices. The ways we organize and make community decisions are no exception. Some of our congregations are exploring new approaches. In this workshop, we will explore a few ways they are working to uncolonize their democratic processes. Participants will be able to choose two of the four streams being offered. [Details and registration HERE](#).



**CUC National Service**

**Sunday, February 5 - 1:00pm on Zoom**

The Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) is presenting a national service on Sunday, February 5th at 1:00-3:00pm Eastern on the theme of "Covenanting Through Transitions". You can participate on Zoom or YouTube. These services often provide opportunities to meet other UUs from across Canada.

[Click HERE for more information and links to join the service](#).



**Motions for Canadian Unitarian Council AGM**

The CUC invites congregations to provide input on non-routine motions submitted for its Annual General Meeting in May. There will be at least two opportunities for FirstU people to learn more and provide input:

1. An online CUC Leaders Roundtable Saturday, January 28th at 12:00-1:30pm; see for more information. [Click HERE for more information](#).
2. A hybrid FirstU event on Saturday afternoon, February 25th; more details to follow.



**UU@UN Intergenerational Spring Seminar**

**April 1-3, 2023 - In person (Minneapolis) and online**

Join youth (14+) and adults for a weekend of hybrid [programming and activities](#), including a virtual keynote from Andrea Ritchie on police abolition. [Click HERE to register by March 15!](#)

~\*~

## News From Our Friends

*Since we don't have our on-site bulletin board for personal notices, we are allowing them in the eUU during COVID. As such, here are messages from Meg DeCorte.*

**Two-Bedroom Condo at 75 Cleary Ave**

**Rental Available April 1st**

Immaculate 2-Bed, 2-bath Condo in Upscale building. Available April 1st, 2 Ensuite baths, 1 Parking included, 1 extra possible.

Gym, Garden, In-Suite laundry, Large Entertainment room w/ wifi, Rooftop BBQ & garden overlooks Ottawa River Parkway. 900 sq. ft, Private balcony, Extra large on-floor secure storage unit, On-site Canada Post parcel locker, Daytime superintendent, Hardwood, Granite, Silhouette blinds included. Heat pump, Energy efficient, Excellent transit, Perfect for hospital staff, DND, Tunney's Pasture employees. \$2400/mo, One year lease.

Very convenient to the congregation!

For photos or if interested, contact [Meg DeCorte](#) at: 613-722-1424



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## Chez FirstU



**Harmony Music presents:**

**Grouyan Gombo**

**Saturday, February 4 - 7:00pm at FirstU**

Montreal's Grouyan Gombo is one of the great bands that has emerged out of a three-decade long history of Cajun and Zydeco bands in Quebec and Ontario. They presents a savory gumbo of southern and northern traditions. Their sound constitutes a unique blend of Cajun, folk and Creole tunes, grooves and songs, including lots of originals. Swing by FirstU on February 4 for an evening you won't forget. [Details and tickets available HERE](#).