

Weekly e-UU Newsletter ~ Friday, September 22, 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, September 24, 2023

[Online](#) AND In Person

Starts at 10:30am



Reconciliation in Action

With guest speakers Rhonda Huneault and Billy Akavak

Reconciliation is a bold, necessary and often complex undertaking. This Sunday, Rhonda Huneault and Billy Akavak from Tungasuvvingat Inuit will share with how they, a settler and an Inuit, have found ways forward that give them hope.

Join us after the service, in Fellowship Hall, for Coffee Hour

OR

Join our online Fellowship Hour at 12:00pm - [Click HERE at Noon to join the call!](#)

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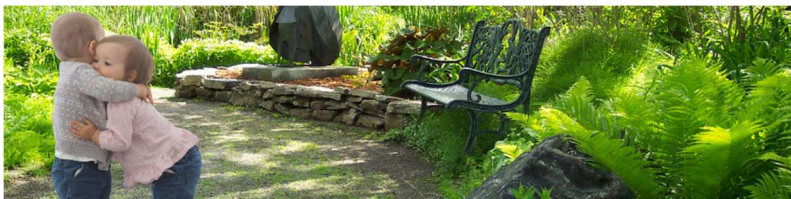
Sunday Service Announcements

If you would like an announcement made during the livestreamed Sunday Service, please email the Board of Directors at bod@firstunitarianottawa.ca 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 by Friday at 10am.



Children's Religious Exploration

This Sunday, UU Kids will start in the Sanctuary for an Indigenous story during our Truth and Reconciliation Service, then we'll go out outside to will walk our Story Garden and read our new book that reflects the principle "Be Kind in all we do".

Please remember to dress for the weather.

Splinters from the Board

This week the Board met with a busy agenda, which included the following appointments:

The Board is pleased to announce the appointment of **Nancy Cloutier** as a Director (Member-at-Large) for the Congregation, replacing a vacancy on an interim basis until the next Annual General Meeting (AGM). We are very glad that Nancy approached us to fill this vacancy.

Independently, **Mary Ella Keblusek** has announced her resignation from the office of Vice-President, for personal reasons. Mary Ella remains as Director (Member-at-Large) and we are grateful for the energy she continues to bring to FirstU.

Filling the role of Vice-President - and implicitly President by next AGM - is a challenge, and we are asking the Nominating Committee to help find an appropriate candidate.

To aid that search, the Board appointed **Mike Fletcher** as chair of [Nominating Committee](#), and appointed **Lisa Sharp** as an interim member of Nominating Committee until the next Fall Congregational Meeting.

Finally, I thank the many wonderful leaders at FirstU for all of the work done throughout the congregation. Together we do great things, and we do great things together.

Sincerely

Brent Nicolle

president@firstunitarianottawa.ca



Congregational Focus: Climate Action



The Fridays for Future Climate Strike? Over for another year! How did it go? For the answer and lots of other goodies:

Get the details here: <https://www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/climate-action.html>

Caring Contacts for September

[Elisabeth Morrison](#) - 613-225-6702

[Maryan O'Hagan](#) - 613-729-7752

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.

Memorial for Reverend Rod

A Celebration of Life for Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel will be happening on **Saturday, September 23 at 5:00pm** in the sanctuary of Neighbourhood Unitarian Universalist Congregation, at 310 Danforth Ave, Toronto. Donations to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda (where Rod had been the settled minister for 5 years) can be made in Rod's honour - via cheque or by eTransfer to uuolinda@gmail.com.

The memorial will be livestreamed on zoom:

<http://tinyurl.com/neighbourhoodservice> Password: nuuc

Phone connections: 647 374 4685 / 647 558 0588

Meeting ID: 749 188 739 & Phone password: 632634



From the Pledge Team

Thank you to all those who submitted early bird pledges! There's still time - one more week - to be an early bird: Find the pledge form [on the website](#), download [this print-at-home version](#), or pick up a paper copy in the Volunteer Room.

Help Keep the Ajashki Project Moving

The Ajashki project is looking for volunteers to help in two areas:

- to repair bikes that have been donated to the program
- to help write grants

For both opportunities, [please contact Sharen](#).

Please visit our Volunteer With Us page for details: <https://www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/volunteer-with-us.html>

Chuck Shields, Volunteer Coordinator - volunteers@firstunitarianottawa.ca

Read All About It



Fall Fair, FirstU's annual bazaar and major fundraiser, is coming up on Saturday, November 18! We've updated [our Donation Page](#) to list the accepted donations for this year's sale.

And please [volunteer](#). There are tasks for everyone, from baking and set-up to promotion and intake, and we do have fun! Contact FallFair@firstunitarianottawa.ca for more information.



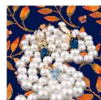
You're Invited to Our Story Garden

Explore FirstU's gardens, and discover a story that reflects one of our eight UU Principles. Enjoy it with your child and continue the conversation at home! New stories every two weeks!



Get Your Minutes In

Reminder to the committees and the Board to send in the minutes of meetings to date. They need to be sent to: archives@firstunitarianottawa.ca and, in the case of the Board Minutes, also to publications@firstunitarianottawa.ca.



Jewelry Donations for Fall Fair

Fall Fair, FirstU's annual bazaar and major fundraiser, is coming up on Saturday, November 18! We've updated the [Donation Page](#) to list the accepted donations for this year's sale. And please volunteer. There are tasks for everyone, from baking and set-up to promotion and intake, and we do have fun! Contact FallFair@firstunitarianottawa.ca for more information.



From the 2024 Pledge Team

You can be an Early Bird. Submit your pledge for 2024 online through the website or on paper in the volunteer room. Get ahead of the crowd!

Upcoming Events

Poetry Sharing Group

Friday, September 22 - 1:30pm on Zoom

We welcome poetry lovers to join us in celebrating the power of imagination and expression found in poetry (even bad limericks). For details and to get the zoom link, [contact Clea Derwent](#).



Gentle Yoga

Wednesday, September 27 – 10am in the NOW Room

Come to the NOW room on Wednesday mornings at 10am, from September 20 to Oct 25, for an hour of gentle yoga. \$72.00 for six sessions (\$120.00 for couples), or \$15.00 for drop-ins.



FirstU Virtual Discussion Circle

Thursday, September 28 - 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 "**What Would Be A Perfect Day for Me**".

[ZOOM LINK](#) Meeting ID: 847 7145 7780 Password: 350030



Friday (Daytime) Reading for Growth Group

Friday, September 29 - 1:30pm on Zoom

The September book, *Sacred Nature: Restoring our Ancient Bond with the Natural World*, by Karen Armstrong, explores religions and spiritual traditions that regard nature with reverence. The profound insights of these traditions can help us regain a sense of awe at the sacredness of nature, cultivating awareness to end harm inflicted on the web of life. Please join us on September 29 at 1:30pm. [Contact Clea Derwent](#) with any questions.

[ZOOM LINK](#) Meeting ID: 848 6931 2703 Passcode: 002396



Visit our calendar for more upcoming events: <https://www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/calendar.html>

Save the Date

Your Right to Read: The Impact of Book Banning

Tuesday, October 3 - 7:30pm

In Worship Hall and [Livestreamed on YouTube](#)

Attempts to challenge or ban books in US school and public libraries have started to happen in Canada as well. These actions strike at the heart of having an informed citizenry, which is essential for a functioning democracy.

Join moderator Justine de Jaegher, and panelists Sonia Bebbington (Ottawa Public Library) and Mick O'Leary (Frederick Community College) for a discussion of the current situation in Canada and the US and steps that have been, and can be, taken to reduce the damage that can be caused by book-banning attempts.



Mapmaking: Navigating Your Spiritual Journey

Thursdays, October 5 to November 2 - 7:00pm

If you are a newish congregant, or even a long-time one, Mapmaking will involve you in a range of activities to: make connections with others; reflect together on your concepts of spirituality, faith and our Unitarian Universalist Principles; learn more about the congregation and its linkages with the broader world; consider what it means to belong to the FirstU community of faith and what you can bring to it; share with others your "credo" of who you are and where you are in your faith journey. Bob Armstrong and Jane Lindsay will facilitate, with Rev. Eric Meter and a few other congregational leaders participating in some sessions. [Email adultlearning@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:adultlearning@firstunitarianottawa.ca) to sign up (registration is required).



FirstU In Person Bridge

Sunday, October 15 - 2:00pm in Room 3

Join us in room #3, on Sunday, October 15, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm for a fun game of bridge. RSVP by emailing bridgehost@firstunitarianottawa.ca so we can set up before you arrive. We're looking forward to seeing you!



Justice and Equality Action Group presents:

Book Launch: *The Wall Between*

Wednesday, October 18 - 7:00pm

This book is a call to justice that challenges the status quo of Zionism while at the same time dealing directly with the complex histories that have created the situation today. The book is both realistic and hopeful—a guide for anyone who is open to new possibilities within the Israel-Palestine discourse in the West. Join authors Raja G. Khouri and Dr Jeffrey J. Wilkinson, on Wednesday, October 18, at 7:00pm, for a reading and Q&A to launch this excellent book.



Trivia Quiz Night

Monday, October 16 - 7:00pm 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



Fall Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 29 - 12:15pm in Worship Hall and Online

Mark your calendars! It's that time of year again. We'll be hosting our annual Fall Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 29, right after Coffee (half) Hour. The zoom link will be provided via the eUU on Friday, October 27.



News from Our Friends

Ottawa Friends of Tibet 27th Annual Fall Fundraiser

Sunday, October 1 - 4:00pm at FirstU

Join us for an in-person inspirational heartwarming gathering including



- Delicious Tibetan food, of course momos
- Tibetan dancers in traditional clothing
- A silent auction and a Himalayan bazaar
- Recent slides from OFT's projects

[Advanced tickets \(\\$50\) available HERE.](#)

Climate, Conflict, Gender: Women of Courage

Thursday, October 5 - 7:00pm at Christ Church Cathedral (4114 Sparks St)

Join us as representatives from KAIROS' global women, peace, and security partners share their experiences in helping women survivors of war and gender-based violence regain dignity and reclaim rights to become critical agents for peace and resiliency in the face of a rapidly changing climate. Don't miss this golden opportunity to hear from representatives from Colombia, Palestine, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo about their life-changing work. [Details HERE.](#)

[Click HERE to register.](#)



Ancoura Gala Dinner

Thursday, October 12 - 6:00pm at St. Elias Banquet Centre

\$94.00/person

Tickets are officially on sale for Ancoura's annual Gala Dinner! The event will be happening October 12th, 2023, at the St. Elias Banquet Centre (750 Woodridge Ave) and will include a live auction and a trivia contest! [Click HERE to get your tickets online.](#)



Get the eUU in your inbox: <https://www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/communications.html>