

Weekly e-UU Newsletter - Friday, December 8, 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, December 10, 2023

Online AND In Person

Starts at 10:30am



Mitten Tree Sunday

Reverend Eric Meter

Join us for a UU tradition and family-friendly, kid-centered service: Our annual Mitten Tree Sunday! Come ready for music, generosity, and joy, and don't forget to bring mittens and other winter woolies (or buy them from FirstU's knitting group, before or after the service) to decorate our tree and give to those in need!

Join us after the service for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall

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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.



Children's Religious Exploration

This week, our UU Kids will be participating in our annual Mitten Tree Sunday, and so will spend the whole service upstairs in Worship Hall. Remember to bring mittens to add to our tree during our musical, kid-friendly service.

Special Congregational Meeting Results



On Sunday, December 3, at a Special Congregational Meeting, our members voted unanimously to update our founding documents to comply with Ontario legislation, as well as updating our charitable purposes to reflect our activities and objectives for the first time in over 50 years. The Board wishes to thank the Governance Committee - Guy Belleperche, Eva Berringer and Bill Van Iterson - for their tenacious attention to detail over 4-1/2 years. We also thank the congregation for their engagement and support of these changes. Thank you all!

Caring Contacts for December

[Paul McGinnis](#) - 613-829-7156

[Laurie Foster-MacLeod](#) - 613-728-1916

Caring Cards for November: Jane F on the death of her sister Louise Maxfield, Kingston Unitarian Congregation in sympathy for the death of Sarah Adams (Craig), Katherine E in support, Kristel and Michael T on the birth of Riley, Jacques L in sympathy for the death of his mother Barb Darragh, and Ian D in sympathy on the death of his mother Mary Duncan.

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.

Counting Down: The Final Days...

The annual pledge drive is coming to a close. Help FirstU continue to make a difference in the world. Make your pledge today! You can [fill out your pledge form online](#), download [this print-at-home version](#), or pick up a paper copy in the Volunteer Room.

Help Keep the Congregation Mobile

The person in the Ride Coordinator role helps congregants participate fully in services and other events and to get to important personal appointments. Contact [Maryan](#) or [David](#) for more information or to get involved.

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



Holiday Swag

The Ajashki Program is selling Holiday Arrangements to brighten your home! To order one, email ajashki@firstunitarianottawa.ca and we will create one just for you! Suggested donation: \$15-\$35.



Friday Reading For Growth Takes a Break

Seasons Greetings to All! For the month of December we're taking a break from serious reading and will regroup at the end of January. [Click HERE for a list of the books](#) we've chosen to read for January through May, 2024 (all readily available at Ottawa Public Libraries). You are welcome to participate in any of the monthly discussions. Reminders of the upcoming titles will be posted for that month in the eUU. For more information [contact Clea Derwent](#).



Bookshelf Sale

Be sure to visit the Bookshelf this Sunday! We are having a grand Xmas sale. Most books 50% off!

Upcoming Events

Mitten Tree Service

Sunday, December 10 - 10:30am

Join us for our annual Mitten Tree service, Don't forget to bring some winter woolies (and winter boots of all sizes!) to add to our tree! Bring mittens from home, or pick up a pair from FirstU's Knitting Group, who will have them available for sale both before and after the service.



Unitarian GoGos Bake Sale

Sunday, December 10 – 11:30am – Fellowship Hall

Lots of tasty treats to choose from – squares, tarts, cookies, muffins, breads, biscuits, and specialty items! All in support of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Cash, cheques, and eTransfers accepted.



Meditation Group

Wednesday, December 13 - 7:00pm on Zoom

Join us on Wednesday evenings for online meditation plus readings from teachers like Thich Nhat Hanh.

[Click HERE to join the meditation session](#)

Meeting ID: 880 7343 6250 **Passcode:** 259109



FirstU Virtual Discussion Circle

Thursday, December 14 - 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 "**Pets**".

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



Evening Reading for Growth

Thursday, December 14 - 7:00pm on Zoom

For our December discussion, we'll be reading *My Stroke of Insight* by Jill Taylor (How a brain scientist's own stroke led to enlightenment). As a heads-up: In January we will discuss *Lookout: Love, Solitude & Searching for Wildfire in the Boreal Forest*, by Trina Moyles, 2021. Please join us!

[ZOOM LINK](#) **Meeting ID:** 890 6025 2628 **Password:** 845374



Waiting for the Light

Saturday, December 16 - 7:00pm

Join us for an evening of contemplation as the days are shortening and the darkness is growing. We will walk a candle lit labyrinth, share a time of quiet meditation and music, and enjoy warm apple cider together. All are welcome. Admission is \$5.00 or pay-what-you-can.



In Person Bridge

Sunday, December 17 - 2:00pm in Room 3

Join us in Room 3 for a fun game of bridge, on the third Sunday of every month.

Email bridgehost@firstunitarianottawa.ca to RSVP.



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

Save the Date

Mah Jongg

Monday, December 18 - 10:00am in Room 3

Experienced Mah Jongg players are invited to join us for a fun game of Mah Jongg, on the third Monday of every month in Room 3. We are playing American Mah Jongg - with 3-4 people per table - using the 2023 game card. Please bring your own card. [Email Barb Ryan](mailto:Barb.Ryan@firstunitarianottawa.ca) or phone her (613-710-3131) by Friday, December 15, to RSVP. If you can bring a game, let her know.



Trivia Quiz Night

Monday, December 18 - 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: 826 7932 3410 Passcode: 101004

Poetry Sharing Group

Friday, January 5 - 12:00pm on Zoom

We welcome poetry lovers to join us in celebrating the power of imagination and expression found in poetry. [Email Susan M](#) with any questions and to get the zoom link.



FirstU Online Bridge

Friday, January 5 - 7:00pm on Zoom

Join us online for a fun game of bridge, using Zoom and Bridge Base Online, on the first Friday of every month. Email bridgehost@firstunitarianottawa.ca to RSVP and get the links and ensure your spot.



Unitarian Universalist nUUs



Remembering Sarah Adams

Friday, December 8 - 5:00pm (Hybrid)

FirstU members and friends are invited to join Kingston Unitarian Fellowship's grieving circle for people to share stories about Sarah Adams and to share in our grief at her passing. Because Sarah requested no public memorial service we are holding an informal circle to hold our shared experience at this time. [Click HERE to join the circle online.](#)



UU Midwinter Retreat

February 2-4, 2024 at the YMCA Cedar Glen Outdoor Centre

[Registration is Live](#) for the 33rd UU Midwinter Retreat! All UUs are invited to join us for a weekend of games, workshops, and worship, along with a cabaret and a chocolate communion. Keynote Speaker Linda Thompson will speak on "Such a Time as This" and together we'll ask questions about how we rebuild and strengthen our community. [Click HERE for all the details.](#) Earlybird rates apply until December 29. [Click HERE to register.](#)

News From Our Friends

[Initiatives of Change Canada](#) (which has an office in Room 8) is hiring! We are looking for an experienced part time Administrator for our national office in Ottawa. Should be able to work both independently and with others. Will be answerable to the Board of Directors. Should be knowledgeable of Charitable organization requirements. Tasks include bookkeeping, database, record keeping, and assisting with Annual Meeting preparations. Please email admin.ca@iofc.org for further information and to request position description.



Chez FirstU



Harmony Concerts: Anna Ludlows Christmas Kitchen Party

Saturday, December 9 - 7:00pm

A down-home East-Coast Christmas with Anna and Ottawa Valley Country Music Hall of Fame inductee Gail Gavin, fusing the traditional Cape Breton music of the Scottish Gàidhealtachd with a modern percussive vibe. [Get tickets HERE.](#)



Harmony Concerts: A Miss Emily Christmas

Friday, December 15 - 7:00 pm

"An angelic voice with just a hint of sultry devilishness. This gal is a rocket ready to take-off!" (Rob Baker). [Get tickets HERE.](#)



Harmony Concerts: Six13

Sunday, December 17 - 7:00pm

Juxtaposing the traditional and the contemporary, Six13 is a groundbreaking, six-man a cappella vocal band that is bringing an unprecedented style and energy to Jewish music, with nothing but the power of the human voice. [Get tickets HERE.](#)

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