

Weekly e-UU Newsletter – Friday, May 30, 2025

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, June 1, 2025

Online and In Person

Starts at 10:30am



Lost Wallets

With Reverend Eric Meter

Inspired by a Globe and Mail article on the surprising rate at which lost wallets are returned to their owners, Rev Eric reflects on how our experience informs our faith.

Sunday Service Announcements

If you would like an announcement made during the livestreamed Sunday Service, please email the Board of Directors at boardannouncements@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

Here's what our UU Kids and OWL Participants will be up to this Sunday:

This Sunday, after Time for All Ages, our UU Kids will focus on water, and we'll enjoy some messy play outside! Dress for the weather please! Our 2-6 year-olds will be in the Rainbow Room with Rita and Kassia, and our 7-12 year-olds will be in the Chalice Room with Jodi and Susie.

When you arrive, **please bring your child's outdoor clothing downstairs** to the appropriate room.

Caring Contacts for May

[Marilen Gerber](#) - 613-843-1688

[Maury Prevost](#) - 613-231-7391

Caring Contacts for June

[Alexandra Devine](#) - 613-224-5695

[Jan Glyde](#) - 613-680-0495

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.

Volunteers for 2026 Budget

Michelle, our Finance and Human Resource Manager, is looking for a few volunteers to assist in putting together the 2026 budget, if you have a little time in July and August send Michelle an email at fm@firstunitarianottawa.ca for more information.



2026 Budget Request Forms

It's that time of year again! If you haven't received a 2026 Budget Request Form and you are the chair or lead in a Committee, Team or Program with Revenues and/or Expenses please fill out the form provided on the last page of this document. Please return the 2026 request forms to the admin office **by July 5th, 2025**.

Featured Volunteer Opportunity

Help Our Gardens Bloom

As we near spring, The Friends of the Meditation Garden are looking for gardeners to help maintain the north and south gardens. It's possible to work in a team or independently. Most tools, gloves etc., are provided. They work about two hours per week. The time is flexible but the team usually meets on Wednesday and/or Friday mornings weather permitting. Interested? [Contact Margaret Linton.](#)

Want to let the congregation know about a volunteer opportunity? [Fill out this online form](#) to let people know! **Have you already completed the FirstU Volunteering survey?** If not, please click the embedded link and add your information to the volunteering data base: [Participation Survey](#)

-Chuck Shields, Volunteer Coordinator - volunteers@firstunitarianottawa.ca

Read All About It



UU Pride Short-Notice Planning Party!

Our annual honouring and celebration of Pride in August is fast approaching. Amidst a shaky landscape, our visibility as a welcoming and affirming congregation is more important than ever! Our last meeting only had three people attend. This Sunday, we are meeting after the service, in person. Whether you're a new-ish ally or a pride champion we'd love to have you join us! Come have a cupcake and help plan Pride 2025!



We're Hiring!

FirstU is seeking a part-time custodian for a minimum of two 4-6 hour shifts per week, generally evenings and weekends, to be responsible for cleaning duties, security of the building and room set-up of rental activities.

[Details on the Jobs page of our website.](#) Women, BIPOC, and @SLGBTQIA+ folks are encouraged to apply.



What do you know about Ontario's Bill 5?

If you are aware of the destructive measures outlined in this bill, you will want to join us in an advocacy to urge our provincial leaders to vote against the misnamed "Protecting Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act". If you are not aware of Bill 5, there is still time to educate yourself on this dangerous omnibus bill and then join our advocacy. [Read more on the Climate Action Page.](#)



Help Unicamp of Ontario Recover!

Unicamp's property was severely impacted by two ice storms, and is facing significant costs - estimated at \$50,000.00 - associated with the cleanup, including replacing their power line and hiring arborists to remove dangerously damaged trees in time for the 2025 season. Help cover the costs [by donating HERE.](#)



Campaign for Extradition Reform

One of FirstU's ongoing justice actions has been supporting Dr. Hassan Diab, who was extradited to France in 2014 on highly questionable grounds, was released in 2018, but is at risk of being extradited again. With the new federal government in place, there is a postcard campaign urging Prime Minister Carney and his government to reform Canada's Extradition Act and ensure that Dr. Diab is not extradited again. Postcards are on the table at the back of Worship Hall. [More information HERE.](#)



Tulipathon Fundraising Continues Until June 30th

There was nice weather and a good crowd for the Multifaith Housing initiative's Tulipathon on May 25. **The FirstU team raised \$1,870 of its \$2,500 goal. Thank you do all our donors!** There's still time to donate! Give cash or cheque donations to Maury Prevost at the services of June 1, 8, or 22.



Recurring Event Topics

- The next **online discussion circle** will be on Thursday, **June 5**, with a topic of "**Optimism**". [Get the zoom link HERE.](#)
- The **Men's Breakfast Group** will meet on **June 6**, for an engaging talk by [Reuel Amdur](#) on "In the Beginning: The Unauthorized Version". Register by Monday, June 2, [by clicking HERE.](#)
- **Evening Reading for Growth** will next meet on **June 26**, and will be discussing *Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons* by Charlotte Gray.
- [Click HERE](#) for a full list of our recurring events.

Upcoming Events

UU Pride Planning Party - Sunday, June 1 - 12:00pm - The Lounge

Amidst a shaky landscape, our visibility and support as a welcoming and affirming congregation is more important than ever! Whether you're a new-ish ally or a pride champion we'd love to have you join us this Sunday, in the Lounge, to share some cupcakes and plan our congregation's Pride activities!



Food Cupboard Fundraising Concert with the Beacon Community Concert Band

Wednesday, June 4 - 7:00pm - Worship Hall – *By Donation*

Join the Beacon Community Concert Band, for ragtime and jitterbug pieces, a procession of magical and mythical characters and creatures, and medleys of Beatles classics, Canadian folk, and some spooky themes, in support of FirstU food security programs. Admission by donation! Refreshments at 6:30pm, reception to follow!



Save the Date

Unitarian GoGos and One World Grannies present: **Unconditional Love: The Grand Collection**

Wednesday, June 18 - 7:00pm (doors at 6:30pm) - \$35

Unitarian GoGos in partnership with One World Grannies present Stories and Songs on a Summer Evening on June 18. Enjoy stories and music including performances by FirstU's own Three Rivers Choir, plus door prizes, snacks and drinks at intermission. Proceeds support the Stephen Lewis Foundation. [Get tickets HERE.](#)



Flower Ceremony - Sunday, June 29 - 10:30am - Worship Hall

Join us for our annual Flower Ceremony, and Reverend Eric's last service as our minister, as we finish off our church year. Please bring cut flowers to add to our congregation's bouquets!



Save the Date: Farewell Barbecue for Reverend Eric - Sunday, June 29 - 11:30am - Outdoors

Save the date and join us after our Flower Ceremony to celebrate the arrival of summer and to bid a fond farewell to our out-going minister, Reverend Eric! Watch this space for further details to come!



For weekly, biweekly, and monthly recurring events, visit our Make Friends page:

<https://www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/make-friends.html#recurring>

Visit our calendar for more upcoming events:

<https://www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/calendar.html>

Algonquin Word of the Week

We all know that Ajashki means "Soil" in Algonquin, that Kitigan Zibi means "Garden River", and "Gichi Miigwetch" means "Thank you very much". Let's learn some more words in Algonquin language. **This week's Algonquin Word of the Week is:**



Pindijikomàn

Pindijikomàn means "bean" as in string beans and snap beans. Have you planted your pindijikomàn yet?

Unitarian Universalist nUUs



CUC National Service Replay

If you missed the CUC National Service, "From Possibility to Practice", on May 18, you can watch it on their YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Ei1SQ49k4M>



Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice: Annual General Meeting - Saturday, June 7 - 1:00pm - Online

Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice (CUSJ) is a national, liberal religious organization founded to promote Unitarian values through social action. Members of CUSJ are invited to attend their online Annual General Meeting on Saturday, June 7, at 1:00pm. [Visit their website](#) to become a member or register for the AGM.

News from Our Friends



Child Haven International 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner and Spring Festival

Saturday, June 14 – 5:00pm – Richelieu-Vanier Community Centre – \$60 (\$10 for kids 6-12)

Child Haven International invites you to their upcoming Ottawa 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner and Spring Festival featuring a silent auction, a bazaar, and performances by Bollywood dancer Savida Uddin and Chinese classical dance troupe Uya Yang. Hosted by Bonnie and Fred Cappuccino. [Tickets HERE.](#)

Chez FirstU

Just Voices Activist Choir Spring Concert - Saturday, May 31 - 7:00pm - Worship Hall

Tickets at a variety of income-levels (\$5-\$20)

Join [Just Voices](#), Ottawa's activist choir, and special guest Maria Hawkins, for a spring concert featuring songs about justice, rights, sustainability and struggle. Come prepared to raise your own voice, as there will be a sing along! Refreshments available. Proceeds support the Ottawa Food Bank. [Tickets HERE.](#)



Get the eUU in your inbox: <https://www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/connect-with-us.html#nUUs>

First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa

Annual request for the Budget of Due July 5, 2025.

The Strategic Plan – Please keep these goals in mind when listing your activities and budget requests

- A. An Energized Spirituality
- B. A Renewed, Growing, Diverse Congregation
- C. A Firm Commitment to Social and Climate Justice
- D. A RESPONSIBLE, Mission-Oriented Campus Development
- E. Reliable Structures and Resources to Support Congregational Growth

Team/Committee Name:

Chair & Email Contact:

Mandate:

Briefly describe the role and priorities of the group linking our A-E goals for 2025 – where applicable

Activities That the Team Expects to Accomplish This Year

Briefly describe notable items that the group expects to achieve during 2025. As applicable, note the above letter A-E.

Budgetary Requirements for the Coming Year

List anticipated Revenue and Expenses separately. Attach a separate sheet if necessary.

Anticipated revenues for the year 2025

Anticipated Expenses for the year 2025

Please return by email, mail or drop off to 30 Cleary Ave Ottawa, ON K2A 4A1 attention Finance Manager.
fm@firstunitarianottawa.ca