

# Weekly e-UU Newsletter – Friday, April 18, 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.

## Introducing Reverend Lara Cowtan

The Board of the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa is very pleased to announce that the [Reverend Lara Cowtan](#) has accepted its offer to serve as the congregation's next minister! She will begin serving in this role in early August this year. For the complete announcement, please visit the Our Ministry Team page.



**Sunday, April 20, 2025**

**[Online](#) and In Person**

**Starts at 10:30am**



## The Easter We Need

With Reverend Eric Meter

This Sunday, we reflect on the miracle that is springtime, that is Easter time, that we may enter into life with lightness and joy, with hope and love.

*If you know, or suspect, that you have COVID or another respiratory illness, [please take part in the service online.](#)*

## 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](mailto: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

This Sunday, all our 2-12 year-old UU Kids will gather in Room 4 at 10:30am (no Time For All Ages this week) to enjoy outdoor spring time fun and gently explore Justice, Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Interdependence, and Generosity with colourful surprises and community spirit!

If it's rainy, the search will go on... indoors. BUT even if the sun is shining our campus can be muddy at this time of year! Make sure to dress for the weather and a morning spent outside!

## Caring Contacts for April

[Sooky Dunton](#) - 613-860-5571

[Anne Nagy](#) - 613-614-6174

*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.*

## Time and Talent Auction 2025!

The [Time & Talent Auction 2025](#) goes live TOMORROW, April 19 at 9:00am!

Create your account on the auction site, then bid on services like catered lunches, cottage vacations, geology tours, and house concerts, plus goods including quilts, statues, cakes, and NAC tickets.

Use this link to view all items: <https://www.32auctions.com/organizations/127876/auctions/179523>



## It's Annual Report Time!



If you are a Committee, Team, or Social Action Group, please submit your Annual Report on the attached form. If you are any other Active Group in the church, please feel free to do so as well! If you have some high-resolution photos of events (**and permission has been given for use**) do send them as well for possible inclusion. **Deadline for submitting is TODAY, April 18.** [Click HERE to open and download the fillable Report form.](#) Contact Jen at [omr@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:omr@firstunitarianottawa.ca) with any questions you may have.

## Featured Volunteer Opportunity

### Help Our Garden 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 [MargaretELinton\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:MargaretELinton[at]gmail.com).

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](mailto:volunteers@firstunitarianottawa.ca)

## Read All About It



### Canadian Unitarian Council AGM

The [CUC Annual General Meeting](#) will take place online, on Saturday, May 31 from 1:00pm – 4:30pm Eastern. If you are a member of the FirstU congregation and have an interest in representing FirstU at the AGM, please contact [Guy Belleperche](mailto:GuyBelleperche) before next Friday, April 25. Participating in the AGM is a great way to learn more about the CUC.



### Red Dress Day 2025

To honour the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), on Monday, May 5, the Meditation Gardens volunteers will be displaying our collection of red dresses. If you would like to contribute to this event with a donation or loan of a red garment, please deliver it to the office by Wednesday, April 30.



### Save the Date: Food Cupboard Fundraising Concert

Mark your calendars: Wednesday, June 4 at 7pm in Worship Hall, you're invited to enjoy a fun variety of music, including rag and jitterbug pieces, a procession of magical and mythical characters and creatures, and medleys of Beatles classics, Canadian folk tunes, and some spooky themes! Proceeds benefit the FirstU Food Cupboard!



### Room Set-Up Reminder

Our custodians put in a lot of effort to ensure that all room setups are accurate. Sometimes, rooms are prepared several days before an event. If you use a room without requesting a specific setup and make changes, please return the setup to its original state. Thank you for your cooperation!



### Calling all Volunteers for November's Fall Fair

This year's annual fundraising and community building event - the Fall Fair - will be held on Saturday Nov 15. We are looking for new volunteers who have never had a chance to join in the fun. Most of the work is done the week prior to the fair, and the day of the fair, although there are some tasks that happen in the months before it is held. If you are interested in learning more, email Eva at [ffvols@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:ffvols@firstunitarianottawa.ca).



### FirstU Board Secretary position - still open!

This is an excellent opportunity for anyone curious about the inner-workings of our congregation, or supporting Board business, but feel they may want to gain more experience before becoming voting Board members. **The secretary is usually a board member but can be a non-board member if they prefer.** If interested, email the Nominating Committee Chair, Mike at: [fletchmo2@gmail.com](mailto:fletchmo2@gmail.com).



### Collecting Plastic Tags

The Environmental Action Group is now collecting plastic closure tags from any bag (milk, bread, veggies) as part of their ongoing recycling efforts in collaboration with [Earthhub](#) - a community effort supported by volunteers throughout the City of Ottawa. Collect and add your tags to the container by the pen/marker box. Tell your friends and neighbours!



## Fall Fair Will Be Here Sooner Than We Think

Our Fall Fair, will be held on November 15 BUT we're already starting to prepare. Can you help with the following:

1. **Storage for puzzles:** Do you have any room to store puzzles for the Fall Fair this year? If so, contact Lena Jones at [lena.k.jones@gmail.com](mailto:lena.k.jones@gmail.com) to make arrangements.
2. Have you got any **space where you can keep some general donations** between now and the Fall Fair? If you have space for just a few boxes it would be a help. We can arrange to transport them. If so, please contact Katherine Gunn at [fallfairdonations@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:fallfairdonations@firstunitarianottawa.ca)
3. Looking for a **Fall Fair Co-Director** to work with Catherine Pope. FF Director, Catherine Pope is having knee surgery in April and will need support to carry out the requirements of the position this year. If you can help, please contact [cathrnpope@gmail.com](mailto:cathrnpope@gmail.com) or 613-864-5645 to discuss the very clear job description.



## CPR Strip Gravel Parking Lot

The Upper Lot is rented to constructions workers from **6:00am - 6:00pm WEEKDAYS** for the next few months while building on the Dental Building on Richmond is taking place. You may still use the lot in the evenings and on weekends if the temporary fencing has been taken down.



## Recurring Event Topics

- The next **online discussion circle** will be on Thursday, April 24, with a topic of "**Exploitation**". [Get the zoom link HERE.](#)
- On April 24, the **evening Reading for Growth group** will discuss *Moneyland: The Inside Story of the Crooks and Kleptocrats who Rule the World*, by Oliver Bullough. [Contact Ken](#) for the zoom link.
- On April 25, the **Men's Breakfast Group** will hear an engaging talk by [Bruce Tsuji](#) who will present his topic, Colourblind: A Particularly Polite Breed of Racism. [Click HERE to register](#) **by Monday, April 21.**
- The **daytime Reading For Growth group** will now meet on **May 2** to discuss *Pathogenesis: a History of the World in Eight Plagues* by Jonathan Kennedy, on how disease has shaped human history. Copies are available at public libraries. [Contact Clea](#) for the Zoom link.
- The **May yUuth Group** meetup is now scheduled for Friday, **May 9**, a week earlier than usual.
- [Click HERE](#) for a full list of our recurring events.

## Upcoming Events

### FirstU Finance Details Meetings – Online

**Meeting 1: Monday, April 28 - 10:00am**

**Meeting 2: Wednesday, April 30 - 7:00pm**

As is our custom, there will be two Zoom meetings leading up to our AGM for those who would like a more detailed discussion of FirstU's finances, including the 2024 audited financial statements and the proposal for FirstU to issue community bonds to support the construction of affordable housing. Each meeting will last about two hours.

- [Click HERE to attend the April 28 meeting](#)
- [Click HERE to attend the April 30 meeting](#)

The booking information for the meetings is the same. Meeting ID: **832 4857 2757** Passcode: **035731**

### Women's Inclusive Pagan Circle: Beltane Ritual - Tuesday, April 29 - 7:00pm - Fellowship Hall (\$5 Suggested)

Trans women, cis women, and nonbinary folks are invited to join our Beltane Ritual. Celebrate the blooming of true spring and the impending heat and light of summer! Bring anything you'd like to include on our altar and some finger food to share after the ritual.

## Save the Date

### FirstU Annual General Meeting - Saturday, May 3 - 4:00pm to 5:30pm - Worship Hall

The 2025 AGM will be held Saturday, May 3, at 4:00pm in Worship Hall. The meeting will also be viewable online by Zoom (but voting will only be available for those attending in-person). Meeting Material will be available by Wednesday April 23. Those who attend will have the first opportunity to view and receive a copy of the updated campus development site plan. If you know you can't attend in-person, a proxy form can be filled out anytime and sent to the office. [Click HERE](#) to download your proxy form.

### Singing Our Principles: A Choral Celebration - Sunday, May 4 - 1:00pm - Worship Hall - By Donation

Join the choirs of FirstU as they present *Singing Our Principles* – a musical celebration of our UU values. They will sing music that connects with each of our Eight UU principles in turn and will explore the ways music inspires and supports us in our faith. Admission is by donation. **Come early to enjoy a light lunch** provided by our choristers before the concert. **Childcare is available for anyone who pre-registers by May 2.**

To register, email [dre@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:dre@firstunitarianottawa.ca).



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:**



### Zhìwibag

Zhìwibag means "sour leaf" and refers to rhubarb. Zhìwibag zaagigi (they come up out of the ground) at Zaagibagaa-giizis (budding moon), which was just a few days ago!

## News from Our Friends

### Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services: Paths to Housing Newsletter

OAHS is excited to introduce their Paths To Housing newsletter, all about the 'For Indigenous, By Indigenous' housing movement to create safe, affordable, and culturally appropriate housing across Ontario. [Sign up HERE!](#)



### It's Tulipathon Time!

Multifaith Housing Initiative is excited to officially start the fundraising for this year's Tulipathon, scheduled for Sunday, May 25th. As always, 100% of all Tulipathon proceeds go toward MHI's rent subsidies program in support of MHI tenants. There are some exciting new initiatives for this year's event:



- This year, **we have raised our goal to \$125,000.**
- Tulipathon 2025 will feature up a **Family Fun Zone** for younger participants, plus live music!
- [We are offering sponsorship opportunities](#) for corporations and local groups to support Tulipathon!

## Chez FirstU



### Ottawa Grassroots Festival - April 24-27

The Ottawa Grassroots Festival is dedicated to cultivating community at the local level through a vibrant annual festival of concerts and participatory workshops. Join them at FirstU, April 24-27, for performances and workshops by the likes of Barrow Gang Buskers, Tony Turner, the Womensong Collective, Lynn Miles, Ray Harris, Evangeline Gentle, and Knock On Wood. Find out more at [ottawagrassrootsfestival.com](http://ottawagrassrootsfestival.com)!



### Gil's Hootenanny - Wednesday, April 30 - 7:00pm

Musician, activist, song writer and song interpreter extraordinaire Rebecca Campbell will headline the 16th annual Gil's Hootenanny, along-side friend of FirstU, Tony Turner. Gil's Hootenanny is delighted to welcome both Rebecca and Tony back to Ottawa to bring the audience together to "speak truth to power".

[Get tickets](#) at Eventbrite. [Further Details available HERE.](#)

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