

# Weekly e-UU Newsletter – Friday, May 23, 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, May 25, 2025**

**Online and In Person**

***Starts at 10:30am***



## **Sharing Our Faith: Reflections on Belonging** With Reverend Eric Meter

This Sunday we highlight the larger community of our faith, namely the Canadian Unitarian Council and its work to enrich the lives of us all.

**Please Note:** A special collection will be held this morning for the CUC's Sharing Our Faith Fund which supports projects that enhance ministry, growth, and outreach for congregations and for the Unitarian Universalist movement in Canada.

### **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**

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 be reading stories of connection by Indigenous authors and creating collaborative nature mandalas. 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](#) - 613-848-1688

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

*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.*

## **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

### Ushers and Greeters Wanted

Do you like running into old friends, and making new ones? We're looking for a few more people to act as Sunday morning greeters and ushers. You would need to be available one Sunday every several weeks, depending on numbers. The only skill needed is a welcoming smile. Childcare is available before the service if you need it.

[Email Barb if you'd like to be involved.](#)

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



### Help Unicamp of Ontario Recover!

Unicamp's property was severely impacted by two ice storms. They lost many trees to the storm and their power line was cut. Unicamp 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 Action and ensure that Dr. Diab is not extradited again. Postcards are on the table at the back of Worship Hall. [More information HERE.](#)



### Pride Planning at FirstU

August is when we celebrate Pride here at FirstU and in Ottawa. For anyone interested in helping plan our Pride involvement this year, a meeting will be held this Sunday the 25th from 6pm-7pm over Zoom. Allies/accomplices welcome and encouraged to join! Email [diversity@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:diversity@firstunitarianottawa.ca) for the link!



### Campus Development Town Halls Follow-Up

The Odayanhaway Team recently held two online Town Hall sessions to update the congregation on the proposed detailed site plan to be submitted soon to the City of Ottawa. Members can re-watch both the May 6 Site Plan introduction and the May 12 Site Plan feedback session by visiting the [Members' Campus Planning page.](#)



### Operations: Jen Brennan's New Office Hours

Jen will now be working **Tuesdays to Fridays, 9am-4:30pm.** She is also adding one Sunday a month – if her door is open please come by for a chat!



### A Heartfelt Thank You from the Refugee Team!

The Refugee Team is incredibly grateful for the response to our request for donations, and believe we will have enough funds to proceed with the application. Thank you! Further donations toward Refugee Support remain welcome, **AND we are seeking volunteers to assist with Qandagha's settlement,** including driving to appointments, helping with ESL, and more. Talk to Eva or Brent, or email us at [refugees@firstunitarianottawa.ca.](mailto:refugees@firstunitarianottawa.ca)



### It's Tulipathon Time

FirstU is a long-time member of Ottawa's Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI), and will be participating in this year's Tulipathon on May 25 – MHI's big, annual fundraiser at Commissioners Park at Dow's Lake. Want to join our team? Contact team captain [Maury Prevost](#) at 613-231-7391. **Make a donation in support of the team, or one of the team-members, [by clicking HERE.](#)** Maury will be receiving donations by cash or cheque after the Sunday service.



### Recurring Event Topics

- **Daytime Reading for Growth**, on **May 30**, will be discussing *Prisoners of the Castle: An Epic Story of Survival and Escape from Colditz, the Nazis' Fortress Prison* by Ben MacIntyre.
- 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, May 19, [by clicking HERE.](#)
- [Click HERE](#) for a full list of our recurring events.

## Upcoming Events

### UU Pride - Sunday, May 25 - 7:00pm - Online

FirstU's monthly by-us-for-us social and support group for gender and sexual minorities is back! Join Kris online, on May 25, at 7:00pm. [Email them at diversity@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:diversity@firstunitarianottawa.ca) to get the link.



## Save the Date

### Food Cupboard Fundraising Concert with the Beacon Community Concert Band

Wednesday, June 4 - 7:00pm - Worship Hall

You're invited to a performance by the Beacon Community Concert Band, to benefit the FirstU Food Cupboard. Enjoy ragtime and jitterbug pieces, a procession of magical and mythical characters and creatures, and medleys of Beatles classics, Canadian folk, and some spooky themes! Admission by donation! Come at 6:30 for refreshments and stay after the concert for a celebratory reception at 8:00pm!



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:**



### Maada'oonidiwag

Maada'oonidiwag means "they share [something] among each other". This Sunday, maada'oonidiwag debweyendamowin: They share faith among each other.

## News from Our Friends



### Charity Village Free Webinar: Legacy Giving Made Simple - How Your Will Can Support the Causes You Love - Thursday, May 29 - 1:00pm - Online

Creating a Will is one of the simplest yet most powerful ways to leave a lasting impact on the causes you care about. However, many Canadians delay this essential task, missing the opportunity to support charities through legacy giving. In our free webinar on May 29, Tim Hewson, CEO and Co-Founder of LegalWills, will explore different approaches to Will writing, the importance of having a Will in place, and how incorporating charitable giving into your estate plans can make a meaningful difference for nonprofit organizations. [Click HERE for details and to register.](#)

### Unitarian House Fundraising Dinner and Silent Auction - Thursday, May 29 – 20 Cleary Ave



6:00pm (Cocktail Hour)

7:00pm (Dinner)

Join us for an evening of fine dining and philanthropy, featuring keynote speaker The Honourable Janice Charette, former Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet. Proceeds directly support UH's Financial Assistance Program, ensuring that residents will receive the care they need, regardless of their financial situation. [Contact Jennifer Brierley](#) at 613 722 6690 ext. 234 for details and ticket information.



### 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, who thank you for your compassion and generosity that changed lives of formerly destitute women and children in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. [Tickets HERE.](#)

## Chez FirstU

Tone Cluster presents: Aspects of Love: A Choral Concert

TOMORROW, May 24 – 7:30pm – Worship Hall – Tickets are by donation (in advance)

A heartfelt musical journey exploring the different faces of love - romantic passion, heartbreak, self-discovery, and the deep bonds of friendship. With music spanning madrigals to musical theatre, we'll celebrate the complexity and beauty of love in all its forms. Some songs include strong language -- because love isn't always polite.

Light reception to follow. [Purchase your tickets, at the rate that works for you, 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