

Weekly e-UU Newsletter – Friday, June 13, 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 15, 2025

Online and In Person

Starts at 10:30am



Our Fathers

With Reverend Eric Meter

This Father's Day, let's dive deep into fatherhood, parenting in the 21st Century, conditional and unconditional love, and other elements of any impossible unified theory of our species.

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, all of our UU kids will head downstairs after Time for All Ages, to gather in the Rainbow Room (room 4) with Susie and Kassia to celebrate the rocking father figures in our lives with rock-related stories and activities!

This June, we'll be spending time outdoors every week. Dress for the weather and bring your child's outdoor clothing downstairs to the appropriate room.

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.

Multi-Use Pathway Closure

As part of the Stage 2 O-Train Light Rail Transit (LRT) project, the multi-use pathway (MUP) to the south of the Kichi Zibi Mikan (KZM) between Woodroffe Avenue and Cleary Avenue will be closed for repaving from **Tuesday, June 3** at 6:00am until mid-July. (This schedule is subject to change).

A pedestrian and cyclist detour will be in place during this work. [Click HERE to view the map.](#)



2026 Budget

Volunteers Needed

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

A Message from Chuck Shields, FirstU Board President



At its May 28 meeting the board reviewed the congregational priorities that it had established for the current year and identified priorities to use for 2026. The board does not see these as being just budget-related priorities, but as for the congregation and board overall. They are not intended to limit what different congregational groups will do, but to the degree that congregational activities can reinforce them, that would be helpful. We are sharing them at this time so those groups that are developing their budgets for next year can have them in mind.

The four priorities are:

- Progressing with Odayanhaway or Little Village, the campus redevelopment project to two buildings with largely affordable housing
- Supporting the transition to Rev. Lara Cowtan serving as our minister
- Strengthening relations with Unitarian House
- Supporting Ajashki to have secure funding and programming

Leaders of Committees, Teams, and Programs with Revenues and/or Expenses can **find your 2026 Budget Form on the last page of this document**. Please return the 2026 request forms the church office **by July 5th, 2025**.

Featured Volunteer Opportunity

Help with the Community Bonds Initiative

Members are sought for a task force which will help guide this initiative - approved by the membership at the recent Annual General Meeting. Assistance will also be required for some time-limited tasks in the next few months. Experience with marketing and sales would be particularly useful. Information about community bonds can be found with the 2025 AGM Materials links on the [Members' Page](#).

If you're interested in helping with the initiative, [please contact Brent](#).

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



RSVP for Rev Eric's Farewell BBQ!

In light of some problems with the RSVP form provided last week: If you had difficulties submitting your form OR haven't RSVP'd yet, please [use this updated form to submit your RSVP](#).

June 29, will be Rev Eric's last Sunday with us.

To say "farewell", we're hosting a BBQ after the service, with grilled food, salads, and cake courtesy of the Men's Breakfast Group and the Hospitality Hour team. To help cover the cost, we're asking \$10-\$20 per adult (kids attend for free). **Plan to attend and bid farewell to Reverend Eric with good food and great company!**



Parsley for the People!

Ajashki's Grow Towers have an abundance of lovely, fresh, tasty parsley. Please come and help yourselves after this Sunday's Service! Available in the Food Cupboard room off Worship Hall.



Here is a summary of decisions and key discussion from the board's May 28 meeting:

- Confirmed FirstU's delegates to the Canadian Unitarian Council's annual general meeting.
- Confirmed the appointment of John Emond as a member of the board.
- Confirmed the Executive Committee's decisions to approve the creation, in collaboration with Unitarian House, of a parkette to be constructed by the city along the southwest edge of Cleary Avenue and a letter of intent with Unitarian House about this.
- Identified congregational priorities for 2026 that are in keeping with the strategic plan and that will help guide the budget development process.
- Agreed to engage Tapestry Community Capital to assist in the planning and issuing of community bonds and to engage a project manager and marketing manager to manage the planning for and issuing of community bonds.
- Discussed relations with Unitarian House.
- Set a date for a board retreat in September.



Message from the Property Team

With summer upon us, please be sure to **close any windows you open**. Let's not make things easy for any potential intruders! Thank you!



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 2SLGBTQIA+ folks are encouraged to apply.



What do you know about Ontario's Bill 5?

Unfortunately Ontario Bill 5 was pushed through the Ontario Legislature with limited debate this past week. It is a highly anti-democratic bill which undermines provincial protections for the environment, endangered species, wildlife and Indigenous rights. It is very likely there will be court challenges. It is not too late for us to contact our provincial leaders to protest the passing of this Bill. [Read more on the Climate Action Page.](#)



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 to all our donors!** There's still time to donate! Give cash or cheque donations to Maury Prevost at the services on June 22.



Fall Fair

Save The Date: Fall Fair is November 15!

The First U Fall Fair will be held on Saturday, November 15th, 2025. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Please note it on your calendar. We Look Forward to Seeing You There!

Wanted: A Food Coordinator for Fall Fair 2025

As part of the Fall Fair Coordinating Group, you will guide and support the work of the convenors responsible for all aspects of food for this year's Fall Fair, from volunteer lunches to the Lunchroom kitchen (organizing and preparing food for our customers) and the Lunchroom itself (set-up and clean-up). You'll help build a strong team among your convenors and help them provide the best possible food experience to both volunteers and customers. Such a fun area to work! For more information about the role, please [contact Catherine Pope.](#)

Wanted: A Kitchen Co-Convenor for Fall Fair 2025's Lunch Room

This person will share the responsibility of the Fall Fair Lunchroom, including finalizing the menu, working in advance of Fall Fair with food suppliers, and coordinating volunteers to work in the kitchen and to sell food. If you have any questions and are interested in volunteering, please contact Eva Berringer, Fall Fair Volunteer Coordinator, at ffvols@firstunitarianottawa.ca.



Recurring Event Topics and Updates

- The **Mental Health Support and Action Group** will meet this **Sunday, June 15**, in Room 6 and online, at Noon. [Click HERE to join via Zoom.](#)
- The next **online discussion circle** will be on Thursday, **June 19**, with a topic of "**What Bugs You the Most?**" This will be the final discussion circle before taking a break for the summer. [Get the zoom link HERE.](#)
- **UU Kids starting 6th grade in September 2025** are invited to join the **yUuth Group** for our last event of the school year, on **Friday June 20**, at 6:30pm. Email Jodi, at dre@firstunitarianottawa.ca, for details!
- Our final **After Service Conversation**, before taking a summer break, will take place on **Sunday, June 22**, in the Lounge.
- **Evening Reading for Growth** will next meet on **June 26**, and will be discussing *Passionate Mothers*, *Powerful Sons* by Charlotte Gray.
- The Men's Breakfast Group is taking a break for the summer and will meet again in September.
- Daytime Reading for Growth will break for the summer and meet again starting on the last Friday of September 2025. [Click HERE for a preview](#) of the 2025-26 reading season.
- [Click HERE](#) for a full list of our recurring events.

Upcoming Events

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.](#)



Women's Inclusive Pagan Circle – Midsummer Ritual – Monday, June 23 – 7:00pm - \$5 Suggested

Trans women, cis women, and non-binary folks are invited to celebrate Summer Solstice with playfulness and gratitude. Bring any seasonal items you'd like to add to our collaborative altar as well as finger food to share after our ritual. Please donate \$5 per person to help cover ritual supplies and to donate to the church as a thank-you for the space.



Save the Date

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!



A Farewell Barbecue for Reverend Eric - Sunday, June 29 - 11:30am – Outdoors - \$10-\$20 per adult, sliding scale (kids eat free)

Say "farewell" to Reverend Eric at our Summer BBQ! Grilled food, salads, and cake courtesy of the Men's Breakfast Group and the Hospitality Hour team. RSVP at: <https://www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/bbq-rsvp.html>



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:**



Aki

Aki means earth or land. The word is used to refer to a given territory but also the ground itself, and even to moss.

Unitarian Universalist nUUs



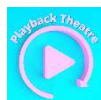
Help Unicamp of Ontario Recover!

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](#).



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>



Ottawa Playback Theatre chez UUFO - TONIGHT, Friday, June 13 - 7:00pm

UUFO (400 McArthur Ave) - By Donation

UUFO invites you to join them for a grassroots improvisational theatre experience. The troupe invites true stories from its audience and brings them to life through the drama, music, voice, and movement. We'll pass the hat for the performers after the show. Potluck reception to follow – please feel free to bring squares, cookies or other treats to share. [Details and RSVP information HERE](#).

News from Our Friends

Humanist Perspectives - Spring 2025 Edition

The latest edition of Humanist Perspectives focuses on the challenges facing liberal democracy and the rule of law. Other compelling topics include Canadian patriotism and nationalism, big business and the environment, the humanist peace school, the war in Ukraine, the situation in Palestine and Canadian Indian residential schools. [Read it 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