

Weekly e-UU Newsletter – Friday, April 25, 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, April 27, 2025

Online and In Person

Starts at 10:30am



The Future of Reconciliation

With Reverend Eric Meter and guest Janet Beauvais

This Sunday, we reflect on the call for reconciliation, what it means and what is possible.

Our **Social Justice special offering** this Sunday will benefit the **Ajashki Learning Centre**. Ajashki is our congregation's primary reconciliation project. Its Garden and Maker Space provide Indigenous and settler young adults opportunities to learn Indigenous ways and reflect on who they are and can be.

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 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:

UU Kids Aged 2-12

This Sunday, after Time for All Ages in the Sanctuary, we'll gather in Room 4, then head outside for playground fun. ***Please dress for outdoor play!*** We'll say goodbye to Susan, who is moving to Morrisburg this spring, and say hello to our new RE Assistant, Susie.

Grade 4-5 OWL

This Sunday, our Our Whole Lives participants ***and their parents*** will meet at 10:30am in Room 2, to talk about Healthy Relationships and celebrate the completion of our OWL program!

Caring Contacts for April

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

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

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.

FirstU Finance Details Meetings

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

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

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. The financial statements and a



document describing the community bond proposal are available to download from [the Members' Page](#), and we recommend reviewing them prior to attending these meetings. The meeting links are available on [the FirstU website home page under Upcoming Events](#).

FirstU Annual General Meeting

Saturday, May 3 - 4:00pm - Worship Hall

The 2025 Annual General Meeting will be held Saturday, May 3, at 4:00pm in Worship Hall. Notice of the AGM was sent by email this week to all members, and AGM Materials are available to download from our [Members' Page](#).

The agenda includes election of board members, approval of our financial statements, and motions regarding our place of banking and issuing community bonds. Those who attend will have the first opportunity to view and receive a copy of the updated campus development site plan.



- This meeting will be hybrid - in-person and via Zoom - and non-members are welcome, but only members physically present will be able to vote.
- To attend remotely, [click HERE to register for the Zoom link](#).
- Members who are not attending in-person can fill out a proxy form and submit it to the office. [Click HERE](#) to download your proxy form.
- **For those attending in-person:**
 - Refreshments will be available from **3:15pm**
 - Voter registration will begin at **3:30pm**
- **Childcare will be available if there is enough need.** To register, contact Jodi at dre@firstunitarianottawa.ca

Featured Volunteer Opportunity

Back-Up Office Assistant Position

There is a need for three or four volunteers who would be able occasionally to cover the office reception desk when an Office Assistant is absent. The tasks would include: attendance from 10:00am to 3:00pm, answering the phone, directing or assisting people who come to the office and other duties. Training and familiarization will be provided. Contact oas@firstunitarianottawa.ca if interested.

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



Time And Talent Auction

Bidding is fast and furious at the [Time & Talent Auction](#). **Have you created your account? Have you been bidding?** With one week to go before the April 30 close of bidding, here are a few tricks to know:

1. If you place your cursor above an item and click, you will see more details.
2. Some items have multiple listings. This is usually for a dinner, visit, tour, etc. You will be bidding on one spot for one person (unless otherwise indicated.)
3. Some people have bid with passion for just one of those spots, whereas other spots have seen light bidding. Be sure to look left and right (items of the same kind are clustered together) to see if there is an option to bid on a different listing.

If you are having trouble figuring out how to participate in this online auction:

- Come to service on Sunday April 27 where coordinator David will offer a tutorial in the Office after service.
- Email David to set up a phone appointment: david@davidc.ca



Grassroots Festival Performances on Sunday

You are invited to stay after service for two free concerts – starting at noon with a Gospel Concert by Ball and Chain on our upstairs patio, with Tony Turner and Ann Downy performing in the Lower Level at 12:30pm. Grassroots will be selling food in Fellowship Hall starting at noon, and will be providing Hospitality Hour coffee to the congregation in Fellowship Hall from 11:30 – noon.



Calling All Carpenters

FirstU has received a donation of two Little Free Libraries - one for adult books and a smaller one for children's books. The Ajashki project has completed painting them with colourful designs and **we're looking for a carpenter to help us build a bench to support a library box on each end**, so the libraries can be placed in the gardens during good weather, and under the eaves in the winter. If you are interested - or know someone who can help - contact [maryellakeblusek\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:maryellakeblusek@gmail.com).



FirstU Food Cupboard

We continue to welcome all donations of canned goods, pasta, dairy products, and cleaning supplies, as well as meat, frozen pizzas, and prepared meals for the freezer. [Contact Lisa S](#) for packaging instructions.



House Band on May 11

Calling all musicians and vocalists! The House Band will be performing "Sing Now" and "For What It's Worth", along with the regular hymns at the Sunday service on May 11. Rehearsals will be at the church on Saturday May 10th at 10:00am; as well as before the service at 9:30am. All are welcome. Video and lyric sheets available for at-home practice. For more information, or to receive chord/lyric sheets, contact houseband@firstunitarianottawa.ca.



Summer Spire Submissions

It's already time to start thinking about writing your article for the June Spire! Get your writing cap on and send your poems, photos, and articles to spire@firstunitarianottawa.ca by Friday May 16 (max 450 words). We want to hear from you!



Save the Date: UU Pride Group Returns!

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.



Canadian Unitarian Council AGM

The [CUC Annual General Meeting](#) will take place online, on Saturday, May 31 from 1:00pm – 4:30pm ET. If you are a FirstU member 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 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 with the Beacon Community Band

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! Admission will be by donation with proceeds benefitting the FirstU Food Cupboard!



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.



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.



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!



Recurring Event Topics

- The **daytime Reading For Growth group** will 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 next **online discussion circle** will be on Thursday, May 8, with a topic of "**Family**". [Get the zoom link HERE](#).
- On May 9, the **Men's Breakfast Group** will hear an engaging talk by [Jon Snipper](#) on the Conflict between Jews and Palestinians for the Last 100 Years. [Click HERE to register by Monday, May 5](#).
- 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.



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

The AGM will be held online and in Worship Hall, with voting available to those Members attending in person.

- **3:15pm** - Refreshments available in Fellowship Hall
- **3:30pm** - Registration begins
- **4:00pm** - Meeting begins

Meeting materials are available on the [Members' Page](#). **Members who can't attend in-person**, can submit a proxy form to the office. [Click HERE](#) to download your proxy form. To attend online, [register for the zoom link HERE](#).



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.



Save the Date

Campus Development Town Halls

Introduction: Tuesday May 6 - 7:00pm

Final Feedback: Monday May 12 - 7:00pm

On Zoom

There will be two online Town Halls to update the congregation on many evolving aspects of campus development. The highlight of the meetings will be a review and discussion about the recently drafted Proposed Detailed Site Plan, which we plan to submit for approval to the City of Ottawa by the third week of May. This will be your chance to ask questions and provide feedback.

[Click HERE to join the meeting.](#)

Meeting ID: **833 6615 1746** Passcode: **384478**.



Unitarian GoGos Plant Sale - May 9-11 - FirstU Parking Lot

The Unitarian GoGos Plant Sale will take place on May 9th, 10th and 11th outdoors in our parking lot. Bring some cash and pick up native perennials and other garden staples and support the Stephen Lewis Foundation while you shop!



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:**

Zaagibagaa

Zaagibagaa means "it buds" or "its leaves come out". Have you seen the leaves starting to open on low-grown shrubs and perennials like Namegobagonii'n (trout lily) and zhigàgominzh (wild garlic)?



News from Our Friends



Child Haven International Newsletter

The latest newsletter from Child Haven International is available to read or download by [clicking HERE](#).

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!



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, alongside 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>