

# Weekly e-UU Newsletter – Friday, March 28, 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.

## Weekend Weather Warning

Because of the predicted storms this weekend, there may be a chance that we provide Sunday Service online only. Please [check the website on Sunday morning](#) to see if the church will be open or not. **If it is, and you choose to come, please drive/walk carefully!**



**Sunday, March 30, 2025**

**Online and In Person**

**Starts at 10:30am**



## Will the Net Appear?

With Reverend Eric Meter

This Sunday, join us as we consider leap of faith required to step out of our comfort zones and take risks without a safety net in place.

**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

**Please note:** The church building may be closed this Sunday due to a possible ice storm. Please check the FirstU website on Sunday morning to see if we are worshipping in person or online-only. **IF the church building is open, here's what our UU Kids and Grade 4-5 OWL Participants will be doing this Sunday:**

**Grade 4-5 OWL:** This Sunday, Our Whole Lives participants will meet at 10:30am in Room 2, to talk about decisions and Actions!

**UU Kids Ages 2-12:** This Sunday, after Time for All Ages in the Sanctuary, we'll head down to Room 4, where we'll dive into the Be a Pond meditation! Then, we'll create simple wet felted ponds to use as tactile prompts for pond meditations at home.

## Caring Contacts for March

[Clea Derwent](#) - 613-694-0505

[Karen Swinburne](#) - 613-234-4305

## 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.*

## Sad News

Charles William "Bill" Davis passed away on March 21, 2025 at the age of 89. He is survived by: his wife Agnes; his children, Paul and Carla (Greg); and his grandchildren, Avalon (Kai) and Alaric (Launi). A visitation will be held on Monday, March 31, at 10:00am, at the Central Chapel of Hulse, Playfair & McGarry (315 McLeod St), with a memorial service following at 11:00am. You can [leave a memory or condolences message here](#).



## Splinters from the Board

Here is a summary of decisions and key discussion from the board's March 19 meeting:

- Welcomed 2 new members: Mary Catharine Harpur and Reverend Stan Sears
- Approved Financial Policy #3 regarding the process for development of the congregation's annual budget
- Confirmed passage of an electronic motion of an agreement between Dentech (the owners of 797 Richmond) and FirstU, regarding their use of the southern parking area
- Confirmed passage of an electronic motion to approve a draft contract and compensation and benefits package for a new minister
- Identified a group (Chuck Shields, Mary Ella Keblusek, Phil Nagy, Jane Lindsay) to negotiate a contract with a new minister
- Discussed the performance of FirstU's investments
- Reviewed topics related to the campus redevelopment project, Odayanhaway



## 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. If 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



### Time & Talent Auction Donation Deadline

"T&T" is an online auction that brings our community together over shared interests, services, foods and more. It is an important fundraising initiative for the congregation. We have several dozen great items on offer already, but need plenty more. Can you help Organize a Garage, Tune up a Bike or drop by with Afternoon Tea for 2-6 people? What's your superpower? **The deadline to donate your time and talents is next Saturday, April 5.** Offers or questions can be sent to [T&T coordinator David Chernushenko](#).



### After Service Discussion – *Weather Dependent*

While our After Service Discussion normally happens on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, there will be an additional After Service Discussion – weather dependent – this Sunday, March 30, at 11:45am in the Lounge. **For information about our recurring weekly, biweekly, and monthly events, visit our [Make Friends page](#).**

## Upcoming Events

**Burning Passions Theatre presents: A Circle of Time - Tuesday, April 1 - 1:00pm**  
**Fellowship Hall - Admission is Free**



In collaboration with FirstU Ottawa and the Seniors Sharing Stories theatre troupe, this new play by Laurel Smith explores the lives of those entering retirement as part of the sandwich generation: women juggling the needs of adult children and elderly parents while trying to chart a course for their own lives in the post 9-to-5 world.

## Save the Date

**Introducing Ourselves - Sunday, April 13 - 12:00pm – NOW Room**

This will be a small group, casual gathering after Sunday Service. You will share with other newcomers what brought you to FirstU, hear and ask about the basics of Unitarian Universalism and get some insight into how FirstU functions and ways you can get connected here. Brent Nicolle and Rev. Eric Meter will be your guides. A light lunch will be served. To register, [email\\_welcome@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:email_welcome@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:**



### Ishkwaagaa

Ishkwaagaa refers to the end of sap-run. Sugar season typically lasts 4-6 weeks, during the short period when the temperature is above freezing during the day, but below it over night, and before the trees open their leaves. Ishkwaagaa literally means "finished dripping".

## Unitarian Universalist nUUs



Canadian Unitarian Council

Read the Canadian Unitarian Council's latest Congregational Life Letter on the last page of this document.

## News from Our Friends

**Unitarian House Clothing and Jewelry Sale - Thursday, April 10 - 11:00am to 4:00pm - Founders Room at 20 Cleary**

Stop by Unitarian House to find a wide selection of quality, gently used ladies' wear donated by Reitman's, Ricki's, Northern Reflections and friends of Unitarian House. All proceeds support Unitarian House Residents' Association. Unsold clothing will be distributed among local charities. Sandwiches/soup available for purchase at mid-day.



**Spring Music for Odenak - Friday, April 11 - 7:30pm - Knox United Church (25 Gibbard Ave)**

**By Donation at the door (\$25 suggested)**

Join us for a fundraising concert featuring Gail Gavan (Ottawa Valley Entertainer) and master fiddler and pianist, Sherryl Fitzpatrick. Proceeds benefit Multifaith Housing Initiative's Odenak Complex at Lebreton Flats. Admission is by donation at the door.



**Humanist Perspectives: Men and Society**

You can find the Winter Issue of Humanist Perspectives magazine by [clicking HERE](#).



## Chez FirstU

**Chicago Transit** Harmony Concerts presents: **Chicago Transit - Saturday, April 5 - 7:00pm - Fellowship Hall - \$47.00**

There are a lot of bands doing a tribute to the band Chicago, but back in the early 90's, when Powerhouse decided to put together their Chicago Transit tribute act, they were the first in the world to do so. And they remain today as the longest running Chicago tribute band. If you love classics like 'Make Me Smile', 'Saturday in the Park', and 'If You Leave Me Now', you won't want to miss this show. [Tickets available HERE](#).



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



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Dear Leader,

Happy Spring!

We hope you find some moments to revel in the longer days and the possibility of green and growing things. We know that the global news is hard, and urge you to find ways to care for your precious selves!

The CUC Events Calendar is where you will find information about scheduled events. Please share the link with the members of your community so they can engage with other UUs. We think these will be of interest:

- Conversation with Annahid Dashtgard: Author of *Bones of Belonging* → Wednesday, March 26, 2025 – 4:00 pm PT | 5:00 pm MT | 6:00 pm CT | 7:00 pm ET | 8:00 pm AT | 8:30 pm NT (1 hour). Why is belonging so important? Dashtgard is the author of *Bones of Belonging: Finding Wholeness in a White World*, the recommended read in this year's Sharing our Faith packet. Bring your questions! Register [HERE](#). Hosts: Camellia Jahanshahi and Karen Fraser Gitlitz.
- Dismantling Barriers: Talking About Bylaws → Thursday, March 27, 2025 – 4:00 pm PT | 5:00 pm MT | 6:00 pm CT | 7:00 pm ET | 8:00 pm AT | 8:30 pm NT (1.5 hours). Join us for an informal discussion with Camellia Jahanshahi about bylaws! Dismantling barriers to inclusion happens on so many levels; internal reflection, community action, protesting, and....policy making! We will reflect on how to be more inclusive. Registration for the event can be found here: <https://bit.ly/March27DB>
- Our monthly Connect and Deepen is an online community for adults interested in meaningful reflection, conversation, and shared ideas for living our values. Saturday April 19, 2025: 1:00 pm PT | 2:00 pm MT | 3:00 pm CT | 4:00 pm ET | 5:00 pm AT | 5:30 pm NT (90 minutes). [Click here for registration details.](#) Saturday, April 19 – Transforming - Host: Linda Thomson
- Congregational Conversations have been ongoing, and there is still an opportunity to participate! Registration and other details are here. ○ TRANSITIONS: Many of us are experiencing many kinds of changes and transitions in our congregations. How do you handle the transitions you are facing? Perhaps you are looking for ideas on how to help your community face change with grace? Maybe you are looking to share ideas. *Choose one of: Wednesday, April 9 & Saturday, April 12* → Hosts: Anne Barker & Linda Thomson.
- Have you heard? The conversation is starting – Don't be left behind! *UU Expressions: Love in Real Life*, is a recently released 10-episode docu-podcast series that uncovers, celebrates, and challenges how UUism is expressed nationwide. You'll find the episodes here: <https://cuc.ca/uu-expressions-blogpost/>
- Deep Appreciation and Gratitude In June, after 20+ years with the CUC Rev. Linda Thomson will retire from her ministry with us. Linda says, *"I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to work in support of the wonderful people and UU communities in Canada. It has been a delight to get to know so many of you, and to be entrusted with your stories and your hopes. To the many who have worked alongside me, who have cared for your communities, who have participated in programs, 'Thank You!' I am forever grateful!"* A June 7th farewell event, with in-person and on-line options is being planned. Linda would love to see you there.

We are always interested in talking with you, to learn what is happening in your congregation and to learn more about how we can support you. You can email [congregationalife@cuc.ca](mailto:congregationalife@cuc.ca) or email us individually.

Over the next few weeks, Anne and Linda will be focusing on our ongoing work with UU communities and the changes that Linda's transition will bring. Announcements about staffing will be made as soon as possible.

Thank you for all that you do. Your efforts and commitment to Canadian Unitarian Universalism are truly appreciated.

All the best,

Rev. Anne Barker

[anne.barker@cuc.ca](mailto:anne.barker@cuc.ca)

and

Rev. Linda Thomson

[linda.thomson@cuc.ca](mailto:linda.thomson@cuc.ca)