

# Weekly e-UU Newsletter

## Friday, April 3, 2026

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 5, 2026

[Online](#) and In Person

**Starts at 10:30am**



## Practicing Resurrection – A Unitarian Universalist Easter Celebration

*Reverend Lara Cowtan*

### 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.

### New: Information about Your Sunday Offering

The offerings collected each Sunday help us to live into our values within this congregation and in supporting many good works beyond our walls by highlighting a community partner organization each month to share with.

**During the entire month of April, our Sunday collections, unless marked towards your pledge, will be split 50/50 with our community partner, the Ajashki Project.**

*Ajashki is a land-based program hosted by the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa in collaboration with Indigenous communities in the city and region. Rooted in the recognition that FirstU's campus is on unceded Algonquin Anishinaabeg land, the program seeks to build relationships, practical skills, and cultural understanding through collaborative gardening, land relations, and environmental stewardship.*



### Children's Religious Exploration

This Sunday, after Time for All Ages, we'll head downstairs for our **Easter Eggs Hunt!** The egg hunt will happen outside, please dress for the weather. **Prepare for mud.**



### FirstU's Caring Team

*We are all interconnected, interdependent and minister to each other in many ways.*

**Caring Contacts** are monthly volunteers who receive phone calls and emails when you wish to alert us to a need, a grief or a concern, or have a joy to celebrate. They prepare cards to be signed on Sundays, and try to ensure no one is forgotten, connecting people with appropriate help when requested.

### Caring Contacts for April

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

Marjorie Dunton - [Email](#) - 613-860-5571

**Caring Visitors** are specially trained and certified FirstU Members, available to provide spiritual care and deep listening for those who seek support during a transition or challenging time. Visits can be by phone/zoom, a walk, coffee shop, in home, hospital, hospice, or wherever is comfortable.

**Caring Visitors:** [caringvisitors@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:caringvisitors@firstunitarianottawa.ca)

## Featured Volunteer Opportunity

### Help Raise Money and Good Cheer!

Do you love the Fall Fair? Would you consider co-leading a large, enthusiastic team of volunteers to organize FirstU's biggest annual fundraiser and community builder? We are looking for two people to succeed our outgoing Fall Fair director as soon as possible. This is an important and rewarding role with lots of support available. To learn more about what is involved, please contact [Maury Prevost](#) or [Carol Card](#). We look forward to hearing from you!

Want to let the congregation know about a volunteer opportunity? [Fill out this online form](#) to let people know!  
Chuck Shields, Volunteer Coordinator - [volunteers@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:volunteers@firstunitarianottawa.ca)



## Read All About It

### FirstU Key Registry

It's time to document who has access keys to the building. You can let us know one of two ways:

- Stop by the main office and the office volunteer will take your info.
- Email Jen at [omr@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:omr@firstunitarianottawa.ca) with the details: building key and/or classroom/supply closet key.

Thank you for your cooperation!

### Annual Reports!

Reports are due by Thursday, April 16. But good news: they are now simplified! One or two paragraphs will do. [Download the form HERE.](#)

### A Reminder to Protect Your Belongings

While we strive to maintain a safe campus and building, incidents of theft and vandalism do occur from time to time. We remind everyone to lock their vehicles and avoid leaving valuables unattended or visible. Whenever possible, please leave valuable items at home.

### Building Tours Reintroduced!

On the first Sunday of each month we will be giving tours of the building to newcomers or anyone interested in learning about our church building. Join us at the Welcome Table right after service to participate.

### Drop-In Euchre is now Drop-In Games Night

Our monthly drop-in Games Night (the first Wednesday of every month, 6:30pm in Room 3) now includes **Chess** and **Backgammon** as well as **Euchre!** Stop by and have some fun with us!

### Time & Talent Coming Soon - Log In and Poke Around

With the Time & Talent Auction just a month away, be sure to [visit the auction site](#) to create an account or confirm yours from last year. Then poke around and get familiar with how it works and what is on offer. This might inspire you to offer an item. Bidding opens April 26 and closes April 30. For questions, [contact David Chernushenko.](#)

### The Spire is Looking for a New Copy Editor!

Duties are light: four times a year, the copy editor collects submissions, pastes them into one Word document, and hands on the file for layout. *Mentoring is available!* The hardest part is remembering to send out reminder notices the month before each new issue! If this is your kind of volunteering, please let us know by emailing [spire@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:spire@firstunitarianottawa.ca).

### AI Summaries for Zoom Meetings

Are you aware that Zoom provides an option to have a summary of your Zoom meeting created by AI (Artificial Intelligence)? While not perfect, we've found these summaries to be surprisingly accurate and would recommend them for meetings where notes or minutes are needed. To obtain an AI summary requires several steps; [click HERE to see the details.](#) If you have any questions, just email the Zoom Team at [zoomInfo@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:zoomInfo@firstunitarianottawa.ca).



## Upcoming Events

### Unitarian GoGos Bake Sale - This Sunday, April 5 - 11:30am - Fellowship Hall

The Unitarian GoGos will be holding a bake sale in Fellowship Hall this coming Sunday after the service. Lots of goodies with an emphasis on chocolate. Pay as you wish by cash, eTransfer or cheque. All proceeds go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation to support the Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign.

### Biweekly Wednesday Community Dinner - Wednesday, April 8 - 5:00pm - \$10 suggested for adults (\$5 for kids)

Come join us every other Wednesday, for a community dinner. 5:00pm - 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall. To sign up [contact uuoffice@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:uuoffice@firstunitarianottawa.ca). By donation (\$10 adults, \$5 kids, suggested).

### Raise Your Voice Choir Concert - Sunday, April 19 - 1:00pm - Worship Hall (refreshments beforehand) - By Donation

The choirs of FirstU present choral music that celebrates collective action, resistance, and resilience. Our choirs will perform songs that have carried communities through moments of challenge and transformation, from South African freedom songs, to the Nueva Canción movement in Latin America, to music of the Singing Revolution in the Baltics. Join your voice with ours for audience singalongs of well-known protest music!

### FirstU Annual General Meeting - Sunday, April 26 - 12:30pm - Worship Hall

Save the Date: The 2026 Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday April 26 at 12:30pm in Worship Hall. Please mark your calendars! Details and voter packages to follow.

**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>



## Recurring Events: Topics and Changes

Are you looking for the Recurring Events item that used to be in the Read All About It section? We've moved that information to our website.

- Looking for the next topic for your favourite recurring discussion or book group? [Click here.](#)
- Need to check if a weekly, biweekly, or monthly event has been rescheduled? [Click here,](#) or check our [month-at-a-glance calendar.](#)
- Looking for a new social group to join, or need to confirm a zoom link or locate a registration form? [Click here](#) for a full list of our recurring events, plus zoom links for those that occur online.



## Chez FirstU

### Grassroots Festival - April 23-26 - Chez FirstU

The 14th edition of the festival takes place Thursday, April 23 - Sunday, April 26. All daytime performances and workshops on Saturday and Sunday are FREE for everyone to attend! Bring your friends, family, and neighbours—there's something for all ages, plus food, drinks, and plenty of fun throughout the weekend. [Full details and tickets HERE.](#)



## Unitarian Universalist nUUs

### Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC): Dismantling Barrier Series

Join the CUC online, on Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 7:00pm, for an introductory conversation on economic solidarity, with a particular focus on **positionality**. What does "positionality" mean? It means exploring how our political and social identities interact and shape our experiences and understanding of money. What do our histories teach us about how we deal with money? How do our identities inform our money-making decisions and practices? And what can we do to align our spending practices with our solidarity values? [Details and registration HERE.](#)

### **Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC): Reciprocal Annual Mentorship Program (RAMP!)**

RAMP! offers **monthly Skill-Building workshops** open to everyone interested. These public, online, 90-minute workshops align with the program's monthly themes and connect with other national programming such as Congregational Conversations and Dismantling Barriers. Upcoming workshops include:

- April 25, 1:00pm: [UUism and Social Enterprise with Shaun Loney](#)
- May 9, 1:00pm: [Navigating Conflict with Necessary Trouble Collective](#)
- June 27, 1:00pm: [Projects, Partnerships & Practical Wisdom from RAMP!](#)

Click the embedded links above to register for the workshop(s) of your choice!



### **News from Our Friends**

#### **River Parkway Children's Centre AGM - Thursday, April 23 - 6:30pm - Online**

River Parkway Children's Centre will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on April 23rd, 2026, at 6:30pm. The AGM is online; all members are urged to renew their membership. For further information, please call the Centre 613-729-3129.

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