

Weekly e-UU Newsletter – Friday, June 6, 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 8, 2025

Online and In Person

Starts at 10:30am



What's In A Name?

With guest speaker Alex Campbell

A rose by any other name would smell as sweet, and "what something is called" can never fully capture the full meaning of what that something "is". But there's still a lot in a name. This Sunday, guest speaker Alex Campbell presents a potpourri of names, and an unusual assortment of seemingly unrelated thoughts and ideas that relate to them: Names we are given, take for ourselves, or give to things. For some, names have great meaning; for others, not so. We'll consider our "UU" name and other names that have been in the news of late!

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, our UU kids will head downstairs after Time for All Ages! **Our 2-6 year-olds will be in the Rainbow Room** with Rita and Kassia, where we'll find out how we can become different animals to express how we feel! Meanwhile, our **7-12 year-olds will be in the Chalice Room** with Jodi and Susie, exploring the life cycle of trees and how they are part of a community of regeneration.

When you arrive, **please 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

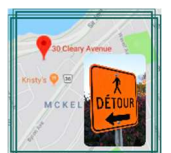
Caring Cards for May: Family of Elder Billy Akavak, Barbara B, Ally H and Marc-Etienne B, Kate K, Susan M, and Lisa S.

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.](#)



Splinters from the Board

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.



Volunteers for 2026 Budget

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

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

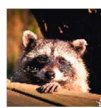
Help Our Gardens Bloom

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. Interested? [Contact Margaret Linton.](#)

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



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!



RSVP for Rev Eric's Farewell BBQ!

June 29, will be Rev Eric's last Sunday with us. To say "farewell", we're hosting a BBQ after the service, with burgers, 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 pay what you can within that range, and kids attend for free. **Please RSVP by Sunday, June 22, [by filling out this short form](#)**, so we know how much food to prepare. **Plan to attend and bid farewell to Reverend Eric with good food and great company!**



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.](#)



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 Act and ensure that Dr. Diab is not extradited again. Postcards are on the table at the back of Worship Hall. [More information HERE.](#)



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 of June 8 or 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

- 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.](#)
- **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 has wrapped for the year 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.](#)



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! Burgers, salads, and cake courtesy of the Men's Breakfast Group and the Hospitality Hour team. [RSVP by Sunday, June 22!](#)



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:**



Odehimin

Odehimin means "heart berry" and refers to the fruit known as "Strawberry" in English. Odehimin teaches about love, care, and connection - [click HERE to learn more about Strawberry Teachings](#) - and Odehimin Ghìziz, strawberry Moon, is coming up on June 11.

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>



Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice: Annual General Meeting - **TOMORROW**, June 7 - 1:00pm - Online

Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice (CUSJ) is a national, liberal religious organization founded to promote Unitarian values through social action. Members of CUSJ are invited to attend their online Annual General Meeting on Saturday, June 7, at 1:00pm. [Visit their website](#) to become a member or register for the AGM.

News from Our Friends



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. [Tickets 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