

# Weekly e-UU Newsletter – Friday, May 16, 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, May 18, 2025**

**Online and In Person**

***Starts at 10:30am***



## **Gently, Gently**

**With guest minister Reverend George Buchanan**

In our spiritual self-care, are we called to be gentle? What will this be like?  
As we worship together, we will reflect on these questions. Gently.

### **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**

Here's what our UU Kids and OWL Participants will be up to this Sunday:

This Sunday, after Time for All Ages, our UU Kids will be connecting with trees through stories and hands-on activities. Our 2-6 year-olds will be in the Rainbow Room with Rita and Kassia, and our 7-12 year-olds will be in the Chalice Room with Jodi and Susie.

When you arrive, **please bring your child's outdoor clothing downstairs** to the appropriate room.

## **Caring Contacts for May**

[Marilen Gerber](#) - 613-848-1688

[Maury Prevost](#) - 613-231-7391

**Caring Cards for April:** Donna B-W, Lisa S, Jan D, Catherine P, Marlene C, Veronika D, and Carl 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.*

## **National Worship Service - From Possibility To Practice**

**Sunday, May 18 - 1:00pm**

**Worship Hall**

Join host Chuck Shields for this Sunday's CUC national worship service, which we'll be streaming in Worship Hall.

What if sustainability isn't just about how long we last — but about how deeply we belong to each other and to the future? This service revisits Reverend Ray Drennan's 2004 Confluence Lecture "An Idea of a Possibility" with insights from the UU Expressions research and other current UU practices.

The service will be followed by coffee and conversation in Fellowship Hall.



## The Board Appoints John Emond

Following the AGM and the appeal shared at that time to fill the two board vacancies, [John Emond](#) stepped forward and said he would be interested in serving with the board. Between AGMs it is the board's responsibility to appoint members to fill vacancies. Following vetting by the Nominating Committee, the board approved John Emond's nomination to the board. He will serve until next year's AGM, at which time he will be nominated to the congregation to complete the two years remaining in his term.



## FirstU AGM Summary

The FirstU 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held the afternoon of Saturday, May 3, with nearly 100 members attending either in person, by Zoom or via proxy. The board very much appreciates this enthusiastic turn-out! **Key issues discussed and/or decided were:**



- Receiving updates from Reverend Eric and from Board President, Chuck Shields;
- Discussing and approving the 2024 audited financial statements;
- Appointing Kelly Huibers McNeely to continue serving as our auditors for the 2025 fiscal year;
- Authorizing the board to issue community bonds to support the Odayanhaway campus redevelopment Project;
- Reappointing Lisa Boulay and Guy Belleperche to serve as lay chaplains;
- Electing Lisa Boulay to serve on the board and to identify the following officers for the coming year:
  - Chuck Shields, President
  - Mary Ella Keblusek, Vice-President
  - Guy Belleperche, Treasurer
  - Carl Sonnen, Secretary (in a non-board member capacity);
- Approving a resolution to investigate switching to a climate-friendly financial institution; and
- Presenting and distributing an updated site plan for the Odayanhaway Project.

To view a recording of the full AGM, [visit the Mebers' Page.](#)

## 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 [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



### Campus Development Town Halls Follow-Up

The Odayanhaway Team recently held two online Town Hall sessions for discussion with congregants and others on the campus, to update the congregation on many evolving aspects of campus development, in particular the proposed detailed site plan to be submitted soon to the City of Ottawa. Members can re-watch both the May 6 Site Plan introduction and the May 12 Site Plan feedback session by visiting the [Members' Campus Planning page](#). The FirstU Odayanhaway Project Team appreciated hearing from those connected to our campus about these updated plans. We will provide further updates as they are available.



### Hello from Reverend Lara

As most of you are aware, Reverend Lara Cowtan will be joining FirstU as our new minister in August, after we say farewell to Reverend Eric at the end of June. Rev. Lara recently sent a greeting to the congregation, which you can view on our [YouTube channel](#).



### Operations: Jen Brennan's New Office Hours

Jen will now be working **Tuesdays to Fridays, 9am-4:30pm**. She is also adding one Sunday a month – if her door is open please come by for a chat!



### Summer Spire Submissions Due TODAY!

Send your articles or photos to [spire@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:spire@firstunitarianottawa.ca)! **Deadline is TODAY, May 16.** Share your ideas and memories in the upcoming June edition. You are helping build a loving community!



## A Heartfelt Thank You from the Refugee Team!

The Refugee Team is incredibly grateful for the response to last week's request for donations. We now believe we will have enough funds to proceed with the application. Thank you so much! Further donations toward Refugee Support remain welcome, AND **we are seeking volunteers to assist with Qandagha's settlement**, including driving to appointments, helping with ESL, and more. Talk to Eva or Brent, or email us at [refugees@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:refugees@firstunitarianottawa.ca).



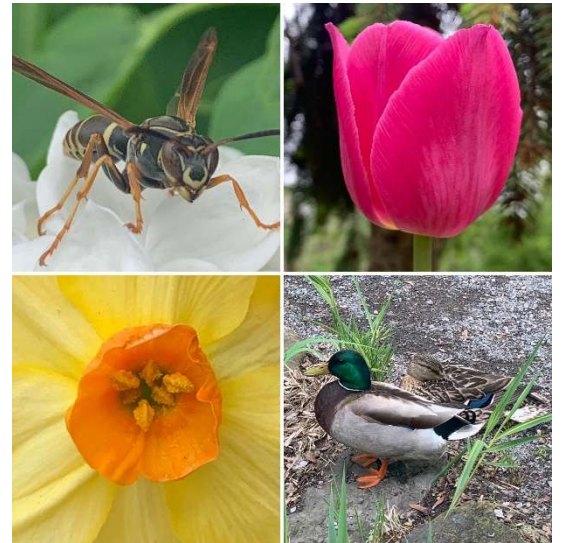
## It's Tulipathon Time

FirstU is a long-time member of Ottawa's Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI), and will be participating in this year's Tulipathon on May 25 – MHI's big, annual fundraiser at Commissioners Park at Dow's Lake. Bring the kids (there will be a bouncy castle and face painting available) and make a day of supporting MHI! Want to join our team? Contact team captain [Maury Provost](#) at 613-231-7391. **Make a donation in support of the team, or one of the team-members, [by clicking HERE](#).**



## Recurring Event Topics

- The **Mental Health Support and Action Group** will meet - in Room 6 and [online](#) - this **Sunday, May 18** from Noon to 1pm.
- The next **online discussion circle** will be on Thursday, **May 22**, with a topic of "My Perfect Evening". [Get the zoom link HERE](#).
- On **May 22**, the **Evening Reading for Growth** group will discuss *The Gates of Gaza: A story of Betrayal, Survival and Hope in Israel's Borderlands* by Amir Tibon.
- The **Men's Breakfast Group** will meet on **May 23**, for a brief report by [Peter Larson](#) on his April 2025 trip across Israel and the West Bank. Register by Monday, May 19, [by clicking HERE](#).
- The **May yUuth Group** meetup is now scheduled for **May 23**.
- **Daytime Reading for Growth**, on **May 30**, will be discussing *Prisoners of the Castle: An Epic Story of Survival and Escape from Colditz, the Nazis' Fortress Prison* by Ben MacIntyre.
- [Click HERE](#) for a full list of our recurring events.



## Upcoming Events

**UU Pride - Sunday, May 25 - 7:00pm - Online**

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.



## Save the Date

**Food Cupboard Fundraising Concert with the Beacon Community Band**

**Wednesday, June 4 - 7:00pm - Worship Hall**

You're invited to a performance by the Beacon Community Band, to benefit the FirstU Food Cupboard. Enjoy rag time and jitterbug pieces, a procession of magical and mythical characters and creatures, and medleys of Beatles classics, Canadian folk, and some spooky themes! Admission by donation! Come at 6:30 for refreshments and stay after the concert for a celebratory reception at 8:00pm!



**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:**

### Minookimi

Minookimi means "late spring". The spring of blooming service berries, wild plums, and trillium. The spring of leaves emerging and temperatures rising. The doorstep of summer, where we're standing now.



## News from Our Friends



### Unitarian House Annual Summer Clothing and Jewellery Sale

**Thursday, May 22 - 11:00am to 4:00pm - 20 Cleary Ave (in the Founder's Room)**

Come peruse a wide selection of quality ladies' clothes including new garments given by Northern Reflections, Reitman's, Ricki's, and gently used donations. Sandwiches and soup will be available for purchase at midday. **This sale is cash-only**, with all proceeds support Unitarian House Residents' Association. Unsold garments will be distributed among local charities.

### Unitarian House Fundraising Dinner and Silent Auction - Thursday, May 29 – 20 Cleary Ave



**6:00pm (Cocktail Hour)**

**7:00pm (Dinner)**

Join us for an evening of fine dining and philanthropy, featuring keynote speaker The Honourable Janice Charette, former Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet. All proceeds will directly support UH's Financial Assistance Program, ensuring that residents will receive the care they need, regardless of their financial situation.

**Details and tickets [available here](#) OR [contact Jennifer Brierley](#), Administration and Marketing Manager, at 613 722 6690 ext. 234 for more information.**



### Child Haven International 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner and Spring Festival

**Saturday, June 14 – 5:00pm – Richelieu-Vanier Community Centre – \$60**

Child Haven International is pleased to invite 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 Romanian dance troupe Izvorul, all hosted by Bonnie and Fred Cappuccino.

[Get your tickets HERE.](#)

## Chez FirstU

**Tone Cluster presents: Aspects of Love: A Choral Concert**

**Saturday, May 24 – 7:30pm – Worship Hall – Tickets are by donation (in advance)**

A heartfelt musical journey exploring the different faces of love - romantic passion, heartbreak, self-discovery, and the deep bonds of friendship. With music spanning madrigals to musical theatre, we'll celebrate the complexity and beauty of love in all its forms. Some songs include strong language -- because love isn't always polite.

**Light reception to follow. [Purchase your tickets, at the rate that works for you, HERE.](#)**



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