

Weekly e-UU Newsletter – Friday, May 2, 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 4, 2025

Online and In Person

Starts at 10:30am



What Men Dare Do

With Reverend Eric Meter, Jodi McIntosh, and Aella Choir

On this Red Dress Sunday, Rev Eric takes the opportunity to talk about how the 49% behaves toward the 51% and the cost that is often paid by us all.

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:

This Sunday, new RE adventures begin with Nature Stories & Outdoor Connections! After Time for All Ages, our 2-6 year-olds in the Rainbow Room (room 4) with Rita & Kassia, while our 7-12 year-olds will gather in the Chalice Room (room 2) with Susie & Jodi. This May and June, we'll be spending a lot of time outdoors. 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.

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.

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 give it to your proxy holder to bring to the AGM. [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**

Featured Volunteer Opportunity

Ushers and Greeters Wanted

Do you like running into old friends, and making new ones? We need a few more people to act as Sunday morning greeters and ushers. You would need to be available one Sunday every several weeks, depending on numbers. The only skill needed is a welcoming smile. Childcare is available before the service. [Email Barb R](#) to get involved.

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



Annual Report Deadline Extended

If you've not submitted your report yet, you can still do so until **May 15**. If you are a Committee or Team, you really should submit. If you are a Group, we welcome your reports too! Send your Reports to Jen at omr@firstunitarianottawa.ca.



Are You Ready for a Climate Emergency

The changing climate means more weather-related emergencies - flooding, heat events, tornadoes. The Environmental Action Group (EAG) wants to make sure you're ready. Emergency Preparedness Week is May 4 to 11, so this Sunday, May 4, EAG will have a table in Fellowship Hall following the service with lots of resources to help you be prepared. Drop by - and get ready!



Welcome New Members!

The board is pleased that, at our April meeting, we approved three new members: Briana Faubert, David Gick and Andrew Poirier. We're very pleased that they've decided to join us on their spiritual and life journeys!



Some Famous Ottawa UUs!

Donna, Ed and Jen are on [the front page of David Suzuki's latest FINDING SOLUTIONS Newsletter](#), with an article about Canada's Clean Electricity Regulations. The photo was taken during a demonstration at Parliament Hill.



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[at]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

Got a poem, memory, photo you want to share in the Summer Spire? We want to hear from you! Send your submission to spire@firstunitarianottawa.ca by May 16 (max 450 words). One more way to build community!



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. Thank you to all who contributed!



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 in the office foyer. Tell your friends and neighbours!



Recurring Event Topics

- FirstU's Virtual Trivia Night will be early this month. Join us on Monday, May 5, for some friendly trivia. [Click HERE](#) to get the zoom details!
- 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 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 give their proxy form to their proxy holder to bring to the AGM. [Click HERE](#) to download your proxy form. To attend online, as a non-voting observer, [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.



Campus Development Town Hall: Site Plan Proposal Introduction - Tuesday May 6 - 7:00pm - On Zoom

This is the first of two online Town Halls to update the congregation on many evolving aspects of campus development. **The highlight of the meeting 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 about the proposal. [Zoom link on the FirstU home page](#).



Save the Date

Unitarian GoGos Plant Sale – FirstU Parking Lot

May 9-10 - 9:00am to 4:30pm AND May 11 - 9:00am to 1:30pm

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 a variety of outdoor plants, mostly perennials, plus jewellery and baked goods, and support the Stephen Lewis Foundation while you shop!



Campus Development Town Hall: Site Plan Feedback Session - Monday May 12 - 7:00pm - On Zoom

Join us for a follow-up Town Hall regarding the Proposed Detailed Site Plan introduced on May 6. We plan to submit it for approval to the City of Ottawa by the third week of May. This is your chance to provide any further feedback you may have. [Zoom link on the FirstU home page](#).



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.



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 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!



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:**



Maajijigaazo

Maajijigaazo means "S/he is taken away [by someone]".

Indigenous women make up 16% of all female homicide victims, and 11% of missing women, yet Indigenous people make up only 4.3% of the population of Canada.

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 Newsletter

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

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