

Weekly e-UU Newsletter

Friday December 12, 2025

We acknowledge that our campus is located on traditional, unsurrendered and unceded Algonquin Anishinaabeg Territory; and that the work of reconciliation is a responsibility of our congregation, and of all Canadians.

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Online and In Person

Starts at 10:30am



Helping Hands: Our Mitten Tree Service

With Jodi McIntosh

It's Mitten Tree Sunday! Join us as we take part in a UU tradition. Our multigenerational service will include stories, songs, and the chance to decorate our tree with hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, and other winter gear. Let's help our friends and neighbours stay warm this winter!

Attending online? Feel free to make a donation to the Ottawa Snowsuit Fund.

Attending in Person? On Sunday, December 14, the Church Knitting Group will be selling hand-knitted mittens and some scarves and toques in the foyer outside the Lounge before Service, starting at about 9:30am. Come and purchase mitts for yourselves and family and for decorating the Mitten Tree. All proceeds go to the Congregation.

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

This Sunday, our UU Kids will stay in Worship Hall to take part in our multigenerational Mitten Tree service. This is a child-friendly service that we have created for all ages! If you're able, please bring gently used or new mittens, scarves, and hats to hang on our tree.

Caring Cards for December

[Laurie Foster-McLeod](#) - 613-728-1916

[Paul McGinnis](#) - 613-829-7156

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.

Splinters from the Board

The following are the key points from the November 19 meeting of the FirstU Board:

- Approved the memberships of Lark Daigle, Amanda Joynt, Daniel Rück and Sarah Rotz. [Click HERE](#) to get to know our new members a little better.
- Received an update regarding the pledge campaign
- Received a report from Rev. Lara regarding the process for planning the way forward for Ajashki



- Received and approved a proposal to develop an online data repository
- Conducted a debrief of the Fall Congregational Meeting
- Approved a revised motion to authorize the mortgage/lien of church property to increase FirstU's equity in Aspire Riverview Homes, Inc.
- Received a report on an alternative to community bonds for increasing FirstU's equity in Aspire Riverview Homes Inc.
- Received a report regarding the Odayanhaway project
- Received a report regarding the UHO request to own their property
- Decided to hold a special congregational meeting on Jan. 25 to consider the motion to authorize the mortgage/lien of church property to increase FirstU's equity in Aspire Riverview Homes, Inc.

2026 Pledge Campaign

Friends! If you haven't done so yet, there's still time to submit a pledge for 2026.

<https://www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/make-your-pledge---online.html>



Featured Volunteer Opportunity

Sunday Morning AV Volunteers

Do you have AV skills (or would like to learn)? We're currently looking for volunteers to assist Julia with AV on Sunday mornings. Paid opportunities may also be available. If you're interested, please contact Julia at av@firstunitarianottawa.ca or talk to her after Sunday service.

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



Read All About It

NEXT WEEK - December 19 - Last eUU of 2025

Heads-up! The last eUU of 2025 will be sent out NEXT Friday, December 19. If you have any events or announcements that people need to see before January 9, 2026, please make sure you send them to publications@firstunitarianottawa.ca by noon on Wednesday, December 17.

Curious About Cohousing?

After service on December 14, visit the info table in Fellowship Hall and chat with aspiring cohousing members about the Dutch cohousing model and creating intentional communities in Ottawa.

Preserves for Sale

One of our star preservers Joan Auden was unable to provide her fantastic wares in time for Fall Fair, however they are ready now! Available this Sunday, December 14, they make great gifts!

Aspire Riverview Homes - Investment Info Session

FirstU is pleased to announce the launch of an investment program that will enable us to increase our equity in Aspire Riverview Homes, the affordable housing project on our campus. Join us online, at 7:00pm, on Tuesday, December 16 for all the details. **Check the Upcoming Events section, below, for further details!**

Christmas Eve Refreshments Between Services

As per tradition, we will have light refreshments available between our Christmas Eve services. If you would like to donate a homemade pot of soup, some bread, or some dessert - or assist with the set up and clean up - please contact Mary Ella: maryellakeblusek@gmail.com

Something New for Sunday Services

Starting in January, you'll have the opportunity to provide flowers for the service—whether to honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion. Your contribution will be acknowledged in the Order of Service. The choice of flowers is entirely yours! A sign-up sheet will be available in the office for each Sunday. Reserve your Sunday now!

Greens Available for Harvest

Bring your own container and harvest some fresh leafy greens from the Ajashki grow towers in the Community Food Resource Room just off Worship Hall.

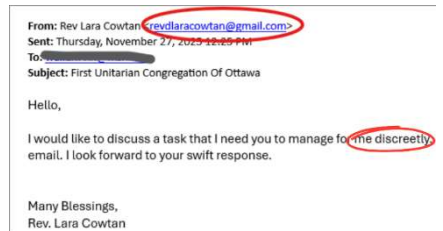
Environmental Action

Recent months have seen many environmentally challenging decisions at all levels of government, including the Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of Canada and Alberta. Leadnow has launched a petition with specific focus on stopping a bitumen pipeline from Alberta to the BC coast which would threaten our oceans, wildlife, rivers, and forests, and has received no indigenous consent. Join with FirstU's EAG, environmental and Indigenous advocacy groups, and over 9000 others, and [sign the petition](#). For more information, [click HERE](#).

Notice of Scam Email

Reminder: If you receive emails like the scam shown below, do not respond.

Legitimate messages from our staff will always come from an @firstunitarianottawa.ca address, and we will never ask for money, gift cards, or similar items. Asking for "discretion" is a tell-tale sign that the email is a scam. If you're unsure whether an email is genuine, start a new email, to the person's @firstunitarianottawa.ca address, or call the person directly to confirm before taking any action.

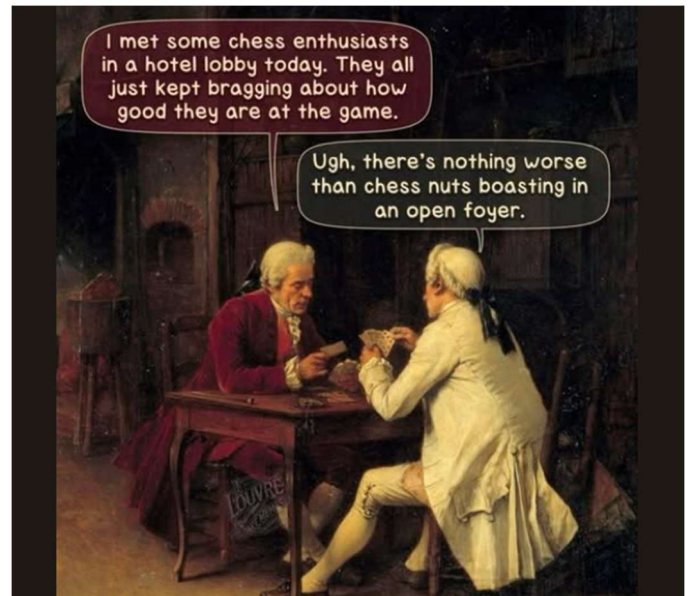


New Protocol for Using Fellowship Hall During Hospitality Hour

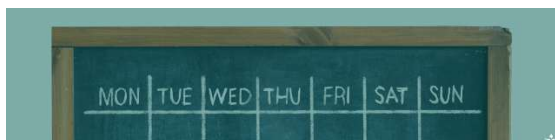
If your group plans to serve food or drinks in Fellowship Hall on a Sunday morning, **please book this through Jen at omr@firstunitarianottawa.ca**. This helps ensure all stakeholders are informed and coordinated. A reminder as well that you may book tables in Worship or Fellowship Halls for selling, info etc. the same way.

Recurring Event Topics and Updates

- [Click HERE](#) for a full list of our recurring events, plus zoom links for those that occur online.
- **Tonight, December 12 - the yUuth Group** will be making cupcakes for the Ottawa Mission from **6:30pm - 8:30pm**. Please note: we will not be having dinner together for this gathering, so remember to eat before you come.
- **Sunday, December 14 - Our After-Service Discussions** take place on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, at **11:45am, in the Lounge**
- **December 15 - Online Trivia Night**. [Click here](#) to find details and to get the link.
- **December 16** - Journey Groups meet at 2pm in Room 6. December's theme is the practice of **Community Care**.
- **December 18** - The **Online Discussion Group** topic is "The Better Angels of Our Nature".
- **December 19 - Drumming Spires**: Come find your rhythm connection in this recreational community drum circle, **11:00am on the third Friday of every month**, in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a small drum, coffee canister or percussion instrument. No experience needed. Please accompany children who attend. For information and to RSVP, email: FridaySpires@mail.com
- Our **Thursday Evening and Friday Afternoon Reading for Growth groups** will not be meeting in December. See you in January!
- **January 9 - The Men's Breakfast Group** will meet at **8:00am in Fellowship Hall** for breakfast and an engaging talk by [David Chernushenko](#) about his book, *Standing with Underdogs*, and the deep dive into his Ukrainian heritage that led to its writing. Register by January 5 by [filling out this form](#).



~*~ Holiday Haha ~*~



Upcoming Events

Unitarian GoGos Bake Sale - Sunday, December 14 - 11:30am - Fellowship Hall

Stock up on cookies, squares, and other holiday treats to share with friends and loved ones while supporting the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Cash, Cheques, and eTransfers accepted.

Aspire Riverview Homes Investment Info Session - Tuesday, December 16 - 7:00pm - [On Zoom](#)

Join us for an information session on how you can invest in Aspire Riverview Homes - the affordable housing development on our campus. Combine financial returns with profound social impact and increase FirstU's share in the development. We have set a target of \$1.8 million with \$700,000 in loans coming from private investors like you. Get the details at [our Zoom meeting](#) on Tuesday, December 16th beginning at 7:00pm.

Carols & Cocoa - Saturday, December 20 - 1:30pm - Fellowship Hall

Bring the whole family and celebrate the season with a Christmas carol singalong! Don your best festive wear (optional, but encouraged!) and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate as we sing our favourite Christmas tunes together. This event is free and family-friendly; a great way to get in the holiday spirit!

Waiting for the Light – Saturday, December 20 – 7:00pm – NOW Room - \$5 Suggested

Join us for an evening of contemplation as the days are shortening and the darkness is growing. We will walk a candle-lit labyrinth, share a time of quiet meditation and music, and enjoy warm apple cider together.

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>



Save the Date

Women's Inclusive Pagan Circle: Yule Ritual - Monday, December 22 - 7:00pm - Fellowship Hall - \$5 Suggested

Trans women, cis women, and nonbinary folks are invited to take part in our Winter Solstice Ritual! Honour the long darkness and the coming return of the light, as we journey through the night with the Deer Mothers of Baltic and Slavic paganism to re-enchant the world and carry the sun safely through the dark.

Bring finger foods to share after the ritual and anything seasonal you'd like to include on our altar. We also ask that folks contribute \$5 to help cover the cost of space and supplies, and to bring a non-perishable donation or two to support the FirstU Food Cupboard.

Christmas Eve - Early Service: Generosity and Joy - Wednesday, December 24 - 5:00pm

Join us for a lively Christmas Eve celebration for all ages, featuring our UU Kids retelling the Christmas Story.

Christmas Eve - Candle-Lit Service: Silent Night, Holy Night - Wednesday, December 24 - 7:00pm

A quieter, more contemplative service of carols and readings by candlelight.



Unitarian Universalist nUUs

Fred Cappuccino turns 100!

Friends! Our sister congregation, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ottawa, is planning a party to celebrate Rev Fred Cappuccino's 100th birthday on January 17! You're invited to attend AND you're invited to share photos and videos of Fred if you have them. Email photos and videos [to Mark M](#) by January 10.

Sharing Our Faith 2026: Orientation Session - Thursday, January 15 - 7:30pm - Online

Sharing Our Faith is an annual opportunity for Canadian Unitarian Universalists to explore a shared spiritual theme, deepen our connections with one another, and support congregational growth across the country. Join the zoom call to learn more about the 2026 Sharing Our Faith theme: "Practicing Hope: Facing the Future with Gratitude, Imagination, Courage & Action" and how we live our values in rapidly changing times. [Details and registration HERE.](#)



News From Our Friends

Tone Cluster Presents: Seasons of Light - Monday, December 22 - 7:30pm

Centretown United Church (207 Bank St) - \$25 or Pay What You Can (advance) or \$30 (at the door)

To welcome back the light, Tone Cluster and Queer Cadence choirs present music of Solstice and Yule. Harmony and hope intertwine as we honour this moment of stillness with songs of reflection, renewal, and joy.

[Advance tickets available HERE.](#)

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