

Weekly e-UU Newsletter – Friday, May 9, 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 11, 2025

Online and In Person

Starts at 10:30am



Love We Cannot Live Without

With Reverend Eric Meter

This Mother's Day, let's celebrate unconditional love, the promise and realities that surround us.

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 will be up to this Sunday:

After Time for All Ages, our 2-12 year-old UU kids will head downstairs to the Rainbow Room for a special Mother's Day activity! 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

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 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.

FirstU Members can view a recording of the AGM on [the Members' Page](#) of our website.

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

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.



Urgent Appeal – Help Us Bring a Refugee to Canada

The Board has recently approved, **conditional upon funding**, the sponsorship of Qandagha Kamiri, a young man at risk of being targeted by the Taliban. We need to raise **\$13,000** from generous FirstU congregants and friends in order to submit a sponsorship application before an application can be submitted!

To donate: Write "Refugee Sponsorship" on the donation envelope in your pew, the memo line of your cheque, or in the comment field of an e-transfer to fm@firstunitarianottawa.ca. Questions to Eva Berringer.



Summer Spire Submissions Due Next Week!

There's still time to send your articles or photos to spire@firstunitarianottawa.ca! **Deadline is Friday May 16**. Share your ideas and memories in the upcoming June edition. You are helping build a loving community!



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 – 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](#).**



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.



Recurring Event Topics

- After some disruption in April, the **After Service Discussions** in the Lounge have returned to their regular spot on the **second and fourth Sundays** of the month.
- The **Mental Health Support and Action Group** will meet - in Room 6 and [online](#) - on **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.](#)
- 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

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.](#)



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!



Save the Date

[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:emailthem@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:**

Ninga / Giga

Ninga means "My mother", while "Giga" means "Your mother". There is no simple, independent word for "mother" in Anishinabemowin. A personal prefix or suffix goes with the dependent noun stem ("ga") to make it a full word. You literally can't say "mother" in Anishinabemowin without specifying the relationship contained by the word.



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 supporting 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

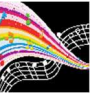
The latest newsletter from Child Haven International is available to read or download by [clicking HERE](#).

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>