

Weekly e-UU Newsletter

Friday, April 10, 2026

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, April 12, 2026

[Online](#) and In Person

Starts at 10:30am



Here We Grow!

With Jodi McIntosh

Join us for a multigenerational service to celebrate nature! The service has been crafted to engage all ages.

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.

New: Information about Your Sunday Offering

The offerings collected each Sunday help us to live into our values within this congregation and in supporting many good works beyond our walls by highlighting a community partner organization each month to share with.

During the entire month of April, our Sunday collections, unless marked towards your pledge, will be split 50/50 with our community partner, the Ajashki Project.

Ajashki is a land-based program hosted by the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa in collaboration with Indigenous communities in the city and region. Rooted in the recognition that FirstU's campus is on unceded Algonquin Anishinaabeg land, the program seeks to build relationships, practical skills, and cultural understanding through collaborative gardening, land relations, and environmental stewardship.



Children's Religious Exploration

This Sunday, we'll be participating in our multigenerational, family-friendly service upstairs in Worship Hall.



FirstU's Caring Team

We are all interconnected, interdependent and minister to each other in many ways.

Caring Contacts are monthly volunteers who receive phone calls and emails when you wish to alert us to a need, a grief or a concern, or have a joy to celebrate. They prepare cards to be signed on Sundays, and try to ensure no one is forgotten, connecting people with appropriate help when requested.

Caring Contacts for April

Anne Nagy - [Email](#) - 613-614-6174

Marjorie Dunton - [Email](#) - 613-860-5571

Caring Visitors are specially trained and certified FirstU Members, available to provide spiritual care and deep listening for those who seek support during a transition or challenging time. Visits can be by phone/zoom, a walk, coffee shop, in home, hospital, hospice, or wherever is comfortable.

Caring Visitors: caringvisitors@firstunitarianottawa.ca

Featured Volunteer Opportunity

Help Keep Our Gardens Growing and Blooming

Spring is in the air, which means work will be starting soon in the Meditation Gardens. Work can be done as part of work groups or independently and averages about two hours a week. If you would like to help tend the gardens, please [contact Margaret L](#) for more info.

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

Shelving Needed

The Food Cupboard is looking for some additional shelving that is 4 foot - 6 foot high. If you have a shelf you could donate, please contact Lisa S at sjan@firstunitarianottawa.ca.

Time & Talent Auction - Online Bidding Tutorials

Our [Time & Talent Auction](#) is quickly approaching. Bidding is from April 26-30. [Items can be viewed online](#), which is where all bidding happens, so creating an account is essential. **For those who require assistance with creating an account and seeing how to bid, a workshop will be offered by David Chernushenko and co-organizer Jonathan Dench after service on April 12, 19 and 26.** Please bring a device (laptop, tablet, smartphone) if possible. **Note:** If you want to donate an item, service, experience, etc, [contact David](#) by this Monday, April 13.

Love a Good Story? We Need You!

Do you have a flair for the dramatic or a heart for sharing wisdom? While Jodi is teaching Our Whole Lives from April 19 to June 21, we are looking for **guest storytellers to lead Time for All Ages**. Don't worry about the prep—Jodi can help source the perfect story; we just need your voice and presence to bring it to life! Interested? Chat with Jodi or email her at dre@firstunitarianottawa.ca

Braille Hymnals Available

FirstU has a set of Braille hymnals available for use during Sunday Service. They can be requested from the Worship Associate or the Office Volunteer on Sunday mornings.

Rhubarb Wanted!

Fresh, frozen, lurking in your freezer since 2019. Susan B is on a mission to transform it into strawberry rhubarb pies for the TIME AND TALENT fundraiser—pies highly endorsed by at least one very enthusiastic Board member. Donate stalks, earn eternal gratitude. [Contact her](#) if you have rhubarb to donate.

FirstU Key Registry

It's time to document who has access keys to the building. You can let us know in one of two ways:

- Stop by the main office and the office volunteer will take your info.
- Email Jen at omr@firstunitarianottawa.ca with the details: building key and/or classroom/supply closet key.

Annual Reports!

Reports are due by Thursday, April 16. But good news: they are now simplified! One or two paragraphs will do. [Download the form HERE](#).

A Reminder to Protect Your Belongings

While we strive to maintain a safe campus and building, incidents of theft and vandalism do occur from time to time. We remind everyone to lock their vehicles and avoid leaving valuables unattended or visible. Whenever possible, please leave valuable items at home.

Building Tours Reintroduced!

On the first Sunday of each month we will be giving tours of the building to newcomers or anyone interested in learning about our church building. Join us at the podium in Worship Hall, at 11:45am, to participate.

Drop-In Euchre is now Drop-In Games Night

Our monthly drop-in Games Night (the first Wednesday of every month, 6:30pm in Room 3) now includes **Chess** and **Backgammon** as well as **Euchre!** Stop by and have some fun with us!

The Spire is Looking for a New Copy Editor!

Duties are light: four times a year, the copy editor collects submissions, pastes them into one Word document, and hands on the file for layout. *Mentoring is available!* The hardest part is remembering to send out reminder notices the month before each new issue! If this is your kind of volunteering, please let us know by emailing spire@firstunitarianottawa.ca.

AI Summaries for Zoom Meetings

Are you aware that Zoom provides an option to have a summary of your Zoom meeting created by AI (Artificial Intelligence)? While not perfect, we've found these summaries to be surprisingly accurate and would recommend them for meetings where notes or minutes are needed. To obtain an AI summary requires several steps; [click HERE to see the details](#). If you have any questions, just email the Zoom Team at zoomInfo@firstunitarianottawa.ca.



Upcoming Events

Raise Your Voice Choir Concert - Sunday, April 19 - 1:00pm - Worship Hall (refreshments beforehand) - By Donation

The choirs of FirstU present choral music that celebrates collective action, resistance, and resilience. Our choirs will perform songs that have carried communities through moments of challenge and transformation, from South African freedom songs, to the Nueva Canción movement in Latin America, to music of the Singing Revolution in the Baltics. Join your voice with ours for audience singalongs of well-known protest music!

FirstU Finance Details Meetings – Online

Meeting 1: Monday, April 20 - 10:00am

Meeting 2: Wednesday, April 22 - 7:00pm

As is our custom, there will be two Zoom meetings leading up to our AGM for those who would like a more detailed discussion of FirstU's finances, including the 2025 audited financial statements. Each meeting will last 1-2 hours, depending on the number of questions.

- Click [HERE](#) to attend the April 20 meeting
- Click [HERE](#) to attend the April 22 meeting

The Zoom information for both meetings is the same.

Meeting ID: 816 1265 3587 **Passcode:** 250676

Mapmaking: Navigating your Spiritual Journey at FirstU – Tuesdays, April 21 to May 26 – 7:00pm – Room 6

If you are a new/newish congregant, Mapmaking will involve you in a range of activities to make connections with others; reflect together on your concepts of spirituality, faith and our Unitarian Universalist principles; learn more about the congregation and its linkages to the broader world; consider what it means to belong to the FirstU community of faith and what you can bring to it; and reflect on your 'credo' of who you are and where you are in your faith journey. 1-2 spots still available. Email adultlearning@firstunitarianottawa.ca to register.

Biweekly Wednesday Community Dinner - Wednesday, April 22 - 5:00pm - \$10 suggested for adults (\$5 for kids)

Come join us every other Wednesday, for a community dinner. 5:00pm - 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall. To sign up [contact uuoffice@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:contact_uuoffice@firstunitarianottawa.ca). By donation (\$10 adults, \$5 kids, suggested).

FirstU Annual General Meeting - Sunday, April 26 - 12:30pm - Worship Hall

The 2026 AGM will be held on Sunday, April 26 at 12:30pm in Worship Hall.

- Voter registration will begin at 12:00pm in Worship Hall.
- The meeting will also be viewable online by Zoom (but voting will only be available for those attending in-person).
- Meeting materials will be available on the [Members Page](#) by Thursday afternoon, April 16.
- If you know you can't attend in-person, a proxy form can be filled out and sent to the office by Friday April 24 or presented at the AGM. Click [HERE](#) to download your proxy form.

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>



Recurring Events: Topics and Changes

Are you looking for the Recurring Events item that used to be in the Read All About It section? We've moved that information to our website.

- Looking for the next topic for your favourite recurring discussion or book group? [Click here.](#)
- Need to check if a weekly, biweekly, or monthly event has been rescheduled? [Click here,](#) or check our [month-at-a-glance calendar.](#)
- Looking for a new social group to join, or need to confirm a zoom link or locate a registration form? [Click here](#) for a full list of our recurring events, plus zoom links for those that occur online.



Chez FirstU

**Ottawa Chamberfest presents the New Orford String Quartet: Dedications – This Saturday, April 11 - 7:00pm
Chez FirstU**

The [New Orford String Quartet returns to Chamberfest](#) with a compelling programme of works inspired by, and dedicated to, beloved musical figures. This acclaimed Canadian ensemble offers an eclectic selection of string quartets shaped by the art and artists of their time. [Tickets available HERE.](#)

Grassroots Festival - April 23-26 - Chez FirstU

The 14th edition of the festival takes place Thursday, April 23 - Sunday, April 26. All daytime performances and workshops on Saturday and Sunday are FREE for everyone to attend! Bring your friends, family, and neighbours—there's something for all ages, plus food, drinks, and plenty of fun throughout the weekend. [Full details and tickets HERE.](#)



Unitarian Universalist nUUs

Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC): Dismantling Barriers Series

Join the CUC online, on Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 7:00pm, for an introductory conversation on economic solidarity, with a particular focus on **positionality**. What does "positionality" mean? It means exploring how our political and social identities interact and shape our experiences and understanding of money. What do our histories teach us about how we deal with money? How do our identities inform our money-making decisions and practices? And what can we do to align our spending practices with our solidarity values? [Details and registration HERE.](#)

Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC): Reciprocal Annual Mentorship Program (RAMP!)

RAMP! offers **monthly Skill-Building workshops** open to everyone interested. These public, online, 90-minute workshops align with the program's monthly themes and connect with other national programming such as Congregational Conversations and Dismantling Barriers. Upcoming workshops include:

- April 25, 1:00pm: [UUism and Social Enterprise with Shaun Loney](#)
- May 9, 1:00pm: [Navigating Conflict with Necessary Trouble Collective](#)
- June 27, 1:00pm: [Projects, Partnerships & Practical Wisdom from RAMP!](#)

Click the embedded links above to register for the workshop(s) of your choice!



News from Our Friends

River Parkway Children's Centre AGM - Thursday, April 23 - 6:30pm - Online

River Parkway Children's Centre will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on April 23rd, 2026, at 6:30pm. The AGM is online; all members are urged to renew their membership. For further information, please call the Centre 613-729-3129.