

Weekly e-UU Newsletter - Friday, December 15, 2023

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, December 17, 2023

Online AND In Person

Starts at 10:30am



Holiday Mysteries

Reverend Eric Meter

As the Solstice nears and night is at its longest, this time of year holds both mystery and promise. What do both these long nights and the promise of the season hold in store for us all?

Join us after the service for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall

Please Note: There will be NO MORNING Sunday Service on December 24. Instead, please join us for one or both of our two Christmas Eve evening services. See Upcoming Events section (below) for details.

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Sunday Service Announcements

If you would like an announcement made during the livestreamed Sunday Service, please email the Board of Directors at bod@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 is our annual Advent Spiral with children & families in the NOW room. Our UU Kids will bring the light into the room - parents and family members are welcome to stay with their kids. *Please note: We use real candles for this event. All precautions have been taken to ensure everyone's safety.*

Year-End eUU



Hi friends!

Please be aware that the December 22 edition of the eUU will include information for both December 24 services AND the December 31 service, as there will be NO eUU published on December 29. **With that in mind, if you are wanting to announce something before 2024, this coming week is the time to do it!**

Please remember to send your eUU items - **80 words or fewer** - to publications@firstunitarianottawa.ca no later than Wednesday, December 20 to ensure they make it into the last eUU of 2023. The eUU will resume its normal weekly schedule on Friday, January 5.

Caring Contacts for December

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

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

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.

Counting Down: The Final Days...

The annual pledge drive is coming to a close. Help FirstU continue to make a difference in the world. Make your pledge today! You can [fill out your pledge form online](#), download [this print-at-home version](#), or pick up a paper copy in the Volunteer Room.

Adult Learning and Growth Team

Be a part of our renewed Adult Learning and Growth Team. We act as a catalyst to initiate events/ programs and also to coordinate our various activities, including preparing a seasonal calendar of events and programs. Bring your interest, your enthusiasm and your skills and helps us build a rich adult learning program. Roles range from bringing ideas, reviewing learning proposals, facilitating courses or workshops to preparing the seasonal calendar and requires a few hours, monthly. [Please email Eva.](#)

Please visit our Volunteer With Us page for details: <https://www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/volunteer-with-us.html>
Chuck Shields, Volunteer Coordinator - volunteers@firstunitarianottawa.ca

Read All About It



FirstU Online Auction

FirstU will be having a limited online auction in the new year. Now is the time to downsize (and receive a charitable donation receipt at the same time!) and set aside your:

- high end items (items expected to go for over \$250)
- gold items , silver items , precious stone jewellery
- art objects signed by known artists
- objects with appraisals

Stay tuned! In January, we'll let you know how to donate your items to the auction!



Delicious AND Fair Trade!

La Siembra Co-op Coffee and Chocolate bars, plus Zatoun oil, Zatoun soap, and Za'tar will be available in Fellowship Hall after the service this Sunday. Brought to you by Justice and Equality Action Group.



Holiday Swag

The Ajashki Program is selling Holiday Arrangements to brighten your home! To order one, email ajashki@firstunitarianottawa.ca and we will create one just for you! Suggested donation: \$15-\$35.



Food Support Program

Thanks to all who have contributed meals for our Ajashki youth and their families. We have given out over 100 frozen meals in the past two months; and our freezers are full for December. If you would like to contribute a meal in the new year, please contact Lisa Sharp to get instructions. We are also doing one large grocery shopping trip for each family right before Christmas, so your contributions are appreciated.



Enviro-Action for December: Reusing Pill Bottles

We are collecting plastic pill bottles to send to **disaster relief** organizations. Earthub will accept large and small prescription pill bottles. **Pill bottles must be capped, clean, and unlabeled.** Use a hair dryer to remove labels that don't peel off easily. Please put a dime in each bottle to help cover postage and get them where they need to go. For detail [see the Climate Action Page.](#)

Upcoming Events

Waiting for the Light

Saturday, December 16 - 7:00pm

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. All are welcome. Admission is \$5.00 or pay-what-you-can.



In Person Bridge

Sunday, December 17 - 2:00pm in Room 3

Join us in Room 3 for a fun game of bridge, on the third Sunday of every month.

Email bridgehost@firstunitarianottawa.ca to RSVP.



Mah Jongg

Monday, December 18 - 10:00am in Room 3

Experienced Mah Jongg players are invited to join us for a fun game of Mah Jongg, on the third Monday of every month in Room 3. We are playing American Mah Jongg - with 3-4 people per table - using the 2023 game card. Please bring your own card. [Email Barb Ryan](#) or phone her (613-710-3131) by Friday, December 15, to RSVP. If you can bring a game, let her know.



Trivia Quiz Night

Monday, December 18 - 7:00pm on Zoom

Join us for our Trivia Quiz! Questions are diverse, fun, and taken from several sources, and there is no need to feel embarrassed about getting an incorrect answer: players score themselves! All you need is a pen or pencil, paper and your "thinking cap". Play alone or team up with a partner or two! For more information, [email Andrew.](#)

[ZOOM LINK](#) Meeting ID: 826 7932 3410 Passcode: 101004



Meditation Group

Wednesday, December 20 - 7:00pm on Zoom

Join us on Wednesday evenings for online meditation plus readings from teachers like Thich Nhat Hanh. [Click HERE to join the meditation session](#) Meeting ID: 880 7343 6250 Passcode: 259109



FirstU Virtual Discussion Circle

Thursday, December 21 - 1:30pm on Zoom

Discussion circles are held weekly, with a different topic each week. No pre-registration is required, just drop in by clicking on the link. We look forward to seeing you! This week, our topic is "**Nationalism**".

[ZOOM LINK](#) Meeting ID: 847 7145 7780 Password: 350030



A Family Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 24 - 5:00pm

Join us for a kid-centered, family Christmas Eve service at 5:00pm on December 24th. Come ready for stories and songs as we celebrate together. Please note: There is **NO morning** service on December 24.



Bread and Soup Supper

Sunday, December 24 - 6:00pm

Whether you're attending our early, kid-centered Christmas Eve service at 5pm, joining us for our more contemplative 7:00pm service, or planning to be at both, please join us for a light meal of bread and soup at 6:00pm on Sunday, December 24.



The Blessings of Night and Light: A Contemplative Christmas Even Service

Sunday, December 24 - 7:00pm

During this contemplative service we'll explore the blessings of the light and the darkness. Please note: There is NO *morning* service on December 24.



Visit our calendar for more upcoming events: <https://www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/calendar.html>

Save the Date

Poetry Sharing Group

Friday, January 5 - 12:00pm on Zoom

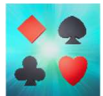
We welcome poetry lovers to join us in celebrating the power of imagination and expression found in poetry. [Email Susan M](#) with any questions and to get the zoom link.



FirstU Online Bridge

Friday, January 5 - 7:00pm on Zoom

Join us online for a fun game of bridge, using Zoom and Bridge Base Online, on the first Friday of every month. Email bridgehost@firstunitarianottawa.ca to RSVP and get the links and ensure your spot.



Evening Reading for Growth

Thursday, January 11 - 7:00pm on Zoom

For our January discussion, we'll be reading *Lookout: Love, Solitude & Searching for Wildfire in the Boreal Forest*, by Trina Moyles (2021). Please feel free to join us! [ZOOM LINK](#) **Meeting ID:** 890 6025 2628 **Password:** 845374



Unitarian Universalist nUUs



UU Midwinter Retreat

February 2-4, 2024 at the YMCA Cedar Glen Outdoor Centre

[Registration is Live](#) for the 33rd UU Midwinter Retreat! All UUs are invited to join us for a weekend of games, workshops, and worship, along with a cabaret and a chocolate communion. Keynote Speaker Linda Thompson will speak on "Such a Time as This" and together we'll ask questions about how we rebuild and strengthen our community. [Click HERE for all the details.](#) Earlybird rates apply until December 29. [Click HERE to register.](#)

News From Our Friends

[Initiatives of Change Canada](#) (which has an office in Room 8) is hiring! We are looking for an experienced part time Administrator for our national office in Ottawa. Should be able to work both independently and with others. Will be answerable to the Board of Directors. Should be knowledgeable of Charitable organization requirements. Tasks include financial record keeping, governmental reporting, and assisting with Annual Meeting preparations. Please email admin.ca@iofc.org for further information and to request position description.



Chez FirstU



Harmony Concerts: A Miss Emily Christmas

Friday, December 15 - 7:00 pm

"An angelic voice with just a hint of sultry devilishness. This gal is a rocket ready to take-off!" (Rob Baker). [Get tickets HERE.](#)



Harmony Concerts: Six13

Sunday, December 17 - 7:00pm

Juxtaposing the traditional and the contemporary, Six13 is a groundbreaking, six-man a cappella vocal band that is bringing an unprecedented style and energy to Jewish music, with nothing but the power of the human voice. [Get tickets HERE.](#)

Get the eUU in your inbox: <https://www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/communications.html>