



## Weekly e-UU Newsletter - Friday, December 22, 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 24, 2023**

**[Online](#) AND In Person**

***Starts at 5:00pm***



### **A Family Christmas Eve**

Reverend Eric Meter

Join us for a kid-centered, family Christmas Eve service. Come ready for stories and songs as we celebrate together.

*Join us in Fellowship Hall for our Bread and Soup Supper between our two evening services.*

*Please Note: There will be NO MORNING Sunday Service on December 24.*

~\*~

**Sunday, December 24, 2023**

**[Online](#) AND In Person**

***Starts at 7:00pm***



### **The Mystery of This Hour**

Reverend Eric Meter

Join us for a contemplative service of readings and carols.

~\*~

**Sunday, December 31, 2023**

**Online AND In Person**

***Starts at 10:30am***



## **Making Room for the New**

**Reverend Eric Meter**

On this last day of the year, let's make the time to let go of some of the past so that whatever may be new for us has space to take hold in our lives.

*Join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service.*

~\*~

### **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](mailto: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**

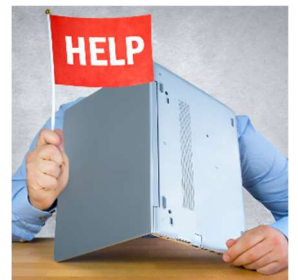
- **Sunday, December 24:** Join us this Sunday evening at 5:00pm, in Worship Hall, for our family-friendly, kid-centred Christmas Eve service!
- **Sunday, December 31:** Next Sunday, January 31st, there will be no children's programming at the church. Kids are welcome to join the service in Worship Hall, but it will not be a multigenerational service.

## **Year-End eUU Technical Difficulties**

Hi friends,

The FirstU email system went down on December 20th and stayed down for much of the rest of the week. If your announcement or event does not appear in today's eUU - which continues to cover both the 22nd and the 29th of December - all I can do is apologize for the technical difficulties and hope things are working again by the beginning of January.

The eUU will resume its normal weekly schedule on Friday, January 5 (er... we hope).



## **Caring Contacts for December**

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

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

## **Caring Contacts for January**

[Maureen Sly](#) - 613-728-7610

[David Hudson](#) - 613-402-5744

*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.*

## 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](mailto:volunteers@firstunitarianottawa.ca)

## Read All About It



### Helpers Needed for NYE Potluck

FirstU is ringing in 2024 with a potluck party in Fellowship Hall! We'll have a cash bar and a children's play area available, so the whole congregation can come. **Some helpers still needed.** [Contact Jane Lindsay](#) if you can lend a hand!



### 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!



### Holiday Swag

The Ajashki Program is selling Holiday Arrangements to brighten your home! To order one, email [ajashki@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto: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.



### Friday Reading For Growth Takes a Break

Seasons Greetings to All! For the month of December we're taking a break from serious reading and will regroup at the end of January. [Click HERE for a list of the books](#) we've chosen to read for January through May, 2024 (all readily available at Ottawa Public Libraries). You are welcome to participate in any of the monthly discussions. Reminders of the upcoming titles will be posted for that month in the eUU. For more information [contact Clea Derwent.](#)

## Upcoming Events

### 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, we would love to see you at our Soup and Bread Supper. Join us for a light meal of bread and soup at 6:00pm on Sunday, December 24.



### The Mystery of This Hour: A Contemplative Christmas Eve Service

**Sunday, December 24 - 7:00pm**

Join us for a contemplative service of readings and carols. Please note: There is **NO morning** service on December 24.



### Sunday Service - Making Room for the New

**Sunday, December 31 - 10:30am**

On this last day of the year, let's make the time to let go of some of the past so that whatever may be new for us has space to take hold in our lives.



### New Year's Eve Potluck

**Sunday, December 31 - 5:30pm**

Come ring out 2023 and welcome 2024 in community! Bring smiles and something for the potluck (with a sticker or note listing the ingredients in case of allergies). We will celebrate "midnight" at 12AM in Ponta Delgado, Azores, Portugal (8:00pm Ottawa time). A cash bar and a children's play area will be available.



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

## Save the Date

### Meditation Group

**Wednesday, January 3 - 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, January 4 - 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 "**To Be Determined**".

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



### 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](mailto: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](mailto:admin.ca@iofc.org) for further information and to request position description.



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