

First Glance

November 2020

(613) 232-1016 office@firstunitedchurchottawa.org

www.firstunitedchurchottawa.org

On Line Sunday Services 11:15 a.m.

During this season of COVID-19, First United is gathering to celebrate our faith on-line every Sunday at 11:15 a.m. and we share a video later in the afternoon. The Church Council is continually reviewing and updating this policy in response to the best guidance offered by Public Health

The link to the zoom service is sent out by email on Saturday and posted on the website. We also send out a copy of the service with reflections, readings, and words to the hymns. If you would like to be added to the e-mail list, please send a request to office@firstunitedchurchottawa.org

Upcoming Sundays Being Sustained...

Members of the congregation continue to join with Brian in celebrating all that sustains us as we journey together in these unusual times.

November 1 st :	Being Sustained through Healing Pathway
November 8 th :	Being Sustained through Remembering
November 15 th :	Being Sustained through Parables and Storytelling
November 22 nd :	Being Sustained through Talking About Mental Health

Children and Youth Programming at First United

About 50 packages are delivered to our children each month so that they can either participate in the Zoom services or work on the projects and story on their own. **Nikki Nel** continues to offer excellent leadership and is willing to be responsive to emerging shifts and needs of our children and their families. **Nikki can be reached at nikkinelteacher@gmail.com**

Ages 5/6 to 8/9 (those younger are free to attend if they wish) on Sundays from 10:15 to 11:00 a.m.

Ages 9/10 to 12/13 on Sunday from 12:15 to 1:00 p.m.

Jillian Buckie, Pat Lindsey and Robert VanderBerg continue to offer leadership to the Rite-14 group that meets regularly via Zoom on Sunday afternoons. The J2A continues to meet periodically in person or via Zoom under the leadership of Joelle Morgan, Sebastien Benard, and Brian Cornelius.

Healing Pathway Care Package

The Healing Pathway ministry at First United has prepared a spiritual care package in this time of physical distancing and uncertainty. While we may not be able to meet face to face, we can connect heart to heart and be proactive in nurturing our spirits and connecting with the Divine through meditation, prayer, long walks (if we are not in isolation), and reaching out safely to one another and to those who are vulnerable and isolated.

The package is available on the First United website.

Distance Healing Pathway sessions are also available by contacting healingpathway2010@gmail.com

Zoom Sing Song with Marg and Choir

On Thursday, November 12th, join Marg and members of the choir for a Zoom sing song beginning at 7:00 p.m. You can log on starting at 6:45. Watch the email or website for more information and a Link.

Small Groups Offered by First United

(as always if you have a small group you wish to initiate, let us know and we will announce it)

Monday Morning Living into Right Relations Book Club. For years, a book club has met to read and discuss living into right relations with the First Peoples of Canada. Beginning on Monday, September 14th from 9:30 - 11:30, the group begins reading "Indigenous Writes: A Guide to First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Issues". The group welcomes new members. To get the zoom connection or more information, contact Cindy at office@firstunitedchurchottawa.org

Monday Evening Christian Meditation, occurs at 5:30 every Monday evening on Zoom and is led by Joyce Hardman, Cathy Nobleman, and Liz Tyrwhitt. This gathering is connected with the World Community for Christian Meditation based on the leadership of Laurence Freeman. Contact Joyce at jhardman@rogers.com to register and get more resources on Christian Meditation.

Sunday Noon Let's Talk About Mental Health led by Jessica Ward-King and Zachary Houle meets at, on Zoom, every other Sunday (November 8, 22, December 13) at 12:30 p.m. will be resuming. To register contact j.ward-king@hotmail.com

United Church Historic Declaration to Become an Anti-Racist Church

On Saturday October 24, 2020, the Commissioners of the 43rd General Council voted to declare the denomination to become an anti-racist church. "This doesn't mean we have achieved this goal," explains the Moderator, the Right Rev. Richard Bott, "but we are taking a stand and saying we are publicly committed to eliminating systemic racism from our practices and policies."

United Church New Anti-Racism and Equity Officer Announced

As part of the work to become an anti-racist denomination, one of the last actions of outgoing General Secretary Nora Sanders was to create a new Anti-Racism and Equity Officer position in the General Council Office. We're very pleased to announce that Adele Halliday will be taking on this role. Adele has been deeply engaged in related work in the Church in Mission Unit these past few years, and has worked within the United Church since 2004. Adele has been a visitor at First United several times over the past few years.

Updates from Church Council

Covid 19 TaskGroup:

The Covid-19 Taskgroup (Sandra Ballantyne, Brian Cornelius, Shirley Paton, and Jane Sly) continue to meet regularly to update and review the latest guidance from Public Health. This Taskgroup, with Church Council approval, circulated documents on safety protocols that are in place for our congregational life. These are continually updated. If you would like to get copies of these documents, please contact Cindy at office@firstunitedchurchottawa.org.

At this point, most of First United activities will be taking place on-line; however, this is under constant review as we monitor latest Public Health Guidelines and remain responsive to the needs of congregants. Please do not hesitate to forward suggestions, concerns, and ideas through Cindy in the office.

Financial Update:

Church Council is grateful to the congregation for the continued support of community life both at First United and beyond. Thankfully, we are able to sustain our ministry during this time of COVID-19. While there are some modest savings, most costs for First United continue. The Church Council is diligent in being good stewards of this generosity.

<u>To October 31</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
General	156,438	155,036	167,000	(11,954)
Mission & Service	28,249	27,435	29,000	(1,565)

In addition, \$11,550 was donated through First United for the Westboro and Ottawa foodbank with the fundraising program through our Metropole neighbours, \$6,850 for other COVID-19 relief, and \$2,220 for Multi Faith Housing through the Rite 13 youth group

Making Donations During COVID-19

We recognize that many are facing financial stresses and need to adjust their support of our congregational life during this time and encourage you to do so. For those who have inquired about continuing financial support, we draw your attention to four ways this can be done.

1. **First Things First** is the monthly Pre-Authorized Remittance, and Cindy, our church administrator can facilitate changes if someone needs to discontinue at this time or if you would like to be added (even for a few months). Simply contact Cindy at office@firstunitedchurchottawa.org and she will facilitate.
2. **E-transfers** are now possible. Please send the e-transfers to treasurer@firstunitedchurchottawa.org This confidential and password protected email, managed by our Donations coordinator, Dale Walker, and Cindy, our church Administrator, will transfer the money to First United and the donations will be recorded for an income tax receipt. Remember to indicate what the donation is designated for (i.e. General Fund, Mission & Service, Westboro Food Bank, etc). Please include in the email any other necessary instructions for Dale and Cindy.
3. **Cheques** can be mailed to the church, 347 Richmond Road, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 0E7. The mail is checked regularly and a deposit made on a weekly basis. Again, indicate any designation for the donation and the donation will be recorded for an income tax receipt.

Social and Ecological Justice

Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Support Veteran's House at Multifaith Housing Initiative

First United is a partner of Multifaith Housing Initiative and is delighted that Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council is supporting the **United We Stand** campaign to raise funds for Veterans House. Veteran's House is a project to support homeless veterans. Commissionaires Ottawa is matching every donation up to \$150,000 received from United Church congregations and other faith groups. Church Council will share more information about how you can support this project at our November 8th Sunday Service.



For the **Love**
of **Creation**

For the **Love** of **Creation** *Fall Online Forum*

Every Monday in November from 7:30-8:30 p.m. on Zoom

Nov. 2: Communicating Climate Change

Learn how we can most effectively communicate about climate change and the need for urgent action. Hear from communications experts and learn more about our *Faithful Climate Conversations*.

Nov. 9th: Advocating for Climate Justice

Explore the core elements of the *For the Love of Creation* policy asks with a grounding in the work of faith-based organizations and the perspectives of people with lived experience.

Nov. 16th: Grieving, Healing, and Connecting with Creation

Participate in a service of lament with singing and silence, explore therapy tools and hear from specialists on processing collective and individual grief. Learn ways to connect with Creation for Healing and spiritual growth (English only).

Nov. 23rd: Creation Care: A Letter of the Faithful

Explore theologies of creation care and learn about our process to develop a "Letter of the Faithful for the Love of creation" that will reflect theologically grounded dialogue about climate justice and global warming from across the country. Join us in prayer for creation.

Nov. 30th: Climate Action Now!

Bring together all elements explored in the forum: theology, communications, grief, healing and climate justice advocacy and participate in collective climate action online. Participants will be invited to bring mindfulness about the climate emergency into the holiday season and to contemplate ongoing engagement in the work of climate justice.

English/French translation will be available for all sessions except Nov 16th. Register at: <http://bit.ly/flcforum2020>

Universal Basic Income: The United Church of Canada is formally supporting efforts to adopt a Universal Basic Income. This involves supporting legislation for the Canadian government to adopt a universal basic income program that would ensure a guaranteed annual income for everyone adequate to meet basic needs, allowing all people to live with dignity regardless of work status. E-mail our prime minister and deputy prime minister today. For more details, visit <https://www.united-church.ca>