

First Glance

March 20, 2021

(613) 232-1016 office@firstunitedchurchottawa.org
www.firstunitedchurchottawa.org

On-Line Services for Holy Week at First United

Sunday March 28th

Palm Passion Sunday 11:15 a.m.

Palm Passion Pageant “A Second Pandemic Passover”

This year, youth and children will participate in our first ever Palm Passion Pageant, a pageant that will continue the story introduced during our Christmas Pageant. This will be an event you will not want to miss as we reenact the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey.

Thursday, April 1st 7:00 p.m.

Holy Thursday: Gathering for a Table liturgy

In the Biblical tradition, Jesus gathered with his closest friends and followers for a holy conversation at a holy meal within the context of a holy week. In this gathering, we will symbolically participate in both the holy conversation and the holy meal as we reflect on our own holy week journey.

Friday, April 2nd 3:00 p.m.

Good Friday Litany

This service, coinciding with the recorded time for the death of Jesus, is a service of disclosure, lament and prayer for where Christ is still crucified in our world today. This prayerful service is a service of solidarity as we listen to the Passion as told in the gospel of Mark.

Sunday, April 4th 11:15 a.m.

Easter Sunday

This service celebrates the mysteries of resurrection and will include several joyful music as we tell our faith story during a season of Pandemic. We will pay attention to our second virtual Easter celebration.

Update from our Covid-19 Taskgroup:

With the appearance of vaccinations (some in our congregation already recipients), the Covid-19 task group is focusing attention on the resumption of in-person gatherings. Exactly how or when this will happen is still unknown, but the task group is monitoring public health guidelines and will develop protocols to ensure the safety and comfort of all when the time comes. The task group consists of Sandra Ballantyne, Shirley Paton, Jane Sly, and Brian Cornelius and if you have any questions, concerns, or input, they can be contacted through the office.

On-line Children/Youth Programming

Nikki Nel continues to provide on-line Children's programming. From 10:15 to 11:00 a.m., she offers a class for younger children (ages 5 to 10) and beginning at 12:15 p.m. for older children (ages 9 to 13). Please contact Nikki Nel at nikkinelteacher@gmail.com for the Zoom link, the package of crafts and lessons that will be delivered to your home. Leaders of Rite 13 and J2A continue with on-line programming as well.

Updates from Church Council

Report from Annual General Meeting

Living Ministry and Update on Children, Youth, and Intergenerational Position. At the meeting, in addition to adopting our Living Ministry priorities that focus on pastoral care and discernments related to our return to in-person gatherings as well as implementation of actions emerging from the Ottawa Center Cluster, the congregation confirmed an on-going commitment to being an inter-generational church. We continue to name a desire to hire a three-year contract position to support Children, Youth and Intergenerational Ministry. Given the uncertainties of the specifics and timeline for a return to in-person gatherings, we will not have this position in place for September but do anticipate that a proposal will be ready for congregational consideration at a congregational meeting sometime in the Fall. In the meantime, Council will be undertaking preparatory work.

2020 Budget and First Things First (Pre-Authorized Remittance): Andrew Clark, treasurer, provided financial information about the small surplus in 2020 and outlined the 2021 Budget which includes a 2% increase in congregational giving. Andrew invited all those who are able to increase their First Things First (Pre-Authorized Remittance) by 2% for 2021. He also encouraged congregants to consider signing up for First Things First since this regular monthly contribution is simple and, for most people, is the easiest way to regularly support the congregation. Cindy Cherry, our church administrator, provide more information for both changes and joining.

Church Council Membership Transitions: Sandra Ballantyne begins a two-year term as Chair of Church Council. We also welcome Chris Henschel, Tara Phillips, and Mirelle Ward-King as new members to Council. Lisa Nafziger, who finishes her term as Chair, will still be on Council as past-chair until 2022. Thanks were offered to Amelia Buchanan and Elena Powell who both finished serving four years on Council.

Financial Update:

Church Council is grateful to the congregation for the continued support of community life both at First United and beyond.

<u>To February 28</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
General	28,703	28,915	32,000	(3,085)
Mission & Service	5,220	5,375	5,800	(425)

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. Here are ways to contribute.

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 through treasurer@firstunitedchurchottawa.org This is a direct deposit and so no password is necessary. Remember to indicate what the donation is designated for (i.e. General Fund, Mission & Service, Westboro Food Bank, etc.) so that our donations manager, Dale Walker, and our Administrator, Cindy Cherry, can properly record the donation for receipt purposes.
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.

Ministries and Small Groups at First United

Healing Pathway Spiritual Care Package (*available on the First United website*): The Healing Pathway ministry at First United has prepared a spiritual care package. 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, and reaching out safely to one another and to those who are vulnerable and isolated. **Distance Healing Pathway sessions** are available by contacting healingpathway2010@gmail.com

Mental Health Strategies for the Winter of Covid-19 (*available on the First United website*): The “Let’s Talk About Mental Health” group has developed resources to support mental health through the winter of Covid-19. Please reach out for pastoral support when you need. The **Let’s Talk About Mental Health** Zoom discussion is led by Jessica Ward-King and Zachary Houle and will meet on Sunday, March 21st at 12:30 p.m. and every other Sunday after that. To register contact j.ward-king@hotmail.com

Monday Morning Living into Right Relations on-line Book Club:

For years, a book club has met to read and discuss living into right relations with the First Peoples of Canada. On Mondays, from 9:30 - 11:30 am, the group is 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 On-line 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.

Thursday Evening On-Line Choir Practice: The choir, under the leadership of Marg Stubington, continues to meet on-line at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings.

A stitch in time on Saturday’s at 10:00 a.m:

Have you been knitting or sewing in pandemic days? Have you been musing about metaphors and the symbolic nature of these activities? If you crave a chance to get together both physically present while safely distanced, you might be interested in joining with up to 6 people to share and show. If you are interested, please contact Jane Sly at janeelizsly@gmail.com

Through Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council

Reading Mark Ecologically

Tuesday Evenings, April 6-May 18, 2021, 7:00-9:00 pm. All are welcome to join this discussion series exploring passages from the Gospel of Mark not only for the human and the holy but also for habitat. Join us as we read our sacred story with an ecological lens.

To register: <https://united-church.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0rceyrgTkpHNbq48UPyjGYSdvoE5PMwcQg>