

First Glance

September 2021

(613) 232-1016 office@firstunitedchurchottawa.org

www.firstunitedchurchottawa.org

Sunday Gatherings Through September

Season of Creation

Presently, we are offering hybrid Sunday Gatherings at 11:15 a.m., providing access to the service through Zoom or in-person. We have capacity for about 50 in-person and to date our maximum attendance has been 20. So if you want to come, please don't hesitate to register your intention at office@firstunitedchurchottawa.org and we always leave space for visitors and those who decide at the last minute. We also fully appreciate that individuals are accessing the services in the way they feel most comfortable, freedom of choice in attending on-line, in-person through video is honoured.

September 12th – Emerging from Summer Sabbath: Celebrating Community with Holy Communion
Theme: Remembering Feelings

September 19th – From Babies to Seniors: Celebrating Intergenerational Faith Communities
Theme: Remembering Seven Generations

September 26th – Soul Space: Celebrating Faith Within and Beyond our Faith Community
Theme: Orange Shirts as part of co-creating

Children and Youth Programming For September

Children (ages 4 to 10): Nikki will resume on-line classes on September 12 from 10:15 to 11:00 a.m. and an in-person option from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Children will be in the class the whole time while parents can attend the Sunday gathering if they wish.

Rite 13 (Youth born in years 2008, 2009, and 2010): Pat Lindsey, Mary Donaghy, and Ruby Alguire will be providing in-person leadership to Rite 13 beginning September 12. An e-mail invitation will happen or, for those new in the church, contact the church office and we will put you into contact with the leaders.

J2A 2022 (Youth born in years 2006 and 2007): In-person gatherings begin each Sunday starting on September 12th. Jillian Buckie, Jane Sly and Robert VanderBerg offer leadership. An e-mail invitation will happen or, for those new in the church, contact the church office and we will put you into contact with the leaders.

J2A 2020 (Youth born in years 2004 and 2006): Joelle Morgan and Brian Cornelius continue to offer leadership and will be planning a monthly in-person gathering.

Covid 19 Taskgroup

Sandra Ballantyne, Shirley Paton, and Jane Sly, Marg Stubington and Brian Cornelius continue to meet regularly to monitor developments during this fourth wave, review Public Health guidelines and from there develop and update our church practices. Our focus is to ensure the safety of our community and to communicate our best wisdom.

On-going Spirit Support at First United

Healing Pathway

The Healing Pathway ministry at First United remains active as we 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 and plans are being explored to initiate in-person sessions at the beginning of October. A **Healing Pathway Spiritual Care Package is available on the First United website**

First United Choir

The choir has meet regularly via Zoom since the beginning of this season of Covid-19. Explorations are occurring about in-person practices. If you are interested in being part of the choir, please contact Marg Stubington at marg@firstunitedchurchottawa.org

Small Groups at First United

Let's Talk About Mental Health, Sunday at 12:30: This group meets via Zoom at 12:30 every other week. In September, they are meeting on Sunday the 12th and Sunday the 26th. To get the zoom invitation contact Jessica Ward-King at 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, beginning September 13th, from 9:30 - 11:30 am, the group will discuss the book by Jesse Thistle: ***From the Ashes, My Story of Being Metis, Homeless and Finding My Way*** with the plan to cover the contents over three or four weeks. 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.

Friday Afternoon TGIF Gathering, occurs at 1:00 every Friday afternoon, through a creative confluence of Zoom, telephone calls, email conversations, and possibly in-person in the coming days. If you are interested, contact Ruth Stewart-Verger at ruth.stewartverger@gmail.com.

Saturday - A stitch in time (On-line gathering on Saturday at 10:00 a.m.):

Come and join us Saturday mornings at 10:00 for a time of friendly conversation ranging from books we are reading to current events, politics and sometimes what we are making. No need to stare intently at the screen, you are free to look at your knitting, stitching, paper crafts, doodles or nothing at all. If you would like to join us, contact Jane Sly at janeelizsly@gmail.com to be sent the zoom link.

From Church Council

Congregational Meeting on Sunday October 17th: There will be a Zoom congregational meeting on Sunday, October 17th in the evening (time to be confirmed). Part of the agenda will include discussion for the congregation to make decisions regarding support of Intergenerational, Youth and Children's programming. More information will be shared with you prior to this congregational meeting.

Financial Report: A financial report is included on the last page of First Glance.

Social and Ecological Justice

Remember Me: A National Day of Remembrance – September 30th (9:00 to 5:00) Preserving Orange Shirt Day

This event is a peaceful and meaningful memorial and remembrance that will meaningfully honour the spirits of the children who died, the survivors, the families and communities that are affected by Indian residential schools and all Indigenous child apprehension programs. It is also a day to show unity in our efforts to bridge the gap between Canadians and Indigenous people; it is an opportunity to embrace diversity and promote equality. Above all, it will encourage dialog, active citizenship and social responsibility in our youth. This initiative was birthed immediately after the discovery of the massive unmarked grave of 215 Indigenous children at the Kamloops Residential School in British Columbia. Since writing this, the number of unmarked graves has risen above 1300. We prepare now for more discoveries, the excavation of the little ones and brace ourselves for more.

Opening Ceremony: Parliament Hill • 9am

Spirit Walk: Led by Indigenous Grandmothers, Mothers, Daughters and Aunties • 12pm • Walk from Parliament Hill to Confederation Park.

Indigenous Children Then, Now, and Tomorrow: Online Panel, 29 September:

Indigenous Ministries and Justice is hosting an Orange Shirt Day panel on September 29, 2021 at 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. ET. Panelists Allison Forsberg, Jocelyn Formsma, Leeann Shimoda, and the Rev. Murray Pruden will explore how Indigenous children and families were and continue to be impacted by colonialism. They will answer a series of questions posed by our moderator Springwater Hester-Meawassige, which will touch on a range of topics including Indigenous Children in Residential Schools, Sixties Scoop, Millennial Scoop, and bringing our children home. For more information or to sign up please [visit the United in Learning website](#).

The Project of the Heart Orange Shirt Day on September 30th at Beechwood

Cemetery's National Memorial Centre's Sacred Space for the unveiling of the first-ever public display of 57,000 tiles that people in Ottawa helped to create or supported others who were involved in the process. The Project of Heart commemorative tiles will be displayed as a memory labyrinth for guests to learn the historical and contemporary truths of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples and their relationship with Canada.

To find out more about what will be happening at Beechwood Cemetery on that day, please click here: <https://landing.beechwoodottawa.ca/en/nationaldayoftruthandreconciliation> If you can join us, the link will allow you to register so that Covid protocols can be followed.

Resources to Bring the Children Home: The United Church of Canada is making funds available to support the work of Indigenous communities for the identification of unmarked graves, knowledge gathering, and ceremony to honour the children who did not return home from its 15 residential schools. More information can be seen on First United website under “breaking news”. Read the full article:

<https://united-church.ca/news/resources-bring-children-home>

September is Climate Change Month
Supported by KAIROS
(an ecumenical group that First United is a formal member)

Climate Action Month happens as the world continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery; as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change releases yet another dire warning for the planet; as calls for truth and reconciliation reach new levels of urgency in Canada; and as Canadians prepare for a federal election.

Each day in September, KAIROS will share information on a topic related to climate change, with the goal of motivating and inspiring a daily practice of taking action for the climate. The month will be centered around weekly themes, with supporting resources for each, including reports, videos, theological reflection, events and more. We will highlight the work of KAIROS member churches, feature stories from global partners, and showcase communities that are taking concrete steps to address the climate emergency.

Every Friday, we will feature actions related to the weekly themes and every Saturday, we invite folks to make space to connect with Creation in whatever way is accessible and available to you. We will provide some resources for contemplation as an option to guide those moments of connection.

Weekly themes:

Sept 1-4: Season of Creation
Sept 5-11: Climate Ambition and Just Transition
Sept 12-18: Indigenous Rights
Sept 19-25: Global Climate Justice
Sept 26-30: Climate Solutions

Key dates and events (registration is on-line): <https://www.kairoscanada.org/>-

- **Sept 9, 16, and 23:** For the Love of Creation Advocacy Webinar Series on climate finance, Indigenous rights, and climate ambition and transition - 7 pm.
- **Sept 14:** Local Climate Action: Successes, Struggles and Hope for the Work Ahead - 7-9 pm EDT
- **Sept 24:** Global Climate Strike

Financial Update from Church Council:

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

<u>To August</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
General	124,899	123,069	133,500	(10,431)
Mission & Service	22,150	21,556	23,200	(1,644)

For those choosing e-transfer, the email is treasurer@firstunitedchurchottawa.org. If you want any information on our Pre-authorized remittance, contact Cindy Cherry, our church administrator at office@firstunitedchurchottawa.org