

First Glance

March 19th, 2017

(613) 232-1016 office@firstunitedchurchottawa.org

A Lenten Spirit Journey

Water is Speaking: Are we Listening?

Indigenous Perspective on Water, our Sacred Response

Wednesdays March 22, 29, and April 5

Irving LeBlanc *Thirsty in Their Own Land*

How is it that so many First Nations communities lack the clean drinking water the rest of us take for granted?

An estimated 20,000 First Nations people living on reserves across Canada have no access to running water or sewage. What has caused this deplorable situation, and what needs to be done to correct it?

Our speaker is Assembly of First Nations representative on water, wastewater, source water protection and emergency management issues, Irving Leblanc. He is an Odawa and a member of Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve located on Manitoulin Island.

We will also be doing a water ritual and giving time for participant engagement around water issues.

ASW'S LENTEN STUDIES

Susan Chambers from First invites you to join her and members from ASW in attending Reflections on the Book of Genesis (Tuesdays March 28th, April 4, 18, 25, and May 2nd from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm) is a five week course offered by Ray Van Leeuwen, a professor of Old Testament.

To register call the ASW office at 613-725-9478.

Earth Hour – Shine a Light on Climate Action

March 25th - 8:30-9:30 pm We will mark Earth Hour with a community gathering in the sanctuary on Saturday, March 25th between 8:30 and 9:30 pm. There will be time for song, for reflection and for sharing thoughts on the importance of Earth Hour. For further information contact Maryanne MacDonald at maryanne.macd@gmail.com

More "Remits"

As a democratic "bottom up" church, remits are "votes" within the United Church of Canada whenever major changes are considered. On Sunday March 19 (after worship) and Tuesday March 21 (7-8:30), everyone is invited to come and learn about, discuss and provide wisdom two remits titled Office of Vocation and One Order of Ministry. This discussion will be facilitated by Wendy Snelgrove and Susan Chambers, who will offer a brief overview, and then invite some in our congregation who have experience related to these two remits. While not necessary to read in advance in order to participate in the conversation, if you are interested in getting more information, please visit <http://www.gc42.ca/remits>.

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First United: An Affirming Congregation

NEWS FROM FIRST UNITED

Lent - Good News: Stories Alive with Grace and Truth

Throughout Lent we will be reflecting on stories told in the gospel of John. These narratives are multi-layered, a layering that helps us to connect with our deepest feelings. In reflecting on these stories we encounter moments of stark honesty and surprising humour, encounters which surface both tears and laughter.

March 26th God's Resurrecting Love: The Raising of Lazarus
Choral Anthem: *Let the River Run* – Carly Simon, arr. C.H. Johnson

April 2nd Celebrating Baptism: Jesus Halts a Stoning
Choral Anthem: *I Hunger and Thirst* – trad. Shaker Song, Kevin Siegfried

Interested in Learning About Syrian Cooking?

Interested in learning a new culinary skill this spring? The women's collective "Yasmin: Syrian food from the heart" is offering a five-week introductory course, here at First, beginning on Thursday, April 20. We will gather at 5:30 and prepare a meal, which we will enjoy together at the end of each class. The full cost, which includes the food, is \$170. If you are interested, please contact Mary Donaghy at mbadonaghy@rogers.com or [613-829-7788](tel:613-829-7788).

TGIF invites you to a Farewell Luncheon for Sue Taylor

Sue will be leaving our congregation and Ottawa to begin another chapter on her journey. Join us for a finger food potluck farewell gathering on March 24th between 3:00 and 6:30 pm in the Party Room at 1081 Ambleside Drive. Bring a memory of your relationship with Sue for a memory book. For further info contact the office or Maryanne MacDonald at maryanne.macd@gmail.com

As a gift for Sue, we will receive donations for Youth who are walking in the Tulip-a-thon for Multi Faith Housing Initiative in honour of Sue's extensive work with MHI over the years.

A Spirit and Theological Chat Topic: The United Church and Gretta Vosper Monday, April 3 at 7 p.m. – Room 5/6

You are invited to join Laura Bonnett, Dorothy Naylor, and Brian Cornelius for a discussion on the relationship between Gretta Vosper and The United Church of Canada. Many of you have read the articles in the Observer and if you plan to attend, we will forward you some further background material. RSVP to the office@firstunitedchurchottawa.org

Regeneration of Communities of Faith Saturday, March 25, 2017 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

Ottawa Presbytery hosts a workshop on Regeneration of Communities of Faith at Rideau Park United Church. Come and talk about what your congregation is doing now, and where you would like to be headed in future. We will have resource people, information about what is happening in Ottawa Presbytery churches and those in other Presbyteries and in other faith communities, and discussions with people in other congregations like your own. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. No costs. If you wish to attend, please send your names to Ed Gratton (edgratton2120@bell.net) or Phyllis MacRae (pmjmacrae@rogers.com) or to the Presbytery Office.

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SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

WEEKLY/MONTHLY SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS

Young Adults Potluck Gathering: Tuesday, March 21st at Brian's house at 7 Edgar Street.
For more information, contact Amelia Buchanan at abuch078@uottawa.ca

Queer Group Potluck: Tuesday, March 28th at the home of Brian Cornelius, 7 Edgar Street.
For more information, contact Brian or Chantel Nantel at cnantel555@gmail.com

Parents with Small Children Potluck: Our next gathering is Saturday, April 1st gathering at 4:45 pm to begin our potluck supper at 5:00 pm. Childcare is provided beginning at 5:20 pm leaving opportunity for parents to explore faith and life together.

Monday Christian Meditation: Every Monday at 5:30 pm in the Chapel.
For more information: Joyce Hardman jhardman@rogers.com or Liz Tyrwhitt liz.tyrwhitt@sympatico.ca.

Mental Health (MH+) Postive Space: Our next gathering is Wednesday April 19th, a chance to talk about mental health where stigmas are "checked at the door" . Contact is Jessica Ward-King King@hotmail.com

TGIF: Our TGIF group, which is primarily seniors but not exclusively, meets on **Fridays at 1:30** in Room 5/6. Newcomers are welcome! Call Betty at 613-722-9038 for more information.

Tuesday Morning Book Study Group: We are studying "I am Woman" by Lee Maracle.
For information, please contact Sue Taylor at susanne_taylor@rogers.com.

Living Into Right Relations Circle (LRRC): First Wednesday of every month, in the Chapel at 7 p.m.
For information on Book Club and Right Relations Circle, contact Diana Claire Douglas at inspiritworks@sympatico.ca or Sharon Moon sharonmoon@gmail.com.

Healing Pathway: Offer Yourself the Gift of Self-Care and Healing Hands. Tuesdays and occasional Sundays after church. All are welcome to receive. There is no cost. You can find out more in the pamphlets on the bulletin board and at the back of the church.

Contact healingpathway2010@gmail.com to make an appointment.

JourneyDance: Classes on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month (March 24th, April 7th, April 21st)
Hard Times Require Furious Dancing. Contact drkhowell@hotmail.com and see flyers for more details

"Into Our Collective Heart: Where the Personal and Collective Meet. Tuesday, March 21st from 6:30 to 9:30 in the Chancel of First United Church

Diana Claire Douglas is offering a monthly gathering where you can join with others to explore new ways to become sacred activists ready to serve the larger collective. Even in the face of so many societal challenges (climate change, polarized politics, refugees, right relations with indigenous people etc) let's co-create the most beautiful world our hearts can imagine!

This is an open group. New participants welcome!

dianaclairedouglas@bell.net [613-799-1343](tel:613-799-1343)

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First United: An Affirming Congregation

Report from Annual Meeting:

We ended the year with a small surplus! Copies of the Annual Report and our Reviewed Financial statements are available on the back table. We had a good meeting and are grateful for the wonderful support from so many in our congregation. ***Please take time to read the reports and celebrate all that has happened in our congregational life.***

At the meeting, we did approve a budget which relies on a 3% to 5% increase in our givings, and invite all who are able to make such an adjustment to your givings (PAR adjustments can be made by simply sending at email to Margo den Haan in the office, and if you would like to start giving this way, Margo can facilitate your participation). Church Council expresses deep gratefulness and invites you to express gratefulness to one another for your ongoing support of our community of faith

<u>To February 28th</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
General Fund	31,446	31,288	34,200	(2,912)
Mission & Service	5,483	5,301	5,800	(499)

SOCIAL JUSTICE



WESTBORO REGION FOOD BANK

Our food bank has a material request

The Westboro Region Food Bank's clients don't always have strong bags to carry their food. If you have lots of cloth grocery bags and can spare a few, the WRFB can put them to good use. You can simply hang them on the door of the food bank. (From the Madison entrance of the church, take the stairs down and to the left. At the end of the hall, turn left again and you're at the WRFB.)

Volunteers are also needed for a variety of tasks. Your commitment can be once-only or weekly—or as frequently as you can manage. Our website gives more information. Please go to <http://westborofoodbank.wixsite.com/westborofoodbank> and click 'Volunteer' or email WestboroRegionFoodBank@gmail.com.

Thanks so much for your ongoing support and interest in the Westboro Region Food Bank!

Multi Faith Housing Initiative Fifteenth Annual General Meeting

**With special guest Councillor Jan Harder - Ward 3 Barrhaven
&
Hear from one of our new tenants at the Haven!**

Sunday, March 26th, 2017
Barrhaven United Church, 3013 Jockvale Road

Registration: 2:30 - 3:00 p.m.

General Meeting: 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Reception to follow

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