

# First Glance

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

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## A Lenten Spirit Journey

### Water is Speaking: Are we Listening?

*Indigenous Perspective on Water, our Sacred Response*  
Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>

The fifth of our Lenten series on "Water is Speaking: Are We listening? Indigenous Perspectives on Water: Our Sacred Resource."

The theme for the evening is ***Citizens Caring for Water***.

We have a full evening planned this Wednesday! Deniseanne Boissoneau will offer sacred indigenous teachings and water blessings. David Chernushenko, Ottawa City Councillor and chair of the Environment and Climate Protection Committee, will share his personal stories about his love and appreciation for water and how he brings this into the political realm.

Joyce Hardman and Diana Claire Douglas will facilitate processes for participant reflection and commitment about our personal relationship with water: *Loving Water: Making it Personal*.

**Wed April 5<sup>th</sup> The Sanctuary, First United 7 to 9pm**

Doors open at 6:40

## EXTREME HUNGER APPEAL



The United Church of Canada is launching an [Extreme Hunger Appeal](#) as the humanitarian crisis in Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen reaches grave levels. Starvation and extreme hunger are rapidly reaching a scale the world has not seen before in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen. There is also extreme hunger, malnutrition, and starvation in Kenya. Vulnerable people are most impacted, including children.

If you wish to give to this special fund of Mission & Service, please make your donation to **First United**, but mark it clearly for the "Extreme Hunger Appeal."

## Lawn Signs in Arabic, French and English

Lawn signs which say "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbour" have arrived. We ask for a \$10.00 donation for printing costs and to support our refugee ministry.

### The United Church Ottawa Presbytery supports Ottawa Becoming a Sanctuary City

Ottawa Presbytery passed a motion to support the proposal to make Ottawa a Sanctuary City. If you are interested in supporting this effort, please express your support by visiting [ottawasanctuarycity.ca](http://ottawasanctuarycity.ca) or [facebook.com/SanctuaryCityOttawaVilleSanctuaire](https://www.facebook.com/SanctuaryCityOttawaVilleSanctuaire)

[www.firstunitedchurchottawa.org](http://www.firstunitedchurchottawa.org)

***First United:*** An Affirming Congregation

# NEWS FROM FIRST UNITED

## *Holy Week: Stories Alive with Grace and Truth*

Throughout Holy Week we are 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.

### Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> 11:15 a.m. Palm Parade and Passion Sunday

This Sunday embodies the paradox of Holy Week where we journey through the extremes of human experience encountering both deep despair and ecstatic joy. We begin with parade and end in silence.

### Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Holy Conversation and Taizé Communion

In the Biblical tradition of Jesus gathering with his closest friends and followers for a Holy conversation over a holy meal, this service will give opportunity for sharing with one another in small circles before gathering together where we sing Taizé music and share Holy Communion without talking. This is an evening for breaking open the heart through intimate conversation and then through music and silence

### Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> 3:00 p.m. Good Friday Litany

This service, coinciding with the time Jesus died, is a service of lament and prayer for where Christ is still crucified in our world today. This prayerful service allows us to join in solidarity as we listen to the "passion" as told in the gospel of Matthew.

### Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup> 11:15 a.m. Easter Sunday

This celebration of the resurrection story invites us to experience rebirth and renewal. Our celebrative music will include several joyful anthems, as as we join together to celebrate Holy Communion.

### Hospitality Teams from April to June

We are inviting you to sign up for a hospitality team to host conversation and refreshments after worship for at least one Sunday from April to June. In the Fall, we will be implementing an updated system for hospitality, and want to ensure that our present teams have enough support for now. Please visit Bev Hellman in the Labyrinth Room today or contact her at [hellman.bev@gmail.com](mailto:hellman.bev@gmail.com)

### Report from Church Council

Copies of the Annual Report and our Reviewed Financial statements are available on the back table where we ended the year with a small surplus. 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.

For 2017, we approved 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 28</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
General Fund	48,563	47,774	51,300	(3,526)
Mission & Service	8,462	8,043	8,700	( 657)

# SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

## WEEKLY/MONTHLY SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS

**Young Adults Potluck Gathering:** Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at Brian's house at 7 Edgar Street beginning at 6:15. For more information, contact Amelia Buchanan at [abuch078@uottawa.ca](mailto:abuch078@uottawa.ca)

**Queer Group Potluck:** Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at the home of Paul Durber, 375 Third Avenue beginning at 6:15. For more information, contact Brian or Chantel Nantel at [cnantel555@gmail.com](mailto:cnantel555@gmail.com)

**Parents with Small Children Potluck:** Our next gathering is Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:jhardman@rogers.com) or Liz Tyrwhitt [liz.tyrwhitt@sympatico.ca](mailto:liz.tyrwhitt@sympatico.ca).

**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](mailto: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](mailto:inspiritworks@sympatico.ca) or Sharon Moon [sharonmoon@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:healingpathway2010@gmail.com) to make an appointment.

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

### Gathering of Men for Breakfast at 9:00 a.m, Sunday April 9<sup>th</sup> at Donna's Restaurant

**Reflections on the Book of Genesis:** Susan Chambers from First invites you to join her and members from ASW in attending (Tuesdays April 4, 18, 25, and May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm) a five week course offered by Ray Van Leeuwen, a professor of Old Testament. To register call the ASW office at 613-725-9487.

### 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.

# SOCIAL JUSTICE



## THANK YOU

My grateful thanks to you all for the delightful drop-in farewell party on Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. On a grey and wintry day it was festive with bright hats and balloons. Thanks for your best wishes, cards, and kind words. I will think of my First family often as I set off on a new venture.

Blessings!

*Sue Taylor*

## DAY OF PINK GALA

The Canadian Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity is proud to invite you to our 12th Anniversary Day of Pink Gala on **April 12<sup>th</sup>** at the Horticulture Building, Ottawa (1525 Princess Patricia Way, Ottawa, ON K1S 5J3) from 5:30-7:30 pm.

Join us for this fabulous FREE EVENT! With limited spots we ask that you please RSVP NOW Find out more information as the event unfolds at <http://dayofpink.org>.

The Gala is a fabulous event featuring a glamorous reception and an award ceremony.

At the award ceremony, we will bestow the Youth Role Model of the Year Awards to leaders from across Canada who have gone above and beyond in the fight against bullying and discrimination. Past recipients include Rick Mercer, Jack Layton and Stephen Lewis.

## NALOXONE WORKSHOP

**Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm in Steacy Hall**

All Saints' Westboro with St. Matthias and First United is sponsoring a training event for the administration of the life-saving drug Naloxone, the Opioid inhibiting drug. This event is a public service and is open to any who want to attend, provided they contact the Parish office ([613-725-9487](tel:613-725-9487) or [office@allsaintswestboro.com](mailto:office@allsaintswestboro.com)) beforehand. In order to obtain a Naloxone kit at the workshop participants must provide their name, date of birth and OHIP number at the time of registration. This information will be treated confidentially and is being collected in order to cover the costs of the treatment medication and equipment through OHIP. This training event is offered free of charge as our part in preparing for the Opioid usage crisis already taking part in many places in Canada.



**Join Citizens for Public Justice** and the Canadian Council of Churches  
for an evening with Regina, Saskatchewan author and naturalist Trevor Herriot.

The discussion will focus on Herriot's latest book, Towards a Prairie Atonement where he recounts what happened to First Nations and Metis communities on the Saskatchewan/Manitoba border who were moved off the grasslands. Herriot melds beautiful writing about the natural world with spirituality and a critical social analysis.

Christ Church Cathedral (414 Sparks Street) | Ottawa  
7:30pm | Monday, **April 3, 2017**

RSVP at [cpi@cpi.ca](mailto:cpi@cpi.ca)

Copies of Towards a Prairie Atonement will be available for purchase and author signing.

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