

# First Glance

April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

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## *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.

### 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 is an opportunity for holy conversation in small circles. This is followed by an absence of talk as we sing Taizé music and share Holy Communion without words.

### Friday, April 14<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.

### Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. Join with All Saints Anglican for Easter Vigil

During this service there will be a dedication of the new baptismal font.

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.

### Bicycles for Syrian Refugees



We are looking for 4 bikes for the four School age children in the large Syrian refugee family that arrived in late December. We need suitable bikes for the 2 twins, a boy and girl in grade 6 and one bike each for the girls in grade 8 and 9; any accessories like locks, panniers, etc. would be appreciated. Also is there anyone able to help us with tune ups/ minor repairs for these bikes? If you can help please contact Shirley Paton at [patonshirley@gmail.com](mailto:patonshirley@gmail.com)

### 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.

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# NEWS FROM FIRST UNITED

## A Sabbatical Time at First United

Our minister, Brian, is on sabbatical taking time for spiritual renewal as well as reflecting on creative congregational responses to societal changes impacting church life. Sabbatical shifts our routines that can rejuvenate the whole community and provide energy for new insights and perspectives to emerge.

Our whole congregation are “ministers”. To facilitate our work, Peter Farris-Manning is hired as a Sabbatical Logistics Coordinator ([peter@firstunitedchurchottawa.org](mailto:peter@firstunitedchurchottawa.org)). Peter will coordinate responses to incoming requests and is supported by a Sabbatical Team--Norman Ball (staff and refugees) Jane Ellis (finance and administration), and Carol McMurdo-Paton (spiritual nurture and pastoral care). The Presbytery appointed Howard Clark as the Pastoral Charge Supervisor for additional support.

In addition to our ongoing networks of pastoral care (i.e. Healing Pathway, TGIF, etc) we have a list of congregational volunteers and retired ministers who are available to offer pastoral support, and contact can be made with Peter or the Church Administrator, Margo.

Our Sunday services, supported by Marg and Peter, highlight the leadership and ministries that embody our congregational commitments to spiritual nurture in community, to healing, and to social and ecological justice.

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|------------------------|---|---|
| April 23 <sup>rd</sup> | <b><i>Dark Sacred Night, Bright Scared Dawn</i></b><br>Leadership by Church Council   | Coordinators: Brian and Heather Menzies |
| April 30 <sup>rd</sup> | <b><i>Psalms of Faith</i></b><br>Leadership by Choir  | Coordinator: Marg Stubington            |
| May 7 <sup>th</sup>    | <b><i>Listening to the Echo – And Beyond (with Holy Communion)</i></b><br>Leadership of Voluntary Associate Ministers - Ellie Barrington & Tom Sherwood |   |
| May 14 <sup>th</sup>   | <b><i>What I find at Church that I can't find on Netflix</i></b><br>Leadership by Young Adults  | Coordinator: Amelia Buchanan            |
| May 21 <sup>st</sup>   | <b><i>Hope in Times when it is Difficult to Hope</i></b><br>Ministry of Youth and Youth Leaders   | Coordinator: Wendy Snelgrove            |
| May 28 <sup>th</sup>   | <b><i>Seeds of Hope</i></b><br>Leadership by Social Justice Activists   | Coordinator: Marika Morris              |
| June 4 <sup>th</sup>   | <b><i>Spirit Alive (Pentecost Sunday with Holy Communion)</i></b><br>Leadership by Healing Pathway Ministry - Howard Clark & Sharon Moon                |   |
| June 11 <sup>th</sup>  | <b><i>Sacred Dance: Rituals for Reverence</i></b><br>Leadership by JourneyDance   | Coordinator: Kathleen Howell            |
| June 18 <sup>th</sup>  | <b><i>Je suis Donald: A response to Narcissism</i></b><br>Leadership from those inspired by the Arts  | Coordinator: Jane Sly                   |
| June 25 <sup>th</sup>  | <b><i>Indigenous Sunday</i></b><br>Leadership by Living into Right Relations Circle   | Coordinator: Diana Douglas              |

Leadership has been identified for Sundays from July 2<sup>nd</sup> to August 6<sup>th</sup>. Brian returns on Sunday August 13<sup>th</sup>, and during the Fall, there will be time to integrate learnings from this sabbatical time as we nurture a vibrant future together.

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# 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, Class Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>  
Contact [drkhowell@hotmail.com](mailto:drkhowell@hotmail.com) and see flyers for more details

## 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)

## The Salvific Power of Beauty for Spirituality, Ecology and Justice – with Patricia Adams Farmer

A lecture and workshop Friday April 21- Sunday April 23, 2017 at Kitchissippi United Church

Drawing from wisdom of philosophers, theologians, poets and trees this lecture and workshops will explore the variegated landscape of beauty and discover how it can offer a creative ventre for spiritual life, worship, planetary wellbeing and social justice.

To register, email [george@hermanson.ca](mailto:george@hermanson.ca) - See poster on bulletin board for more information -

# SOCIAL JUSTICE



## 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.”

## 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.

## EARTH GROUP RECOMMENDATION

Our Ottawa-based Diana Beresford-Kroeger's film Call of the Forest: The Forgotten Wisdom of Trees is coming to The Bytowne Cinema: Wed Apr 12 7:10; Thurs Apr 13 4:45; Fri Apr 14, 2pm; Sat Apr 15, 4:15pm.



**Multifaith Housing Initiative** warmly invites you to our Annual **Tulipathon** scheduled for **Sunday, May 7th at three o'clock** near Dows Lake at Commissioners Park.

This walkathon brings faith groups together in support of affordable housing. Last year, over 40 different faith communities across Ottawa participated and we raised over \$27K!

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