

First Glance

September 17th, 2017

(613) 232-1016 office@firstunitedchurchottawa.org

Brian Shares Stories and Experiences from his Sabbatical Sojourn in East Africa

Over three Wednesday evenings, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary, Brian will be sharing stories and experiences and insights from his sabbatical sojourn in East Africa.

- Wednesday, September 20th - Shaking Hands with God
Reflection from Ol Doinyo Lengai (the Mountain of God in Masai)
- Wednesday, September 27th – Shaking Hands with the Devil
Reflections on Rwanda 23 years after the Genocide Against the Tutsi
- Wednesday, October 4th – Living Between Two Worlds
Reflections on “gaps” in an inter-related world

Brian welcomes opportunities to connect over a cup of coffee or a mid week conversation, and so don't hesitate to contact him at briancornelius@firstunitedchurchottawa.org

Spirit Speaks Begins September 24th

Anyone is welcome to join Andre Fontaine in conversation in Room 5/6 at the same time children head out for their classes (about 11:35 to 12:15). Conversations focus on a particular question usually inspired from the readings of the Sunday Service. This initiative, supported by our Church Council and minister, appreciates that individuals having differing spirit needs, and varying learning styles. For some, listening to reflections on a Sunday morning serves their needs well, while others prefer an interactive discussion.

Adult Retreat Needs Assessment

As we plan for adult retreats for this coming year, we thought it would be a good time to assess what the congregation is looking for in terms of "retreats". We would appreciate your input as we take time to assess if the current model is meeting the needs of the congregation, or if there are other ideas that might be explored as we seek to provide spiritually nurturing opportunities within a community context. Please go to this survey link (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7BLWGLD>) to provide your anonymous feedback, or fill out a paper survey that will be available on the back table on Sunday. The survey will close on September 30, 2017.

Name tags make a difference 😊

Have you misplaced your name tag or are you new to First? We'd love to make a name tag so that we all have a chance to be known at First and it helps all of us meet others in the congregation. Please print your name on the 'Name tag' sheet found at the back of the church sanctuary or in the Labyrinth Room.

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First United: An Affirming Congregation

NEWS FROM FIRST UNITED

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

September 24th – Ordinary Sunday within Creation – Seas and Land

Scripture: Matthew 19:13-15 – Jesus Welcomes the Children

Celebration of baptism

Anthem: *Stand by Me & White Dove*

October 1st – Ordinary Sunday within Creation - Blessing of Animals

Scripture: Matthew 18:21 – Jesus talks about Reconciliation

October 8th – Ordinary Sunday Within Creation -Thanksgiving Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16 – Parable of the Vineyard Labourers

HOSPITALITY TEAMS – EVERYONE WELCOMES EVERYONE

At First United, we recognize that the responsibility of being hospitable belongs to everyone. As a result, we have hospitality teams. The teams are responsible for welcoming us to church by handing out bulletins, operating the elevator, taking up the offering, and hosting conversation and refreshments. This is also a wonderful way to get to know others in the congregation.

If you are not part of a team and would like to join a team, please contact the office at 613-232-1016 or send an email to office@firstunitedchurchottawa.org or speak with Bev Hellman at hellman.bev@gmail.com

First United is Blessed with amazing children and youth

We are inviting anyone who feels a call to support our youth, children, and nursery programs to speak with Mary Ann Rogers or Brian Cornelius. Our youth and children make us alive with their enthusiasm, and providing nurturing and caring and safe environments for them is a paramount priority for us as a faith community.

We Welcome your voice on Sundays

If you are interested in reading Scripture, giving voice to our prayers, or presiding at our Sunday Gatherings, please indicate your interest to Hugh Robillard at hugh.robillard@rogers.com or let Margo, our church administrator, know at office@firstunitedchurchottawa.org

Thank You:

Church Council wishes to thank everyone for their continued support of our community life here at First. We are grateful for the ongoing commitments in time and financial support. Following is an update of our financial health. Presently, over 100 individuals/families give directly through "First Things First" and those giving in this way are encouraged to take a "card" at the back of the church and place it in the offering plate. For information on supporting First United through "First Things First" or envelopes, contact Margo at the church office.

<u>To August 31</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
General	133,417	136,474	136,800	(316)
Mission & Service	22,857	22,174	23,200	(1,016)

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SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

WEEKLY/MONTHLY SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS

If you have an idea for a small group gathering that you would like to initiate, please contact the office or chat with Brian who will help to facilitate getting it started.

Christian Meditation: Every Monday at 5:30 pm in the Chapel.

For more information contact Joyce Hardman jhardman@rogers.com
or Liz Tyrwhitt liz.tyrwhitt@sympatico.ca.

Healing Pathway: We return this week to our regular weekly schedule. Give yourself the gift of deep relaxation, and healing hands offered in the Spirit for the highest good of mind, body, spirit, emotions. Healing Pathway sessions are offered Tuesday mornings, afternoons, and evenings between 11:00 am and 9:00 pm by appointment. Please contact HealingPathway2010@gmail.com

Living Into Right Relations Circle: Wednesday, September 20th at 7:00 pm at the church. Our circle meets to plan projects and programs for the year ahead as together we seek to be in Right Relations with First Peoples.

Parents with Small Children Potluck: Saturday, September 30th - We gather at the Church beginning at 4:45, begin supper at 5:00. Childcare is provided as parents engage in conversation starting at about 5:20. The evening usually ends around 7:00 p.m.

Queer Group Potluck: Tuesday, September 26th at the home of Brian Cornelius, 7 Edgar Street. For more information contact Chantel Nantel at cnantel555@gmail.com

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

Young Adults Gathering: Tuesday, September 19th at the home of Brian Cornelius, 7 Edgar Street. For more information, contact Amelia Buchanan at abuch078@uottawa.ca



Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

October 28th and November 4th, 2017

Mystery guests . . . Great food, conversation and company . . .
Mark your calendar!

Into Our Collective Heart: Constellating for the Collective

Participate in Systemic Healing Circles

Tuesday Sept 19th from 6:30 to 9:30 at First United Church, corner of Richmond Rd and Churchill

Are you wanting to find a way to serve the Earth, humanity, and all living beings given all the societal challenges we are facing? Come and participate in this systemic whole body/mind, creative approach. It works! Participants say they experience new insights and wisdom that they have not been able to access using any other methodology. These new perspectives shift our relationships with each other and Life, opening up new options for action. Join with others to co-create the most beautiful world our hearts can imagine! This is an open group. New participants welcome!

Facilitator: Diana Claire Douglas For Info: dianaclairedouglas@bell.net 613-799-1343 www.knowingfielddesigns.com

NEWS from ALL SAINTS'

The Rev. Canon John Wilker-Blakley will be moving to the parish of March in Kanata. His last Sunday at All Saints' will be September 24th.

The Rev. Simone Hurkmans was ordained on Wednesday and has been welcomed to the staff at All Saints'.

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SOCIAL JUSTICE

United Church of Canada's Response to Emergencies at Home and around the Globe

The United Church of Canada is monitoring several situations around the world where people are facing the effects of extreme weather events. Please join us in praying "Gather Us, Great Creator" for those impacted by these events, our partners in the regions, and those who remain in harm's way from approaching storms. Find out more about the United Church response to these situations and how you can help at <http://www.united-church.ca>.

The United Church of Canada is accepting donations for relief efforts related to Hurricane Irma. The United Church of Canada works with several churches and agencies throughout the Caribbean region, including ACT Alliance, the Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas, the Cuban Council of Churches, and the Karl Lévêque Cultural Institute. This provides multiple ways that the church can assist people affected by Hurricane Irma to assist with evacuations and emergency shelter where necessary, and to plan for post-storm responses.

In the United States, our full communion partner, the United Church of Christ, is initiating responses to the ongoing wind and flood disaster on the Gulf Coast. The United Church of Christ is accepting donations for these efforts. The United Church of Canada has responded to emergency flood relief efforts in India through Mission & Service partner ACT Alliance and through the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

First Nations communities in northern Manitoba are experiencing devastation from forest fires requiring evacuation. We are tracking this situation closely and are working with our Indigenous colleagues to determine an appropriate response from the people of The United Church of Canada. Please [join the Aboriginal Ministries Circle in prayer](#).

Citizens for Public Justice

Chew on This! Join Citizens for Public Justice in ***Chew on This!***, our annual fall anti-poverty campaign. Each year, on **October 17th**, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, volunteers across Canada hand out ***Chew on This!*** lunch bags containing a food item, a magnet, and a postcard directed to the federal government. This year, we are focused on making sure the federal government hears the voices of people calling for a comprehensive national anti-poverty strategy. **To organize a *Chew on This!* event or for more information, go to dignityforall.ca/chew-on-this or contact Darlene O'Leary at darlene@cpj.ca.**

OTTAWA SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY & SPIRITUALITY

Ottawa School of Theology & Spirituality Investigate ways of thinking about God.

Probe the relationships between art and religion.

Study some of the most influential mystics.

Explore the relationship between being spiritual and being religious. And much more.

Mondays, September 18 to November 27, 2017 and Mondays, January 8 to March 19, March 2018 Dominican University College 96 Empress Ave., Ottawa Wheelchair accessible. Free parking off street parking. Bus #11 has a stop nearby. Cost: \$75.00 per term for 2 courses Registration: On line at www.osts.ca or prior to the first class More info: Karen: [\(613\) 234-2432](tel:6132342432) or Pat: [\(613\) 824-8780](tel:6138248780) or Visit our website at www.osts.ca