

First Glance

December 10th, 2017

(613) 232-1016 office@firstunitedchurchottawa.org

TODAY - Sock Sunday in Support of Centre 507

Thank you for the sock full of items for the use of Centre 507 community members. These socks, stuffed with razors, toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, underwear, lip balm (especially useful in the cold weather) and chocolates (a real treat for many) are appreciated as is our ongoing partnership and financial support to Centre 507, a centre that provides community for many of our Ottawa neighbours. They have launched a new interactive website at www.centre507.org.

We continue to support our partnership organizations in this Christmas season, grateful for the work of the Multifaith Housing Initiative, the Centretown Laundry Co-op, KAIROS, The Healing Pathway Society, and the Westboro Food Bank.

We also partner with the social justice ministry of the United Church of Canada, *Gifts with Vision* is a way to give a meaningful gift to give someone for Christmas as well as a great way to make a difference and show someone that has everything that you care and all without wrapping! You can visit GiftswithVision.ca website or booklets are available on the back table.

Celebrating the 2018 Centre for Christian Studies

Companion of the Centre – Sue Taylor

The Companion of the Centre is awarded annually to acknowledge someone who has made a significant contribution to the work of CCS or whose life and work epitomizes the ideals of CCS. We are pleased to announce that Sue Taylor will be the 2018 Companion of the Centre recipient. Sue will be presented with the award at the Annual Service of Celebration on April 15, 2018.

Looking for Sharing Company with others During the Christmas Season! We are looking at planning a Christmas Dinner sometime during the week of Christmas. The date will be confirmed but if this is of interest to you, please contact office@firstunitedchurchottawa.org. Barb Winthrop is coordinating this event.

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First United: An Affirming Congregation

NEWS FROM FIRST UNITED

Advent At First: Sacred Space to "Sit With"

Advent is a time of waiting and listening as well as an ancient spirit practice of taking space to "sit with" unexpected news, to "sit with" the evolution of life both beautiful and painful, to "sit with" the unfolding of events both inspiring and disconcerting, and to "sit with" the company with whom we journey. This Advent, we intentionally create space for silence and for conversation, for contemplation through stillness and action, for presence with friend and stranger so that our spirits might be stretched through the practice of "sitting with".

Sunday, December 17th *The Candle of Love*
Christmas Pageant: Surprise! A Traditional Pageant (with surprises)

Sunday, December 17th *All Saints' Westboro - Blue Christmas Service - 4:30 p.m.*

Monday, December 18th *Carolling – 6:00-8:00*
 Every year the choir welcomes the whole congregation to join them carolling. Meeting at 6:00pm (Madison Avenue door). A social gathering at Marg Stubington's home follows the singing.

Sunday, December 24th *Christmas Eve*
 11:15 a.m. *Meditative Service with Christmas Readings*
 This service is not a Christmas Eve Service but will focus on the moment when one experiences the cusp of new birth.
 There is no children's programming but childcare will be provided.
 5:45 p.m. *Family Candlelight Service*
 8:00 p.m. *Choral Candlelight Service*

Thank You:

Church Council wishes to thank everyone for their continued support of our community life at First. We are grateful for the ongoing commitments in time and financial support.

Advent Campaign: We are delighted to share with you that we have received \$8,495 of our \$15,000 goal for our Advent Campaign and we will continue receiving donations until the end of the year.

Annual Budget: We are also pleased to inform you that we are close to our goals for our regularly budgeted givings. We are hopeful that with a successful Advent campaign, we will end the year without a deficit.

<u>To November</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
General	187,431	187,691	193,000	(5,309)
Mission & Service	31,652	29,764	3,2000	(2,236)

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.

Drumming Group: Dec. 11th - Join with other drummers for a time of connecting spirit with rhythm. For more information contact Dave Henderson at daveandging@gmail.com

Healing Pathway: 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: TBA Our circle meets to plan projects and programs for the year ahead as together we seek to be in Right Relations with First Peoples.

Men's Breakfast: Sunday, January 7th at 9:00 a.m. at Donna's Express. For more information contact Martin at martin.raillard@gmail.com or Paul at pdurber@rogers.com

Parents with Small Children Potluck: Will be joining with the Church Advent Celebration. Information to follow.

Queer Group Potluck: Tuesday, January 30th 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.

Tuesday Morning Book Study Group: Weekly book study discussion group meets on Tuesdays from 10:00 - 12:00 in Room 5/6 to discuss "Indigenous Healing" by Rupert Ross. For information, please contact Maryanne MacDonald maryanne.macd@gmail.com.

Young Adults Gathering: Tuesday, January 23rd at the home of Brian Cornelius, 7 Edgar Street. For more information. contact Amelia Buchanan at abuch078@uottawa.ca

Advent Journey Dance

Wednesday December 13th & 20th – 5:30 to 6:30 in the church with Lorena Norwood

To register or for information contact office@firstunitedchurchottawa.org. You are also welcome to show up last minute if your schedule opens up.

JourneyDance™ is a practice in which movement and music come together to create a powerful method to deepen our connection with our whole selves and to move and transform anything which does not serve our greatest good. Let music and movement become your medicine to move into joy and wholeness. This is an opportunity to explore the stories that you carry and transform them into the story that you wish to write for yourself. We will create space to center through embodied movement, our strengths, awareness, and connection to loving source energy, to support and sustain us as we move through this season and the world around us.

There is no previous dance experience necessary and we welcome people with all abilities. Please wear loose comfortable clothing. Typically, we dance barefoot, if you wish to wear shoes please bring a clean dry pair to dance in. Also, it is helpful to wear layers so that you can keep yourself comfortable throughout the class.

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First United: An Affirming Congregation

SOCIAL JUSTICE



Let There Be Light! - Directed by **Marg Stubington**

Tuesday, December 12th, 2017, 7:30 p.m.
Centretown United Church, 507 Bank Street, Ottawa

Our 50th season opens with a holiday concert of inspiring compositions on the theme of light. They include Morten Lauridsen's sacred motet *O Nata Lux*; several works by Norwegian-born American composer Ola Gjeilo; excerpts from J. S. Bach's *Cantata 140* and *B Minor Mass*; Laura Hawley's *Alhamdoulillah (Live, Love, Share)*, sung in French and Arabic; Charles Baker's *Three Hanukkah Songs*; and a choral banquet of traditional and contemporary seasonal works. To celebrate our five decades of musical performance, CCC alumni will add their voices to several pieces.

Tickets are available at The Leading Note (Elgin at Frank), Herb & Spice (1310 Wellington) and Compact Music (Bank) or from Marg or Margo in the office or via PayPal at http://www.ccc-ccc.ca/tickets_e.html

Ticket prices: Adult \$22/At the door: \$25 Senior/Student: \$18/\$22

BIG SOUL PROJECT **Christmas Concerts**

Rehearsal Christmas concert at Fourth Avenue Baptist Church on Monday, Dec 11th at 7:00 p.m. and Christmas concert at Dominion-Chalmers on Saturday, Dec 16th at 7:30 p.m.

Celtic Harp CDs by Susan Toman

Susan Toman's "*Angels on High*" - solo Celtic harp, Christmas carols and "*Wide Waters*" - harp, voice, whistles & uilleann pipes, bodhran - traditional Irish and Scottish music on sale for \$20.00. Please see Marg after the service (Nov. 19-Dec. 24) or contact her at Marg@firstunitedchurchottawa.org

Spirit Talks

Faith and Arts Ottawa is launching its fifth documentary theatre program for young adults and adults this January 2018.

Spirit Talks is an amateur theatre project related to spirituality, religion and young adults. Working with the real words of young adults from Tom Sherwood's book, [Listening to The Echo](#), interested participants will reflect alone, in pairs and larger groups to develop monologues, dialogues, skits and choruses that wrestle with the questions and issues that interest them. How can I join? Register online at faithandartsottawa.org or email faithandartsottawa@gmail.com for the registration form.

Got questions? Email Ashley, the Administrator and actor in our past four productions, at faithandartsottawa@gmail.com. Or email Tom Sherwood (tom.sherwood@carleton.ca) and ask Tom to call you.

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