

# First Glance

June 2nd, 2019

(613) 232-1016 [office@firstunitedchurchottawa.org](mailto:office@firstunitedchurchottawa.org)

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Next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday

Everyone is invited to wear attire that highlight flame like colours  
Red, Orange, Yellow

Thank you to the Rite 13 youth group  
Who participated in the Multi Faith Housing Tulipathon last weekend,

Rite 13 raised \$585.00!!

Thank you to our Hospitality Teams

Our six hospitality teams are taking a break over the summer. Thank you to the leaders, D'Arcy McPherson, Kathy Southee, Phyl Drennan, Ruth Stewart-Verger, Murray Angus, Bertie Mo and Joanne Harvey, under the overall coordination of Bev Hellman.

If you are interested in supporting our Sunday services in June, July, and August, we are putting together a schedule for hosting refreshments in the courtyard as well as handing out bulletins and taking up the offering. Please contact the [office@firstunitedchurchottawa.org](mailto:office@firstunitedchurchottawa.org) as soon as possible.

There is also a sign up sheet available during conversation and refreshments.

## Joy Camp- Gracefield Camp - July 12- 14, 2019

Come and enjoy a weekend with others from First United!! Swim, relax, sing, sit around the bonfire, worship outdoors! All meals included (except Friday dinner). **Spaces are filling up fast!**

**Still available-** only 1 room left (1 double bed) at Beaver Lodge,  
a few spots for trailers and 7 tent sites (no electricity).

**Costs:** Beaver Lodge- 2 nights- \$55.00 for an individual, \$45 for children (age 4 – 12)  
Tent- 2 nights- \$25 per tent

**Meal package:** for the weekend-

\$55 per adult, \$45 each for children (ages 4 – 12), free for children 0 - 3.

**Please register your interest in attending as soon as possible** by emailing Cindy at [office@firstunitedchurchottawa.org](mailto:office@firstunitedchurchottawa.org) . Forms can be sent electronically.

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

**First United:** An Affirming Congregation

# NEWS FROM FIRST UNITED

## Major Improvements to our Church Building this Summer

Beginning on Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, contractors will be in the building to complete the following three projects:

- a) Replacement of the flooring in the labyrinth Room
- b) Installation of a nursery in the stage area (youth will be moved to present nursery)
- c) Refurbishment of downstairs washrooms.

## Helping at the Westboro Region Food Bank



We currently need volunteers to distribute food and someone to organize and clean the room. Other volunteer 'job descriptions' can be found at:

<http://westborofoodbank.wixsite.com/westborofoodbank/volunteer>.

If you can contribute three or four hours once a month, it would make a big difference. Please contact Lori Crawford, the WRFB Coordinator, at [westbororegionfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:westbororegionfoodbank@gmail.com).

Thank you!

## First United is the Recipient of the Sharon Moon Award

Presented by the Community Laundry Co-Op

Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

Members of First United are invited to attend the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting which will be held at Heartwood House, 404 McArthur Avenue.

First United was instrumental in helping to launch the Laundry Co-op.

## Thank You:

Church Council wishes to thank everyone for their continued support of our life here at First to our general fund. For more information on supporting First United through "First Things First" or envelopes, contact Cindy at the church office.

<u>To May 31</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
General	75,731	79,166	82,500	(3,334)
Mission & Service	13,035	13,210	14,500	(1,290)

# SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

## WEEKLY / MONTHLY SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS

*If you have an idea for a small group that you would like to initiate, please contact Brian, who will help to facilitate getting it started.*

**Book Study Group: Mondays** 9:30 - 11:30 am in Room 5/6. Open to everyone. For information, contact Maryanne MacDonald at [maryanne.macd@gmail.com](mailto:maryanne.macd@gmail.com)

**Christian Meditation: Every Monday** at 5:30 pm in the Chapel. For more information, contact Joyce Hardman: [jhardman@rogers.com](mailto:jhardman@rogers.com) or Liz Tyrwhitt: [liz.tyrwhitt@sympatico.ca](mailto:liz.tyrwhitt@sympatico.ca).

**Drumming Group: Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>** in the sanctuary. Join with other drummers for a time of connecting spirit with rhythm. For more information contact Dave Henderson at [daveandging@gmail.com](mailto: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 every Tuesday between 11:00 am and 9:00 pm by appointment. Please contact - [HealingPathway2010@gmail.com](mailto:HealingPathway2010@gmail.com)

**Living into Right Relations Circle:** We explore next steps we might want to take in our path to reconciliation and to continue the work of decolonization that we have begun. For more information contact [sharonmoon45@gmail.com](mailto:sharonmoon45@gmail.com)

**Men's Breakfast: Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup>** - For more information contact Tseheyoy at [Tsehayouseyoum@hotmail.com](mailto:Tsehayouseyoum@hotmail.com) or Paul at [pdurber@rogers.com](mailto:pdurber@rogers.com)

**Parents with Small Children Potluck: Taking a break for the summer and will resume on Saturday, Saturday September 28<sup>th</sup>** at 4:45 p.m. We gather for a potluck with everyone that begins at 5:00. Childcare is provided as the parents have opportunity for discussion.

**Queer Group Potluck: Taking a break for the summer and will resume on Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm** at the home of Brian Cornelius, 7 Edgar Street. For more information contact Chantel Nantel at [cnantel555@gmail.com](mailto:cnantel555@gmail.com)

**Talking About Mental Health:** This social gathering that discusses mental health issues will meet after church. **June 30<sup>th</sup>** in room 5/6 at 12:30 p.m. Join us for a bowl of soup and conversation. For more information, contact Jessica Ward-King at [j.ward-king@hotmail.com](mailto:j.ward-king@hotmail.com) or Zachary Houle at [zacharyhoule@rogers.com](mailto:zacharyhoule@rogers.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 the office at 613- 232-1016 for more information.

# SOCIAL JUSTICE

Snippets from Esther Guillen reflecting on her experiences living in Palestine this summer...

To my United Church Family,

I recommend that all foreigners take the public bus, because it will give you the briefest glimpse into what living under Israeli apartheid is really like. When you get to the checkpoint, known as Checkpoint 300, the bus stops at a military installation. All of the Palestinians then get off the bus, while the foreigners stay on. Israeli Occupation Forces soldiers then board the bus, and check passports, and ID cards for Palestinians with Israeli citizenship. While this is happening, all of the Palestinians who got off the bus stand in line, within metal barriers that look a lot like a small cattle-pen. One at a time they are called forward and their permits checked, and if acceptable, they are allowed back on the bus. One of the passengers on my bus was a mother, who was travelling with her daughter. The child, probably about seven or eight, had her ID pinned to her dress. She had a large bandage across her chest, and was likely travelling for medical care. This child had her identification pinned to the front of her dress. This is apartheid.

When we passed into Israel, the occupation was in full evidence. The sight of Israeli flags flying from apartment buildings, signs celebrating "71 Years of Israeli Independence", road signs pointing to the American Embassy, these were all shocking to me now. Things I took for granted last time I was here, like soldiers being everywhere and all the signs in Hebrew, have become deeply offensive. I do not, of course, dispute the right of Israel to exist. There absolutely must be a homeland for Jews, there must absolutely be a place where Jews can be safe from the horrific crimes perpetrated against them in Europe and North America. There must absolutely be a place where Jews are safe, where they, and we, can be sure that another Jewish genocide will not happen. But this cannot, must not, be at the expense of the safety and sovereignty of the Palestinian people. This is apartheid.

Sometimes I forget. I go from the apartment where I live, to the centre where I volunteer, I go out for coffee with my Palestinian friends, I live a fairly normal life. Living in the camp has become normal. The wall has become normal. The occupation has become normal. But then I go through a checkpoint, or I hear stories about my friends here having been shot by IOF forces when they were children, or about the children here being arrested without the knowledge of their parents, or about people being denied permits to travel, and it hits me again, it comes home again. This is occupation. This is a colonialist regime. This is apartheid.

I came here to learn to be a better advocate for Palestinians, to hear their stories and, in the smallest way, experience some of what their lives are like. I wanted to do this so that when I go back to Canada, I can teach others at home what life is like here, what it is like to live under occupation. But I have also been aware of my position with the Israeli authorities: if I speak out too much, too publicly, then I will be prevented from coming back. I have been afraid of being too vocal about the rights of Palestinians, I have been afraid of the repercussions to me, because I want to come back. But I cannot be silent. I cannot pretend, anymore, that Israel is in the right, that the violence of the occupation is in any way justified. Nothing a Palestinian does, from the time they are born to the time that they die, will change the way Israel treats them. Palestinians will always be targeted, they will always be subject to unjust arrest, they will always be subject to direct personal violence perpetrated by IOF soldiers. Palestinians, no matter what, will not be safe under occupation. This is apartheid.