



# EOORC News

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

### EDITOR'S NOTE

This has been a difficult few weeks us as we struggle to make sense of a crisis that is affecting almost every single person in the world. It's astonishing and disturbing as we watch and listen to, from a distance, those who are ill, unemployed, afraid for their loved ones, for those who are feeling the strain of isolation and the weight of loneliness. And when we thought our sadness couldn't be any more profound, more tragedy strikes in the beautiful province of Nova Scotia. It is my hope that you will find some solace in the EOORC among friends and colleagues. I can say honestly that one of the things that has kept me going in this time of crisis is the work I do here, providing as much information as possible to help keep you informed. I invite you to keep checking on the COVID-19 [webpage](#) on our website for regular updates. Stay healthy!

*Anita* [ajansman@united-church.ca](mailto:ajansman@united-church.ca)



EOORC  
Directory of  
Lay Representatives  
And  
Ministry Personnel

### Have you filled out the form yet?

**The 2020 directory will be produced soon  
and we want to include  
ALL Lay Reps and Clergy**

**Once it's been produced, the directory won't be  
updated till next year.**

Please be sure to fill out the [form](#)  
**by Friday May 1, 2020**

### MORE INFORMATION

- [COVID-19](#)
- [Online Worship](#)
- [Add Lay Reps to the Directory](#)
- [Add your own \(online\) event](#)



**MULTIFAITH**  
Housing Initiative

### Covid-19 won't stop [Tulipathon 2020!](#)

Our tenants need you more than ever. Complete an independent #solostroll or #householdhike to support MHI on Sunday, May 31, 2020. MultifaitH Housing Initiative (MHI) is pleased to announce that we are going ahead with Tulipathon this year! Due to COVID-19, MHI will be transforming its annual walkathon fundraiser into a Virtual Tulipathon on Sunday, May 31, 2020.

*EOORC News* is a bi-weekly newsletter that provides information Communities of Faith of the EOORC, published every second Wednesday. If you want an item placed in the newsletter, please send it to [ajansman@united-church.ca](mailto:ajansman@united-church.ca) by 12 noon on Tuesday the week of publication. If you do not wish to receive this weekly newsletter, please send me an email, to the same address above.

**Connecting Online, Reconnecting with Scripture** by Jane Dawson, Minister Supporting Communities of Faith, Clusters and Networks

In addition to online worship, COVID-19 is also prompting creative responses to engaging with scripture. Since the end of March, EOORC has been offering two online learning clusters with a biblical focus, facilitated by Jane Dawson, Minister Supporting Communities of Faith, Clusters and Networks.

In *Opening the Book*, participants listen together to podcast interviews with leading biblical scholars and discuss them afterwards. *Psalm Circle* explores the sacred poetry of the Psalms and how these ancient songs and prayers still speak to us today.

Both learning clusters have sparked a lively interest, bringing people together from many communities of faith in the region and beyond. They are open to anyone, at no cost, on a drop-in basis and will continue while physical distancing advisories are in place. [Register](#) for either session.

Psalm Circle – Thursday mornings, 10:30 am to 12:00 noon (EST).

Opening the Book – Monday evenings, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm (EST)

For anyone without the internet, telephone access is also available. Please contact [Jane Dawson](#) for more information.

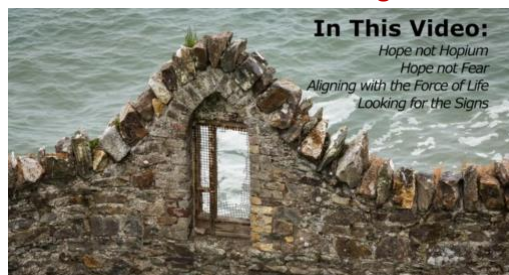
**Festival of Homiletics** by Teresa Burnett-Cole

If you haven't yet heard the news...the Festival of Homiletics is going online this year and is free. To register go to [www.festivalofhomiletics.com](http://www.festivalofhomiletics.com). The event takes place May 18 through 22. A number of us are planning to participate. One thing that will be sadly lacking is the conversation and camaraderie between colleagues. To that end we have arranged for a Zoom call for anyone interested in some "shop talk" around the day's sessions. The sessions are scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on May 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23. You can attend any one of these meetings via Zoom: <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/92216271253>



**Festival of  
HOMILETICS**

**Diane Strickland Discusses Things That Matter**



Things That Matter is a [YouTube channel](#) worth checking out. There you will find videos that provide education and practical support during the pandemic for church leaders and congregants. These helpful videos were created by our own **Diane Strickland**, who spends part of her year in her home north of Brockville. Rev Strickland is a Community and Workplace Traumatologist, Compassion Fatigue Specialist-Therapist, Critical Incident Responder and has been ordained now for 32 years. "Some regions are using these videos as discussion starters for regional Zoom meetings, and they are getting traction

as something we can offer immediately," says Rev Strickland. "It has been a privilege for me to create and offer these resources freely to my church and the wider community."

**Volunteer Ottawa** Does your not-for profit agency or group need volunteers to help during COVID-19? We can help! Volunteer Ottawa is recruiting and deploying volunteers to respond to needs specific to COVID-19, while also ensuring proper screening and safety protocols. [More information.](#)



*EOORC News* is a bi-weekly newsletter that provides information Communities of Faith of the EOORC, published every second Wednesday. If you want an item placed in the newsletter, please send it to [ajansman@united-church.ca](mailto:ajansman@united-church.ca) by 12 noon on Tuesday the week of publication. If you do not wish to receive this weekly newsletter, please send me an email, to the same address above.

## NEWS FROM THE GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE

A [letter](#) from Rev Adam Hanley, Program Coordinator for Ministry Personnel Vitality with more advice for ministry personnel during the COVID-19 crisis.



### [Congregational Finances During the Pandemic](#)

The requirement to self-isolate and socially distance ourselves is an important part of keeping Canadians safe, but there's lots of anxiety across the church about the impact this is having on our congregational finances. Let's together ensure that our congregations have the financial resources they need to offer ministry that matters in these strange and trying times.



### [Congregational Programming During the Pandemic](#)

Tips on making the most of worship online during the Pandemic. Join us on April 9 for some conversation with three seasoned pastors who are leading their congregations through this health crisis and working to help their congregations respond in ways that are creative, hopeful and supportive



**E-ssentials**

The latest issue of [E-ssentials](#) is now available.

\*\*\*



EOORC Annual Meeting  
"All My Relations"  
October 16-17, 2020  
Nav Centre  
Cornwall, Ontario  
[EOORC.CA](http://EOORC.CA)

*EOORC News* is a bi-weekly newsletter that provides information Communities of Faith of the EOORC, published every second Wednesday. If you want an item placed in the newsletter, please send it to [ajansman@united-church.ca](mailto:ajansman@united-church.ca) by 12 noon on Tuesday the week of publication. If you do not wish to receive this weekly newsletter, please send me an email, to the same address above.