



EOORC News

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE

As the pandemic continues, so do restrictions on our movement and church closures. I've heard wise people saying these days, "This too shall pass." We all know that to be true. At some time in the not-too-distant future (we hope) we'll talk about the pandemic as something that we have lived through. In the meantime, as we continue to make adjustments to our lives, let us keep supporting one another within our Communities of Faith and beyond. And let's celebrate the good news, such as the renewal of spring – the beautiful flowers, the spring-green leaves bursting with new life, and even the over-zealous robins that wake us up early each morning. I invite you to keep checking on the COVID-19 [webpage](#) on our website for regular updates. Stay healthy!

Anita ajansman@united-church.ca

COVID-19 AND CAMPING MINISTRIES UPDATE

by Dana Ducette, Minister for Youth and Young Adults

The Camping Ministries of Camp Lau-Ren, Golden Lake Camp, Rideau Hill Camp and Camp Awesome have made the difficult decisions to cancel the 2020 Summer season. From this decision has come opportunities for these camps to embody a different kind of camp

experience. Rideau Hill Camp will be focusing on improving its property, increasing drainage and much needed property and tree maintenance. Golden Lake Camp is reroofing the Staff House, painting and staining cabins and property projects. Camp Lau-Ren is going online and has hired Samantha Meaby to host Camp Lau-Ren @ Home. Samantha (AKA Sparkle) will be



Rideau Hill Camp – Until next year!

MORE INFORMATION

- [COVID-19](#)
- *****NEW***** [Pastoral Relations Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Online Worship](#)
- [Psalm Circle Zoom meeting](#)
- [Opening the Book Zoom discussion](#)
- [Add your own \(online\) event](#)

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hosting weekly programs throughout the summer. Camp Awesome will be offering a *Camp Awesome@Home* program and is looking forward to seeing campers using the Zoom platform.

Despite these changes camping ministries are finding ways to grow and build over the summer and are looking forward to a time when camp brings everyone together once again. To learn more about what is happening in specific Camping Ministries please visit the links below for updates and information: [Camp Lau-Ren](#) [Golden Lake Camp](#) [Rideau Hill Camp](#) [Camp Awesome \(Day Camp\)](#)

Also, have a look at these two stories from the UCC website: [Camps Find Ways to Build Community Amid Physical Distancing](#) and [Camps Inspire through Creativity and Care Despite Pandemic](#)

ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH IN EOORC by Jane Dawson, Minister for Networks, Clusters and Li Yang, Ottawa Chinese UC
May is Asian Heritage Month. This is an opportunity to give a “shout out” to the many Asian Canadians in our midst.

In EOORC, we are proud to be the home of the Ottawa Chinese United Church (OCUC), located in the heart of Ottawa. OCUC has a long and rich history in the community. Initially formed in 1919 as the Chinese Mission and Christian Association of Ottawa, in a partnership between the Presbyterians, Methodists and YMCA, it was Ottawa’s first Chinese congregation. In 1962, it was renamed as OCUC.



With the growth of the Chinese community in Ottawa, the mission of OCUC is to serve our Lord Jesus Christ striving to become a worshipping and caring community. This includes upholding the Bible as the highest authority for our faith and conduct, spreading the gospel; caring for the needs and concerns of particularly the Chinese Community; as well as promoting and extending fellowship to all who come to our Christian community. OCUC is also developing programs to focus on international students from China, helping them to adjust to life in Canada.

OCUC currently has a dedicated congregation of about 40-45 members. With many congregation members from mainland China, Sunday services are primarily offered in Mandarin.

During COVID-19, OCUC has not faced the level of anti-Chinese prejudice that has happened in some places. “We are aware of it,” says Connie Wang, the OCUC Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Chair, “but, like everyone else, we are mostly focused on finding ways to stay connected at a distance, especially with so many seniors in the congregation.”



OCUC at 600 Bank St, Ottawa since 1984

Although Chinese Canadians have an important place in the fabric of Canadian society and the United Church, the recognition and celebration of this vital role is still a work in progress. During these difficult and challenging times, it is important to do so now more than ever.

ECOLOGICAL GRIEF: A PATHWAY TO RESILIENCE, SELF-CARE AND EARTH CARE



How can we face the climate emergency and this unfolding planetary moment with all its intensity and uncertainty? How can we stay awake to the suffering and the beauty with clear eyes and an open heart?

Together, we can strengthen resilience as we deepen our capacity to act for a just and sustainable world. This four-session webinar series will be experiential and interactive, offering a roadmap to metabolize pain into courage, compassion and creativity—qualities that allow us to respond with wisdom and integrity.

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Based on Joanna Macy's Work that Reconnects, this introductory series will offer practices and group activities that help people discover and experience their innate connections with each other and the self-healing powers of the web of life, transforming despair and overwhelm into grounded and inspired action.

Four Wednesdays: June 3, 10, 17 & 24 -- 10 am – noon. The June 3rd session will run until 12:15 pm.

\$60 per person. Student and income-based discounts available. Enrollment is limited to 10 participants, with a commitment to participate in all four sessions. [Register](#) by May 29, 2020.

Facilitators: Robin Macdonald and Andrea Prazmowski have combined experience in facilitating community grief care, restorative justice, yoga, collaborative environmental initiatives, gatherings in sacred space, storytelling and forest therapy experiences.

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE



[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 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



[Essentials, May 19, 2020](#) issue discusses "Reopening to a New Normal."

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