



Wednesday, December 13, 2023

The bi-weekly newsletter of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council

#### **QUICK LINKS**

- o Executive Minutes
- o Pastoral Relations Minutes
- \*\*\*NEW\*\*\* Jobs
- o Remit Resources
- o Upcoming Events
- Submit an Event

#### IN THIS ISSUE

- Stewardship Update
- MultiFaith Housing
- Baptismal Font needed
- o Grief Radio
- Faithful Footprints
- News from GCO including a message from Moderator Lansdowne

Wishing everyone in EOORC a soulful Christmas, with time to reflect, pray, laugh, love and enjoy happy visits with family and friends.

## Merry Christmas!

# There's still time to list your Upcoming Christmas Events

Be sure to submit your Christmas events <u>HERE</u>. It's easy to do and will ensure that your church events get promoted throughout the EOORC.

#### The EOORC Office Has Moved

**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 <a href="mailto:ajansman@united-church.ca">ajansman@united-church.ca</a> 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.

#### Stewardship Update – December 2023

Our Latest Stewardship Blog – "A Fitting Christmas Gift". Rev. Dave Jagger writes, in a season of spending and gifting, let's take a moment to consider how we choose to use our money.

**Upcoming Stewardship Programs** – Winter and Spring 2024. See <a href="here">here</a>

Mission and Service - 2023 is drawing to a close and on behalf of Mission and Service we want to thank you for your contributions. The money received from Communities of Faith like yours enables us to feed hungry children, help those devastated by natural disasters and war and fund the vital work our partners are doing.

And now we are asking you to send in your Community of Faith's Mission and Service contributions as soon as possible to ensure this work continues. Remember, to have your contributions counted towards 2023 you must send them in postmarked before <u>January 15th, 2024</u>. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

We are currently looking for volunteers in every community of faith to take a leadership role with Mission and Service. Volunteers will be the communication lead between the congregation and those who produce our resources. If you are interested, or know someone who would be good for this, please reach out. Call us at 1-800-465-3771 or e-mail us at <a href="mailto:mse@united-church.ca">mse@united-church.ca</a>

#### Book a time to talk about stewardship

Are you thinking about year-end or wanting to make a stewardship plan for 2024? Would you like to talk about legacy giving to your congregation, but don't know where to start? Do you have questions about growing giving to Mission & Service?

Roger Janes is your stewardship support person and is available to share resources, answer questions, or brainstorm with. Don't know where to start? Book a phone or zoom conversation with Roger today using this link.



#### Multi-faith Housing Initiative

December Newsletter is available **HERE** 

The Giving Season - Donate to the MHI HERE



#### **Baptismal Font Needed**

Westport United Church is in need of a Baptismal Font.

Is your church closing or does your church have an extra one?

Please contact Rev. Whit Strong wstrong@united-church.ca

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"Grief is like a kaleidoscope. Its colours and shapes shift with every turn of the wheel. Sometimes grief is so agonizingly painful, full of the darkest of blue shades of suffering. Other times, the light shines through, and grief becomes so deeply divine in hue, and we are faced with something so unbearably beautiful ~ it truly is unnameable. The height of our grief ravages against the depths of our love, one in the humble presence of the other. Grief, the ever-rendering turning points in our lives, the ever turning wheel of our lives."

© Dr. Vivianne LaRiviere

#### GRIEF RADIO - A PODCAST ABOUT GRIEF

Rev. Ian Smith is a retired, ordained United Church of Canada clergy person, living in a small town just east of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, within the bounds of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region Council.

I am excited to announce the soon-to-be-launched "GRIEF RADIO - A Podcast About Grief" in collaboration with my friend, Dr. Vivianne LaRiviere, a resident of Nova Scotia, Canada. Vivianne is the Founder, Director and Co-Host of GRIEF RADIO; I am the Co-Administrator and Co-Host. We have been collaborating on the development of this project for a while. Read Ian Smith's entire letter: Letter from Ian Smith

More details about us and the podcast are included in the <u>prospectus</u>. If, after reading the prospectus, you think that you and/or your community would be interested in offering a contribution for the ongoing development of this podcast, we have established a **GoFundMe campaign for Grief Radio** 

#### Faithful Footprints Grant Webinar

Hosted by Faithful Footprints Prairies Regional Support Centre

When: December 15, 2023 Time: 1:00-2:00 CST | Check your local times Location: Online The United Church of Canada's Faithful Footprints program offers inspiration, tools, and grants to help its communities of faith reduce their energy and carbon footprint. The program offers up to \$30,000 in grants towards energy conservation and renewable energy projects (conditions apply).

Join us on **December 15th at 1pm CST** to explore how the grant program can help empower your community of faith to reduce the carbon and energy footprint of your faith building, while also supporting:

- Reduced environmental footprint
- Reduced building operational and maintenance costs
- Increased revenue potential from rental opportunities
- Enhanced comfortability and usage of building space
- Redirection of financial resources toward community programming
  Key takeaways from this webinar:
- 1. Gain an understanding of the Faithful Footprints program, its mission, and how it aligns with the church's commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability.
- 2. Become familiar with the grant application process, including eligibility criteria, and the steps involved in securing funding for retrofit projects.

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#### News from the General Council Office

### An Advent Message from Moderator Carmen Lansdowne



The Right Rev. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator of The United Church of Canada, shares her Advent message for 2023. Advent is a time of expectant waiting for the Christmas miracle—a story of hope, bravery, and the willingness to have faith in God. It is also a story of generosity and of humans caring for each other.



**E-ssentials** The <u>December 6<sup>th</sup></u> responds to questions about Remit. The <u>December 12<sup>th</sup></u> issue features an advent message from Moderator Carmen Lansdowne

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