



# EOORC News

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

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

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### EOORC in the News – Knitted Izzy Dolls

Bethel United Church (Rideau Ferry) recently hosted an event to create knitted “Izzy Dolls.” These small hand-made dolls are named after Mark Isfeld, a Canadian soldier and UN peacekeeper. Master Cpl. Isfeld used to share small dolls with local children while on duty. He was killed by a landmine, but the peacekeeper dolls are still created in his memory and distributed around the world.

These Izzy Dolls are to be sent to France in commemoration of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy.

Several other congregations joined Bethel United in this project:

Trinity United Church, Smiths Falls  
Rideau Park United Church, Ottawa  
Grace United Church, Gananoque

You can learn more about the project in a CTV News article [here](#).



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When have you experienced a wonderful welcome at church? How can we provide a warm welcome to those who visit our congregations? What are some practical steps we can take?

These are questions that we have been exploring in EOORC. Our [winter educational event](#) had a theme of “Strengthening the Invitation.” The Regional Council produced a helpful [checklist](#) for communities of faith to complete. A “mystery visitor” will be visiting each and every congregation in EOORC to help give feedback on how we are (or are not) welcoming newcomers.

Growth Animator Tori Mullin recently wrote a [blog post](#) called “*Welcoming a Child, Wiggles and All.*” It is about their family’s experience of being warmly welcomed when visiting a new church, and how that experience helped their daughter feel a sense of belonging in church.

**Now we want to hear from all of you! Here are some wonderful ideas from folks in our region** (paraphrased as they were shared orally):

*At Kanata United Church, we invite children and their grownups to work together as **greeters**. Having greeters helps us ensure that new people are welcomed. The children do a great job, and they feel included because they have an important role. – Rev. Michelle Robichaud*

*At Woodroffe United Church, we have been having more children attend worship recently. I like **to include the children and the whole congregation in the sermon**. We don’t have Sunday School every week, so it is helpful if the sermon is more interactive. Last week, I asked for ideas about how to help combat climate change, and they had some great ideas – especially the children. Discussion time also gives new people a chance to meet others in the congregation, especially if we are intentional about talking with those we don’t yet know. – Rev. Kathryn Peate*

*My husband Wayne once attended church in Toronto and had **rainbow bread at Communion**. Each time they celebrated communion, a member of the congregation would bake the bread. They decided to add rainbow sprinkles to the dough before baking, and explained that it was a welcome to all God’s children. I loved the idea and have shared it with many people since. – Rev. Anne Montgomery.*

**Do you have a great idea to share? Would you like to read the welcoming ideas of others in our region? Please visit the [welcoming web page](#) and leave a comment. A selection of comments will be featured in a future newsletter. Trinity United Church Kazabazua already has a fantastic idea shared about welcoming children with a growth chart on the church doorpost!**



**2024 EOORC Annual General Meeting**

**Unique Public Witness**  
**Un témoignage collectif et singulier**

← 100 years - 100 ans →

Friday, May 31, 2024  
Saturday, June 1, 2024

### Celebration of Ministries Service

We are delighted to share that four candidates will be ordained, commissioned or recognized at 7 pm on May 31<sup>st</sup>. They are: *Susan DeHaan, Dave Henderson, Patricia Power and Susan Toller*. We are excited to celebrate with these candidates. Please keep them in your prayers in the coming weeks.

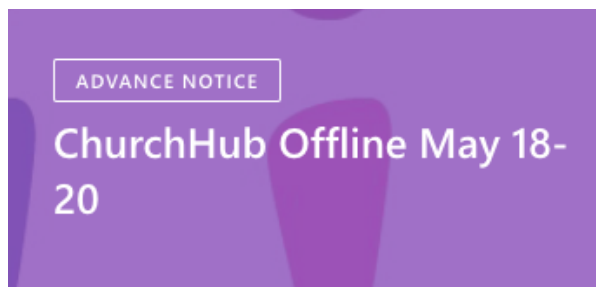
Rev. Anthony Bailey will be the preacher at the Celebration of Ministries service.

### Volunteers Needed

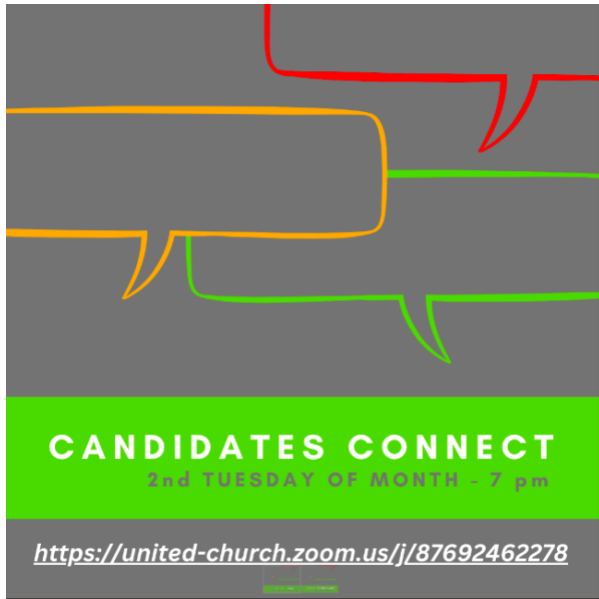
We are still looking for some volunteers at the AGM. We especially need ushers for the Celebration of Ministries service, as well people to help at the registration table during the AGM (particularly in the morning as everyone is arriving). If you can help, please contact Natalie Matkovsky at [nmatkovsky@united-church.ca](mailto:nmatkovsky@united-church.ca)

### Registration

Registration is now online! Please register as soon as possible if you plan to attend the AGM. You can register [here](#). Please take the time to read the information on the [AGM page](#). This will include an agenda (to come), details about the event, and important information about payments for the meal plan (and helping you avoid any extra fees).



Please note that ChurchHub will be offline for maintenance from May 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. Starting on May 21<sup>st</sup>, there will be a new login process. ChurchHub users will be kept up-to-date about these changes.



Are you an applicant or candidate in the Candidacy Pathway?

New! A chance to gather with other applicants to or candidates in the Candidacy Pathway across East Ontario and Quebec. You are welcome to join the conversation on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7 pm. Wondering if this is right for you? Please contact Rev. Caroline Penhale Lukacs, Vocational Minister at [cpenhale@united-church.ca](mailto:cpenhale@united-church.ca)

Le programme sera offert en français le 2<sup>e</sup> mardi de chaque mois à midi. Veuillez contacter Caroline Penhale pour le lien.

An invitation from Knox United Church for EOORC:

**Sunday June 2, 2024 - 1pm**  
**Knox United Church**  
**25 Gibbard Avenue, Nepean**

Please join us for a time of music and tributes, marking Rev. Jensen's departure following 20 years of dedicated service to Knox United Church. Refreshments will follow with a time of fellowship.

**Celebrating**  
**Rev. Andrew Jensen**

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## Camp Lau-ren – Spring Newsletter and Open House

Camp Lau-ren's spring newsletter is available! You can read *The Rock* [here](#).

If you or someone you know are interested in learning more about camp, you can attend the spring open house on Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup>. It is a fun event! More details [here](#).



## Ministry & Personnel Committee Workshop – Last Chance to Register Saturday, May 11 9am-12noon

This ZOOM workshop will cover all the main roles and responsibilities of the Ministry & Personnel Committee. The workshop is a repeat of the one offered in the Fall of 2023. This is an orientation workshop for those on the M&P Committee who have never taken it, new members of the M&P Committee, as well as a good refresher for everyone else. Ministry Personnel are also welcome to register for this workshop. **PLEASE NOTE** that [registration](#) is required to participate in this Zoom workshop.

## *Engage Difference!* Intercultural Ministry Learning

Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning

**Engage Difference!**

Five days focused on faith, heart, mind, and skills for the art of intercultural ministry

Nov 18-22, 2024

Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre

Five Oaks

*Engage Difference! Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry* (DUIM) is a 5-day interactive and engaging program with practical ideas for implementation in your own context. DUIM is for ministry leaders and community members nurturing cultural relevance, understanding, and awareness in their communities.

- \$1525 Residential program. All meals, accommodation, program activities and materials included. Contact [ramirez@councilofchurches.ca](mailto:ramirez@councilofchurches.ca) for more information and to apply.

## What's Faith Got To Do With It? – An Invitation from the Palestine Network

The Palestine Network of Shining Waters Regional Council invites EOORC members to an intercultural event discussing a just peace in Israel and Palestine. The event is online (as well as in Toronto) and will take place on May 14<sup>th</sup>. You can find more details [here](#).

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### Rendez Vous 2024 – July 3-6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

What: National UCC Youth and Young Adult and Leaders Event

Where: St. Catherine's, On. Brock University

Ages: 14-18 years

Cost: \$425 + \$200 for travel (There are funds within our Region this event)

Interested in attending Rendez Vous this year?

To help coordinate travel and grant funding, please complete the form and Dana Ducette will be in contact. *The sooner you can fill out the form, the easier it will be to plan smooth logistics for the trip.*

<https://forms.office.com/r/HqJiWXTV8>

**Please note: Youth Leaders will need to attend with their youth groups.**

Rendez Vous Website: <https://united-church.ca/events/rendez-vous-2024-audacious-hope>

### Grief Support Workshop – Invitation for Clergy and Pastoral Care Teams

Kelly Funerals homes is hosting a grief support workshop and is inviting clergy and pastoral care teams from any denominations who would like to attend. It is a free event, but RSVP is required. You can find more details [here](#).


**No Cause for Despair**


*Finding Holy Joy and Vocation  
in the Midst of Secularization*


Join us in  
conversation with  
**Dr. Stefan Paas,**  
Dutch theologian  
and missiologist

Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 10 am – 3 pm

Timothy Eaton Memorial Church  
230 St Clair Ave W, Toronto, ON  
(or join us online)



 **TUCC**  
connecting resources with ministry

**TIMOTHY EATON  
MEMORIAL  
CHURCH** 

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## Then Let Us Sing – Newsletter and Hymn Preview

Have you heard about *Then Let Us Sing! Ensemble Chantons*? It is the new hymn resource of The United Church of Canada. It will be available in fall 2024.

You can read more about the project in [this newsletter](#).



Have you heard the hymn “**God Lights a Lamp**”? Based on the parables about things that are lost (in Luke 15), this hymn talks about how God searches for us and is delighted when She finds us. Yes, “She” – the hymn is written with female images of God. It is a lovely hymn. It is sung and signed in American Sign Language [here](#). You are welcome to use the video of the song in worship. This is one of the hymns that will be included in the new hymn resource. *Then Let Us Sing! Ensemble Chantons* will include several videos with ASL in its digital version.

### Matthew House & Gift of Sight Donation Event

*It's Time to  
**Clean Out** and  
**Help Out!***

Items needed (in good condition):  
Furniture · Linens  
Dishes · Small appliances  
Prescription Eye Glasses  
Sunglasses

**Do you have items in your house  
that haven't been used in a while?  
Your unused items can help families in need!**

Members of St. Paul's United Church and wider community are collecting items for:

**Matthew House** – where new refugees or other Ottawa residents in need can access household items at no cost to them. [matthewhouseottawa.org](http://matthewhouseottawa.org)

**The Gift of Sight Project** – provides treatment around the globe for adults and children with serious untreated vision issues. [humanityfirst.org/programmes/gift-of-sight](http://humanityfirst.org/programmes/gift-of-sight)

**Drop Off:**  
**Saturday, June 1st, 2024**  
9am to 1pm

**St. Paul's United Church**  
3760 Carp Road, Carp, ON  
(in back parking lot)

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## **Book Review - *A Church At War: MacKay Presbyterian Church, New Edinburgh and the First World War***

Review by Eleanor Dunn

If you're a congregant at an older church, or you enjoy visits to historic churches in Canada and elsewhere, you've probably seen them — plaques on the walls with lists of names. They're usually bronze but sometimes other material has been used. The names are mostly men, once in a while a woman's name is included in the group. These are memorial plaques, dedicated to members of that church's congregation who gave their lives in the two world wars of the 20th. century.

Who were these people and why or what made them want to "join up" to fight in battles across the ocean? Retired diplomat and historian Alan Bowker has answered those questions and more in his new book, "A Church At War: MacKay Presbyterian Church, New Edinburgh and the First World War."

The book focuses on the 19 men, members of MacKay's congregation, who fell in the First World War — "some as heroes in desperate battles, others in tragically random circumstances or from illness, several who have no known grave." Each get a chapter in the book, biographical in nature, detailing their early years growing up in the 'Burgh, family life, their parents, siblings, wives and children and how their survivors carried on with life after the war ended.

One of the most interesting parts of the book are the introductory chapters detailing social history of the time. Canada was still a British colony. Women did not have the vote. The 'Burgh was very much a working class area even though the Governor General was a close neighbor. In those days, churches played a major role in people's lives and church leaders were highly respected, frequently consulted and involved in the government's decision- making process.

At that time, the Canadian public regarded the British Empire as "the apogee of Christian civilization". It is easy to understand why young men who were brought up in that tradition would so quickly volunteer, believing that in defending Canada and the Empire, they were "fighting for justice, truth and righteousness and for the glory of God".

This is a wonderful book. Well-researched with detailed footnotes and bibliography, not to mention a plethora of historic photographs. It would be surprising if it did not make the Globe & Mail's selection of the 100 best non-fiction books of 2024. It should be available soon at Books on Beechwood.

You can attend the book launch on May 7<sup>th</sup>. More information and link to RSVP is available [here](#).

### **Items to Give from Merrickville United Church**

After the closing of Merrickville United Church, some items remain. These are available and will be given freely to anyone who could use them.

Baptismal font, choir gowns (white and blue), sheet music, theological books, old Bibles.

If you are interested in these items or would like to see pictures, please write to Natalie at [nmatkovsky@united-church.ca](mailto:nmatkovsky@united-church.ca)

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## Multifaith Housing – Tulipathon

Every May, among the beautiful backdrop of Dow's Lake and the Canadian Tulip Festival, members of different faith groups from across Ottawa gather for Multifaith Housing Initiative's annual Tulipathon fundraiser. Walking among a rainbow of tulips, people of all different ages, races, creeds, and religions come together to support MHI's mission of wanting all people to have safe and affordable housing in Ottawa. While the roots of the Canadian Tulip Festival date back more than 70 years, Tulipathon participants have been walking along the tulip-lined paths for almost 25 years.

The original charity walk, started in the 1990s by the late Dr. Farook Tareen with support from the Ottawa Muslim Association, departed from Dow's Lake and saw some participants walk all the way down the canal to the NAC and back. The original fundraiser only brought in about \$1,500 but the Tareen Family continued with the event year after year, eventually gifting the walkathon to MHI as their own charitable event. Now members from more than 70 faith groups gather for the annual walk and continue to fundraise in support of MHI, raising more than \$100,000 annually.

All proceeds from Tulipathon go towards MHI's subsidies program, helping to provide rent subsidies to MHI's 300-400 tenants. Every year MHI provides more than \$400,000 in rent subsidies, which wouldn't be possible without Tulipathon and the generous support of Ottawa's faith communities.

Each year at MHI's Annual General Meeting in April, there is an award given in Dr. Farook Tareen's name to celebrate outstanding Tulipathon fundraising efforts by a faith group from the previous year. In 2023, this award was given to the Ottawa Muslim Women's Association, who raised \$10,000 for tenant subsidies. Participating Tulipathon teams are also encouraged to bring a decorative banner to show their support for Tulipathon.

As Tulipathon nears its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this year's event is sure to be another great success. Join the diverse faith groups of Ottawa, along with MHI donors, tenants, staff, and volunteers, on Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup> for what promises to be one of the best Tulipathons yet! For more information, please visit

<https://www.multifaithhousing.ca/tulipathon>

## News from the General Council Office



A [special issue](#) shares the Moderator's Pentecost message and her invitation to join her on the Global Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage, including in Ottawa on May 22.

The [April 23<sup>rd</sup>](#) issue invites you to The United Church of Canada's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kick-Off Service (online or in-person)...and more!

The [May 1<sup>st</sup>](#) issue has information about Asian Heritage Month, PAR Month and more.

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