



EOORC News

Wednesday, November 27, 2024

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

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Good News Story – Salem United Church

Salem United Church has sparked an innovative project in South Glengarry. Seniors in the church and beyond have been working together to weave together mats for people experiencing homelessness. The mats, which are made out of recycled milk bags, provide a good surface for sleeping bags, helping to keep them dry and off the cold ground.

The story was featured in *The Recorder and Times*. Shawn O'Neill writes: "The local mat-making took off with the Salem United Church's community drop-in group, which currently meets there every Tuesday from 2-4 p.m. Casgrain-Robertson said that in addition to enjoying a friendly game of euchre and snacks, attendees began to work on weaving the mats together, creating a community within a community."

You can read more [here](#).

Then, Let Us Sing!

As the launch date for *Then Let Us Sing!* approaches, we know many people are looking forward to engaging this exciting new digital music resource from The United Church of Canada. [Read more in the most recent newsletter!](#)

Camp Lau-Ren Newsletter

Camp Lau-Ren has had its best summer ever! For the first time, camper registrations were above 500 – and these 528 campers had a wonderful experience at camp. You can read Camp Lau-Ren's newsletter, "The Rock," [here](#).

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Important Message – Please Share This Info in Church Bulletins and Newsletters!

You are invited to join in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada! The Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council is hosting a special worship service on Sunday June 15th. It will be at the EY Centre in Ottawa, as well as broadcast on YouTube. We hope to have 1000 people from all parts of our region coming to sing, pray and celebrate together. Please save-the-date...and invite your family, friends and neighbours!

While we are aware there are independent celebrations taking place, but **this is the official EOORC Celebration for the whole Region!** Details and opportunities to be involved in this milestone event will be shared through the EOORC website which will be regularly updated. Special notices will also be shared directly with each Community of Faith. One exciting piece to share is that there will be a **Regional Choir**, and details on how everyone can participate will be forthcoming.

Centennial FAQ

Where can I find up-to-date-information about regional plans to celebrate the United Church of Canada's 100th Anniversary?

You can visit <https://eoorc.ca/about-us/centennial/> We will update the information regularly.

Our regional celebration will be in Ottawa, and that is a long drive from my home. How can my community of faith participate?

We encourage all communities of faith to join us at the EY Centre in Ottawa. We will provide a grant application template for communities of faith who would like to run a bus to the event. If you are not able to come in person, a live stream will be available on YouTube.

My community of faith received a letter from the "Friends of the United Church Foundation" which talked about cluster services to celebrate the 100th Anniversary. Is this an initiative of the region? Some of you have likely received a letter from Brian Arthur Brown under the title of "Friends of the United Church Foundation". The letter shared invitations to cluster services, Centennial worship resources, and an online worship service on June 10th. We feel it is necessary to highlight that these are not events in which the Regional Council nor the General Council is involved. Rev. Brown has created this project and is driving it. While you are welcome to join him in his proposed activity, we want to be particularly clear that this is not a requirement nor an expectation. Our Regional Council's official celebration will be held on June 15th, 2025 at the EY Centre. The official denominational national service will be held online in St. John's NL on June 8th, 2025.

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Prayers for the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering

The National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering will be meeting from Nov. 29 – Dec. 3 in Winnipeg. This group will have [much to consider and navigate](#). We invite you to pray for the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering and all who attend.

Moderator's Advent Message

In her [Advent message](#), Moderator Carmen Lansdowne reflects on how the Christ child was not born in luxury, but had loving parents and God's grace. This love is what we hope for with all of those in our care.

Christmas Services – Inviting Your Local Community

Christmas is the perfect time of year to invite others to join your community of faith in worship. Here are a few tips!

- Be sure to put Christmas worship times on your website, social media (church and local community pages), local community notice boards, classified ads or other places where you communicate. This is best done early and then again closer to the date – some people make Christmas plans in November, and some make plans a day or two before.
- Publicize Christmas Eve worship, but also other special services like Blue Christmas.
- Take pictures at pageants, Christmas Eve and other events, and share them. (Make sure you ask consent before posting any photos of people!)
- Did you know that [70-85% of people who visit a church come because they were invited by someone they know](#)? Encourage your community of faith to invite their family, friends and neighbours to Christmas worship and activities.
- Post your event on the EOORC Website. Here is an example post from [St. Andrew's United Church in Cumberland](#), who are hosting a daytime Christmas Eve service – perfect for folks who don't like driving in the dark, who have young children at home, or who are busy with family dinners in the evening.

Christmas Newsletter Schedule

The EOORC News is normally published every second Wednesday. We will be following a slightly different schedule in Advent and Christmas.

The EOORC News will be published on December 11th, December 18th and January 8th before returning to our usual schedule. If you would like something included in the newsletter, please send it to nmatkovsky@united-church.ca by Tuesday at noon to have it in the next day's newsletter.

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Camino Reflections

Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly spent June and July 2024 walking the Camino del Norte, the Camino Lebaniego, the Camino Primitivo, the Camino Inglés and the Camino Muxia/Finistera as part of his sabbatical. He walked 1458kms carrying his backpack across mountains, fields and coasts while holding communities of faith and ministry personnel in prayer. Éric will share some insights of his journey over the coming months.

Stinging Nettle... There is a lot of wisdom along the path. One particularly long day, about three weeks into my journey, I encountered a seasoned walker who had done many different paths, but doing the Camino del Norte for the first time. He was an avid gardener. In fact, he was the gardener of a local monastery in his home town in Germany. He would stop frequently to admire various flowers, both in and out of the many gardens you would encounter along the journey. Read more: <https://nakhakaucc.ca/blog/2024/11/18/camino-reflections-stinging-nettles/>



New – Free Webinars on Church Property Vitality

It is true that “the Church is the people, not the building”...and it is also true that most United Church communities of faith in our region are located in a building.

A new monthly webinar, offered by the Church Property Network, will explore topics to help increase the vitality of your church property. Topics covered will range from increasing revenue through rentals strategies, to energy efficiency, to how to start tackling that leaky roof. Bring all your questions to the Church Property Network so we can learn together. You can [learn more and register here](#).

Upcoming Webinars:

- December 12: Faithful Footprints and Energy Efficiency, with Stephen Collette and David Constable
- January 15: Rental Strategies 101, with Katja Brittain and Daniel Reed

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Helpful links for accessibility of worship resources (from Rev. Tori Mullin)

These are my go-to resources on creating great church PowerPoints. These principles can/should also be applied to all digital communications (social media, websites, emails)!

- Checklist for PPT Accessibility (University of Waterloo): <https://uwaterloo.ca/centre-for-teaching-excellence/accessibility-checklist-ms-powerpoint>
- Clear Print Accessibility Guidelines (CNIB): <https://cnib.ca/sites/default/files/2018-07/CNIB%20Clear%20Print%20Guide.pdf>
- Free Colour Contrast Checker: <https://colourcontrast.cc/>

News from the Wider United Church



The [Nov. 19th edition](#) discusses the need for Canadian support for the United Nations' work in the Middle East.

The [November 26th edition](#) of E-ssentials shares about the Moderator's Advent Video...and more!

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