



EOORC News

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

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

QUICK LINKS

- [Pastoral Relations Minutes](#)
- [Executive Minutes](#)
- [Jobs*New, Gardening Lead at the Haven, Music Director/Accompanist at Grace-St. Andrew's Arnprior](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Submit an Event](#)

IN THIS ISSUE

- Cathedral of the Trees
- "Strengthening Invitation" in Lent and Easter
- Faithful Footprints – St. John's Cardinal
- May the Fourth Services
- Vision and Transformation Grants
- ASL Hymns
- Children's Ministry Round Table
- And More!

Cathedral of the Trees

The Cathedral of the Trees: Algonquin Park Network: Time at Algonquin Park to enjoy and be renewed by the wonders of this jewel of nature and to provide a ministry that helps others to do and express the same. We celebrate the third year of this official combined network of the two Regional Councils- East Central Ontario and Eastern Ontario Outaouais. How it works: Clergy and their families enjoy the use of the trailer from Friday to Friday. Clergy offer worship leadership at the weekly outdoor Interfaith service on Sunday. Please visit the [ECORC website](#) to find out more information and to fill in an application. The deadline is Thursday March 20th and you will receive notice by email by April 11th.

Strengthen Invitation to Your Community of Faith this Lent & Easter A Message from Growth Animator Rev. Tori Mullin

Worship leaders, start your Lent off with invitation in mind. This season, the Growth Team invites you to consider how you can intentionally cultivate an invitational attitude with your community of faith to prepare to invite and welcome in friends new and old this Easter. Get inspired by Growth Animator Scott Reynold's [blog post on making this Easter a time of invitation](#), then use the *Plan to Strengthen Invitation This Easter* resource, available on the [Easter Sunday worship page](#), to for ideas you can put in place this week! Looking for more hands-on support? Contact your Growth Animator, Tori Mullin, at tmullin@united-church.ca or [book a call online](#).

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**Congratulations to St. John's United Church in Cardinal
*Faithful Footprints Grant Approval***

St. John's United Church recently applied and was approved for a grant through the Faithful Footprints program.

Jim Grant of St. John's United writes: "We are certainly pleased here at St. John's United in Cardinal on receiving approval of our Faithful Footprints Grant application to reduce our Carbon Footprint. This grant will allow us to do some much needed work to our facilities to help reduce our carbon footprint. The work will include replacing the 10 old vintage 1963 electric motors in our radiators & fan blowers in the Gymnasium and hallways which we rely on for heat. It will include new circulating ceiling fans in the sanctuary which are reversible to move the air in winter and summer, also removing a huge stain-glass window from the east side of our building and bricking it up as well as removing and bricking up a large north window in our Gymnasium and new energy efficient front doors to the Sanctuary. It will certainly help to keep our doors open for worship well into the future."



Would your community of faith like to make your building more energy efficient? Visit <https://www.faithfulfootprints.org/> or reach out to Stephen Collette scollette@faithcommongood.org, Phone: 705-930-1011.

40 Days of Affirming

As we begin the 40 days of Lent, Affirm United has created a "40 Days of Affirming" calendar. You can download the printable version [here](#).

Church Property Network - Support for those who manage church buildings:

This free monthly webinar 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. Learn more at [Church Property Network](#)

Webinars for Church Treasurers - A bi-monthly series for Church Treasurers: Join us to keep up to date on the latest news and advice for treasurers, trustees, payroll contacts and more. The "business of church" is complicated. Whether you're wondering about the latest government grants, or looking for advice on leasing space, maintaining a big property, or the best practices around managing a cemetery, there will be something for you here. More information can be found at [Webinars for Church Treasurers](#).

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“May the Fourth Be With You”

Is your community of faith planning a Star Wars themed service on May 4th? Please let us know by writing to Natalie Matkovsky at nmatkovsky@united-church.ca. These services may be of interest to people in the wider community, and we would love to help you promote them.

Community of Faith in the News – Wall Street United Church (Brockville) and “Coldest Night of the Year”

The Wall Street Walkers (of Wall Street United Church, Brockville) were part of the “Coldest Night of the Year” fundraising event in Brockville. They participated in a walk to support programs for people who are unhoused. In [this article from *The Brockville Recorder and Times*](#), two participants from Wall Street United Church share about their own experiences with not having a place to live, or knowing people without a place to live. They discuss the importance of support for all in our communities.

Vision and Transformation Grants

IT’S TIME. The deadline for the next submission for a Vision and Transformation grant is March 31 2025. As members of the Vision and Transformation Leadership Team, we hope that you have heard about the grants we offer. Twice a year we receive and recommend grant applications from a variety of communities of faith which include all forms of ministry in our region. Grant applications are then reviewed and forwarded to the next executive of EOOR for approval.

Grants approved from the October 31st submissions promoted a youth worker, a parish nurse, indigenous programming, arts and wellness for seniors, YAYA worship, and more. What are your dreams? What project would you like to undertake? Or do you simply want to envision?

And if you have a story to tell about your success using an earlier grant, please share it with us. We would love to hear from you.

Please look for us on the EOOR website. We can be found under <https://eoorc.ca/resources/funding-sources/>. Information about the grants and the application form can be found there. Questions can be directed to: visionandtransformationeoorc@gmail.com

The Mission and Service Volunteer Program is looking for new volunteers!

Why be a Mission and Service volunteer?

You might be a **True Believer**: You’ve been contributing money, time, or both to Mission and Service for years. You’ve seen the good work Mission and Service does, and you want to help do more of it.

As a volunteer, one thing you can choose to do is create short videos and/or take photos that can be used to promote Mission and Service and Gifts with Vision (you can do this right from your phone!)

Contact us today and learn more about how you can help! **Mission and Service Volunteer Program, The United Church of Canada, ms@united-church.ca , 1-800-465-3771**

Online Study Series

The Canadian Council of the Capital Area presents *An Unexpected Saviour: An Introduction to the Historical Jesus*.

You can visit [here](#) to learn more about this series or to register.

Christian Council of the Capital Area Online Study Series



An Unexpected Saviour: An introduction to the Historical Jesus

with Rev. John Perkin, First Baptist Church

Join Us **ONLINE** every Tuesday

March 11, 18, and 23

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

<https://HistoricalJesus-CCCA.eventbrite.ca>



The Christian Council
of the Capital Area
Le Conseil chrétien
de la région de la capitale



Announcements from the Ottawa Pastoral Care Training Program

Spring Basic Course – the online course is full, but spaces are still available in the in-person course.

Sessions begin Monday, March 10th, 2025 and run weekly until May 12, 2025 (including Easter Monday).

Continuing Education Event -- We are also excited to present a Continuing Education event on Tuesday April 5th from 7- 9pm by Zoom. In this session, Elspeth MacEwan, community psychiatrist, hospice volunteer, expressive arts and labyrinth facilitator, will lead a session called **Sacred Conversations: 7000 Ways to Pray**.

Get-Together for Pastoral Care Team Coordinators –This year the OPCTP is planning an in-person get-together for Pastoral Care Team Coordinators (and/or their delegates). These events are designed to assist in the effective operation of a pastoral/spiritual care team of churches, long term care facilities and/or retirement homes/residences. Date: Saturday, April 5, 2025 Time: 10am until noon Place: St. Paul's Presbyterian, 971 Woodroffe Ave Cost: \$20.00 per person For: Coordinators and/or their delegate(s)/representative(s)

For more details about any of the above courses/events, please click [here](#).

Ministry Personnel Gathering

Save-the-date for Tuesday, May 6th at St. John's UC in Kemptville. More details will be forthcoming. Keep an eye on the EOORC Newsletters.

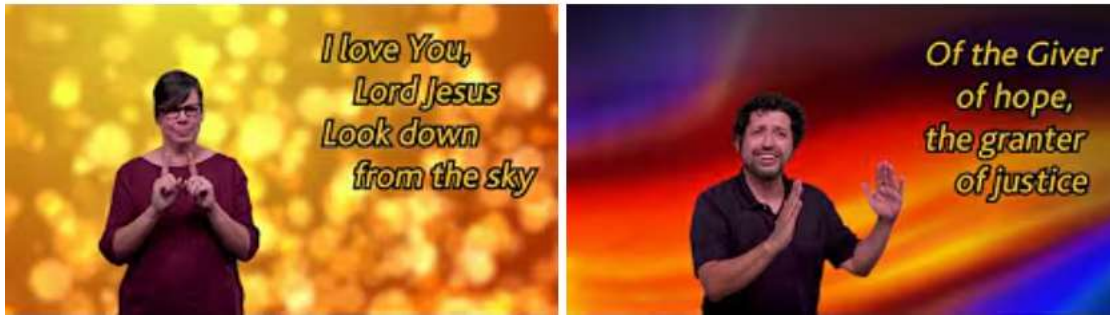
Pilgrimage for the Planet

Time is running out for our planet. If you're tired of watching humanity speed past heat records and tipping points as governments spin their wheels on climate action —join us in letting climate justice roll!

May 10-12, people from across the ecumenical family are coming together in a "Pilgrimage for the Planet," culminating in a peaceful demonstration in Ottawa to make a spirited call on the federal government to sign onto the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. It's an initiative spearheaded by the [Eastern Synod Climate Justice Committee](#), an invitation to let climate justice "roll like waters"! (Amos 5:24)

We will be biking from Montreal to Ottawa—and making pilgrimages around the country—to demand that the federal government walk humbly with us the road to a fossil fuel-free future. For more information, click [here](#).

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Did you know... ASL interpretations of songs are available on our YouTube channel?

When we think about language diversity in our communities of faith, we often think about English, French, Mandarin, Swahili, or Tagalog (to name a few). American Sign Language is one of the many languages United Church members use to worship God; and now it is even easier to incorporate some ASL in your worship service.

As part of the *Then Let Us Sing* project, 11 hymns are available with music, ASL interpretation and English captions on the United Church of Canada's YouTube page. You are invited you to use these songs with your congregational Reprint License (for more information on music copyright, contact OneLicense).

Link: [Then Let Us Sing! ASL Hymns Playlist](#)

Link: OneLicense.net

Children's Ministry Roundtable Neurodiversity at Church – Drawing the Circle Wider

You are invited to an online Children's Ministry Roundtable, focusing on neurodiversity at church. This event has been organized by a few United Church regional councils, and anyone from EOORC is welcome to attend. You can learn more [here](#).



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Reminder – Evaluation Survey for Winter Educational Event

Did you attend “Creative Sparks,” EOORC’s Educational Event on Saturday, March 1st? If so, we invite you to take a moment and [fill out the evaluation survey](#). This provides helpful feedback to those organizing future events. The form will close on Thursday March 13th.

The United Church Rural Ministry Network -March Newsletter

The March Newsletter is now available! You can read it [here](#). The popular “LLWL Check In” online sessions are being continued. LLWLs can register and join for conversation and encouragement.

News from the Wider United Church



E-ssentials: The [March 5th edition](#) introduces the new book “Moments in Time: Sermons from The United Church of Canada 1910-2020” and shares details about online and in-person launch events for this book.

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