



EOORC News

Friday, November 21, 2025

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

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Celebration of Life and Obituary for Rev. Grant Dillenbeck

The Celebration of Life Service for Rev. Grant Dillenbeck will be at Zion-Memorial United Church in Carleton Place at 11:00 am on Saturday, November 29, 2025, followed by a reception with fellowship and refreshments.

Grant was a much loved Volunteer Associate Minister at Zion-Memorial UC after his retirement.

You can read Grant's obituary [here](#).

Celebration of Life for Christine Hewlett

We share the sad news of the passing of Christine Hewlett, daughter of Rev. Stewart Hewlett and Doreen Hewlett. A celebration of life will be held at Emmanuel United Church Ottawa on Saturday November 29th. You can read Christine's obituary [here](#).

EOORC News – Weekly Schedule

Over the coming weeks and into the season of Advent, we will be trying out a weekly schedule for the EOORC News. This means that you will receive a shorter EOORC News each week instead of a longer one every other week. We hope that this will help us to share news in a timely manner without sending too many extra emails. Questions or feedback? Please contact Natalie Matkovsky (nmatkovsky@united-church.ca).

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 nmatkovsky@united-church.ca 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.

Here from the Beginning....

Black people have played a significant role in the history of The United Church of Canada, but their stories have often gone untold. As we commemorate our 100th Anniversary we invite you to join us in bringing these untold stories to life.

“Here from the Beginning” is an exhibition that showcases the contributions and experiences of Black people within the church, amplifying voices that have long been overshadowed by the dominant narrative.

This exhibit is travelling across the country and we are pleased to announce it will be in our Region for the month of December. We are looking for congregation who would like to host the exhibit. (It is made up of about twenty collapsible panels so a large space is helpful but it can be modified if needed) If your congregation would be interested in hosting the exhibit for a special event or a Sunday morning please speak to Rev. Mary Royal-Duczek. More information about this existing project can be found at <https://herefromthebeginning.ca/>.

Worshiplude 2026

Worshiplude 2026 will take place at MacKay UC

Sat. Jan. 31st 2026

Dinner 5:30

Worship 6:30

\$20 pp (financial support available)

All youth and young adults and leaders are invited to join us for a youth focused worship.

Moderator Kim Heath is the guest preacher. Poster to come early December.

Help needed:

1. Congregation needed to host visiting youth groups
2. Desserts needed (cookies, cupcakes, squares)
3. Volunteers to help greet groups on Saturday night
4. Volunteers to help set-up and clean up Saturday
5. Scripture readers (french and english)
6. Candle lighters

Please contact Dana Ducette (DDucette@united-church.ca) if you can help with any of these needs.

Camp Lau-Ren Newsletter

The Camp Lau-Ren fall newsletter is now available! You can read it [here](#). Camp Lau-Ren had a wonderful summer, with over 500 campers. The newsletter includes some 2026 dates, photos and more!

Pilgrimage to El Salvador

Are you interested in joining a partnership that has blessed people across North America since the 1980s? Is the Spirit urging you to discover Christ's work in communities that look dramatically different from your own?

During March break 2026, 20-30 people and leaders from the East Central Ontario Regional Council together with the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council and the Pacific Mountain Regional Council will travel to San Salvador to be guests of our global partners at Emmanuel Baptist Church. Through this week together you will learn about Salvadoran history, perhaps help build a school, community centre or church in rural El Salvador, learn about peace making initiatives in a country with a violent history. In short, your life will change.

Adults who have visited El Salvador before will also have an opportunity to visit United Church global partner ADES, the Santa Marta community advocacy and agriculture support group.

Are you ready for this?

Then please consider joining us **March 12-20, 2026**, (actual dates to be confirmed) but before you complete this application, please consider some important, practical facts:

- El Salvador has a tropical climate, with especially high levels of pollution in the urban areas
- Much of the terrain is volcanic and very steep. We will walk a fair bit on this trip.
- We sleep in dorm rooms with 8 to 10 people.

While our hosts are well connected and make our safety and health their priority, it is important to understand the political situation in El Salvador:

- El Salvador remains under a state of "Special Emergency", whereby some legal rights remain suspended.
- This has resulted in mass incarceration, which many believe has reduced the activities of the gangs and significantly reduced the murder rate.
- However, there are reports of false arrests and difficulty extracting young men from prison once arrested, including citizens of other South and Central American countries.

Visiting a partner takes preparation, and the following activities are planned: Tuesday, November 25 at 7:00 EST by Zoom (information meeting), Wednesday, November 26 11:59pm deadline for applications, Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 7:00pm EST by Zoom, Saturday February 21, 2026 from 10:00am-4:00pm in person, locations to be announced. You will also need to spend some of your own time learning about El Salvador and what it means to be in partnership.

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Wanda Stride at minister@trinitystandrews.ca or Ryan McNally at ryanm@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com

Follow us on Facebook at Facebook (www.facebook.com/2026IBE)

For more information, please visit East Central Ontario Regional Council's website [at Pilgrimage to El Salvador - March Break, 2026 - East Central Ontario Regional Council of the United Church of Canada](#)

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Covenanting Service, Rev. Dr. Dorcas Kanana Muketha

You are invited to join First United Church Ottawa & Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council to celebrate & covenant with Rev. Dr. Dorcas Kanana Muketha.

Sunday, November 23, 2025, 2:00pm
Guest Preacher Rev. Hewitt Holmes
Light refreshments will be served.

347 Richmond Road, Westboro.
firstunitedchurchottawa.org

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Logos at the bottom include: United Church of Canada, EOORC (Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council), and a QR code.

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