

OCTOBER 16, 2020



Kitchissippi
UNITED CHURCH

Sunday October 18, 2020
World Food Sunday

Message from Rev. Jenni – On study leave



Rev. Jenni has been on Study Leave this week this week. We look forward to hearing and learning more about her studies upon her return.

Join us for Livestream worship – every
Sunday 10am at www.Rideaupark.ca



World Food Sunday – October 18th

A Prayer for World Food Day:

As the leaves begin to turn brilliant reds, oranges, and yellows, we begin to pull from the ground the fruit of our labour. The potatoes, squash, brussels sprouts, cabbage, apples, pears and more begin to fill our baskets. We give thanks. The corn and beans are ready to be stored; they have dried on their stocks. We know that these foods will sustain us through the winter...

Find the full prayer by Michael Shewburg is Executive Director of Five Oaks on our website. <https://www.united-church.ca/prayers/world-food-day-prayer> #UCCan #WorldFoodDay #WorldFoodSunday

Parkdale Food Centre - This Sunday is World Food Sunday. Since we are unable to accept donations this year due to the pandemic; we ask that you please still consider supporting the PDFC. This year there is an even greater need than ever. Please see the link below to see how you can support the Food Centre. <https://parkdalefoodcentre.ca/donate-2/>

MORE FROM THE UNITED CHURCH BLOG - DINING WITH DIGNITY – WORLD FOOD SUNDAY

<https://www.united-church.ca/blogs/round-table/dine-dignity>

Rev. Trisha Elliott shares her dream for a world where there isn't just abundant food, but also abundant safety and dignity.

It was Thanksgiving dinner at the homeless shelter where I worked. The round, white tables were draped with tablecloths; well wishes from generous donors were written on the



Credit: Gabriel Garcia Marengo, Unsplash

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placemats scalloping the table edges. Cheerful fall leaves had been gathered by volunteers to form centerpieces. The smell of turkey and pumpkin pie wafted from the kitchen.

Working in development communications, my job was to gather soundbites about the dining experience that I could round up in a newsletter to thank donors for their gifts that made the event possible.

I struck up a conversation with one of our guests waiting in line for dinner and asked what her favourite part of the feast was. I expected to hear about the food. But the food, as it turns out, wasn't her favourite aspect. Instead, she responded: "The tablecloths and that I get to sit down and be served." I paused and inwardly registered a deep learning: Food isn't just about the food – it's so very often connected to dignity.

Tablecloths aren't unique to my experience. Nor is dining out. Sure, I appreciate a well-dressed table and going out for dinner from time to time. But I don't consider either of these things a great treat unless I'm enjoying a five-star dinner conjured up by the best chef in the city. My daily experience certainly doesn't involve standing in line for every single meal with a tray in hand.

I am privileged. Not only do I expect there will be food on my table each day, but I expect the ritualistic, dignified gestures that go along with it.

Another day at the shelter, a number of guests were coming in with cuts on their hands. I asked a front line worker what was up with that. "Our guests are getting canned goods from the Food Bank but don't have can openers. So they are trying to open the cans by jamming a knife in the top and missing," she said. Shortly thereafter, I published "can openers" on our Christmas wish list and fielded a few calls from donors asking why. Toiletries and boots were understandable – but can openers?

When we think about food accessibility, we often assume that providing food is enough. But other barriers often lurk in the background. Things that many of us wouldn't give a whiff of thought to. As we contemplate World Food Sunday, I share these two experiences as a reminder that our conversation this week should be about more than the food itself. Dialogue about safety and dignity are desperately needed.

I dream of a world where the table of abundance flows for everyone. A world where there isn't just abundant food, but also abundant safety and dignity around food. A world where everyone has their daily bread and are able to experience it with equal pleasure.

— Trisha Elliott

Rev. Trisha Elliott works in The United Church of Canada's Philanthropy Unit. Find out more about World Food Sunday.

Broadview Reading Group - on line

Broadview
SPIRITUALITY, JUSTICE AND ETHICAL LIVING

**BROADVIEW (ON-LINE) BOOK CLUB
MEETNG DATES**

OCTOBER:

Monday the 19th
Tuesday the 27th

NOVEMBER:

Monday the 2nd
Monday the 9th
Monday the 16th
Tuesday the 24th
Monday the 30th

We are here for you! Please reach out!

Kitchissippi United Church
630 Island Park Drive
Ottawa, ON K1Y 0B7

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE
TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**Emails and Phone messages
are checked every day!**

www.kitchissippiuc.com

facebook

Rev. Jenni Leslie
Minister

jleslie@kitchissippiuc.com

Diana Brushey
Faith Formation Leader

diana.brushey@kitchissippiuc.com

Kirsten Gracequist
Office Administrator

kgracequist@kitchissippiuc.com

Gavan Quinn
Music Director

gavanquinn@gmail.com

Jerzy Spychalski
Custodian



**WORLD
FOOD
DAY-OCT 16**