



<http://www.cityviewunited.org>

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP at 10 AM LIVE STREAM

WWW.KITCHISSIPPIUC.COM

HERE IS THE LINK TO VIEW THE KUC YOUTUBE CHANNEL ON SUNDAYS

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwATU1rozB1PIlaRmr2teVA>

FROM REV JENNI'S DESK



Hello Folks,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying the last few days of Epiphany! This **Wednesday, February 18th**, we mark **Ash Wednesday**, the beginning of **Lent**. On Wednesday, please come to the church for dinner at 6pm and Ash Wednesday service at 7pm. If you have some time and could come and set up the hall with tables and chairs or if you'd like to help cook, please let me know or call Jennifer in the office (613 722-7254)?

It's been a busy week this week - I met with 75+ people on Sunday who would like to become members of Kitchissippi United, and another 15+ on Thursday morning by zoom. We will welcome upwards of 91 people on Sunday morning! I'm asking folks at General Council if this is a record, but haven't heard back yet.

Welcoming people into the God's Beloved group has meant that the demographic of our church is changing and as such, we need to learn more about how to be an Intercultural Church. Luckily, we have two people from General Council Offices who are going to give a couple of sessions on Becoming an Intercultural Church. Rev Adele Halliday will be with us in church on Sunday, March 22nd and will be preaching. Emo Yango will be with us shortly after church on that Sunday too. We will have a lunch and

learn until around 4 pm. You will be invited back to the church on Monday, March 23rd, for a full day session as well. Please, if you can take time off work to be present, that would be amazing! (If you can't, of course that's okay too!)

Tuesday, February 17th, the pastoral care team and all others who wish to help us sing, are welcome to come to Amica Westboro at 11 am for a service with their residents. Our Lenten Study begins on Thursday called ***Tell Me Something Good: grounding ourselves in good news this Lent***. We have stayed in touch with the minister who was serving at Concord, New Hampshire, the Rev Carlos Jauhola-Straight, who brought his youth group to Kitchissippi a couple of times over the past 15 years. Rev Carlos and folks from his current congregation in Pelham, NH, will join the zoom call as well. So if you have time, come and meet Carlos and members of his congregation! Grab a booklet from me on Sunday, even if you want to just follow along and can't make it.

Lenten Study – Boardroom 10:30 am – 12:30 pm – Thursdays

Feb 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 9

Here is the zoom link to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89059647919?pwd=kxvllscua4nExOsmYgZdSeklpDWFsM.>

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I hope you all have a wonderful “Family Weekend”! I hope you find time to spend with those who are family or those who are like family!

Blessings,
Jenni

KUC WEBSITE
WWW.KITCHISSIPPIUC.COM

KUC CIRCLES UPDATED MEETING TIME

Sunday, February 15, 2026

The **Outreach Circle** will meet on Sunday, February 15, 2026.

Everyone is welcome to participate. **Time 11:30 am – 12:30 pm.**

ASH WEDNESDAY & ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER

Ash Wednesday will take place on **Wednesday, February 18, 2026**, with service beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Please note that **KUC's Annual Pancake Supper** will also be held on the same day.

We look forward to welcoming everyone as we begin the Lenten season together.

KITCHISSIPPI IN THE NEWS

In a recent article by **Delaney Smith for the *Algonquin Times***, the experience of **Kitchissippi United Church** and **God's Beloved** is highlighted as a powerful testament to how compassion, faith, and intentional inclusion can change lives. The article highlights how God's Beloved continues to provide a welcoming and affirming community for newcomers seeking belonging.

<https://algonquintimes.com/how-this-refugee-group-at-kitchissippi-united-church-is-helping-people-find-an-accepting-community/>

COMMUNION SERVICE AT AMICA WESTBORO

A Communion Service will be held at **Amica Westboro, 491 Richmond Road, on Tuesday, February 17, 2026**. Please feel free to join us as we share communion with our friends living at Amica Retirement Residence.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SERIES

During Black History Month at Kitchissippi United Church, everyone is warmly invited to explore a special lending library in the sanctuary.

A selection of books will be available to borrow, including works by authors from the African diaspora, stories highlighting the history of Black Canadians, and biographies of influential leaders and change makers.

The books will be in the sanctuary throughout February and are expected to remain available through the season of Lent. We kindly ask that all borrowed books be returned on time so others may also enjoy them.

If you have books you would like to donate to this lending library, or suggestions for titles to include, please feel free to leave a message or drop off your donated books with **Jennifer at the Kitchissippi United Church office**. We invite you to read, reflect, and share in this meaningful celebration together.

Celebrate Black History Month with these must-read books on Black history, identity, and anti-racism.

<https://ucrdstore.ca/collections/anti-racism>

OUR SISTER – AYOMIDE A YORUBA STORY- REV DANIEL

The year the rain refused to fall, Mama Bose stopped singing.

In the village of Alawusa in Yoruba land, where red earth clung to your feet and evenings smelled of wood smoke and pepper soup, Mama Bose and Baba Tunde waited for a child.

They had waited for ten long years.

Ten years of folded baby clothes.
Ten years of midnight prayers.
Ten years of smiling outside and crying inside.

Every naming ceremony in Alawusa felt like a quiet wound. They danced for others. They clapped. But at night Mama Bose would lie awake and press her palm against her flat stomach.

God, do not forget us.
Then one harmattan morning when the air was cold and dusty, Mama Bose fainted while sweeping the yard.
She was not sick.
She was pregnant.

The Naming Ceremony in Alawusa

The day the baby was born, rain poured from the sky as if heaven was washing away old tears.

She cried loudly the moment she came out, her tiny fists tight like she was ready to fight the world.

Baba Tunde wept openly.

On the eighth day the whole village of Alawusa gathered. In Yoruba land a naming ceremony is not a small event. It is drums. It is elders. It is prayers spoken into a child's destiny.

A white cloth was spread on the ground. On it were honey, salt, palm oil, water, kola nut, and alligator pepper.

The oldest elder Baba Adebayo dipped his finger in honey and touched the baby's lips.

May your life be sweet.

He touched salt.

May your life have meaning.

He touched water.

May your life flow gently.

When it was time to announce her name Baba Tunde stood up, his voice shaking.

She shall be called Ayomide.

Joy has come.

The women ululated. The men clapped. Children danced barefoot on the red earth.

Mama Bose held her daughter close.

You ended our tears, she whispered.

And in Alawusa that day, joy truly arrived.
The Girl Who Looked at the Sky
Ayomide grew like sunshine over the fields of Alawusa.

She was beautiful, yes. But more than beauty she carried deep curiosity.
While other children chased goats and played in the dust, Ayomide would lie flat on her back and watch airplanes slice across the sky.

One day I will build something that flies, she would say.
The elders laughed.
This girl wants to touch the sky.
She would smile quietly.
Why not.

But dreams need money. And money was scarce in Alawusa and her own father Baba Tunde was a very poor man.

When Ayomide finished primary school, her parents could not afford secondary school fees.

An uncle called Abimbola who lived in the northern part of Nigeria came to visit. He repaired bicycles near a town called Chibok.

Let her come with me, he said. School is cheaper there.

Mama Bose felt her heart tremble. Alawusa was home. The north was far and unfamiliar.

But dreams demand sacrifice.

So Ayomide packed her small bag. She hugged her mother tightly beside the mud house in Alawusa.

I will come back an aerospace engineer, she promised.

Whispers in the North

Chibok was dry and dusty. The wind carried sand instead of the moist air of Alawusa. Her uncle worked from morning till night repairing bicycles. The sound of metal hitting metal filled the yard.

Ayomide started her first year at Girls secondary school. She studied hard. At night she still looked at the sky. The stars here were brighter and closer.

But fear lived in whispers.

Boko Haram.

An extremist group.

They attacked villages.

They burned schools.

They said western education was evil.

They believed girls should not be in classrooms.

Some people said the army would protect the town. Others said danger could come at any time.

Ayomide pushed fear aside.

I came here to learn, she told herself.

The Night of Terror

It was a hot night.

The generator stopped working. The girls were reading with small lanterns, preparing for exams.

Then gunshots shattered the silence.

At first some people thought it was soldiers.

Men in uniforms entered the school compound.

Stay calm, one shouted. We are here to protect you.

Some teachers believed them.

But something felt wrong.

The men's voices were harsh. Their movements were violent.

Suddenly the shouting changed.

Get into the trucks.

The girls screamed.

They were not soldiers.

They were Boko Haram.

They moved quickly and with frightening confidence. They broke doors. They dragged girls from their rooms. Some tried to hide under beds. Others ran and were beaten back.

Ayomide felt her heart pounding so loudly it drowned out everything else.

She was pushed into a truck packed with crying girls.

The engine roared.

The trucks drove into the dark night.

Dust swallowed the school behind them.

Running Through the Forest

After hours of driving the trucks stopped in a thick forest.

The night was heavy. The air felt thick with fear.

The men ordered the girls down. Some of them laughed. Some argued.

Ayomide's mind was racing.

Think. Think clearly.
As the men turned away for a moment, she slowly stepped backward.
No one noticed.
Another step.
Another.
Her whole body trembled.
Then she turned and ran.
Branches tore her skin. Thorns scratched her legs. She did not stop.
Behind her she heard shouting.
A gunshot cracked through the darkness.
She ran deeper into the forest.
Suddenly bushes shook nearby.
Two glowing eyes stared at her.
A wild animal.
Her breath froze.
She grabbed a long stick from the ground and raised it.
Go away, she shouted though her voice trembled.
The animal growled softly but moved away into the night.
She kept running.
Hours passed.
Her feet bled.
She stumbled many times.

At one point she climbed a tree and stayed there until morning, shaking, hungry, afraid to close her eyes.
When the sun rose, she followed its direction.
She walked until her strength was gone.
Then she saw a small village ahead.
She collapsed at the entrance.

Joy That Refused to Die

When Ayomide opened her eyes, she was inside a hut. Villagers had found her and cared for her.
She was weak but alive.
Many girls were still missing.
Many families were crying.
But Ayomide had escaped.
When news reached Alawusa, Mama Bose fell to her knees on the red earth.
Ayomide, she whispered. Joy truly came.

Years Later

The forest did not destroy her.

It sharpened her courage.

She carried scars and memories of that terrible night.

But she also carried determination.

She returned to school.

She studied harder than ever.

I will build things that fly, she said again. Not to carry fear. But to carry hope.

And in the village of Alawusa, whenever an airplane passes across the sky, Mama

Bose looks up and smiles and all the villagers also look up the sky with smiles and say

“Our sister Ayomide”

Everyone smiles because joy did not just visit their land.

Joy survived!!!

IN LOVING MEMORY OF EARL LYTLE



It is with heartfelt sympathy that we share the news of the passing of **Mr. Earl Lytle**, father of our dear church member **Sara Lee (Mike)**. Mr. Lytle was a beloved father whose life touched many, and we extend our deepest condolences to Sara and her family during this difficult time.

Please join us in praying for comfort, strength, and peace for Sara, her loved ones, and all who mourn his passing. May God's grace uphold them and may treasured memories bring comfort in the days ahead. We also invite the congregation to reach out to Sara with messages of support and love as she navigates this season of grief.

Obituary for Earl Lytle

https://www.arbormemorial.ca/en/kelly-carling/obituaries/earl-lytle/155865.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawP7EYdleHRuA2FlbQlXMABicmlkETE2aENnQ3Q4ZUtacG5CQVhic3JoYwZhchBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHhWAA37gWZNFm3KYJ7uLzUPKuKSoQ37G3fZX2U7x_XNHhYlqVxRwJygKGGxA_aem_VT1YBXVzBjaoTUK1UhuFxQ

REQUEST FOR WINTER COATS

If you have **warm winter coats** in good condition, many of God's Beloved would be grateful!

- Where to donate: Please place coats on the newly donated rack in the hall.
- Spread the word: Feel free to email or tell your friends about this opportunity.
- Need help or questions: Kindly contact **Judy Mills** she's noticed that her usual sources for winter wear are running low.

Thank you for helping keep our community warm this winter!

OFFICE CLOSURE – FAMILY DAY

In recognition of **Family Day**, our office will be closed on **Monday, February 16**. We wish everyone a restful and meaningful holiday and look forward to reopening on **Tuesday, February 17**.

SCENT FREE SPACE



We have recently found out that one of our new members has severe asthma and can not tolerate strong scents and perfumes. Please refrain from using this product when attending church services and events. Thank you!

KITCHISSIPPI UNITED STAFF

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