



Kitchissippi  
UNITED CHURCH



Sunday, May 03, 2026

Affirm | Saffirmer  
UNITED | ENSEMBLE

**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/UCwATU1rozB1PIIaRmr2teVA>

### FROM REV JENNI'S DESK



Hello folks,

If you are not a hockey fan, you may not know the bad news and the good news about this city's hockey teams - the Senators (NHL) did not qualify for the playoffs, and the Charge (PWHL) did! Go Charge! (Sadly, we lost game one last night.)

There are some fun activities coming up here's one: next Saturday May

9th - a concert called Joy: music by queer composers.

<https://www.tonecluster.org/events/>

Please let me know if you'd like to go and/or sponsor a member of God's Beloved?

I recently learned that some members of God's beloved do not know how to swim, and in fact might be quite afraid of the water. I happen to live with a lifeguard who teaches swimming to babies, teens and adult alike. This has got me thinking about swim lessons for them and so Delaney and I and a few others are thinking about that for the summer.

I wonder what skills and interests you have that might be helpful for members of the God's beloved group? Do you like to bake bread or can food or shop with coupons? Or maybe you're a whiz at budgeting, tax returns, starting a business? Please be in touch with Daniel or me if you have some ideas? And in the future, perhaps there will be some things that the God's beloved would like to teach us. (But right now, they are in the process of healing their trauma, getting their feet established beneath them, and learning a new country and cultures.)

Just some Friday thoughts,  
Continued Easter blessings,  
Jenni



## **Zoom Trivia Night**

**(multiple choice!)**

In support of

**Campus Ministry at  
Algonquin College**

**Friday, May 1 @ 7:30 PM**

**(Zoom link will be live at 7:15)**

Freewill donation

Contact Jack Wilson at [wilsonjohns@rogers.com](mailto:wilsonjohns@rogers.com) for the  
Zoom link or go to the link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85700666493?pwd=78MjfXb3L7C9JVTamb8Rq7BuPvPewm.1>



We hope you can join us for our **Zoom Trivia Night** (multiple choice questions!) in support of **Campus Ministry at Algonquin College: Friday, May 1 at 7:30 PM.**

You can either organize a team of your own or join others who will be participating, all in support of the ecumenical Christian Campus Ministry that serves the students and staff at Algonquin College.

Cost: Freewill donation (all donations are tax-receiptable).

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85700666493?pwd=78MjfXb3L7C9JVTamb8Rq7BuPvPewm.1>

If you are unable to attend but would like to make a tax-receiptable donation, you can do so through our CanadaHelps website:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/algonquin-college-campus-ministry/>

For more information, please contact Jack Wilson @ [wilsonjohns@rogers.com](mailto:wilsonjohns@rogers.com)

## UCW – WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 AT 1:00 PM

Join us on **Wednesday, May 6 at 1:00 PM in the Hall** for a thoughtful and engaging discussion with **Mary Laidlaw** and **Rev. Jenni** on:  
**“Changing Ways of Marking Death and Dying in Our Communities”**

This conversation is inspired by a webinar from Compassionate Ottawa, featuring voices from diverse faith communities.

We’ll explore how perspectives on death and dying are shaped by faith, culture, and community—and how these conversations and practices have evolved, especially since COVID.

Come to listen, reflect, and share your thoughts in a welcoming space.

**All are welcome.**

## YOU CAN LEARN TO SWIM AS AN ADULT: NEVER TOO LATE – DELANEY SMITH

**It’s Never Too Late to Learn!** Have you ever thought about learning to swim? It’s never too late to start! Many adults didn’t have the chance to learn earlier in life, but with the right support, confidence can grow at any age.

Swimming is not only a valuable life skill—it also builds confidence, improves fitness, and promotes safety in and around water.

Whether you are starting from scratch or looking to improve, take the step you can do it! This article by Delaney Smith will serve as a guide. Kindly see the link below:

<https://www.ottawaparentingtimes.ca/you-can-learn-to-swim-as-an-adult-never-too-late/>

## SUPPORT FOR CARLINGTON COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Carlington Community Connection (Chaplaincy) is fundraising on May 23 as part of Tamarack Ottawa Race Weekend. Wendy Warburton is participating as part of Team CCC in the Desjardins Charity Challenge -- please consider sponsoring her! You can donate your support to Wendy's 2K Walk Page at [justgiving.com](http://justgiving.com) and type her name into the Search box at the top of the webpage. Or you can donate to the CCC on the Race Weekend website at [runottawa.ca](http://runottawa.ca), click on Charity Challenge, then Donate to Charity, and scroll down to find Carlington Community Connection. Either way, don't forget to download your charitable tax receipt.

Another CCC fundraiser will be a social tea on Saturday, June 6 with delicious goodies and a silent auction at Julian of Norwich Anglican Church on Merivale Road. More information will follow soon; tickets will likely be available by mid-May.

## A POEM BY REV DANIEL ADDAI FOBI

My name is Daniel Addai Fobi.

I am a preacher.

And I have come to understand that my calling is not only to speak about God, but to stand for those who have been pushed out in God's name. Especially 2SLGBTQIA+ people who still believe, still pray, still hope... even after being told they do not belong.

There is a quiet damage that has been done to many queer Christians, and it did not begin with their lives. It began with a story. A story told over pulpits, repeated in Bible studies, whispered in families, and carried like a warning: Sodom was destroyed because of people like you.

I know how deep that message goes.

I have seen what it does to people.

I have sat with those who prayed to be changed, not because they were broken, but because they were told they were.

For many, that message does not remain abstract. It settles into the heart. It shapes how they pray, how they see themselves, and how they imagine God. Some learn to hide. Some learn to shrink. Some try to become someone else just to feel safe in church. And others walk away, not because they lose faith, but because faith is presented to them as something that has no space for them.

I remember the moment when everything shifted for me.

Word had spread about the messages I was preaching. Messages of inclusion. Messages that refused to condemn queer people. Messages that insisted that God's love could not be reduced to fear.

Then one day, I was summoned.

A group of senior ministers from my own community called for me. Men of influence. Men of authority. Some even referred to them as "High Priests."

When I entered that room, I knew I was not there for conversation.

I was there to be corrected.

They began with confidence.

They spoke about Sodom.

They spoke about judgment.

They spoke about how God punished that city because of homosexuality.

I listened without interruption.

But inside me, something was rising. Not anger. Not rebellion. Something deeper. A knowing that truth was being buried under certainty.

When it was finally my turn to speak, I looked into their faces. These were men I had respected. Men I had learned from. Men whose approval once meant something to me.

And I spoke.

What I said to them is what you are reading now.  
Because the truth has always been there, waiting for us to return to it.

In Ezekiel 16:49-50, the prophet does something unmistakably clear. He names the sin of Sodom directly. There is no metaphor to decode, no ambiguity to wrestle with. The indictment is plain: pride, excess, and a refusal to care for the poor and the vulnerable. A city that had more than enough yet chose not to share. A people who grew comfortable while others suffered at their gates.

That is not a subtle reading.

That is the reading.

So I asked them, quietly:

If God has already told us the sin, why are we telling another story?

There was a silence in that room I will never forget.

Because for a moment, truth landed.

I could see it in their eyes. Not all of them spoke, but something in them had heard what they could not deny. Their hearts were close to the truth... but their minds were still held by what they had always believed.

So I continued.

Yet for generations, that clarity has been overshadowed by another narrative, one that places queer identity at the center of Sodom's destruction. That narrative has endured not because it is faithful to the text, but because it has been useful to systems that needed a target. It is easier to condemn people than to confront injustice. Easier to regulate bodies than to transform hearts.

The consequence of that shift has been profound. Scripture, which should have been a source of life, became a source of fear for many. Instead of hearing a call to compassion, people heard a sentence over their existence. Instead of encountering a God who defends the vulnerable, they encountered a version of God that seemed to reject them outright.

But when the text is allowed to speak again, something begins to realign.

The God revealed in Ezekiel's words is not preoccupied with private relationships. He is concerned with public ethics. He is watching how communities treat those who have less power. He is measuring not conformity, but compassion. The failure of Sodom was not intimacy between people; it was indifference toward suffering.

I told them that day:

Sodom was not destroyed because of love.

Sodom was destroyed because there was no love.

That is the difference.

This reframing does more than correct an interpretation. It exposes a deeper tension within religious communities. If Sodom's sin is cruelty rather than identity, then the moral lens turns. The question is no longer about who someone loves. The question becomes whether we are living with mercy.

That shift is uncomfortable, because it moves accountability closer to home.

It challenges communities that have used scripture to exclude, while overlooking their own

failures to care for the marginalized. It raises difficult questions about what righteousness actually looks like. And it calls into question long-standing assumptions that have gone largely unexamined.

When I finished speaking, the room did not soften.  
There was no agreement.  
No embrace.  
Instead, there was rejection.  
I was called names.  
I was dismissed.  
I was made to feel like an outsider among my own.  
That day marked the beginning of my exile.

Not written on paper, but real in every way that matters. Doors closed. Relationships changed. Spaces that once felt like home became unfamiliar.

And then came the moment I carry with me every day.

My mother!!!  
Yes, my mom! I have really missed her (wiped a tear)  
She looked at me with tears in her eyes. Trying to be strong, but unable to hide her pain.  
She asked me a question that broke something inside me:  
“Daniel... will you ever come back to see me before I die?”  
There are questions that never leave you.  
I had chosen truth.  
But truth had a cost.  
I left behind people I loved.  
I left behind everything familiar.  
I stepped into a life I did not fully understand, carrying both conviction and grief.  
I write these words with tears because I remember that day clearly. I remember speaking with everything in me. Passion. Love. Truth. And still being rejected.

But I would say it again.  
Because somewhere, there is a queer Christian still carrying a burden they were never meant to carry.  
And this is what I need you to hear.  
For queer Christians, this rediscovery is not just theology. It is healing.  
To realize that the story used against you does not actually condemn you is not a small thing. It is a reorientation of the soul. It creates space to breathe again, to pray without fear, to approach God without the constant burden of self-rejection. It allows faith to become what it was always meant to be: a place of encounter, not exclusion.

This does not erase the pain that has already been experienced. Misinterpretations have consequences, and those consequences have been real. But truth has its own quiet power. It does not shout, yet it persists. It returns, even after being buried, and it invites people to see differently.

And what it reveals is this: the measure God uses has always been love expressed through justice. It is seen in how we respond to the vulnerable, how we treat those who are different from us, and whether our communities reflect compassion or control.

In that light, queer Christians are not standing outside the moral vision of scripture. They are fully within it. Their lives, like all lives, are measured not by identity, but by the presence of mercy.

These matters because many have been taught to ask the wrong question. They have asked, "Am I acceptable to God?" when the deeper question is, "Am I living in love?" The first question is rooted in fear. The second is rooted in the very heart of the biblical witness.

And when that second question is asked honestly, the answer is often already present. In acts of care. In resilience. In the refusal to become hardened despite rejection. In the quiet, persistent choice to love in a world that has not always made that easy.

Sodom, then, is not a story about the rejection of queer people. It is a warning about what happens when communities abandon compassion. It is a reminder that spiritual language can coexist with moral failure, and that abundance without generosity leads to collapse.

More importantly, it is a call.

A call to reexamine what has been taught.

A call to align faith with justice.

A call to ensure that the vulnerable are not pushed further to the margins in the name of God.

For those who have been wounded by the misuse of this story, there is something important to hold onto.

The God who speaks in Ezekiel is not aligned with exclusion.

He is aligned with those who have been overlooked, dismissed, and pushed aside.

That includes you.

And if there is anything Sodom teaches us with clarity, it is this:

God's judgment is not directed at the existence of love,  
but at the absence of it.

I lost much for saying this.

But if these words reach you...

if they help you breathe again...

if they help you see that you were never the problem...

I have paid a price for speaking this truth.

But if it has reached you today...

then it was never in vain.

## KITCHISSIPPI UNITED CHURCH SUMMER TRIP JULY 10 – 12, 2026

### KUC Summer Trip – Payment Information & Registration Reminder

We are excited to announce the KUC Summer Trip to **African Lion Safari and Niagara Falls**, scheduled for **July 10–12**.

Members are encouraged to pay the \$100 ticket fee by **Sunday, April 12**. Nancy and Jennifer will be available to receive cash payments in the hall after service on Sunday.

Payments can also be made via e-transfer to **tripgb@kitchissippiuc.com**. Kindly send proof of payment to Rev. Daniel or Jennifer for confirmation.

For those who may not be able to pay the full amount at once, we are offering a flexible installment option. You may pay **\$25 or \$50 now**, with the remaining balance to be completed over the months of **May and June**.

We kindly ask that you confirm your participation and make your payments promptly, as we need an accurate number of attendees to adequately prepare and make the necessary arrangements for the trip.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

## UPCOMING INTERCULTURAL WORKSHOP

Grow in faith, deepen your understanding, and connect with others in our community by attending this upcoming workshop. This session offers a meaningful opportunity for learning, reflection, and spiritual growth.

We warmly encourage all members to participate.

Kindly register here: <https://churchx.ca/local/shop/product.php?id=373>

Come and be inspired, we look forward to seeing you there

## LOOKING FOR LAWN CHAIRS FOR KUC SUMMER SERVICES

Welcome to spring—summer is just around the corner! KUC is excited to once again offer outdoor worship services this season.

To help make this possible, we're looking for donations of usable lawn chairs. If you, your family, or friends have any to spare, we would greatly appreciate your support.

Please leave a message at the church office to arrange pickup or let a staff member know if you plan to drop off your chair(s) at the church.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## BETTER IS PEACE CONCERT

NEPEAN CHOIR & CHORALE CASTENCHEL CHOIR  
with  
THE OTTAWA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND THE NEPEAN HIGH SCHOOL CHOIRS

# Better is Peace

Karl Jenkins, 'The Armed Man', A Mass for Peace  
Caroline Shaw, 'The Listeners', An Oratorio

Lee Carter *Direction*  
Nicole Bélécque *Piano*  
Matthew Li *Bass*  
Gabriela Comeau Gort *Mezzo-soprano*

## MAY 22, 2026, 7:30 PM

**Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre**  
290 Lisgar Street, Ottawa, Ontario

**\$35 TICKETS** / CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER FREE

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS AND FOR MORE INFO**  
NEPEANCHOIR.CA & CASTENCHEL.COM

Please join KUC choir members **Barth Curley, Liz Snelling, Rob Summerby, Bill Tyson and Wendy Warburton** as they participate in Nepean Choir, Castenchel Choir, the Nepean High School Choirs and the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra's joint production of Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*, under the direction of Lee Carter.

The concert takes place **Friday, May 22, 2026, 7:30 p.m.**, at the **Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre on Cooper Street**. Tickets are **\$35** (free for those 12 and under), available from the above named choir members, or at [nepeanchoir.ca](http://nepeanchoir.ca) and at the door (numbers limited).

This is a spectacular piece of music that is perfect for the times we live in.

## KEEP LEARNING: EXPLORE OUR BOOKSHELF

Although Black History Month has ended, we continue to honor the achievements of leaders, pioneers, and trailblazers who inspire us every day. To keep the learning going, our church library is offering a selection of books for members to explore.

There are different books available on the bookshelf in the sanctuary, covering a variety of topics and stories. Members are encouraged to pick a book to read and return it within two weeks so others can enjoy it as well.

Let's keep celebrating, learning, and sharing the stories that shape our community!

WIDER CHURCH



KNOX UNITED  
CHURCH  
COMMUNITY  
GARDEN

# MUSHROOM COMPOST

**NOW AVAILABLE**

**SAT** | May 2 & 9  
9am – 1pm

**SUN** | May 3 & 10  
11am – 1pm



*See you in the parking lot!*

**\$6 PER  
BAG**

**\$20 FOR 4  
BAGS**

**Knox's Community Garden**  
25 Gibbard Avenue Nepean, Ontario

*For more info, call  
the church office at  
613-829-2266.*

SCENT FREE SPACE

**NOTICE**



**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

### **Kitchissippi United Church**

630 Island Park Drive  
Ottawa, ON K1Y 0B7  
PHONE: 613-722-7254

[www.kitchissippiuc.com](http://www.kitchissippiuc.com)

### **Office hours**

10am-2pm Monday- Friday

Please call ahead if you are  
dropping by!

### **Rev. Jenni Leslie**

Minister

[jleslie@kitchissippiuc.com](mailto:jleslie@kitchissippiuc.com)

### **Diana Brushey**

Faith Formation Leader

**(ON LEAVE)**

[diana.brushey@kitchissippiuc.com](mailto:diana.brushey@kitchissippiuc.com)

### **Daniel Addai Fobi**

Interim Faith Formation Leader

[danieladdai@kitchissippiuc.com](mailto:danieladdai@kitchissippiuc.com)

### **Jennifer Shahid**

Administrator

[admin@kitchissippiuc.com](mailto:admin@kitchissippiuc.com)

Office Phone: 613-722-7254

### **Gavan Quinn**

Music Director

[gavanquinn@gmail.com](mailto:gavanquinn@gmail.com)

### **Jerzy Spsychalski**

Custodian