

Thursday's Newsletter

Almonte United Church ~ You Are Welcome Here



Week of September 14-20

Fall Programming Survey ~ Last Call

September is here, and we want to know what you'd like to be involved in this fall! Whether it's Bible study, a walking group, or something else, your input will help shape what we start. Take a few minutes to fill out our survey:

<https://forms.gle/LafVPxnJpzs7KmZ6>

Prefer paper? A printed copy is available outside the church office.

Submit soon ~ decisions will be made next week!

Welcome Back Potluck

Please bring a dish to share, along with your own plate and cutlery (if you can't, or you forget, don't worry — we'll have extras on hand).

If you're bringing a dish, we'd love for you to include a small label listing the ingredients, so that everyone — especially those with food allergies or sensitivities can enjoy the meal without worry.

Dates to Keep in Mind

September 27: Orange Shirt Sunday
October 4: World Wide Communion
October 18 ~ 2PM Covenanting Service
between Rev Heather Davies and Almonte United Church

Welcome to New Members

This Sunday we welcome three new members to the congregation: Margaret Shugg, Jeffery Walton, and Peggy Vandervoort. We're so glad they've chosen to join our church family, and we look forward to getting to know them better in the days ahead. Please greet Marg, Peggy, and Jeffery and make them feel welcome.

Sunday School Covenanting

Their promises to us, and our promises to them!

Join us this Sunday during worship as we covenant with our Sunday School.

Heather's Thursday Thoughts

Fall arrives officially September 22. But, you can already see it: leaves starting to turn, and the pear tree by the church walkway is dropping fruit all over the path. Half-eaten pears are scattered underneath the tree and it shows that the local wildlife has already discovered the harvest.

There's a particular energy that comes with fall when the kids go back to school, and routines pick back up. The church has its own version of this. Meetings start again. The rentals have ramped up. We're welcoming 3 new members. The Sunday School began its new season last week and this week we Covenant with them.

And also this Sunday, we're taking time to share a meal together after worship. There's something important about this. Food has a way of opening up a closeness that conversation alone can't get to. You learn more about people as you share a meal together.

It's good to be back into rhythms we know, with people we know. But this return isn't just about settling back into what's familiar; it is also about who we are as a church. Hospitality isn't a small thing, or a nice extra. It's foundational to what it means to be the church. As Diana Butler Bass writes, hospitality "open[s] the way to practicing peace, doing a tangible thing that can change the world." That's what welcome does: and not just on Sunday mornings. Wherever we make room for someone new, we live hospitality. See you Sunday ~ Heather ~