

Almonte United Church
October 2026
Newsletter

Date: October 22, 2026

Fall Programing

Weekly Walks
Mondays at 9am

Bi-Weekly Book Study
An Altar in the World
Thursday 's 3pm
Oct,29 - Nov 12,26- Dec 10

Exploring Together (Confirmation)
Wednesdays ~ 10 am

Journeying with the Mystics
Next Session Nov. 4
Topic: Jesus, Paul and the Story of Thomas
1st Tuesday of the month
6:45-8:30 pm

It´s Time to Fill Up Meryl the Truck!

Over the next three weeks, the youth will be collecting non-perishable food items, grocery store gift cards, and cash donations to support **The Hunger Stop** and the **Lanark County Food Bank.**
Some items that are needed:

- easy sides (instant potatoes, boxed stuffing, Sidekicks, rice)
- condiments
- 1L juice
- jarred or pouched baby/infant food

~ Facing Forward ~

The church is always changing, and journeying faithfully with God, means asking, again and again, whether we're heading in the right direction and what is the church that can thrive in the years ahead. This section of the newsletter is for wondering together about who God is calling Almonte United Church to be now. Council has begun talking about stewardship and our future. There's nothing to announce yet, just that these conversations are taking place.
Your thoughts and questions are welcome, and if you'd like to be part of this work, let me know. ~ Heather D. ~

Dates to Keep in Mind

October 25 - Reformation Sunday
November 1 - All Saints Sunday
November 8 - **Remembrance Day Sunday**
November 15 - 25th Sunday after Pentecost
November 22 - Reign of Christ Sunday (the last Sunday of the liturgical year)
November 29 - **Advent 1**

A Look Toward Sunday

Over five hundred years ago, the Reformers asked a simple question: what really matters? Jesus had already answered it 1500 years before when he was asked by the pharisees what is the greatest commandment? By this time there were 613 laws to choose from. Jesus named two: love God with everything you have, heart, mind, soul and strength and then love your neighbour as yourself. It really is that straightforward. Join us this Reformation Sunday as we hear again how a faith this simple can still reshape a church, the world and your life.

Heather's Thursday Thoughts

On Monday and Tuesday I was at Bells Corners United Church for a theological conference called "Lament, Resistance and Hope", with guest presenter Sylvia Keesmaat, a theologian, biblical scholar and farmer from the Kawartha Lakes. She began her talk with grief and how we need to recognized our grief for lament. We live in a time of decline, with so much loss and so much fear of the future, of course we are grieving.

Sylvia then shared with us Genesis 1, the Hebrew Creation story. It was written down while the Hebrew people where in exile in Babylon, The Hebrew people were being taught the Babylonian creation myth, the *Enuma Elish.* A very breif summary of this creation myth is that the world is born out of violence: the male god, tears the female god into pieces to create land and gouges out her eyes so to create the rivers. Only the human king bears an image of the gods, and the rest of humanity exists to serve the gods' needs. Genesis tells a different story. God creates, and there is breath, and goodness, and delight. Day after day: it is good. Creation is a gift, and each part serves and sustains the others. On the sixth day, humanity is formed from the earth and made in the image of the Creator. And everyone is created in the image of God.

On Sunday we'll hear Jesus name the greatest commandments: love God, and love your neighbour as yourself. When every neighbour bears the image of God, that love is no small thing. And loving God and neighbour and self is how we resist the old stories of empire, and how hope takes root.
See you Sunday ~ Heather