



October 2026

Newsletter

Date: October 8, 2026



Fall Programing Weekly Walks

Mondays at 9am

Paused for Thanksgiving

Bi-Weekly Book Study

"An Altar in the World"

Bi-weekly Thursday 's 3pm

Oct 15,29 - Nov 12,26

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



Exploring Together

Wednesdays at 10 a.m., beginning October 21
Maybe you've been part of another church and are wondering what the United Church is all about. Maybe you've never belonged to a church at all. Or maybe you're just curious.

You're welcome to join us for four conversations about

The Bible, Church History, The Story of the United Church, What We Believe (Faith Statements)
Come to one session or all four. For those who'd like to become members of Almonte United Church, this is a good place to start, but it's just as good a place to simply ask questions and explore.

Dates to Keep in Mind

October 11 - Thanksgiving Sunday

October 18 - Focus on Food Grains

October 18 - 2PM Conveniencing Service between Rev Heather Davies and Almonte United Church and EOORC Regional Council

October 25 - Reformation Sunday

November 1 - All Saints Sunday

November 8 - Remembrance Day Sunday

A Look Toward Sunday

It is Thanksgiving Sunday, as the season of Creation winds down. This Sunday's story, from Exodus, the golden calf seems out of place at first, until we realize how quick we can slip into worry. Moses has been up the mountain a long time. Down below, the people wait, and without clear leadership, anxiety takes hold. Their responses is to gather their gold, melt it down, and shape a 'god' they can see and touch.

How long can any of us sit in uncertainty before we reach for something familiar, something that feels like security, even when it isn't? What are the idols we make when anxiety rises? These are some of what we will be considering on Sunday - see you then!

Heather's Thursday Thoughts

It is Thanksgiving, the season for gratitude. The fields are harvested, the gardens are being put to bed, and tables are filling with wonderful food. Gratitude can come easily at a time like this. Gratitude is often treated as a feeling, something that arrives when things go well. The mystics suggest it is more of a practice.

On Tuesday I sent out an email indicating that the cost of a course that I had hoped to offer called Journeying with the Mystics with Matthew Fox was too expensive to do as a program this fall. A small group of us met for the first session anyway. In the first session we learned that there were scholarships on offer to make this course affordable. This afternoon, word came that we were approved for a scholarship, our group is now registered and I am grateful.

In the course, Matthew Fox reminded us of words attributed to Meister Eckhart: if the only prayer you ever say is "thank you," it will be enough.

Some weeks, thank you comes easily. Other weeks, it is much harder, but, but that is when the practice matters most. Saying thank you when it doesn't come easily is a way of leaning toward hope, of trusting that more is at work than we can see.

This Thanksgiving, I am grateful; grateful for these beautiful fall days. Grateful for Almonte, for its beauty and for the friendliness of the people who have made us feel welcome. And grateful for this church and this congregation, for all of you who show up, and gather, and wonder, and worship and reach out, and make Monday meals and care for the children, and provide the tea and coffee, and sing in the choir, and welcome me in your homes, I am grateful for all of you. Thank you. Happy Thanksgiving. See you Sunday -Heather