

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
Today, 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!

The last week to help fill up the truck. Our youth group is 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:

- cleaning supplies
- personal hygiene supplies
- kid snacks (granola bars, fruit cups, juice boxes, cheese and crackers)
- cereal

~ Facing Forward ~

The church is always changing, and journeying faithfully with God means asking, again and again, what God is calling us to do and be in this time. Last night, three of us attended a gathering called the Ottawa Valley Discernment Group in Arnprior, with representatives from four pastoral charges and seven United Churches. It was the beginning of a conversation about who we are as congregations in this valley. We started to form relationships. We'll keep you updated as the conversation continues. 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

TIME CHANGE
Sunday November 1 ~ Clocks go Back An Hour

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

The first days of November hold an old three-day observance in the church's year, sometimes called Allhallowtide. It begins on October 31 with All Hallows' Eve (the evening before "All Hallows," an old word for the saints), continues on November 1 with All Saints' Day, when the church gives thanks for the faithful people who have gone before us, and ends on November 2 with All Souls' Day, a day set aside to remember everyone we love who has died. This year All Saints' Day falls on a Sunday, so we'll gather in worship to remember the saints in our own lives and light candles in their names.

Heather's Thursday Thoughts

This past Monday and Tuesday, I was in Toronto for the Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship, which I attend every year when I'm able. It is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with preachers, academics, students, and other ministers who share a love of preaching. It also feeds my soul to listen to preaching instead of being the preacher, and it reminds me of why I do what I do and how central preaching is to the life of the church. There is real power in preachers preaching to preachers.

On Monday night, I attended an event called the *Big Sing*, led by John Bell of the Iona Community, hymn writer and theologian. John is the author of five hymns in Voices United and the author or arranger of fourteen hymns and songs in More Voices, including "Don't Be Afraid" and "Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New." The evening was held at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, with its towering ceilings and incredible acoustics, and it was a hymn sing unlike any I have ever experienced. John began by teaching us simple and ancient hymns, and had us sing them in parts and in sections, in harmony, until the music of only our voices together echoed off the walls and surrounded us. It was magnificent and awe-inspiring. There is something about singing together that opens us up to one another and to God, as each voice finds its place in a sound none of us could make alone.

In a time when so much pulls us toward looking after only ourselves, it is easy to lose sight of the gift of community. Days like these remind me that we are better together, that church matters, that what we do each Sunday matters, and that each one of us matters too. ~ See you Sunday ~ Heather ~