

Southminster United Church

October 2024

What to Know About LNGO

Southminster's Local, National & Global Outreach Committee Newsletter

Introduction

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone! This is the time when we thank our Lord, the Creator, for His many blessings: for the Earth, upon which we walk, and into which we plant seeds for sustenance; the water which assuages our thirst and often soothes our souls; the animals which provide us food and warmth — and sometimes precious companionship; and our families, from whom we learn to give and to receive love.

We also owe our Indigenous a debt of gratitude for the care they have shown for and to Turtle Island over millennia. We have much to learn from them to become as one with Nature as they are.

LOCAL OUTREACH

BELONG OTTAWA (belongottawa.ca)

Belong Ottawa's Main Office is located at 454 King Edward Avenue, Ottawa, and can be reached by phone at 613-235-4351 or by fax at 613-232-4919.

Belong Ottawa believes in an inclusive community where no one is marginalized, where everyone is valued and supported. Its mission is to

provide safe spaces that connect people and create community.

To this end, they offer programs which address basic needs and foster dignity, wellness and hope for all.

Belong Ottawa at The Well:

Address: 154 Somerset Street West, Ottawa

Phone: 613-594-8861

Fax: 613-594-5878

The Well delivers programs that support women, children and gender-diverse people, in meeting their basic needs, making their life choices, and participating in their community.

The Well provides laundry, showers, meals (breakfast and lunch), hygiene supplies, telephone, internet, and community navigation support. They have a community fridge on site. The women of The Well enjoy social recreation, such as art activities, bingo, and karaoke.

Belong Ottawa at St Luke's Table:

Address: 211 Bronson Avenue, Ottawa

Phone: 613-238-4193

Fax: 613-233-4786

St Luke's Table provides a supportive environment where visitors can maintain and improve their personal and mental health.

They provide coffee and tea, meals (breakfast and lunch), hygiene products, harm reduction supplies, telephone access, wifi and computers, as well as community navigation support. They also host karaoke, bingo, movies, and more.

NOTE: St Luke's Table is USUALLY located at 760 Somerset St. West, but you will find them at these temporary locations while important renovations to their Somerset Street West building are being carried out.

Monday to Friday, they are at 211 Bronson Avenue, in the lower level of the Bronson Centre community hub.

On Saturdays during the winter, they will deliver their program from the Church of St. Barnabas, located at 70 James Street (at the corner of Kent and James).

Belong Ottawa at Centre 454:

Address: 454 King Edward Avenue, Ottawa

Phone: 613-235-4351

Fax: 613-232-4919

Centre 454 is a day program serving people who are precariously housed or homeless in the Ottawa area.

The Centre provides laundry, showers, hygiene supplies, telephone access, Wifi access, and community navigation support. Social activities include bingo and karaoke, art and crafts.

CALL TO ACTION: We spoke with a lovely woman at Reception, named Mary, who was delighted to learn that Belong Ottawa's mission and needs would be reaching a new audience through our newsletter. She emphasized the fact that their needs are seemingly never ending and that Belong Ottawa would be extremely grateful for any and all donations, but especially in the following areas:

- winter apparel (hats/toques, gloves/mitts, scarfs)

- men's and women's personal products (soap [bars/small liquid soap containers], small shampoos, toothpaste and toothbrushes, shaving supplies)
- women's hygiene products
- underwear and many, many socks (with winter approaching, particularly socks intended for cold weather)
- Financial contributions can be made at the link found on their webpage, belongottawa.ca
- A link to the Volunteer Coordinator's roster can also be found on their webpage

NATIONAL OUTREACH

CLIMATE LEGACY (climatelegacy.ca)

Founded in 2019 when a group of Seniors, now retired after careers in international development, came together around concern for global climate change and its impact on future generations. Seeing young people like Greta Thunberg taking important action, drove home the realization that Seniors' voices seemed absent by comparison, despite their relative richness in resources and experience.

Aided by The Group of 78, Climate Legacy now boasts a membership of roughly 40 local climate organizations led by Seniors.

The aim of Climate Legacy is to engage and mobilize Seniors; to help them use their voices, skills, and money to assist Canada in moving steadily towards a net zero carbon economy in the next decade. Seniors are encouraged to become involved in events at municipal, provincial and federal levels.

A secondary aim is to strengthen the endeavours of Seniors who are already involved in climate action, and to encourage more Seniors to sign up.

To support their members, Climate Legacy develops educational resources, like a monthly newsletter and webinars, and connects Seniors with opportunities to take action.

Climate Legacy seeks to:

- Advocate for policies, at every level, to address the climate crisis.
- Urge the provincial and federal governments to declare Climate Emergencies, and to solicit input from citizens on how to prevent, adapt to, or mitigate the effects of climate change.

As alluded to in the first paragraph, Climate Legacy is able to explore ways to help address the climate crisis by calling on the skills and tools developed throughout the fruitful careers, or long-time hobbies, of its members.

With regard to finances, funding typically comes from larger granting organizations, such as the Echo Foundation. Climate Legacy also receives small donations through its webinar platforms, and our donation page with the Small Change Fund.

Climate Legacy has no political affiliation, but does encourage members to vote for candidates with climate-friendly platforms.

CALLS TO ACTION: Climate Legacy wants all Seniors to:

- Question their own personal investment funding by pressing their advisors to get more information and to make more green products available.
- Act to engage pension fund managers to ensure their pension is invested in solutions to the climate crisis.
- Support renewable energy by investing in companies supporting the energy transition, or select “impact investments”.
- Demand that banks divest from polluting industries. Climate Legacy is attempting to persuade financial and other institutions to decarbonize the economy by divesting from fossil fuels and investing in renewable energy and green technology.

MISSION AND SERVICE

Thank you again for your contributions to Mission and Service. Your 2024 donations to the end of August totalled \$10,343, or almost 69% of Southminster's \$15,000 goal.

Did you know...

The United Church collects and shares M&S resources with three goals in mind:

- to help transform lives;
- to inspire meaning and purpose; and,
- to build a better world.

75% of your M&S donations support projects in Canada, while the remaining 25% is given to projects administered by our overseas partners.

Locally (in Canada), we help people by supporting homeless shelters, food banks, community kitchens, and refugee programs. We help young people on campuses and through camping outreach. We help people who are sick or at the end of life by supporting addiction, mental health, and counselling services, as well as hospice care.

Globally, we help people access clean water, food, and medical care. We support skills training and economic development. We help with peace-making and sustainable agriculture efforts. We provide disaster relief, and we advocate for the rights of those who all too often do not get a say, like children and migrant workers.

This information is taken from the UCC website under Mission and Service.

GLOBAL OUTREACH

LAUDATO SI' - and - SEASON OF CREATION ([Laudato Si'](#))

Laudate si' (Praise Be to You) is the second encyclical of Pope Francis, subtitled "on care for our common home". In it, the Pope criticizes consumerism and irresponsible economic development, laments environmental degradation and global warming, and calls on all people of the world to take "swift and unified global action." The encyclical was dated 24 May 2015.

Laudato Si' Movement

([laudatosimovement.org](#))

LSM is a global network of over 900 Catholic organizations and over 10,000 trained grassroots leaders known as Laudato Si' Animators. Inspired by the Laudato si' encyclical of Pope Francis, LSM's stated mission is to "inspire and mobilize the Catholic community to care for our common home and achieve climate and ecological justice".

The Laudato Si' Movement convenes various global initiatives to raise awareness and spark environmental action, such as the Season of Creation ECUMENICAL celebration.

Season of Creation

([seasonofcreation.org](#))

The Season of Creation was established by Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios in 1989. September 1st was initially declared to be an Orthodox Day of Prayer for Creation. The World Council of Churches subsequently extended the celebration to October 4th, the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of the environment and beloved by many Christian denominations.

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration which calls us together to pray and respond jointly to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family from around the world comes together to listen to and care for our common home. This year, the theme "Hope and act with Creation" and the symbol "The first fruits of hope", inspired by Romans 8:19-25, are the guiding inspiration.

Here are the creations listed by day:

Day 1 - light and darkness;

Day 2 - sky and sea;

Day 3 - land;

Day 4 - sun and moon;

Day 5 - birds and fish;

Day 6 - animals, man, and woman;

Day 7 - God rests.

The biblical image depicts Earth as a mother, groaning as if giving birth (Rom 8:22). St. Francis of Assisi referred to Earth as our sister and our mother in his Canticle of the Creatures. The times we live in demonstrate that we do not relate to Earth as a gift from our Creator, but as a resource to be “used”. We are now experiencing the results of that narcissism.

“Creation groans” (Rom 8:22) because of our selfishness and unsustainable actions that harm it. Together with our Sister, Mother Earth, creatures of all kinds (including human) cry out because of our destructive actions, which continue to cause climate crises, biodiversity loss and human suffering — as well as Creation’s suffering.

However, Creation teaches us that hope is present in waiting, in the expectation of a better future (cf. Rom 8:20-21). To hope, in the biblical context, does not mean to remain still and silent, but to groan, to cry out, and to actively strive for a new life in the midst of difficulties.

Creation and all of us are called to worship the Creator, to work together for a dynamic future based on hope and action. Only when we work together with Creation can the firstfruits of hope spring forth. As in childbirth, we go through a period of intense pain, but new life emerges.

This season, we united our Christian voices through a joint advocacy initiative to support the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, which calls for a halt to new fossil fuel projects.

Caring for our common home is not just an environmentalist or technocratic cause, but a more holistic, human, spiritual vision, as well as a matter of integral ecology. Through prayer, practical advocacy, and sustainable actions, this 2024 Season of Creation can prophetically renew our ecumenical unity AND care for our common home.

Rev. Melody Duncanson Hales of The United Church of Canada, writes about “Creation Time” as a time of heightened awareness, stewardship, and action for the gifts God has given us.

CALL TO ACTION: To delve deeper into the theological reflection that guides the 2024 theme and symbol, find more information [here](#).

“HOMEWORK”

In our ongoing search for new, worthwhile advocacy organizations and, thus, legitimate Calls to Action, we are bombarded by upwards of 50 emails a day. Many come from groups we have already discussed in this newsletter, but contain new issues. Rather than gloss over them, or ignore them completely, we thought we needed an appropriate section in our newsletter where we could locate a link that would bring you to the relevant information.

And so “Homework” was born. Initially, its format is quite fluid, but it will go something like this:

1. GREENPEACE CANADA: After over a decade, Resolute Forest Product's multimillion-dollar lawsuit against Greenpeace Canada is over. Their CALL TO ACTION can be found [here](#):

2. THE COUNCIL OF CANADIANS: has been working diligently as Pharmacare finds its way through Parliament. They have stood shoulder to shoulder to fight unjust trade deals; to assert that water is a human right; to defend public health care and public services; and to uphold democracy and global justice. For their CALL TO ACTION,

READ AN EXCERPT FROM THE EXPOSÉ [HERE](#)

3. ONTARIO CLEAN AIR ALLIANCE: In May, Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) announced that it has awarded Ontario Power Generation (OPG) a \$2.2 billion contract to build a 430-megawatt gas-fired peaker* plant in Napanee. That is great news for fossil gas suppliers, but bad news for ratepayers and our climate.

*According to Wikipedia, peaking power plants, also known as peaker plants, and occasionally just "peakers", are power plants that generally run only when there is a high demand, known as peak demand, for electricity. For this CALL TO ACTION, please send an email to Ontario's Auditor General [here](#). Ask her to perform a value-for-money audit of the IESO's \$2.2 billion contract for OPG's proposed new gas-fired peaker plant.

4. EFFICIENCY CANADA: Get on their mailing list to receive policy updates, their latest research, action alerts for campaigns, and ways to help change federal and provincial policy on low-income energy efficiency in Canada.

They have several current CALLS TO ACTION:

- Take action to achieve energy justice for all Canadians with [#Efficiency4All](#) campaign.
- Read their [Efficiency For All](#) and [Energy Efficiency in Rental Housing](#) reports.
- See how low-income policy has progressed on [milestone timeline](#).
- Do more to end energy poverty in Canada, [request a meeting](#) with your MP to discuss low-income energy efficiency in your community.

5. The DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION continues investigating climate and biodiversity solutions for our planet. Electric power and renewable energy resources are making inroads — but not yet enough to offset our current usage of coal, oil and gas. We need to use less energy and use it more efficiently. The problem is that rapidly digging up and burning fossil fuels, logging forests, and paving over wetlands for development, are all extremely profitable. Technology won't get us entirely out of the mess our narcissism has created, but it is and will continue to be a big part of the cure. We can and must change the systems that have brought us to this point, where our life-support systems are starting to disintegrate.

[Read Online](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

On October 22nd, THE COUNCIL OF CANADIANS is hosting a roundtable. Discussion will ensue regarding policies rooted in care, collective well-being, justice, hope for a better tomorrow, and how to build people power to take on corporate greed — so that the many can defeat the money.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

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If you have suggestions for items that might be included in this newsletter, please send your ideas to:

[LNGO@southminsterunitedchurch.com](mailto:LNGO@southminsterunitedchurch.com)

Your LNGO Committee:

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