



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Learning and Gathering

March 15, 2022

Announcements of interest to the people of the Northern Spirit Region. If you have information about an upcoming event or learning opportunity, please write a short article, and send it to Kathy Jackson, Administrative Support: kjackson@united-church.ca. We are unable to include posters or other attachments, but links to further information may be included. Alternatively, our Community of Faith Events Calendar is open 24/7 for posting about events that are open to the public. Events can also be posted directly to the Newsfeed: <https://northernspiritr.ca/add-your-community-event/>. Upcoming deadlines: Friday, March 18 for the next News issue; and Friday, March 25 for the next Events issue.

News from the Regional Council Executive

The March Newsletter from the Executive is now posted to the Regional Council web site. Please click on [Executive Newsletter](#) to see what the Executive has been doing on our behalf.

Events and Learning Opportunities ...

Telling by Heart Through Lent

Saturdays, March 5 to April 9, 10-11:00 AM (MDT)

Led by Linnea Good, a devotional practice of remembering and "telling" the word together to deepen our faith, learn the art of telling the bible by heart, explore the rich history of biblical telling. And improve our memory! This series is sponsored by Barrhead United Church. For information, contact Rita Lyster 780-674-2185 lysterenterprises@gmail.com. To register, contact Sandra Larsen 780-674-2412 buchurch2021@gmail.com. The cost for the 6 sessions is \$30 per person (group of 4 or more, \$25 each). Payment can be made by cash, cheque, VISA, MC, or eTransfer. For those without internet capability, you can gather at our new church home 5031 50 Street, Barrhead, and we will ZOOM together.

Wisdom of the Elders Lenten Series

Tuesdays, March 8 (for 8 weeks), 7:00 PM (MT); [Details and registration are here](#)

Join Tony Snow and John Snow, to reflect on the wisdom of our Elders and Ancestors, and to discern our calling, and mission during these difficult times. You can email Tony at tony.snow@hillhurstunited.ca for further information.

Lesser Evils Book Study

Tuesdays, March 8 to April 12, during the day; [Click here for full details](#)

Please check the web link for time details. This year's Lenten book is full of reflections on how to wend your way through the dilemmas of every day living.

Refugee Support and Sponsorship Get-Together

March 17, 2022, 6:30 PM (MDT); [Register here](#) (This gives you the link and reminders automatically.)

This has been a strange and difficult two years for refugee support and advocacy. Come out for support, conversation, and updates. We will be joined by Khwaka Kukubo, Refugee Program Advisor, General

Council Office, so bring your questions. Whether you're new to this or have been involved for years, you are welcome. Sponsored by the Living Skies Refugee Task Group. Invited: Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils, and further afield if you wish. All welcome.

Online Lenten Event for Ministry Personnel

March 17-18, 2022; [Details on the event are here;](#) [Registration information is here.](#)

The Committee on Ministry Personnel Support in the Living Skies Regional Council, and St. Andrew's College, are again partnering to host an online Lenten Event for Ministry Personnel. A prepared worship service will be provided for March 20, to allow clergy to fully engage in this continuing education event.

Our Story in Our Language

March 19, 10:00 AM (Central); Sandy Saulteaux Centre; [full information and registration here](#)

In a series of online multi-lingual conversations, we'll explore what community leadership training means for Indigenous Communities of Faith. All sessions start at 10:00 AM (Central) on the second last Saturday of the month. (Please adjust for your time zone.)

Tickets are \$25/session or \$75 for the 5-part series.

Living the Mission: Being the Church 2022 Needs Us To Be

Sunday, March 20, 1:00 pm (MDT); [Click here to register for this free Zoom event](#)

Robertson-Wesley United Church, Edmonton, is excited to present Jordana Wright, Founder and Managing Director of *Activate Space*. You can learn about how Jordana's professional and academic journey led her to launch *Activate Space*, a tech start-up that supports churches in creating new revenue streams, boosting sustainability, and expanding their roles as community hubs. Click here to read Jordana's interview in Broadview Magazine, "[9,000 faith properties could close soon. Jordana Wright has an idea to save them.](#)"

International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Monday, March 21; [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination web site](#) .

Please read the United Church's Anti-Racism and Equity Lead staff, [Adele Halliday's reflection](#) here. Consider what you can offer on social media or from the pulpit on that Sunday and Monday.

Creating Space for Mental Health and Well-Being: 3-Part Series

Begins **Tuesday, March 22;** 11:00 AM (MDT) [Find out more, and register](#)

Just in time for Mental Health Week (first week of May), join United in Learning for a three-part series for clergy and lay leaders (March 22, April 26, May 10). What does it mean to be a congregation that talks frankly and without judgement about mental health? What can we learn from our Christian traditions that will help people move towards wholeness? Who in our congregations needs particular attention, and what resources are available through the church to help us offer that? How do we minister to our own personal needs while addressing the needs of those in our care?

Sacred Water: An Interfaith Conversation for World Water Day

March 22, 4:00 PM (MDT); [Click here for registration and details](#)

Learn about what diverse faith and spiritual traditions teach concerning the sacredness of water in a time of climate crisis, and how we can deepen our connection with it. This event is offered by Faith and the Common Good, a United Church partner.

Being Transgender and Jewish: What does Scripture Tell Us?

March 22, 7:00 PM (MDT). [Register here.](#) [Here's the Facebook event.](#)

Join Jenson Brown, teacher and chair of the LGBTQ Society of Lloydminster, as we reflect on overlapping identities and how these “intersections” can be places for rich learning. Explore together how Jewish scripture brings holy wisdom to these intersections. Hosted by the Northern Spirit Affirming Task Group, as part of the Regional Council’s Affirming journey.

Information Evening on Area Ministry: Northern Spirit Regional Council

Monday, March 28; 7:00 PM (MDT) [Link to Zoom Event](#)

“Our congregation is small, but it plays an important role in our lives.” “What can we do to ensure we can be a community of faith into the future?” “The congregations in our part of the city would like to offer youth programming, but none of us have enough young people to sustain an ongoing program.” “How could we share resources with each other and offer engaging and supportive ministry to young people?” You are invited to join an online Information Evening to talk about Area Ministry: ways for Communities of Faith to share resources for ministry, and still retain their unique identity. We will hear from people who have worked in this model of ministry in other parts of the world, and we will discuss how those models might be suited or adapted for our Region.

Bring your curiosity, your hope and your ideas!

United in Learning

See and share all the latest information about events from United-in-Learning! [Click here](#) to find out about all of the learning opportunities offered by United in Learning, including, *Creating Space for Mental Health and Well-Being*, *Lesser Evils*, *Webinars for Church Treasurers*, *Called to Be the Church - the Journey*, and more. There is always something new, so visit the site often.

Save the Date for Future Planning ...

Women of the United Church of Canada: Annual General Meeting

Thursday-Friday, April 21-22, 2022, 10 am-Noon and 1-4 pm (MDT) (both days)

The Annual General Meeting of the Women of the United Church: Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit, will be held via Zoom on Thursday and Friday April 21 and 22, 2022. The sessions on both days will be from 10:00 am to Noon and 1:00 to 4:00 pm (MDT). The theme is, *Getting to Know You: All God’s People*. The guest speaker who will address the topic of *Process of Sponsoring a Refugee*, will be Claire McMordie, Barrister and Solicitor; Counsel, West End Legal Centre; and a member of Scarboro United Church, Calgary. Information and registration forms are being distributed by Susan Oleskiw, se.oles@telus.net.

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