



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Learning and Gathering

March 1, 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://northernspiritrc.ca/add-your-community-event/>. Upcoming deadlines: Friday, March 4 for the next News issue; and Friday, March 11 for the next Events issue.

Family News

We received word of the death of the Rev. Jonelle McLellan, on Saturday, February 5, after a very difficult period of illness. Jonelle was a lifelong member of the United Church, participating in ministry through music. In 2004, she was called to become a United Church minister. In Alberta, Jonelle served the Fairview, Bashaw-Mirror, and Okotoks-DeWinton Pastoral Charges, before her retirement in 2018. We offer our prayers and sympathy to Jonelle's family and friends.

Action in Support of Ukraine

Communities of Faith are invited to express solidarity with their Ukrainian neighbours. The United Church offers a prayer from Moderator, Richard Bott, and a sample letter that can be edited and used in your local communities and elsewhere: <https://united-church.ca/news/concern-ukrainian-communities>. We have also been advised that there are plans to work with [ACT Alliance](#) to receive and direct donations where relief is most needed in Ukraine. When available, this information will likely be posted on the United Church webpage linked above. We offer our prayers for the people of Ukraine, and for their families and friends here and throughout the world.

Events and Learning Opportunities ...

Reminder

In Canada, Daylight Saving Time (DST) begins this year on **Sunday, March 13**, wherever applicable. Please check the links provided to ensure that you are joining at the correct time. "Spring ahead" means that we are late if we aren't careful.

Hopeful Economics unConference

March 3-4, a national United Church Event; [Details and registration are here](#)

Hopeful Economics is a way of looking at the world, the assets and abundance that it has, and making that work for everyone. Join in as people and partners from across the faith and social sectors dive into hopeful economics.

PIE Day: Everyone Gets A Slice!

Friday March 4, 6:30PM (MST) [Register and see details here](#)

Looking at the LGBTQIA2S+ acronym, which represents an endless diversity of identities and expressions, we acknowledge that some of the people who are represented by these letters often tend to get left out or underserved. Our panelists share their stories and expertise to invite us to consider which folks we may not have included in our Affirming programming and educational efforts and take strides to remedy that. Part of Two Spirit and LGTBQIA+ programming to celebrate [PIE Day 2022](#).

World Day of Prayer: Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action

Friday March 4. [Full details and resources here](#).

Or, for those who do not access to a World Day of Prayer Service ...

Tuesday, March 8, 1:30 p.m. (MST), via Zoom

Robertson-Wesley UCW, Edmonton, and Friends, invite you to join them to view the 2022 service prepared by the Women's Inter-Church Council, with participation from women across Canada. For decades, people around the world have gathered at the beginning of March for a World Day of Prayer Service. Each year's service is prepared by women from a different country or region, with a different theme. This year, the service was prepared by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, with the theme "I Know the Plans I Have for You". For information, or the Zoom link, contact Elyse at mail@rwuc.org.

Telling by Heart Through Lent

Saturdays, March 5 to April 9, 10-11:00 AM (MST, MDT after March 13)

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 e-transfer. Don't delay, the first session starts March 5th. For those without internet capability, you can gather at our new church home 5031 50 Street, Barrhead, and we will ZOOM together.

Around the World Prayer Online

March 7-8 (24 hours); [Register here](#)

Hosted by the International Rural Church Association, join rural church leaders in as many countries as you wish, as we work around the globe. Register to receive the Zoom link and a schedule by country and time. Join for an hour or several. Prayerfully stand alongside rural church leaders, learn from the wisdom of local speakers and share in their story and culture.

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 - 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.

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.

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, General Council Office Refugee Program Advisor, so bring your questions! Whether you're new to this or have been involved for years, please join us. 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.

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.

Emancipation Sunday Anthem: A Meeting for Choir Directors

Sunday March 20, 5:00 pm (MDT); register by email to revpaul@shaw.ca or revbob@trinitypg.ca

Choir Directors are invited to meet with the Revs. Dr. Paul Douglas Walfall and Dr. Bob Fillier to help fulfil their hope that a song, written by Paul Douglas Walfall and Roger Gittens, will be presented in worship by choirs across the country on Emancipation Sunday, August 7, 2022, and that a national virtual choir will present it online that day as well. More detailed information will be sent to Choir/Music Directors and Ministry Personnel.

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 (Please hold the date, registration details will be in the next newsletter.)

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.

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*, *Daring To Share: What you need to know about Anglican-United Shared Ministry*, and much, much 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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