



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Learning and Gathering

April 12, 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, April 15 for the next News issue; and Friday, April 22 for the next Events issue.

Family News

Moderator's Easter Message

In his Easter video message, Moderator Richard Bott asks: Who are the messengers of the resurrected Christ today? What, if anything, is making it hard for us believe them, and to act on those beliefs? Please [click here for the video](#).

Events and Learning Opportunities ...

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*, *Webinars for Church Treasurers*, *Called to Be the Church - the Journey*, *Bridges out of Poverty*, and more. There is always something new, so visit the site often.

Good Friday Outdoor Way of the Cross

Good Friday, April 15, 10:00 AM (MDT)

Edmonton's 42nd Annual Way of the Cross, with the theme, "Awaken to Grace: Embracing the World in Its Hurts", will be presented virtually, in video format. *The Outdoor Way of the Cross* is an ecumenical prayer event marking the suffering and death of Jesus, a time to notice how the gospel values of Jesus apply to individual and public life today. The [video will premiere, here, at 10:00 a.m. on Good Friday](#). It will also be available to watch any time on the [Way of the Cross website](#).

Gathering to Celebrate Interfaith Friendship

Good Friday, April 15, 1:00 PM (MDT)

McDougall United Church, Edmonton, is pleased to be sharing our worship space with the Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) during the holy month of Ramadan. Ramadan moves through the year according to the lunar calendar, and this year, coincides with our holy season of Easter. MAC is holding

prayers daily at McDougall from April 1 to May 1. To acknowledge and celebrate this act of interfaith friendship, on Good Friday, the McDougall and MAC congregations will gather in the sanctuary beginning at 1:00 PM to greet and visit prior to services. All United Church folks who might like to join us are welcome, and to remain for the Good Friday service at 2:00 PM, or to observe the MAC prayer service which begins at the same time. Parking in the church lot will be free.

Webinar for New Church Treasurers

April 20, 5:00 PM (MDT); [Information and Registration here](#).

The April *Webinar for Church Treasurers* will be focused on information for new Treasurers. Attendees will get an overview of all the different aspects of this important ministry and a look at the tools available. Of course, there will be a chance to ask questions.

Book Study: *These Mountains are Our Sacred Places* by Rev. Chief John Snow

Wednesday evenings April 20 to May 11, 7:00-8:00 p.m. (MDT); [Zoom link](#) (Meeting ID: 899 4431 3877, Passcode: 311859) Hosted by [Circle M Rural Ministries](#), we'll explore the story of the Stoney People, with facilitation by Chief Snow's sons, Rev. John (Indigenous Minister, Pacific Mountain Region) and Tony Snow (Indigenous Minister, Chinook Winds Region).

Learning About Jordan's Principle and Indigenous Children

April 21, 5:00 PM (MDT); [Further information and event link are here](#).

Hosted by Indigenous Ministries and Justice of the UCC, Leeann Shimoda, Independent First Nations Jordan's Principle Coordinator, will be teaching about Jordan's Principle, including discussion of who was Jordan River Anderson, background on Jordan's Principle, who can apply for assistance, and how to apply. This free event is open to anyone but may be particularly helpful to parents/caregivers of Indigenous children, and people who work with Indigenous children. Visit the Indigenous at UCC Facebook page at the date/time above.

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.

Prayer Forum for the Philippine Election

Friday, April 22, 6:00 PM (MDT); [Please register here](#).

Join the Filipino Network of the United Church to learn about the issues and concerns that surround the upcoming Philippine national election, and to discern a common response from the church here in Canada.

Our Story in Our Language

April 23 to June 18, (second last Saturday of each month) 9:00 AM (MDT); [Full information and registration are here](#). In a series of online multi-lingual conversations hosted by the Sandy Sauteaux Centre, we'll explore what community leadership training means for Indigenous Communities of Faith. Tickets are \$25/session or \$75 for the 5-part series.

Sherwood Park United Church: An Invitation

April 24, 2022, 10:00 AM (MDT); RSVP re lunch to cindy_camp@hotmail.com

You are invited to join the congregation of Sherwood Park United Church (20 Fir Street, Sherwood Park) as they celebrate the ministry of the Rev. Kurt Katzmar with their Community of Faith. Kurt will be retiring at the end of April. The church service is at 10 AM, followed by a lunch at 11 AM. Gluten-free options will be available. If you are planning to stay for lunch, please RSVP to Cindy Camp. We hope you are able to join us!

Celebration of Hope: Prayer for Ukraine and for Peace for the World

Sunday, April 24; [Prayers and other Resources can be found here](#).

In solidarity with the Ukrainian Bishops of Canada, all worshipping communities are invited to join The Canadian Council of Churches for a "Celebration of Hope", to proclaim together that Christ is Risen, that love overcomes fear, and that life overcomes death and destruction.

Called to be the Church: Stewardship Best Practices Cohorts

April 26 or 27 (depending the group you choose) [Click here for available dates and times](#).

Create a stewardship team of 3-5 people from your Community of Faith (including your minister or key lay leader, where possible), and spend some focussed time with a Stewardship Specialist and teams from other congregations.

Acknowledgement of Indigenous Territory Workshop

April 27, 8:00 AM (MDT); [find out more and register here](#).

Antler River Watershed, Horseshoe Falls, Western Ontario Waterways regions are offering a practical workshop designed for individuals and communities of faith who are considering either starting a practice of acknowledgment of Indigenous territory in their worship and other activities, or would like to re-visit their current practice. Please note: KAIROS Prairies North is also planning a land acknowledgement workshop for the West. Watch for details, and plan on joining Eastern kin in the meantime!

KAIROS Prairies North Land Acknowledgement Workshop

May 3 & 5, 2022

Please hold these dates for this workshop for Faith Communities. More details will be circulated in a future newsletter

United Network for Justice in Palestine and Israel Annual Meeting

May 5-8, London, Ontario; [Registration and full details are here](#).

This is an opportunity to learn, regardless of your previous knowledge or engagement with peace and justice in Israel and Palestine. Hear from dynamic and diverse speakers, form connections with like minded advocates from across the country, gather strength and inspiration as we emerge from pandemic shut downs, form community over meals and music, engage in meaningful learning sessions and discussions, and envision how we carry the work forward.

Save the Date for Future Planning ...

Religious Community in a Digital World

June 13-16, Online

Online Community? Church Hybridity? The Digital Body of Christ?

If these are realities which continue to excite, disturb, or otherwise engage you, then mark your calendars for the first annual summer learning event co-sponsored by the three schools of the Saskatoon Theological Union in partnership with St. Thomas More College. The keynote speakers are Dr. Deanna Thompson, author of *The Virtual Body of Christ in a Suffering World*, and Dr. Jeffrey Mahan, author of *Church as Network: Christian Life and Connection in Digital Culture*. Planning is underway ... keep your eyes peeled for registration details as they emerge. For more information, please contact Shawn Sanford Beck at stmstulearningevent@gmail.com, or 306 441 6367.

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