



# **NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL**

## The United Church of Canada

### **Learning and Gathering**

October 25, 2022

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Announcements of interest to the people of the Northern Spirit Region.

If you have news to share, please write a short article, and send it to [northernspirit@united-church.ca](mailto:northernspirit@united-church.ca)

We are unable to include posters or other attachments, but links to further information may be included. Our Community of Faith Events Calendar is open 24/7 for posting events that are open to the public. Events can be posted directly to the Newsfeed: <https://northernspiritr.ca/add-your-community-event/>. Upcoming Newsletter deadlines: Friday, October 28, for the next News issue; and Friday, November 4, for the next Events issue.

### **Family News**

#### **NEW: Welcome to Chloe Burns, new admin staff!**

Northern Spirit is delighted to announce the hiring of our new administrative staff, Chloe Burns. Chloe lives and works in Treaty 6 territory, Edmonton, Alberta. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Alberta, where she majored in both English and Women's & Gender Studies. She has experience working in administration, events, education, and the arts. She has been singing, celebrating, and gathering with the United Church for her whole life, and is looking forward to this new experience and opportunity! [Please read more here.](#)

### **News from the Pews ... and other Ministries**

#### **Spirit West United Church Covenanting Service**

On **Friday October 28, 2022**, the Spirit West United Church will be holding a Covenanting Ceremony for their new Minister, the Rev. Eli Carter-Morgan. The celebration will be at 7:00 pm in the Spirit West United Church (7003 199 Street NW, Edmonton). Everyone is welcome to attend. Those from a distance can join the service through the link available on the Spirit West website:

<http://spiritwestuc.weebly.com/>

#### **Vegreville United Church: Busy Fall**

Vegreville United Church invites you to participate in a fall event: High Level Bridge Band ([www.highlevelbridgeband.com](http://www.highlevelbridgeband.com)) is coming to Vegreville United Church on **October 29th at 2:00 pm**. Advent Festival - **November 25th from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm; November 26th from 10:30 am - 4:30 pm**. More details to follow. Any questions about the above events, call 780-632-2338 or email [veguuc@telusplanet.net](mailto:veguuc@telusplanet.net)

#### **Dragging Church Halloween**

Mill Woods United Church (15 Grand Meadow Crescent) invites you to please join them for a **SPOOK-TACULAR** evening on **Saturday, October 29th from 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm**. All Proceeds going to CHEW Project. Suggested \$5 donation for the all ages drag show. For more information call 780-463-2202.

## Events and Learning Opportunities ...

### 40 Days of Anti-Racism

**Now through Friday, November 25, 2022.** Continue the journey towards becoming an anti-racist church with this 40-day time of learning, reflection, and action. All sorts of resources, stories, and ideas from all across our church are included. New stories will be offered daily (with the exceptions of Sundays). [Click here for full details and the schedule](#), which includes **live online workshops every Tuesday**.

### CCS Friday's are back!

Join the Centre for Christian Studies and meet new program staff, Alcris Limongi, on **Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**, as she helps us explore *Getting Rid of "Us and Them" in the Church*.

In this session we will briefly name the processes of exclusion, marginalization, and structural inequality that are often unexamined - what we call "othering" - and seek actions that move towards a church of belonging where there is mutual power, access and opportunity for all people who share the space.

It's free to attend, you just need to register for a zoom link. To register, head here:

<https://ccsonline.ca/2022/09/ccs-fridays-are-back-2022-2023/>

*Coming up on CCS Fridays:* **November 18**--Christmas Rapture—a look at the apocalyptic lectionary scripture for November 27. **December (date TBA)** Lambeth Learnings--what are the important Lambeth Learnings that could inform inter-church and ecumenical relations?

### Intro webinar: Faithful Footprints congregational funding for energy efficiency, October 28.

Hosted by the ecumenical group Faith and the Common Good and Prairie staff. [Please click here to register](#) for this free afternoon webinar introducing you and your community of faith to grants that will help you lower fossil fuel use.

### Affirming Connections Leaders' Day, October 29

From conversations hosted by Northern Spirit's Affirming Task Group over the past two years, we know that rural, remote, and smaller communities face some specific and unique challenges in any Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ affirming journeys. And they have specific gifts they bring to that journey, along with real impacts. On **October 29**, Alberta's and the United Church's own Affirming Connections will host a gathering looking at "Small town- big impact", honouring the role of smaller communities in creating Affirming cultures and spaces, and discussing needs, supports, and ideas. Your presence is important! Please try to send a rep or two from your ministry. [Click here for full details](#). [Tickets are available here](#).

**KAIROS Prairies North annual meeting: Activating Hope: Faith and the Climate Crisis, Saturday Oct 29, 9am-2pm Mountain Daylight/ Central Standard.** Online or at Grace Presbyterian Church in Calgary, join ecumenical movement KAIROS in SK and AB for a time of learning, community, and a brief annual meeting. Come out and support this movement for church justice here in our area. The United Church is a founding member of KAIROS. [More about the theme](#). [Register here](#).

### NEW: Faithful Stewards: Investing for United Church Communities of Faith

**Wednesday November 2, 11:00am Mountain Daylight/ Central Standard.** Learn about the Foundation's investment program and how a little faithful forethought can mean a future of sustainable income in support of your community of faith. Hear about the variety of investing options available from the Foundation and our trusted partner Canoe Financial (Frontier Capital Funds Inc.\*), learn what your community of faith should think about when considering investing, an investing outlook and more. There will be time for questions, so come prepared! [Register here](#).

**NEW: Gathering Worship Launch Party, November 2, 7:00PM Central Daylight, 6:00PM Central Standard/ Mountain Daylight** [GatheringWorship.ca](http://GatheringWorship.ca) is an exciting new resource to help you plan worship services quickly and efficiently, and share prayers and resources with people across the country and around the world. Join with us to celebrate the addition of a powerful Internet based resource to the continuing print magazine. [See full details here.](#)

**NEW: Sharing, Solidarity and Action: Racial Justice and the Canadian Churches, November 2 and 3** The Canadian Ecumenical Anti-Racism Network (CEARN) of the Canadian Council of Churches invites you to two days of ecumenical support and engagement in anti-racism in and through the churches. The immensity of the racism across the country has risen up and become bolder. How are churches responding and how can we do more to actively respond in faithful ways? CEARN is offering two days of focused conversation and opportunities for concrete action. Participate in one or both evenings. [Please click here for full information.](#)

### **Bold Witness, Relentless Grace Conference**

**November 4-6.** In-person in Calgary, with online options available; [Click here for full details](#)  
This conference is offered by the Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain Regional Councils for everyone. Can't attend in person? [Have a look here](#) for information about setting up satellite communities.

**NEW: The Give Away: Where Repair, Reciprocity, and Reconciliation Meet, 5 November, Edmonton, 9:00AM-3:00PM** What's the relationship between reparations and reconciliation? What do scripture and Christian traditions say about reparations, apology, and more? What do Indigenous traditions say? All welcome to this conference offered at King's University with Anglican, Christian Reformed, and KAIROS support. [Click here for full details.](#)

**Palestine - Art as Resistance (sponsored by ECORC and Shining Waters Palestine Networks)**  
**Wednesdays, November 9, 16, and 23, 9:00-10:30AM Central Standard, 8:00-9:30AM Mountain Standard.** Free online videos and conversation with Palestinian artists who are living under military occupation. To register, email [barblloyd@rogers.com](mailto:barblloyd@rogers.com)

### **NEW: Godly Play training for people in paid ministry, Western Canada session**

**November 10 from, 9:30-4:40PM Mountain Standard, 10:30-5:30 Central Standard.** Experience a full godly play session with debrief, what is Godly Play, children's spirituality and how we support it, the Godly Play environment, and getting started. Limited numbers! [Click here for full details.](#)

**NEW: United in Learning**, the church's online education hub, has a new look and a lot of fall offerings on everything from racial justice to religious diversity in Canada. [Click here to have a look.](#)

Worship resources for upcoming Sundays and special themes:

[Remembrance Day - November 11, 2022](#)

[Children's Sunday- November 20, 2022](#)

[Transgender Day of Remembrance - November 20, 2022](#)

### **Climate justice vigils November 11-13**

All are invited to plan simple vigils focused on climate justice, as nations gather for the climate change Conference of the Parties (COP) in Egypt. The decisions and commitments made here are important, and good decisions won't be made without pressure. The ecumenical group For the Love of Creation invites public witness and advocacy in our communities. This could also include a worship focus on climate justice on Sunday November 13. [Click here for more information.](#)

**NEW: Advent Unwrapped begins, November 25.** This national program brings together people and resources from across Canada and around the world for our Advent journey. Sign up for the [Advent Unwrapped Newsletter](#) here.

**NEW: Jesus and the Marginalized: Jesus Christ for Koreans in The United Church of Canada Author conversation, November 29, 11:30AM Pacific, 12:30PM Mountain, 1:30PM Central.** Hosted by the Western Intercultural Ministries Network, a 90-minute workshop and followed by a brief annual meeting for this grassroots network of intercultural ministry that covers Western Canada. All welcome! *Jesus and the Marginalized: Jesus Christ for Koreans in The United Church of Canada*, co-authored by Rev. Dr. Ohwang Kwon, and Dr. Don Schweitzer, explores the meaning of Jesus for Koreans in the United Church of Canada, and in the Canadian context. [Please click here for full details.](#)

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Northern Spirit Regional Council Office  
13535 122 Avenue NW Edmonton AB T5L 2V7 780.435.3995  
[www.northernspiritrc.ca](http://www.northernspiritrc.ca)  
[northernspirit@united-church.ca](mailto:northernspirit@united-church.ca)

Earl Reaburn, Pastoral Relations Minister  
[ereaburn@united-church.ca](mailto:ereaburn@united-church.ca)