



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Events Newsletter: January 31, 2023

Events of interest to the people of the Northern Spirit Region.
If you have news or events to share, please write a short description,
with a clear headline and a link to more information,
and send it to northernspirit@united-church.ca.

Our local events calendar for United Church ministries is coming back to life!
[Click here to view it](#). And [click here to submit your event](#).

News from the Pews ... and other Ministries

★ Family News

Rev. Edward Scarlett, who served in many Northern Spirit congregations, [passed away on January 6th](#). We offer our condolences to his family, and we offer our thanks on behalf of all who were blessed by his life & work.

We Celebrate

Southminster-Steinhauer United Church wishes to invite your prayers and well-wishes as we celebrate the retirement of Rev. Dr. Nancy Steeves from active ministry. Nancy's last Sunday as part of the ministry team was January 22, 2023. You are welcome to offer greetings by way of her [online retirement card](#).

Events & Learning Opportunities

Lighten Up: A Candlemas Contemplation

... a *Contemplative Gathering* co-sponsored by St. Andrew's College and the Living Skies Regional Council. Join us at either **10am or 2pm on Friday Feb 3 (Sask Time)** for this hour-long contemplative pause as the light slowly returns. [Registration is here](#). For more information, [please be in touch with Dr. Bernon Lee](#).

Biblical Telling: A New Way Home, February 3 - 6, 2023

A two & a half day online festival to explore the art and discipline of telling scripture by heart. Storytellers from across Canada, India, the USA and around the world gather to hone their bible telling skills and repertoire. Workshops will cover a spectrum of topics: Biblical Telling 101, biblical telling as a contemplative practice, sharing the Bible with children, the ring shape found in biblical text, Deaf signing our telling, Godly Play, the role of story in Indigenous wisdom and community, and many more. [Click here for more information](#).

Anti racism and the United Church workshops, Feb 7 and March 7, 2023.

Part 1 with [Selam Debs](#). Feb 7, 2023, 10:00-11:30 AM ES, 9:00 Central, 8:00 Mountain.

Part 2 with [Rev. Alcris Limongi](#) March 7, 2023, 10:00 AM EST

[Click here for full details](#). Brought to you by Antler River Watershed, Horseshoe Falls and Western Ontario Waterways Regional Councils, and the three regions have covered all costs.

If you have any questions about this workshop or your readiness to participate in it, contact Thérèse Samuel at tsamuel@united-church.ca.

★ **Getting Started in Stewardship: Tuesday, February 21**

10am PST, 11am Mountain, noon CST, Presented on Zoom.

Join United Church people from across the country to learn some stewardship first principles. Start with an on-line 2-hour course that answers questions like: What is stewardship all about anyway? Isn't stewardship just a churchy word for fundraising? Why do people give, and why would they give to our church? What can we do to encourage greater generosity?

The practical assignments that follow will help you reflect on giving and generosity as part of your faith, gather and interpret some of the giving data from your community of faith, and build a stewardship team in order to start making stewardship a priority in your community of faith.

Completion of this course is a great first step before participating in Stewardship Best Practices, which will be offered next in March 2023. [Register here](#). Any questions, please contact Vicki at vnelson@united-church.ca.

National Rural Ministry Town Halls, last Monday of each month, 2:30-3:30pm Central, 1:30-2:30 Mountain. Calling all those in rural ministry! Join your colleagues on the last Monday of each month on Zoom for an energizing discussion of the joys and challenges of being in rural ministry, thoughtful consideration of current needs, and exploration of how to meet them most effectively. Register once to get the Zoom link to attend each of them. [Click here to register](#).

Vegreville Interfaith Group & Other Events

Interfaith Group: regular meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm via Zoom. If you want to join in, please call the office 780-632-2338 and leave your name and email address. For more information & other events, call 780-632-2338 or [check out our events page on our website](#).

★ **Liberating Liturgy: Wednesday, March 1, 7:00 – 9:00 pm**

Featuring Dr. Becca Whitla, Professor of Practical Ministry and Lydia E. Gruchy Chair in Pastoral Theology. Livestreamed by the Saskatoon Theological Union.

Dr. Whitla explores what it means to liberate liturgy in today's contexts. Drawing from the experience of several communities, she proposes that churches that want to fully embrace the multilingual, multiethnic, multicultural realities of the Canadian context need to examine and transform what goes on at church on a Sunday morning. Using a couple of case studies – singing and territorial acknowledgements – she proposes some initial principles for liberating and decolonizing how we worship. There will even be a couple of chances to sing and dance. Please join us for some mid-winter warmth and conversation!!! Please register for both in-person and livestream options by emailing standrews.college@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca by February 22.

United Against Hate: faithfully responding to anti-2SLGBTQ+ actions, Wednesday, February 15, 6:00pm MT, 7:00pm Central. Join Affirm United/ S'affirmer Ensemble and Alberta's Affirming Connections to learn about the malicious misinformation campaign and threats that have been launched against the drag and 2SLGBTQ+ communities across Canada-and what you and your faith community can do. [Registration and details are here](#).

★ **Being Good Relations Network Lent book and learning circle**, focused on [Indigenous Writes](#), by [Chelsea Vowel](#), âpihtawikosisân. **March 1st to 29th, 2023 on Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30pm Mountain via Zoom.** Facilitated by Grace Hussey, this circle is open to all, in the church and beyond. Bring your open spirit, good heart, and desire to learn about common myths, misunderstandings, and stereotypes that target Indigenous people and peoples, and how we go about changing that. Contact Grace for information: b.grace.hussey@gmail.com.

The Art of Living and Dying

The Art of Living and Dying workshops and Circles of Trust study series draw from the wisdom of our ancestors that quality of life is enhanced when we do not live in fear or denial of suffering or our mortality. The first workshop will be taking place **Friday, March 3 and Saturday, March 4 from 10:00 am to 5:30 pm..** Special UCC member discount is available, as well as group discounts for groups of 5 or more. For registration & more information, please contact karin@sacredartofliving.org, or call 888-383-4171.

★ PIE Day: official launch for the Year of Intention, 7 March, 6:00pm MT.

This year, we're challenging you to think about the meaning behind the I in PIE. How intentional are you in the welcome you extend to 2SLGBTQ+ and other marginalized folks? And more importantly, are your intentions pointing you in the direction of action? [Click here for full details and registration.](#)

United in Learning

United in Learning, the church's main online events service, has moved to an exciting new platform! [Have a look here.](#) The United Church's Edge Network also offers online courses related to change and innovation. [See their courses here.](#)



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