



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Events Newsletter: March 28, 2023



Upcoming 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.



★ Add your local events to our Northern Spirit events calendar! ★
[Click here to view upcoming events.](#) And [click here to submit your event.](#)

News From the Pews & Other Ministries

★ Registration for the 2023 Annual Meeting is now OPEN!

[Click here to register for the 2023 Northern Spirit Annual Meeting: May 4 - 7, in Camrose Alberta.](#) More information about the Annual Meeting can be found [on this page](#), and info will continue to be updated here as details are finalized! We are greatly looking forward to gathering together in May! *If you have questions about registering for the meeting, please contact the office: 780-435-3995 / NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca*

★ Job Posting: Office Administrator, St. Paul's United Church, Edmonton

St. Paul's United Church is an Affirming congregation within the United Church of Canada, and are currently seeking an Office Administrator on a full-time (35 hours/week) permanent basis. [For the full job posting, please click here.](#) To apply, please contact the St. Paul's office: office@stpaulsunited.org.

★ **Mission & Service Easter Resources: Confronting Climate Change with our Mission**

Partners. Did you know that your contributions to Mission & Service confront the impacts of climate change around the world? In the **Easter season**, you can learn more about and promote how Mission & Service is making a difference through special resources like videos and prayers, as well as a worship service to use on April 16 in conjunction with **Earth Week**. This service can easily be lay led and invites communities of faith to think about how they will Act, Learn, and Pray to confront climate change in their context. This service is offered in conjunction with For the Love of Creation, an ecumenical organization that brings together faith-based groups to mobilize education, reflection, action and advocacy for climate justice. [Find the Easter Mission and Service resources here](#), and keep checking back as more will be added in the coming weeks. Thank you for uplifting and supporting the important work we do together through Mission & Service.

Events & Learning Opportunities

This Week:

★ **CCS Fridays: March 31st, "Addiction and Faith"**

Ed Treat from the Centre of Addiction and Faith believes churches are poised to make a dent in the opioid crisis because we have locations in tiny rural communities that may not have other local supports like a doctor or social worker available in town. He'll help us explore the scope for developing an addiction ministry team that takes actions such as providing resources on addiction in libraries, getting narcan training, and training people to support those living with or recovering from addiction. We'll have a chance to explore addiction and recovery in a Biblical text. The Centre of Addiction and Faith is committed to helping ministers and leaders learn how faith communities can better understand addiction, and to better address the spiritual needs of those afflicted. [Join the Centre for Christian Studies for this CCS Friday](#) on **March 31 from 12:00 to 1:00 CDT**. There is no charge but [you must register here](#).

Next Month:

2023 Outdoor Way of the Cross: April 7, 10 a.m.

The Outdoor Way of the Cross is an ecumenical prayer event marking the suffering and death of Jesus. The 43rd annual Outdoor Way of the Cross invites people to think about the relevance and importance of the Gospel message in our world today. This year's theme, "Hope in the Midst of Crisis," is based on Micah 6:8: "*And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*" The walk will once again take place in person, along the streets of Edmonton's inner city. People of all faith traditions are welcome. The 2 km walk is reasonable for most ages and levels of fitness and ability. Free street parking is available near the start location. Light refreshments will be provided at Hope Mission after the final station. For more information, [click here](#).

United Church Easter Sunrise Service: April 9, 7 a.m.

Warm yourself around a shared fire as the sun's new light creeps through the trees and sing the first Hallelujahs of a new Easter morning. (At the fire Pit in Emily Murphy Park, Edmonton – 11904 Emily Murphy Park Rd NW). Bring your favourite morning beverage to enjoy. Organized by United Churches in Edmonton. For more information, contact Blaine Gregg at minister@spiritofhope.ca.

Humor, Laughter, Foolishness: Performing Love, Resilience and Resistance

What do **Worship and Play** have to do with each other? Come find out at a 2-day continuing education event with **Cláudio Carvalhaes** offered by the Centre for Christian Studies. This workshop is about engaging in play through various forms of worship and preaching, using humor, laughter, and foolishness to lift our spirits and connect with our faith on a deeper level. Join us on **Friday, April 14 and Saturday, April 15, 2023**, for a fun-filled, engaging, and transformative workshop. *This is an in-person event. [Register today and let's laugh, play, and deepen our faith together!](#)

Earth Week 2023: Together for the Love of Creation: April 16 - 23

During Earth Week 2023 (April 16–23), The United Church of Canada is joining with numerous sibling denominations and faith-based organizations under one banner, [Together for the Love of Creation](#). During Earth Week, we invite you to hold events to pray, learn, and act for climate justice. Mark Earth Week in a way that reflects and challenges your community. For ideas on how to celebrate Earth week through education, action, and prayer, [click here!](#)

★ Ask and Imagine: Youth! Webinars

In 2019–2020, the United Church asked young people what helps them find a sense of identity in this church, and what barriers keep them from leading and engaging. Now, more than ever, we need to listen more deeply to the stories of young people and question more sharply the barriers to their participation and leadership. We invite those who lead and love young people to a Zoom conversation - a first step - to hear what young people have told us and to invite your thoughts, questions, and opinions. The conversations will be led by Pamela Evans, Pacific Mountain Regional Council, and Amy Crawford, General Council. Please join us at one of these four opportunities—no registration is required:

- [Tuesday, April 25, 7:00 p.m. EDT](#)
- [Thursday, April 27, 1:00 p.m. EDT](#)
- [Thursday, April 27, 5:00 p.m. EDT](#)
- [Monday, May 1, 9:00 p.m. EDT](#)

Into the Future...

★ CALLING ALL HUNGRY CLERGY

This past December, forty Ministry Personnel from around the Region met together for lunch with no agenda other than to share each other's company. Let's do it again. Details are still being worked out but **Mark The Date — May 24, 2023**.

reVITALize Conference: June 7 - 9, 2023, Halifax

reVITALize is a gathering for ministry leaders and lay people to REFRESH, LEARN, and BE SUPPORTED. Speakers talk about what is revitalizing them at the moment, and time is given for people to gather with friends and colleagues and meet new folks. All denominations and traditions welcome! [Learn more & register by clicking here.](#)

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- [Click here to view our regional events calendar.](#)
 - [Click here to view the United Church's main online events service, United in Learning.](#)
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