



Events Newsletter: May 23, 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

Save the Date: Farewell to Earl - June 14, 2023, 3 - 6 p.m.

As Pastoral Relations Minister Rev. Earl Reaburn prepares to retire June 30, we're making plans for a celebration for Earl. On June 14th, please join us at Kirk United

Church Community Centre between 3 and 6 p.m., for an open house gathering celebrating Earl's retirement. Stay tuned for more details!

New Pastoral Relations Minister for Northern Spirit, August 1



As Pastoral Relations Minister Rev Earl Reaburn prepares to retire June 30, we're making plans for a celebration for Earl- and a welcome to our **new Pastoral Relations Minister, Rev Adam Hall!** Adam was born and raised in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and is a life long member of The United Church of Canada. He received a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Saskatchewan and a Masters of Divinity from St. Andrew's College. Upon ordination in 2010 he was settled to the communities of Holden and Tofield, Alberta, and has served at Tofield United Church (formerly Beaver Pastoral charge) for the last 13 years.

Adam enjoys spending time with his wife Stephanie and their three sons. He makes time for camping and fishing and being in the outdoors. He loves watching NFL football - go Denver Broncos go!!! - and is an avid collector of sports cards and anything related to the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. He will take on this new role August 1, 2023. **Welcome, Adam!**

Chinook Winds' The Politics of Jesus: An Election Series

With a provincial election on the horizon, the Chinook Winds Regional Council's Executive has seriously pondered the implications of how our Christian faith calls us to respond to the social and economic issues of our times. As the Alberta election approaches, [click here to read the introduction to this thoughtful series](#). [Read the other meditations posted so far here, and check back for the final two reflections still to come.](#)

Letter from our Chair & Lament prayer for the fires

As you know too well, almost the entirety of Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit Regional Councils are under a blanket of smoke, or dealing with out of control fires, or both, and anticipating more of the same this summer. [Click to read a letter from our Chair](#), with various funding links for those evacuated or facing destruction of homes and businesses. Rev Catherine Faith MacLean in Northern Spirit [wrote this prayer in response](#) to the fire crisis, and we are free to share it.

Annual Meeting Feedback Survey

If you attended Northern Spirit's 2023 Annual Meeting in Camrose, [please click here to provide feedback on your experience!](#) What went well? What could be improved? Your feedback is appreciated, and your suggestions will be helpful in planning future meetings.

Events & Learning Opportunities

Throughout May, Asian Heritage Month continues. [Click here](#) for many excellent worship and personal devotions resources.

Ministry Personnel Lunch: Wed., May 24, 1 p.m.

All clergy within the Northern Spirit Regional Council of the United Church of Canada are invited to bring their hunger for food and company to the picnic site at the Broadmoor Lake Park in Sherwood Park. Lunch is provided and is being paid for by the region. To help organize how much food will be needed, please contact Catherine MacLean (catherinefaithmaclean@gmail.com), Blaine Gregg (revtbg@hotmail.com), or Britt Aerhart (revvedtoo@gmail.com) to say if you plan to attend.

Decolonizing Ourselves: Legislating Broken Promises, Past and Present: Tuesday, May 30 at 7:00PM Mountain Daylight.

Hosted by KAIROS Prairies North Decolonization Group and the SK Treaty Land Sharing Network. Join us online to learn about the Natural Resources Transfer Acts of 1930 and reflect on how these continue to have a major impact today. We'll use the lenses of inherent Indigenous rights, Treaties, the Alberta Sovereignty Act and Saskatchewan First Act to better understand how these Acts are still shaping our relationships and laws. With: Mary Culbertson, Treaty Commissioner of SK; Roger Epp, Professor, University of Alberta. [Click here for full details and free registration.](#)

Refugee Sponsorship national webinar, Wednesday May 31, 11:00AM-1:00PM MDT.

First in a series. Join The United Church of Canada's Refugee Sponsorship staff to address the challenges of Refugee Sponsorship in the current political climate, and share strategies that are working. Bring your questions and find support in the wider community that takes on the often daunting but always life-giving commitment to support people seeking refuge. [Click here to register](#)- you will need to create a free ChurchX account. This one-time sign up gives you access to many different webinars through United in Learning and many others.

Into the Future...

Curiosity Cohort: Rural Focus, June 1 - June 29, Thursdays, from noon - 1:00PM CDT // 11:00 - Noon CST/ MDT.

Curiosity Cohort: Rural Focus helps you to get curious about your own community of faith and connect with other leaders in rural settings. We will engage with stories and ideas from across the country about different ways that rural congregations are bringing new energy into their communities. [Click here for details and registration.](#)

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.](#)

Pêhonân: Voices of Indigenous Followers of Jesus in the Ecumenical Movement, Thurs Jun 8, 2023 6:00 PM - Sat, Jun 10, 2023 1:00 PM MDT, Edmonton, Treaty Six.

The 8th Canadian Forum on Inter-Church Dialogues will highlight the experiences of Indigenous followers of Jesus in Canadian ecumenism. [Learn more or register here.](#) An [Event Brite link with details is here.](#) *Please note: In person only.*

★ Indigenous Day of Prayer, Sunday June 18

[Click here to see new prayers and liturgy for 2023,](#) as we gather in worship to give thanks for the ministry of Indigenous members and communities in the United Church, and to honour the many gifts carried by Indigenous nations all over Turtle Island/ North America.

Decolonizing our churches, reweaving our lives conference, June 20 - 22, 2023, Saskatoon

The College of Emmanuel & St. Chad, Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Andrew's College, and St. Thomas More College are excited to host this conference exploring the theme of decolonization with a particular focus on the role and responsibility of our various churches in working toward truth, reconciliation, right relationship, justice, and healing. [Click here for registration.](#) And [click here for all conference details.](#) If you have further questions, please connect with our event coordinator at colleen.walker@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca

★ Wednesday June 21: National Indigenous Peoples' Day

A significant day of spirit and action as we welcome summer with space honouring First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples. Please look carefully at your local gatherings, which are a rich opportunity to learn. Show up whenever and however you can; use your community of faith signage, space, and budget to lend your public support.

Community & Connection 2SLGBTQIA+ Advocacy Conference, June 22-24, Edmonton

The [Community & Connection Conference](#) will be taking place **June 22 - 24**, at Robertson-Wesley United Church in Edmonton. This Conference will bring together individuals and agencies in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to share their experiences, challenges and hopes. [Join us for 3 days of Community, Connection, and Hope.](#)

Alberta Engage Difference! Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry: July 10-14, 2023: St. Stephen's College University of Alberta, Edmonton AB

Engage Difference! Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry (DUIM) is a 5-day interactive and engaging program with practical ideas for implementation in your own context. DUIM is for ministry leaders and community members nurturing cultural relevance, understanding, and awareness in their communities. 5 Days focused on faith, heart, mind, and skills for the art of intercultural ministry. *****Register by June 12***** [More information and registration here.](#)

The School of Earth & Soul – Celtic Wisdom 3: July 25–27, In-person, Alumni Hall, Victoria College

Please join us for a three-day retreat on Celtic Wisdom with **John Philip Newell** and **Cami Twilling**. In 2016, John Philip Newell began a teaching initiative that is called The School of Earth & Soul. Its purpose is to reawaken awareness of the sacred in all things through the recovery of Celtic wisdom for today and to help translate this awareness into compassionate action. In July, Emmanuel College's Centre for Religion and Its Contexts is hosting the **Celtic Wisdom 3: Sacred Imagination** retreat, where participants will be invited to reawaken to the sacredness of the human imagination and compassionate action. [Please visit the Centre's website for bios, fees, registration and schedule.](#)

★ **St. Stephen's College Gala: Friday September 15, 5 - 10 p.m., In-person, Edmonton, AB.**

Reception, 3-Course plated Dinner, 2 drink tickets per guest, Guest Speakers, Live Jazz Music, Silent Auction which includes Live Painting with Fine Artist, Giselle Denis, as well as a chance at a week-long vacation in Port Rush, Ireland! Gala location: JW Marriott Edmonton Ice District - 10344 102 St NW, Edmonton, AB T5J 0K9. All attendees wishing to stay at the JW Marriott will receive 20% off their room on the night of the gala. Tickets are \$250 per person (tax receipts for a portion of the ticket price, will be sent out after the event). [For more details, please click here!](#)

Save the Date: the [2023 Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship](#) will take place at Yorkminster Park Church **in Toronto from October 22-24.**

- [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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