



NORTHERN SPIRIT
REGIONAL COUNCIL
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



Events Newsletter: October 25, 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

★ **United Church Urging Ceasefire and Humanitarian Aid in Palestine & Israel**

With the rest of the world, the United Church of Canada is watching the terrible violence gripping Israelis and Palestinians, and adds their voice to global calls for a ceasefire. There is an additional call for an end to the blockade of Gaza and for the restoration of humanitarian aid and access to the basic necessities of life. May we hold in our hearts and souls the horrific human and ecological impact of war. [Here is the link to the Church's full](#)

[statement](#). To support the people impacted, you can: [pray, donate, and advocate for an end to violence](#).

★ **Celebration of Ministries Service: Blessings & Thank Yous!**

Thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate new ministries in Northern Spirit, both those who joined us in-person and through online livestreaming this past Saturday! A warm congratulations to Linda Roberts, who was Recognized as a Designated Lay Minister, & to Sungsoon Park and Myeongnam Park, who were both Ordained. [Read our new ministers' bios here!](#) The service is still available to view [on our YouTube channel](#).

★ **POSTPONED: Celebrating a Covenant: Mill Woods United Church**

It is with regret that Mill Woods United Church has had to postpone the Covenanting Service for Rev. Eli Carter-Morgan. When the service is re-scheduled, we will re-advertise through the Newsletter. Thank you for your understanding.

New & Featured Events

★ **Canadian Centre for Christian Charities webinar: *Three Ways a Small Church Can Be an Effective Church*: ★TODAY October 25th, 12 pm MT**

Yes, small churches can be strong, healthy, and effective! In this CCCC webinar, Karl Vaters will share the three main principles behind effective small churches. This webinar is perfect for pastors, deacons, and elders at small churches; denominational officials; family members of small church pastors; or anyone with a desire to deepen their understanding of small churches and how to participate in their flourishing. Registration Details: Wednesday, October 25th, 2023, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm ET, on Zoom. Free, when you register with your CRA Charity Number (find yours on the CRA Charities listing!). [Click here to register](#).

★ **Rural Ministry Town Hall, Monday October 30 (and the last Monday of every month), afternoon.**

All welcome to this ongoing series of open space and focused conversation on topics near and dear to rural and remote ministries. Please note that you need a free account to sign for the whole series, and then you'll get reminders sent to your own email. [Register here](#).

★ **Advent of Generosity: Inviting giving and participation during Advent and Christmas, Tuesday, November 14 10 am MT, via Zoom**

December tends to be a very busy month in the life of the church. It is also a busy month for individuals—there is extra baking, shopping for family and friends, Christmas parties, and more. Most charities save their biggest appeals for this “giving season”. Does your community of faith talk about generosity during Advent? Many people want an invitation to give. This can be a time to invite generosity or deeper participation. And it's an opportunity to tell visitors about your ministry, and invite their support. This 60-minute session will talk about different ways that church leaders can bring conversations of stewardship into Advent, Christmas Eve, and beyond. Let's help make this Advent the beginning of a church year full of deeper generosity. This session will be presented on Zoom. Please [register here](#).

Upcoming Events & Learning Opportunities

Fall workshops at United in Learning:

A summary of the latest offerings from United in Learning is here. From treasurers to stewardship, anti racism to the Mod's Book Squad, [click here to learn more](#).

CCS Friday on Diakonia During Climate Change, Friday October 27

Join in on Friday, October 27, 2023 at noon Central Time for an online discussion of climate change and how to respond as faith-filled individuals and as ministers. This past summer has delivered unprecedented and extreme weather phenomena to many parts of Canada and around the world. Our special guests will be Eric Tusz-King and Katrina March. CCS Fridays events are free. Please [register](#) to receive a link.

Fall Youth Events!

All Youth are invited to an exciting roster of Fall gatherings! For more information, email Anna at anna.grace@shaw.ca.

- **Friday, October 27** – Regional Youth Gathering at McDougall United for Sardines and Snacks, 7-9pm 10086 MacDonald Dr NW, Edmonton, AB (Bring \$5 to cover snacks)
- **Friday, November 24** – Regional Youth Gathering at Spirit of Hope United – 7-9pm, Details to follow (Bring \$5 to cover snacks)
- **Friday, December 15** - Regional Youth Gathering at Riverbend United Church – Christmas Party, 7-9pm (Bring \$5 to cover snacks)
- **Friday, December 29** – Regional Youth Gathering at St Paul's United Church for overnight event, Details TBA

Leading Through Conflict Workshop: October 27-28, 2023, Calgary Alberta

This is a workshop opportunity with the renowned Susan Nienaber, to explore practices and traits to navigate conflict faithfully & successfully. The goal of this LeaderSHIFT offering is to increase the health of communities of faith, and the effectiveness of ministry personnel. [Click here for more info & for tickets!](#)

KAIROS Prairies North annual gathering Saturday Oct 28 from 11am – 4pm, in Lloydminster (and online)

Come and explore the timely theme of "Energy for Change", and find out ways you can get involved! More details and registration links here: [You're invited! Oct 28 KAIROS Annual Gathering "Energy for Change" \(kairoscanada.org\)](#)

Online Book Launch for Hope Peace Unrest: The Holy Spirit in the Korean Community in The United Church of Canada, Monday Oct. 30 - 5:00 pm MT

This is the latest book from An Intercultural Adventure, a series of seminars looking at the Korean experience in The United Church of Canada. It seeks to describe the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Korean community in the United Church. The focus here is on how the Spirit is present as a source of hope and peace for Koreans, and also as unrest. All people of all backgrounds are invited. [Register here](#). The book is available in Korean or English. It

can be ordered as an e-book or in a print version in either language. To order the book, please contact [St. Andrew's College](#).

'Healing and Hope' Retreat for clergy women, October 30-November 2, at Five Oaks Centre, 1 Bethel Road, Paris, Ontario

Rev. Tina Conlon from Davenport-Perth Community Ministry, and Shining Waters Regional Council President, will join us for part of the time. United Church Moderator Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne will speak on the afternoon of Nov. 1. We are hoping to ensure there is lots of time for small groups, and relaxation on the lovely grounds of Five Oaks. There are a few single rooms at \$475 for room and meals for the entire time, and \$405 for shared rooms and meals. This is a first-come basis, maximum of 50 people but we will also keep a waiting list just in case. Contact us at sistersandministers@gmail.com.

Pastoral Care Visiting Workshop: Called to be a healing presence - Saturday November 4 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm at Robertson-Wesley United (10209 123 st, Edmonton AB)

Lay leaders who are involved in visiting with parishioners or who are interested in joining the visiting team are invited to an afternoon of reflection and learning about best practices and the joy and purpose of this important ministry. Guest speakers will share stories and learnings from their perspectives in hopes of inspiring us to live out our faith caring for people who are unable to attend church regularly or who are in hospital, long term care, or palliative care. This workshop is free and open to all people of faith. Coffee/Tea/Juice and refreshments will be served. If you have any questions or would like to register for this event please contact Rev. Karen Bridges at Karen.bridges@rwuc.org

Creating a Culture of Respect for Gender and Sexual Diversity

Wetaskiwin First United will be hosting a workshop on Creating a Culture of Respect for Gender and Sexual Diversity, on November 7, 2023. *You too could host this workshop:* this particular work is partially funded by a grant through RBC, which makes it accessible for not for profits or churches. [Click here for more information on this program](#).

★ CCS Friday on "Coping with Loneliness and Isolation", Friday November 10

Join in on Friday, November 10, 2023 at noon Central Time for an online discussion of coping strategies for feelings of loneliness and isolation. Loneliness and isolation are definitely very different things, but regardless which you feel, as a layperson, clergy, theology student, deacon or deaconess around the world, your vocation impacts your mental health and well-being. In this brave and safe space, you can share and be with one another in confidence and trust. Tracy Fairfield will be our presenting guest. CCS Fridays events are free. Please [register](#) to receive a link.

Yes, No Maybe Discernment Retreat through LeaderShift - November 17-19, 2023, Calgary AB

A retreat for all those who are feeling the tug to explore a vocation in professional ministry. Intentionally explore a Call to Ministry, in community. Come together with a cohort of retreatants to deep dive into the urgings of the soul. Explore through worship, prayer, poetry, silence and community. Ask questions, listen intentionally, and tend to your own vocation - with LeaderShift and colleagues from the Office of Vocation. For more information [click here](#), or contact [Michelle Slater](#).

St. Andrew's College "Year of Intention":

Throughout this coming academic year, we will be hosting a series of four online events celebrating St. Andrew's commitment to being an Affirming Ministry, and [Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon](#)'s commitment to being "Reconciling in Christ". We'll be educating ourselves about sexual orientation and gender identity, and exploring new ways to be in solidarity and celebration with LGBTQIA2S communities in the church and beyond. Please mark your calendars now! More specific information to follow, closer to the dates... all events will happen online at 7:30-9pm Sask time. For more information on any of these events, please [contact Shawn](#).

- **Mon Nov 27** Queer Christology (a public lecture by Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein)
- **Thurs Feb 8** Liturgical Resources for LGBTQIA2S Christians (panel discussion)
- **Tues Mar 19** Transgender and Non-Binary Realities (panel discussion)



Photos from Northern Spirit Celebration of Ministries, October 21, 2023; Julie Graham.



- [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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- [Click here to access past Newsletter issues.](#)
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Available:



Sangudo United Church is offering the following items for sale (by offer):

- Samick piano – very well tuned and in good condition
- Hymn books and Bibles
- Choir gowns
- All kitchen supplies – dishes, cutlery, bowls, pots and pans, tablecloths
- Christmas decorations
- Filing cabinets

If you may need any of the above please call Bev at 780-785-3266 and she will be pleased to help you.

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