



NORTHERN SPIRIT
REGIONAL COUNCIL
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



Events Newsletter: November 8, 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

★ **Please support calls for an immediate ceasefire in Israel & Palestine**

Urgent action is required to prevent further mass death of civilians in Gaza. The United Church and many other groups are [calling for an immediate ceasefire in the battle between Israel and Palestinian paramilitary group Hamas](#). 2.3 million civilians are trapped in the middle, including over 200 Israelis and international citizens taken captive by Hamas October 7. [Please click here for a simple urgent action to the federal government](#), and

further background to help us hear what global partners living through this terrible violence are saying.

Gift Sharing Season: a Letter from our Chair....

[Click here](#) to read a letter from our Executive Chair, Rev. Helen Reed, with reminders of our shared blessings and opportunities as Advent season approaches.

Volunteer Ask: Good Samaritan Society

The Good Samaritan Society in South Edmonton is looking for a United Church minister to volunteer to visit their seniors once or twice a month to provide some form of musical and/or reflective worship. If you are interested in this possibility, contact Salomon @ sbeguel@gss.org.

New & Featured Events

★ **Pastoral Relations Workshop Invite: Community Profile and Living Faith Story**

Training: November 16, 7 p.m., via Zoom

The Pastoral Relations Commission will be offering a workshop on **November 16, 7 p.m.** for any Communities of Faith interested in learning about the development of Community of Faith Profiles and Living Faith Stories, and related ChurchHub processes. If your church is beginning, considering, or will be in these pastoral relations processes in the near future, you are welcome to join! [Please contact the office to RSVP & to receive the Zoom link.](#)

★ **Regional Council Learning Time on the Remit, November 23 at 6:30 Mountain and 7:30 Central, on Zoom.**

Please join Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils online for a learning time on the Remit on an autonomous Indigenous organization within the United Church. We are grateful that elders and knowledge keepers Charlene and Russel Burns will be joining Executive Minister Shannon McCarthy for the conversation. All welcome; content will be designed for pastoral charge council or board members, pastoral charge supervisors, and ministry personnel. [Please register here](#); this will send you the link automatically.

★ **Planning Worship Retreat Session One: January 18, 2024 - Registration now open!**

Come and do your worship planning in good company! United Church worship leaders, including DLMs and ordered ministry, lay worship leaders, and worship committees, are invited to St. David's United Church in Leduc, Alberta, for facilitated experiences, individual reflection, and planning time. Registration is now open for the January 18th session: Planning for Lent 2024. [Click here for more details + to register!](#)

Upcoming Events & Learning Opportunities

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.

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](#).

★ Pastoral Care in the Rural Context: Thursday November 16, 11 a.m., via Zoom

A Zoom Workshop sponsored by the United Church Rural Ministry Network. This is part of a regular ongoing series of Zoom workshops on various topics of interest and importance to rural ministry.

When: Thursday, November 16 from 11 am to 12:30 in the Mountain Time Zone.

What: A workshop using the Zoom platform for information, resource sharing and discussion about pastoral care in the rural ministry context. [Click here for more information & registration](#).

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](#).

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, November 24** – Regional Youth Gathering at Spirit of Hope United (Edmonton) – 7-9pm, Details to follow (Bring \$5 to cover snacks)

- **Friday, December 15** - Regional Youth Gathering at Riverbend United Church (Edmonton) – Christmas Party, 7-9pm (Bring \$5 to cover snacks)
- **Friday, December 29** – Regional Youth Gathering at St Paul’s United Church (Edmonton) for overnight event, Details TBA

Rural Ministry Town Hall, Monday November 27 (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.](#)

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) - [Zoom Link Here.](#)
- **Thurs Feb 8** Liturgical Resources for LGBTQIA2S Christians (panel discussion)
- **Tues Mar 19** Transgender and Non-Binary Realities (panel discussion)

★ **St. Andrew’s College Contemplative Gathering: The Gift of a Pause - December 1, online**

December 1 is between seasons; a time to pause and.... Each of us will pause in ways unique to our lives. Join us for an hour of prayer, scripture, quiet meditation, and conversation. **10 – 11am* ... all are welcome!** [Please register here.](#) Note: The zoom link is set for **Saskatchewan time zone**—please check your time zone. We don’t want to miss your participation!

★ **Faithful Footprints energy carbon reduction for faith buildings webinar, December 15th at 1:00pm *CST, noon MST.**

Join other Prairies and North people to learn more about strategies to reduce the carbon footprint of your faith spaces, and how to access the Faithful Footprints grant program to support energy efficiency upgrades and investment in renewables. Free! [Register today.](#)

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



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