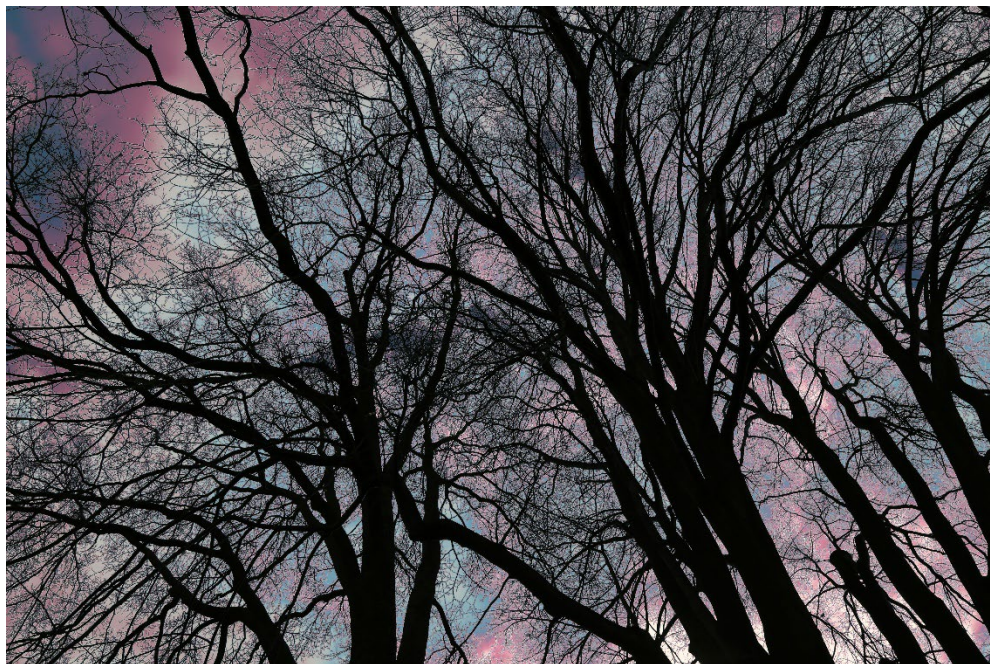




NORTHERN SPIRIT
REGIONAL COUNCIL
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



Events Newsletter: November 24, 2023



*The Northern Spirit Newsletter usually comes out on Wednesdays.
Sorry for this week's unexpected delay!*

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

★ Letter from the church to the PM: ceasefire now; naming the genocide taking place

At its recent meeting, the General Council Executive, its corresponding members, and the members of the National Indigenous Council issued a plea to Prime Minister Trudeau to advocate for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war, recognizing that, in the view of legal experts, genocide is currently taking place. Its central calls can be echoed and added to through a letter or call to the Prime Minister's Office and your Member of Parliament. Our pressure is important here, because until a ceasefire is reached, there is no way forward. Currently the federal government is still not pushing for a ceasefire. To quote the letter, "The failure to clearly do so is unconscionable." [Please see the letter here and share widely.](#)

★ Advent letter introducing Northern Spirit's new Growth Animator

[Click here to read a letter from Jordan Cantwell](#), offering Advent Greetings from Northern Spirit's Growth Animator. *Advent is a time of anticipation, waiting and preparing for the coming of Christ and all that means for each of us... What will be born anew in you?*

★ Thank you letter from Northern Spirit teen

[Click here to read a letter from Lannae Hoskins](#), from Living Spirit United Church in Drayton Valley, who attended the Indigenous and Racialized Youth Retreat at the Sandy-Salteaux Spiritual Center in Manitoba this Fall.

New & Featured Events

★ Conversation with returned ecumenical accompanier to Palestine, Monday, November 27th 10:30 CST, 9:30 MST.

Recently returned ecumenical accompanier Bill Chambre will talk about what he witnessed. [Register here for the Zoom link](#). For more information read a [blog by Bill](#) and read about the [World Council of Churches Ecumenical Accompanier Program](#).

★ Virtual Learning Opportunity: receive a certificate in Ministry of Supervision!

The Certificate in Ministry of Supervision provides participants with the information and skills to mentor individuals preparing for ministry by equipping them for supervision including pastoral practices, leadership, reflection, feedback and spiritual guidance. It is designed for clergy and lay individuals who are interested in supporting students and communities for supervised ministry education (SME), internships and field education. PREREQUISITES: A minimum of five years of post-ordination or commissioning, experience in congregational ministry leadership OR equivalent lay leadership. Mark your Calendar Now! The course will take place as a once a week intensive with three-hour synchronous class time on zoom each week. Here is the schedule: Jan 11, 12:00 –

3:00 pm ET; Jan 18, 12:00 – 3:00 pm ET; Jan 25, 12:00 – 3:00pm ET; Feb 1, 12:00 – 3:00 pm ET; Feb 8, 12:00 – 3:00 pm ET. You can [register at United in Learning](#). For more information please [contact Andrew Richardson](#).

Upcoming Events & Learning Opportunities

Fall Youth Events!

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

- **TODAY, Friday, November 24** – Regional Youth Gathering: Whitemud Creek Walk & Campfire, hosted by Spirit of Hope United (Edmonton) – 7-8:30pm, Meet at the fire pit next to the parking area for the Alfred H Savage Centre 13909 Fox Dr NW (bottom of the toboggan hill). Please dress appropriately for the weather.
- **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!

★ **CCS Friday on engaging youth in climate justice: December 8, 12:00 CT, via Zoom**

This summer, 15 youth from across the church participated in the United Church of Canada's first ever Climate Motivators program. Each student was sponsored by, and in partnership with, a local community of faith where they worked together on local climate justice or environmental needs. Our special guest will be Amy Crawford, team leader for Faith Formation and Mission with the General Council of the United Church of Canada. She will share some of her insights about getting youth involved in educating about climate change. CCS Fridays are free. [Please register here to receive a zoom link.](#)
| *CCS Fridays are online conversations to help us respond faithfully to emerging issues in local contexts. These workshops are open to anyone who might be interested.*

★ **Climate vigils December 8-10: lots of resources available to help**

From November 30 – December 12, 2023, the [United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties \(COP28\)](#) will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. This global conference can serve as an important catalyst for leaders and communities of faith to pray, learn and act for climate justice. Please see [For the Love of Creation](#), an ecumenical site for climate justice advocates, for lots of ideas. The theme of COP 28 is Unite. Act. Deliver. Let's help this be so.

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.](#)

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!](#)

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

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



Northern Spirit Regional Council Office
13535 122 Avenue NW Edmonton Alberta
780.435.3995
northernspirit@united-church.ca
www.northernspiritrc.ca



Image Credits: Photo by [Nareeta Martin](#) on [Unsplash](#)

*Copyright © 2023 Northern Spirit Regional Council, All rights reserved.
[Sign-up to receive the Newsletter by email by clicking here.](#)*