

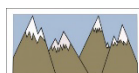


## Events Newsletter: January 3, 2024



### 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](mailto:northernspirit@united-church.ca).



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

★ 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

♥ Our prayers and sympathies are extended to our Executive Minister Shannon McCarthy and her extended family including dad, Harold, siblings, Sean and Erin and their families, their friendship circles and church family at Willowgrove United Church, Sault Ste Marie Ontario on **the death of Shannon's Mom , Shirley McCarthy on January 02, 2024** as a result of a stroke suffered on December 16, 2023. A celebration of life will be held on January 13, 2024, at Willowgrove United Church, 55 Tilley Road , Sault Ste. Marie Ontario. An obituary will be available at a later date.

★ **Convenanting at St. Paul's United, Edmonton, Sunday January 7**

A convenanting service for Reverend Anna Constantin - Senior Minister, and Reverend Candace McNeill - Minister of Faith Formation, and the Congregation of St. Paul's United Church, Edmonton, will take place on **Sunday, January 07, 2024, at 2:00pm**. The convenanting service will take place at St Paul's United Church (11526 – 76 Avenue NW, Edmonton, AB T6G 0K7). A reception will follow the service. Everyone who can attend will be most welcome. For those unable to attend, greetings can be sent to the Church address, or through the church website ([click here](#)).

★ **Convenanting at Devon United, Sunday January 14**

A convenanting service for Reverend Deborah M. Hoekstra and the Congregation of Devon United Church, Edmonton, will take place on, **Sunday, January 14, 2024, at 2:00pm**, at Devon United Church (2 St. Clair St., Devon, AB T9G 1J3). A reception will follow the service. Everyone who can attend will be most welcome.

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## **New & Featured Events**

**Planning Worship Retreat Session One: January 18, 2024 - Registration closes January 8!**

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 deadline for the January 18th session, *Planning for Lent 2024*, is **January 8**. [Click here for more details + to register!](#)

★ **Time for dessert! Regional prep for Affirming PIE Day, Tuesday January 9, 2024, 6:00PM Mountain.**

All Affirming, curious, and supportive ministries and people are invited to join Living Skies and Northern Spirit Regional Councils in the first of a series of get togethers to check in for the new year, and to plan for [March 14, Affirming PIE Day](#). Come with your questions, ideas, and recipes. This is an earlier time slot for Northern Spirit so please bring dessert and eat it first if you like. Meeting info (share by email but **do not post publicly, please**): <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/85941945044?pwd=IbiH51UCow4g6HHJfOInM26NEDsLaK.1>  
Meeting ID: 859 4194 5044 Password: 761747 Phone: 855 703 8985 Canada Toll-free

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## **Upcoming Events & Learning Opportunities**

**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](#).

★ **De Margerie Ecumenical Lectures on Christian Reconciliation and Unity, January 24 & 25, in person or online via livestream**

St. Andrew's College and the Saskatoon Theological Union are proud to be sponsors of the 2024 annual St. Thomas More **De Margerie Ecumenical Lectures** on Christian Reconciliation and Unity, on the evenings of **Jan 24 and 25**. This year, the theme is "Grassroots Ecumenism", presented by the Rev. Dr. Karen Petersen Finch. There will be two public lectures, one entitled "Re-imagining Lay People as Stewards of Doctrine" and the second "Doctrine as the Fuel of Renewal". [For more information, click here.](#)

★ **St. Andrew's College Contemplative Gathering, Tuesday, January 30, online**

St. Andrew's College, in partnership with Living Skies Regional Council, invites you to our next **contemplative gathering**, to be held with the Saskatoon Theological Union Chapel community on **Tuesday January 30, at 11:40am Sask time**. Come spend 40 minutes or so in quiet contemplation, centered on the ancient practice of *lectio divina*. [Join us via zoom, and be welcome!](#)

**Save the Date: How's it Going Now?**

St. Albert United Church invites the churches in Northern Spirit Region to join us on **Saturday, February 3, 2024**, from 10:00 am to 2:00pm for a time of worship, fellowship, sharing, and exploring possibilities. This is a follow-up to the workshop sponsored by McDougall United Church in Spring 2023, but everyone is welcome to come together in this Epiphany time. More details and registration information will be available in January.

~ *Into the Future:*

★ **St. Andrew's College and the Saskatoon Theological Union "Year of Intention" webinar, February 8, online**

Our next webinar will be on **Thursday February 8, from 7:30 – 9pm (Sask. Time)** Our panel discussion will include LTS' Dr. Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero and SAC's Dr. Becca Whitla, among others. Together, we'll be investigating liturgical resources which center LGBTQIA2S+ people and communities. To attend, [jump on the zoom link, here](#). For more details, contact [shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca)

★ **United In Learning 2024 Lenten Study: Tuesdays, February 20 - March 26, online**

During Lent, join us on Tuesdays from February 20 to March 26, 2024, to expand your love for God, deepen your connection to Creation, and strengthen your hope for God's dream realized. The new Lenten devotional [Act/Fast: Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis](#) invites us to deepen our love for Creation and take action or fast for a climate in crisis. It also includes a study guide to help you dive deeper as individuals or within a group. [Register](#) today for the 2024 Lenten study!

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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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