

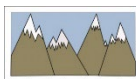


Events Newsletter: January 17, 2024



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.



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

★ **New Letter from Growth Animator**

A Growth Animator... what is that?! [Click here to read a letter](#) from Jordan Cantwell, Growth Animator for the Prairies Regions!

★ **Updates on Remit voting; accessing your M&S or Community of Faith ID**

A letter was sent to all pastoral charges from General Secretary Rev Michael Blair last week. The Regional Council [also sent a letter this week](#). Both have important reminders and resources on the Remit on creating an autonomous Indigenous organization within the United Church. The Regional letter also has an invitation to another learning time (see this newsletter for details). You are urged to set a date for a vote if you have not done so already. Next, the Regional Council will move into beginning to call pastoral charges who have not voted.

In order to vote, you will need your Mission and Service number or your Community of Faith ID. Your Mission and Service number can be found in your ChurchHub account or in your PAR info, if you use PAR. When you sign into your ChurchHub.ca, your Community of Faith ID number should be in the upper right-hand corner of your screen. If either of these aren't set up for you or just don't work, don't hesitate to call the office and we'll help.

New & Featured Events

★ **SSUC Celebrates their 25th Affirming Anniversary with Ivan**

Coyote: January 21st, starting at 6:00 pm, Edmonton, AB

Come celebrate Southminster-Steinhauer United Church's milestone affirming anniversary with a very special guest: Canadian writer, storyteller and musician Ivan Coyote! The evening will include a chance to peruse displays and learn about 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations and projects in the Edmonton area, enjoy some music from local 2SLGBTQIA+ artists, and the highlight of the evening - a presentation by Ivan Coyote with time for questions and answers. [Tickets are available through Eventbrite here](#). *Guests 13 and older are welcome to attend. | *Ivan Coyote is a writer and storyteller. Born and raised in Whitehorse, Yukon, they are the author of thirteen books, the creator of four films, six stage shows, and three albums that combine storytelling with music.*

★ **Indigenous Church Remit learning time 2, Tuesday January 30, 7:30 PM Central, 6:30PM Mountain, via Zoom.**

We will again have an open learning conversation on the remit on creating an autonomous Indigenous organization within the United Church. This time we are honoured to work with Gloria Cook, Fisher River Cree Nation and member of the National Indigenous Council; Rev Murray Pruden, Saddle Lake Cree Nation and Executive Minister, Indigenous Ministries and Justice; Rev. Shannon McCarthy, Regional Council Executive Minister. [Please click here to register](#). Be sure to check your email spam folder if you do not get the automated reply from Zoom in your inbox. All welcome, from any Regional Council you live in, whether your pastoral charge has voted or not! If you'd like to share this invitation, [you can also use this link](#). We strongly encourage everyone to read, prior to the gathering, the [latest letter from the General Secretary](#) and to watch two short videos first: [Perspectives on the Remit from the National Indigenous Gathering](#), and a new video on [questions addressed by members of the non-Indigenous church](#).

★ **Affirming PIE Day Prep Part 2, Wednesday January 31, 7:00-8:30PM Central, 6:00PM Mountain, via Zoom.**

The Affirming movements in our three Regional Councils are hosting open houses online to talk about our local plans for celebrating [Affirming PIE Day](#): Public, Intentional, and Explicit support for 2SLGBTQIA+ people and allies. Come with your plans, hopes, and questions on January 31 and join Prairie to Pine's Equity and Diversity Committee for some good discussion and planning. Bring dessert or pizza pie if you like. All welcome, from all Regional Councils and from ecumenical extended family, and wherever you are, or are not, on the Affirming journey. Please share the information by email, but do not post it on social media. [Click here for the Zoom link](#). Meeting ID: 815 7825 8746 | Password: 967101 | 1-855 703 8985 Canada Toll-free.

Upcoming Events & Learning Opportunities

★ **Stewardship conversation and training opportunities, multiple dates, January through May**

When you are ready to make good stewardship a core part of your community of faith, these courses are here to help. Each course has a specific focus enabling you to set goals, create a plan, and be successful, and includes both learning and practical elements. [Access all the options, details, and dates here](#). Questions? Vicki Nelson, vnelson@united-church.ca.

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](#).

★ **CCS Friday: "Artificial Intelligence in Pastoral Care: Who Cares?"; January 26, 12:00 CT, via Zoom.**

Artificial Intelligence technologies are being introduced into nearly every area of human life and work. If it's not already here it will not be long before artificial intelligence, in the forms of social robots and chatbots, will be used in pastoral and spiritual care. We will look at how social robots and therapeutic chatbots are already being used in mental health care and we will consider what implications this has for the future of pastoral and spiritual care. *CCS Fridays events are free.* [Please register here to receive a link](#). | *CCS Fridays are online conversations offered by the Centre for Christian Studies that help us respond faithfully to emerging issues in local contexts. These workshops are open to anyone who might be interested.*

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!](#)

★ **How's it Going Now?: continuing conversation, Saturday February 3, 10 a.m., St. Albert, AB.**

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. Come with your warm smile, your bagged lunch, and your thoughts on what it means to be a church in the time and place. An email to swaldie@telus.net to confirm your attendance would be appreciated.

★ **Pastoral Relations Workshop Part 2 Invite: Job Description & Search Team Process: February 8, 6:30 p.m. MT, via Zoom.**

The Pastoral Relations Commission will be offering a workshop on February 8, 6:30 p.m., for any Communities of Faith interested in learning about Pastoral Relations processes around developing a Job Description, Declaring a Vacancy, and proceeding with your Search for Ministry. 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.](#)

~ *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

★ **PIE in the Public Square, Affirming PIE Day preparation, Thursday February 15 at 6:00PM Central, 5:00PM Mountain, via Zoom.**

Get ready for dessert with a purpose! Affirming PIE Day is coming up March 14, and to help us get ready, Affirm United/ S'affirmer Ensemble is inviting three dynamic faith leaders to reflect on what this years' theme means to them: Rev. Franklyn James; Rabbi Dr. Nachshon Siritsky; and Rev. Tricia Gerhard. Together we'll be Public, Intentional, and Explicit with our Affirming welcome. [Register here!](#) | [Here's the Facebook event link.](#)

★ **Daring Justice: Uniting in Dialogue and Reflection, February 15 - April 25, 2024**, online.

A six week LeaderShift course exploring how our work for justice is rooted in United Church of Canada faith tradition and sacred scripture. [Click here for full details.](#)

★ **Beloved Is Where We Begin: An Online Conversation With Author and Artist Jan Richardson: Saturday, February 17, online.**

You are warmly invited to join us for an amazing online conversation with author and artist Jan Richardson on Saturday, February 17th, 2024 from 9:30 am - 12:00 PT. This event is co-hosted by Oasis United Church and Naramata Centre, and registration is now open! If you register between now and January 26th, there is a 20% discount. For more information, [please click here.](#)

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!

★ **Lenten Retreat: A Pilgrim People, February 23 - 25, Edmonton, AB.**

A Pilgrimage is a journey; physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Many major world religions have pilgrimage as an important aspect of their faith journey. Who are pilgrim people? How can this be incorporated into our lives? Providence Renewal Centre and the Edmonton District Council of Churches examine some of these questions and more during the Lenten Retreat: A Pilgrim People, February 23-25, 2024. As the great Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh said, "The miracle is not to walk on water but on the earth." Friday, February 23, 2024 (7:00pm) to Sunday, February 25, 2024 (1:00pm). Register by February 19, 2024. [Click here for more details & registration.](#)

★ **Anti Racism Work and Action conference for those in ministry with children and youth, April 4-6 2024, Vancouver.**

Held in-person at the Epiphany Chapel on the University of BC Campus. An [amazing line up of speakers](#), worship leaders, and hosts are already preparing to welcome, educate, and inspire you in Spring 2023! [Click here for full details.](#) If you are considering attending, please let justice minister Julie Graham know: jgraham@united-church.ca.

• [Click here to view our regional events calendar.](#)

- [Click here for the latest national education and training opportunities through United in Learning.](#)
- [Click here to access past Newsletter issues.](#)

Open Opportunities:

★ **Job Posting: Office Administrator** in Daysland, Killam, & Rosalind United Churches, AB

Daysland, Killam & Rosalind United Churches (DKR United) are currently seeking a part time office administrator for 17-20 hours a week. [Click here for the full job posting](#), and if interested apply to: united.dkr@gmail.com.

★ **Job Posting: Young Adult & Family Ministry Leader** at Sunnybrook United Church, Red Deer, AB

Hiring to establish a full-time First Third Ministry at Sunnybrook United Church. Job posting documents available at <https://www.sunnybrookunited.org/pages/first-third-ministry-position>. Please send cover letter and resume before February 15, 2024 to office@sunnybrookunited.org.



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