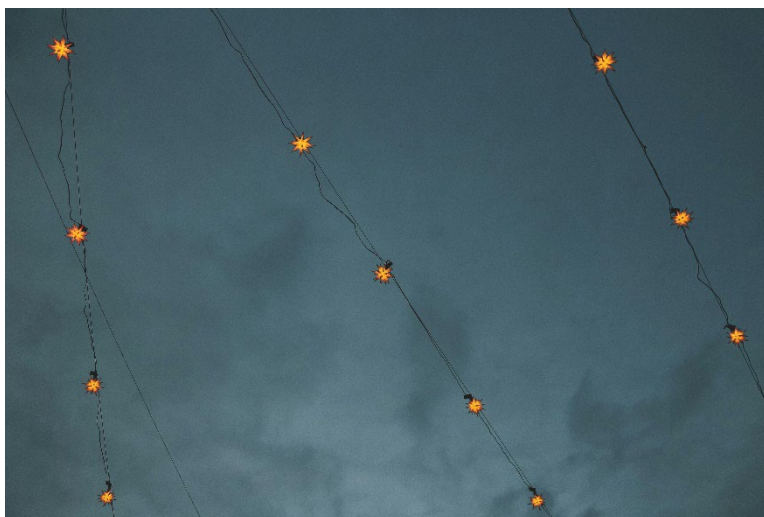


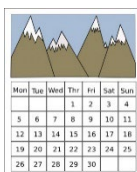


Events Newsletter: January 31, 2024



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.



★ Add your local events to our Northern Spirit events calendar! ★
[Click here to view upcoming events.](#) And [click here to submit your event.](#)

New & Featured Events

★ **Remit Voting:** An important event only you can create: set a date for your vote on Remit 1! Having difficulty getting a time set up? Have questions? Don't hold back- contact the office and we will figure out how to put you in touch with resources and people to talk with. 780.435.3995 or northernspirit@united-church.ca.

★ **M&P 101: Committee Training, March 5, 6:30 p.m. MT, online**

As we move further into a new year, many M&P committees are electing new members. Northern Spirit is offering a training session for M&P committees, via Zoom, on **Tuesday, March 5, from 6:30 – 8 p.m.** Everyone is welcome! If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to the office at NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca, and you will be included in the Zoom link send-out.

★ **2024 Regional Annual Meeting: May 2 & 9, online**

The 2024 Northern Spirit Regional Council Meeting will be held on the evenings of **May 2 and May 9, online**, via Zoom, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.. Planning is in progress – check for updates on [the website page, here](#).

Upcoming Events & Learning Opportunities

Final call! Affirming PIE Day planning and recipes: Tonight, Wed 31 January, 6:00PM Mountain, on Zoom

Let's talk about our local plans for celebrating Affirming PIE Day: Public, Intentional, and Explicit support for 2SLGBTQIA+ people and allies. PIE Day takes place Thursday March 14. Come with your plans, hopes, and questions 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, whether you've been thinking about the Affirming process and aren't there yet, or you've been Affirming for decades. [Click here for connection details](#).

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.

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.](#)

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.](#)

~ Into the Future:

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.

★ Advance notice: Rural ministries conference: experience the rural culture of the Alberta Foothills, June 18-21 2024, Cochrane, AB.

Hosted by the Centre for Rural Community Leadership and Ministry and by the Rural Church Network of the United States and Canada. Accommodation, meals, and some programming at Mount St. Francis Retreat Centre; transportation offered from Calgary airport to people from out-of-province. Program includes visits with the Wray Farm (involved in regenerative agriculture); Land of Dreams (Immigrant and Indigenous urban gardening); Mînî Thnî (a Stoney Nakoda community in the foothills, with roots in the history of the Indigenous Day of Prayer), and Banff (rural church life in a tourist region). Total cost for residential conference and all tours will be \$500. Options available for people not staying at Mount St. Francis. Information at www.circle-m.ca and [registration is now open at this link.](#)

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- [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.](#)
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