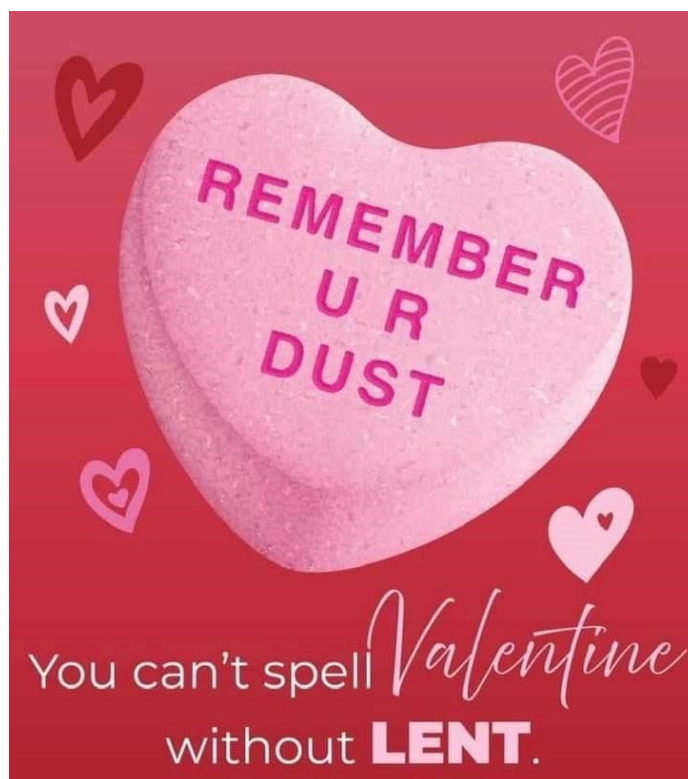




NORTHERN SPIRIT
REGIONAL COUNCIL
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



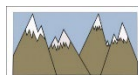
Events Newsletter: February 14, 2024



Happy Valentine's Day & blessings on Ash Wednesday ♥

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.](#)

New & Featured Events

★ **Give it up for the Earth! 2024 action campaign runs from February 14 to March 28.**

The climate crisis demands action, and [Give it up for the Earth!](#) makes it easy for you to make a difference. This national ecumenical Lenten campaign empowers Canadians to reduce emissions, embrace [eco-spirituality](#), and demand bolder [climate action from the government](#). Visit the campaign website for more information, resources, and to register your community of faith.

★ **World Day of Prayer, Friday March 1 or a day of your choice.**

This year's service has been prepared by Palestinian women and includes materials and a full video of the service. [Please have a look at their many prayerful and thoughtful resources here.](#)

★ **Setting your remit vote: An important event only you can create.**

Set a date for your vote on Remit 1! Having difficulty getting a time set up, or with sending your results in? 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

Upcoming Events & Learning Opportunities

PIE in the Public Square, Affirming PIE Day preparation: Tomorrow! 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! For more information, [please click here.](#)

★ **National Lenten study: Act Fast: Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis, Feb 20-March 26, Tuesdays at 11:00AM MST.**

Grief, anxiety, hope, love pain, despair, awe – many emotions are used to describe our relationship with all of Creation. What is your persona, physical, and spiritual relationship with God's Creation? How does this relationship affect how you follow Christ? This Lenten devotional invites us to deepen our love for Creation and take action or fast for a climate in crisis. [Click here to register.](#)

★ **CCS Friday: Creating Harmonious Space: Friday February 23, 12 pm CST, online**

On Friday, February 23 from 12:00 to 1:00 CST join an online conversation about creating "harmonious space" rather than "safe space". Harmonious space is the condition in which diversity and inclusion truly grow. Special guest Deaconess Adrainne Gray. | 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.

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.](#)

★ **The Church & AI: A conversation - February 24, 8:30 am - noon, Sherwood Park**

What is Artificial Intelligence? Where is it going? Should the church fear AI, or embrace it? Come discuss this controversial technology and learn more about its possibilities. \$40 including breakfast and refreshments. [Register here.](#)

★ **Greening Faith Buildings webinar, Feb. 26, 7:30-8:30pm MST on Zoom**

Looking for ways to reduce your place of worship's energy footprint? [Newo's](#) certified energy managers are hosting a free webinar to share strategies and answer your questions. We will highlight the United Church of Canada's [Faithful Footprints](#) grant, but all denominations and faiths are welcome! [Register here.](#)

★ **Bearing Faithful Witness- addressing anti-Judaism, February 26-March 11, 2024, 5:00-6:30PM MST.**

Join members of faculty from our United Church theological schools and guests, to explore [Bearing Faithful Witness](#), a United Church resource that addresses anti-Judaism

in worship, liturgy, Christian education, and scriptural interpretation. Participating schools are: Vancouver School of Theology, St. Andrew's College, and Emmanuel College. [Register now!](#)

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.

~ Into the Future:

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.

Save the Date! 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](#).

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); Mîni 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](#).

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

• All the offerings from United in Learning, our national online home for courses, training, and conversation, [are listed here in their latest newsletter.](#)

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



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