



NORTHERN SPIRIT  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



Events Newsletter: March 13, 2024

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***Notice: We are moving!!!***

The Regional Council office is moving into a smaller space at the end of March.

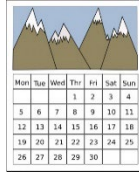
Our new mailing address will be:  
8510 95 Ave NW,  
Edmonton, AB  
T6C 1Y7

Our phone number will also be changing\*, new number TBA.  
Email will not change: [NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca](mailto:NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca).  
If you have any questions or concerns please reach out!

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## **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).



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

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## **News From the Pews & Other Ministries**

### ★ A letter from our Growth Animator on compost

Read a letter from Jordan Cantwell, Prairies Growth Animator, reflecting on compost... *"To compost something is an act of faith... an affirmation of our belief in resurrection."* [Access the letter here.](#)

### ★ The 2024 scholarship and academic awards cycle is closing!\*

The United Church of Canada Foundation offers a variety of funding opportunities for United Church of Canada ministers, ministry students, and lay people. Following and supporting the ministry journeys of scholars is a great joy in our work! Come and tell us about your plans! [Apply now at this link.](#) Or: email Foundation Lead Erik Lo Forte at [grants@united-church.ca](mailto:grants@united-church.ca) / call 1-866-340-8223 for more information. **\*Most applications are due March 15**, please refer to individual award terms for full details.

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## **New & Featured Events**

### ★ Affirming PIE Day is coming up March 14: register your event

Large and small, all services of worship and all events are welcome. There's many being planned across the Regional Council. Please add your sweet event to the national list and put this Region on the map! [Click here for the form.](#) Thank you for your ministry of love and inclusion. And see the rest of the website for resources galore, including new liturgies that can be used year-round. [Click here to read a PIE Day statement from the General Council](#) in support of your faith, welcome, and work.

### **Attention LLWLs: Registrations for the Spring 2024 sessions of Learning on the Way are now open, sessions March, April, & May**

Learning on the Way is a programme offered by United in Learning through ChurchX for the continued training and support of Licenced Lay Worship Leaders in the United

Church of Canada. During the Spring 2024 sessions, we shall be delving into the Psalms — ways to include them in the liturgy and in the message. [Registration & more information at this link](#). The groups meet the week of March 11th, the week of April 15th, and the week of May 13th.

**Edmonton's 44th Annual Good Friday Outdoor Way of the Cross: "Journeying Home", Good Friday, March 29, 10 a.m., Edmonton AB, Beginning at 99 Street and 107 Avenue.**

The Outdoor Way of the Cross is an ecumenical prayer event marking the suffering and death of Jesus. The 44th annual Outdoor Way of the Cross invites people to think about the relevance and importance of the Gospel message in our world today. This year's theme, "Journeying Home," is based on Isaiah 58:6-7: "*Is not this the fast that I choose. . .to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless into your house.*"\*People of all faith traditions are welcome. The 1.5 kilometer walk is reasonable for most ages and ability levels . Free street parking is available near the start location. Light refreshments will be provided at Hope Mission (106 Avenue and 99 Street) after the final station. For more information, contact Marguerite Watson at [marguerite.watson@telus.net](mailto:marguerite.watson@telus.net) or [visit the Way of the Cross website](#).

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## **Upcoming Events & Learning Opportunities**

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

Set a date for your vote on Remit 1: there are only three weeks left before the deadline. Please plan to email your ballot in; information for that is on the ballot itself, which is a [printable PDF file available at this link](#). 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](mailto:northernspirit@united-church.ca).

### **Daring Justice: Uniting in Dialogue and Reflection, on now, until 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](#).

### **National Lenten study: Act Fast: Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis, on now, until 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](#).

**Give it up for the Earth! 2024 action campaign, on now - until 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.

**★ March CCS Friday – An Ecology of Faith Formation: March 15, 11 a.m. MT, online**

Join the Centre for Christian Studies on Friday, March 15 (11am Mountain, 10am Pacific) for an online conversation about the eco-system of faith formation in congregations. Our special guest will be UCC Growth Animator Greg Smith-Young. Within creation, ecosystems form as different and diverse creatures (living and non-living) interact together. What can happen when we bring an “ecosystem” way of thinking into the faith formation work of congregations? | CCS Fridays are online conversations to help us all to respond faithfully to emerging issues in local contexts. CCS Fridays are free. Please register [HERE](#) to receive a zoom link.

**★ St. Andrew’s College Year of Intention Final Webinar: March 19, 6:30 p.m. MT, online**

Building on the momentum of our first three online webinars, the Saskatoon Theological Union continues our Year of Intention in 2024. This involves 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. Our final webinar is scheduled for **Tuesday March 19, from 6:30-8pm (MT time)**. It will be an online panel discussion featuring parents of transgender and non-binary youth, speaking from faith-based perspectives. The [zoomlink for this webinar is here](#). For more information, please contact [shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca).

*~ 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](mailto:jgraham@united-church.ca).

**★ Introduction to Godly Play Workshop: April 13, online**

Dear Friends: The registration link is now open for the next Introduction to Godly Play, Saturday April 13, 2024. Originally developed with children, Godly Play is both spiritual practice and a process applicable to all ages and many settings. For those previously unavailable and for those who've been keeping the date open, now is the time to register. [View full details](#).

★ **Wait - Is This Racist, new online community to explore anti-racist practices! Beginning Monday, April 22 at 5:00PM MDT.**

Together, we'll be drawing from some of the themes of the book [Wait—Is This Racist? A Guide to Becoming an Anti-Racist Church](#) to explore very practical ways of co-creating anti-racist congregations. This will not be a book study! Reading the book and using the provided assessments will be useful, but it is the shared experiences of learning and implementation that are what will change our communities. As part of the first session, Kerry Connelly, the author, will join us. There will be lots of support along the way. Full description: "[Wait—Is this Racist?](#)" on Church X, the national church's online learning platform.

★ **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](#). \*\* **If you have requests or suggestions for Annual Meeting topics**, please contact the office at [NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca](mailto:NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca).

**Music Matters AGM and conference, May 2-5, 2024, at St. Paul's United Church in Thunder Bay, ON, or online.**

Music Matters and its AGM are open to everyone who is interested in music in The United Church of Canada—music leaders, singers, instrumentalists, lay volunteers, clergy. There are a variety of payment options to suit your needs; the suggested fee is \$200 per person, with a sliding scaling down to \$150, depending on circumstance. Registration to participate online is \$75. [Register here](#), and for more information and the schedule, email [worship@united-church.ca](mailto:worship@united-church.ca), or visit [Music United](#).

**Planning Worship Retreat Session Two: May 16, 2024 - Registration now open!**

*"I would love to sing and hear a season's Scriptures and music to "get in the mood" to plan a season of worship."* If that thought sounds familiar, 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 May 16th session: Planning for Creation/Fall 2024. [Click here for more details + to register!](#)

**Registration open: 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](http://www.circle-m.ca) and [registration is now open at this link](#).

**SAVE THE DATE: UCC Office Admin Conference! October 1-4, 2024, Saskatoon, SK**

Planning is underway for our next Office Administrator's Conference at Home Inn & Suites in Saskatoon, SK. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to connect, learn and "fill our cup". All Office Administrators throughout the United Church of Canada are invited and encouraged to attend! A registration package will be coming out in early April with more details, along with a letter for support to provide to your M&P Committees. For more information, contact Chantal Winslow at [cwinslow@united-church.ca](mailto:cwinslow@united-church.ca).

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• [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.](#)

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



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