



Events Newsletter: March 27, 2024



Notice: We are moving!!!

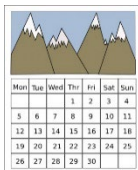
The Regional Council office is moving into a smaller space at the end of March.

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

Our phone number has also changed, and our new direct number is:
1(800) 268-3781, extension 6029.
Email will not change: NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca.
If you have any questions or concerns please reach out!

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.](#)

News From the Pews & Other Ministries

★ **Last chance to send in your Remit ballot: FINAL NOTICE**

Please email your ballot in; information for that is on the ballot itself, which is a [printable PDF file available at this link](#). Having difficulty 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

★ **Covenanting at St. Albert United Church, Sunday April 14.**

A covenanting service for Pastor Anne Telford and the Congregation of St. Albert United Church will take place on Sunday, April 14, 2024, at 12:30 pm. The covenanting service will take place at St Albert United Church (20 Green Grove Drive, St. Albert, AB T8N 5H6). You are invited to come early for a potluck "Sandwiches, Salads and Sweets" lunch starting at 11:30 am and stay for a reception – the potluck sweets part - following the service. Everyone who can attend will be most welcome. For those unable to attend, greetings can be sent to the Church address, or the Church email address (office@stalbertunited.ca).

★ **Moderator's Easter Message**

In her Easter message, Moderator Carmen Lansdowne's hope for the church is that we will know that even in our deepest grief the risen Christ will show up, call us by name, and remind us that this is not the end of our story. [Watch it on YouTube.](#)

New & Featured Events

★ **Sunrise Easter Service, March 31, 7am, Edmonton**

Several United Churches of Edmonton invite all to greet the first light of Easter morning around a welcoming campfire with a simple service of song and hope. Bring your favorite morning beverage. At Emily Murphy Park, 11904 Emily Murphy Park Road NW Edmonton, AB.

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 or [visit the Way of the Cross website](#).

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.

Upcoming Events & Learning Opportunities

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](#).

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.

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](#).

★ Rethinking Preaching Conference 2024: Crossing Boundaries Toward Healing, April 15–16, Online

In a world that is polarized and deeply divided, the work of crossing boundaries for the sake of healing is crucial. Emmanuel College's 2024 Rethinking Preaching Conference (RPC) invites participants to consider the challenges and opportunities posed by issues such as religious difference, mental health, queer identity, race, ethnicity, culture, ability, accessibility, online technology, and multi-language contexts and their intersectional natures. The sessions will help us explore what it means to be a preacher for today. The Centre for Religion and Its Contexts and Shining Waters Regional Council (UCC) invite seasoned and new preachers, students of homiletics, and participants who seek to "rethink preaching" to join our conference in 2024. [Click here for details and registration.](#)

~ Into the Future:

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.

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, 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); Mînhî 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](#).

★ **Registration for Summer Programs at Naramata Centre is now open**

Join us this summer in the Okanagan for one of our weekly family camps. It's a time for friends and family to gather together on our beautiful grounds and fill them with laughter, joy and play. We invite you to explore our programs and find something that speaks to you - or simply spend your time enjoying the variety of activities.

Visit naramatacentresociety.org/summer to learn more.

• [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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