**WOMEN OF THE UNITED CHURCH: CHINOOK WINDS AND NORTHERN SPIRIT CONFERENCE AND AGM**

***“For the Beauty of the Earth: Caring for Creation”***

**May 9, 4:00 p.m. to May 11, 1:00 p.m., 2024**

**{Registration starting at 2:30 p.m.}**

**Friday Morning Theme Speaker/Facilitator(s):**

Jude Chaytors, BSW, RSW, M. Art Therapy, B.A. Gender Studies and Theology, and/or Alison Brooks-Starks B. Ed., Cert. Spiritual Care, Centre for Christian Studies, Cert. Ecopsychology.

They lead eco-therapeutic practices through "Emberwood", a new ministry initiative of the United Church of Canada, locally based and hosted out of Southminster-Steinhauer United, Edmonton. Emberwood connects people to their understanding of spiritual depth and themselves through solitude with nature.

**Friday Afternoon Speaker:**

Dr. Jenna Butler is an award-winning poet, essayist, editor, and professor. She is the author of three critically acclaimed books of poetry, *Seldom Seen Road, Wells,* and *Aphelion*; a collection of ecological essays, *A Profession of Hope: Farming on the Edge of the Grizzly Trail*; and the Arctic travelogue *Magnetic North: Sea Voyage to Svalbard*. Her newest book, *Revery: A Year of Bees,* essays about beekeeping, climate grief, and trauma recovery, was a finalist for the 2021 Governor General’s Literary Award in Non-Fiction and a longlisted title for CBC Canada Reads 2023

Butler’s work in the environmental humanities has taken her to endangered landscapes of the world, including to Svalbard aboard an ice-class tall ship, to a former famine village on the Kerry coast in Ireland, and to the mountains of Oregon as a resident environmental writing fellow for Oregon State University, Oregon Wild, and the Spring Creek Project. As a BIPOC writer and grower, she speaks internationally on equitable land access, diverse community-building, and reciprocal ecological relationships in farming. Butler lives and farms off the grid in northern Treaty 6.

She will be bringing copies of some of her books to sell. Essay collections are $15 and poetry collections are $10

**Thursday Evening guests**: Salwa Kadri Office/Programs Manager Al Rashid Mosque, and friends, Edmonton. The ladies will tell us about their women’s programs and their inner city work in Edmonton.

**Friday Evening Entertainment:** Five Octave Hand Bell Choir. Director: Tammy Jo Mortensen.

**Book Exchange Table:** Bring a book and take a book. This went over well last year and voluntary donations of $101 went to the Healing Fund. So, bring your books to exchange.