



Events Newsletter: April 10, 2024



Notice: We have moved!!!

The Regional Council office has moved into a smaller space as of the end of March.

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

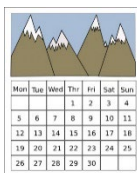
Our phone number has also changed. The new office number is: **1(800) 268-3781, extension 6029.**

Email remains the same: 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

★ Remit 1 has passed!

80% of all pastoral charges voted on the remit to establish an autonomous Indigenous organization within the United Church. General Council announced April 9 that the Remit has passed. Now the conversations, learning, and planning for the future will continue. There are plans to create some spaces where we can have those conversations together, but for now, we celebrate! [Read more on the General Council website, here.](#) | [Read a response from our Regional Chairperson, Helen Reed, on the Northern Spirit website, here.](#)

★ Directory Update

The 2024 Regional Council Directory Update is now posted! The directory is a password-protected PDF designed to connect Regional Council members. As of April 2024, the directory will be updated on an ongoing basis. If you are saving the PDF on your devices, be sure to [check back](#) once in a while to make sure you are accessing the most up-to-date information! If you did not receive the link to the directory, [contact the office](#) for the full access details.

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).

New & Featured Events

TODAY: Getting Started in Stewardship – April 10 at 2pm or 4:30 *Mountain, online*

Come on your own, or come with a team and join United Church people from across the country to learn some stewardship first principles. This 90 minute course is the place to start if you are new to stewardship or need a refresher. [Register or learn more right here.](#)

★ **Dare to Share: Ecumenical Shared Ministries Workshop: April 25 @ 10:00 am - 3:30 pm**

A workshop for leaders within the Anglican, Lutheran, Moravian, and United Churches, at Glory Lutheran Church, Sherwood Park, AB. Registration for this event is free. Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided. The deadline for registration is **Friday, April 17, 2024**. [Full details and registration at this link](#).

★ **Registration opening soon: 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 still in progress, and registration will be opening soon! If you have any questions or concerns, [check on the Regional website](#), or [contact the office](#).

★ **Adaptive Leadership Workshop Opportunity for Ordained Ministry**

Personnel: May 29, 9am - 3 pm, Edmonton

This one-day in-person workshop will help ordained ministry personnel explore the adaptive challenges that are facing the church, and equip them with new leadership skills to address these challenges. **All in-service ordained ministry personnel in Edmonton and area are invited to participate.** There is no cost to attend, and lunch will be provided!

The workshop is offered as part of a doctoral research study taking place across Canada in 2024 and 2025 led by Rev. Clara King (ClaraKing.com), which is testing a new way to teach adaptive leadership to clergy. There are very minimal risks to participating in this study, however all participants must sign a letter of informed consent. **Register for the workshop** by emailing Chloe in the office: NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca.

Learn more about the workshop, the research study, the risks, and the letter of informed consent at a short, optional Zoom meeting with Clara on **Tuesday May 7 at 1:30pm Mountain** ([access Zoom link here](#)).

Upcoming Events & Learning Opportunities

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.](#)

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.

From Fear to Faith: How to talk about money in church - Thursday, April 25 at noon Mountain & 1pm Central.

This 60 minute stewardship session is for church leaders—both clergy and lay—to unpack some of the fears we have around talking about money and giving in church. Let's chat how we can move from scarcity, secrecy, obligation, and transaction towards abundance, transparency, joy and transformation. We will cover the practical and theological rationale for straightforward conversations about individual giving and how the church receives and uses money. [To register click here.](#)

Setting Up Your Giving Program – Starts the week of **April 30** and requires a team (3-5 people) to participate. This stewardship course is designed for you to develop the resources you need to get your Congregational Giving Program off the ground! [To register or learn more click here.](#)

~ Into the Future:

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!

"Planning a whole season at once seems impossible! I wish I could set aside a block of time when no one can interrupt me but I need encouragement. A time physically away (or a solid block of time in Zoom) with a supportive network would be so great!" 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 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.

★ Save the Date: Audacious Hope National Gathering, July 3-6, 2024

You are invited to join us for the [Audacious Hope National Gathering](#), a transformative event designed for youth, young adults, and their leaders.

Location: Brock University, 1812 Sir Isaac Brock Way, St. Catharines, ON

Presented by the Rendez-vous 2024 team of The United Church of Canada and the uplift team of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, this event marks an exciting collaboration to inspire, empower, and uplift our communities. [Find out more!](#)

★ Registration now open: UC Office Administrators' Conference, October 1 - 4, 2024, Saskatoon

The United Church Admin Network is busy planning the details for our Office Admin Conference. This is open to all United Church of Canada Office Administrators across Canada. This event is an opportunity to celebrate the work that they do, network with other office administrators, as well as provide some workshop and learning opportunities. This event will be held at Home Inn & Suites in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan from Tuesday October 1 to Friday October 4. [Access full details and registration form here.](#)

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

● Here's the [March-April update from United in Learning](#), the church's online education and training space.

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



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1(800) 268-3781 ext. 6029
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www.northernspiritr.ca



Image credit: Fish, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58589> [retrieved April 10, 2024]. Original source:
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Santorin_\(GR\),_Kallistis,_Kloster_Prof%C3%ADtis_II%C3%ADas_--_2017_--_2896.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Santorin_(GR),_Kallistis,_Kloster_Prof%C3%ADtis_II%C3%ADas_--_2017_--_2896.jpg).

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