

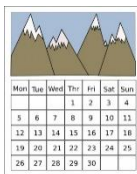


Events Newsletter: April 24, 2024



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

★ **Note date and time change!** 🌈 **Regional Council Affirming celebration, Saturday June 1 at 2:00PM!** 🌈, Mill Woods United Church & via livestream

Northern Spirit Regional Council will hold its Affirming Celebration in Edmonton, with a livestream for the whole Region, online dessert, and an in-person Pride picnic after. We will celebrate our Regional Council becoming officially Affirming, and welcome Carrie Symondson into ordained ministry! Absolutely everyone is invited; more details to come soon.

★ **Invitation: Celebrating Rev. Ruth Lumax with First United, Wetaskiwin, Sunday May 26**

First United Church, Wetaskiwin's minister, Reverend Ruth Lumax will be leaving after an exceptional 20 years of service. There will be a luncheon after service on Sunday, May 26, 2024. **RSVP is required by May 16th.**

If you have any questions please call Arlene Grapentine, Leadership Chairperson, at 780-361-3503.

★ **Important Northern Spirit Regional Meeting update: and registration for May 9 open!**

The planning committee has decided to restructure our AGM meeting originally planned for May 2 and 9. We will now meet ***May 9 and October 24***.

We invite you to join us on **Thursday May 9 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm on Zoom**. We will be focusing on connection, growth, and health in our Regional Council, along with possible follow up on the recent Remit. You can now register to attend the May 9th Annual Meeting evening: [register at this link](#).

We will reconvene on Thursday October 24 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm on Zoom. At this time we will elect 11 General Council 45 Commissioners, and focus on other business such as proposals. Please click here for the [Proposals PDF overview](#) (best for sharing and reviewing) and [click here for the Word version](#) (best for copying and pasting into a new document so you can build your proposal with the correct information and format.)

Information on nominating Commissioners will be provided at the May 9 meeting, through the newsletter and website, and sent out again throughout the fall as a reminder. The deadline for GC45 Commissioner nominations is October 11, 2024.

New & Featured Events

★ **The United Church at 100: Centennial planning workshop for the Prairies and North, Wednesday 29 May 2024, 6:30 MDT/ CST, 7:30PM CDT**

The United Church turns 100 in June 2025! Join our Regional archivists, Leanne Templeton and Erin Acland, and other resource people, and we'll look at resources for creatively commemorating this anniversary in your context. We'll talk about local, Regional, and national ideas together- both the celebrations, and the anniversary opportunity to look at where we've been as a church, and where the future might take us. Come with your ideas and questions, and be ready to bring some ideas back to your community and ministry! Zoom info: <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/86218269850?pwd=ICZejc0bMvaHbGpPNjVK6zabthRDaw.1> Meeting ID: 862 1826 9850 Password: 507752 Connect by phone: 1 855 703 8985 Canada Toll-free

★ **Planning Worship Retreat Session Two: May 16, 2024 - Leduc & via Zoom!**
"I would love a chance to get my worship planning small group/committee away for a retreat time to do planning as well as some community building!" If that thought

sounds familiar, come and do your worship planning in good company! All 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. You can also attend over Zoom! Registration is now open for the May 16th session: Planning for Creation/Fall 2024. [Click here for more details + to register!](#)

★ **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

★ **Earth Day Monday April 22: resources and plans!**

Here we are in Earth Week, finding hope in the midst of This week of April 21–28 we pray, learn, and act for the love of Creation. This is a tremendous opportunity for the church to lift up and strengthen the ways that we are putting our house in order by reducing our carbon footprint; raising our spirited voices through advocacy efforts; connecting with the earth; and challenging ourselves to respond to climate impacts. Here are a range of resources from the national church to support your work. Please click here for the Moderator's 2024 video message. Please click here for ecumenical resources.

★ **Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage, with national church leaders**

Many communities of faith across Canada, and around the world, with their bodies prayerfully mapped Gaza onto their own communities through the worldwide Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage this Lent. This renewed invitation is for everyone! Walk or roll together in your own community, preferably before May 13. Pray and act for a ceasefire, and for more than a ceasefire- for a just peace for all in Palestine and Israel. KAIROS member church leaders, including Moderator Carmen Lansdowne, will gather in Ottawa on May 22-23 to bring these calls in person to the Government of Canada and

Parliamentarians. They'll urge them to take immediate and sustained steps to advance and promote the calls made in the [Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage](#). Please see the [United Church site](#) and the [KAIROS site](#) for more details. If you would like to plan a pilgrimage in your community, please let the Regional Council know so that we can support you. Email Regional Justice Minister Julie Graham at jgraham@united-church.ca.

★ **Wait- Is This Racist, new online community to explore anti-racist practices! *Still time to join!***

Ministry beyond the adults in our spaces, **Tuesday, May 21**, 6:00 pm–7:30 pm CDT **OR Thursday, May 23**, 12:00 pm–1:30 pm, CDT. How do our buildings; grounds; and ministry with children, youth, and people beyond our doors reflect our relationship to this racist society? 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. 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](#).

★ **A Fairer Canada: A Guaranteed Livable Income for All, Tuesday, April 30, 2024, 6:00 PM CDT, online**

Hosted by The United Church of Canada Guaranteed Livable Income network. The time is ripe to implement a guaranteed livable income (GLI) in Canada – but there's still hesitation, politically, socially and spiritually. On April 30, join members of The United Church of Canada's national network on GLI to investigate why, to situate GLI advocacy in a wider context of fairness, and to find ways forward towards a livable income for all. [Register at this link](#) to receive the zoom connection info.

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](#).

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](#).

~ *Into the Future:*

★ **Summers at Naramata Centre**

Join us this summer in the Okanagan. It's our favourite time at Naramata Centre. With a variety of summer programs for any interest, Child & Youth Programs, activities and gatherings, this will be a summer your family will talk about all year long.

[Click here for all information about our summer programs.](#)

Also: Group events at Naramata Centre

This is your official invitation to host your next retreat, board meeting, or family reunion at Naramata Centre on the shores of Okanagan Lake. We have a variety of flexible meeting spaces, indoor accommodation and camping options to accommodate every group's needs, including fully accessible rooms so everyone can participate. [Click here for group bookings info.](#)

★ **Leaders in Context: Forming leaders and creating communities of hope in challenging times, June 10-13, in-person, AST campus in Halifax**

Cost: \$100.00 (A great deal! The normal price is \$500+). You will join co-learners and experienced pastor-teachers to focus on Missional Leadership in church and society in this post-pandemic season. Topics will include: *Where are we? How does God turn up when we find ourselves in a place we've never been before? What are the critical practices for Christian life in dark time? What kind of leaders form communities of hope in dark times?* Instructors: Alan Roxburgh, Kimber McNabb, Chris Pullenayegem.

[Register at this link.](#) Questions? [Contact James Cheatley](#), Continuing Education Convenor.

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!](#)

★ **Stones Cry Out: Praying with the Land, Lutheran and Anglican National Worship Conference: July 18-21, 2024, Regina.**

Registration is now open! [Visit our website here](#), and follow us on Facebook @nationalworshipconference for updates regarding the keynote speakers, workshops, and Friday evening hospitality options! The focus of the conference is to help us to think about, talk about, and pray about the ways in which we can transform our worship, in authentic ways - from language and image of empire and colonialism, to

one which recognizes our rich multi-cultural and Indigenous heritage. Early bird registration ends on **May 31** so now is the time to [register, at this link](#).

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](#).

Notice: We have moved!

The Regional Council office has moved into a smaller space as of April 2024.

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!



Northern Spirit Regional Council Office
8510 95 Ave NW Edmonton Alberta
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