

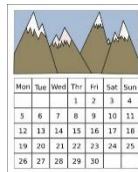


Events Newsletter: May 8, 2024



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

★ **Last chance** to register for **Annual Meeting Session 1: TOMORROW MAY 9, 6:30 p.m.**

We invite you to join us **tomorrow, 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](#). Last-minute registrations will be accepted until 1 p.m. tomorrow.

(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*. [Full details here.](#))

★ **Northern Spirit Regional Council Affirming celebration and celebration of ministries service, *Saturday June 1 at 2:00PM, Mill Woods United Church and on YouTube.*** 

Having finished the formal requirements of the Affirming process, Northern Spirit is ready to launch into the next part of its Affirming journey. All are welcome to the Affirming celebration, and the ordination of Carrie Symondson. Join us online via YouTube, and in person, Saturday June 1 at Mill Woods United Church, 15 Grand Meadow Cres, Edmonton, AB. Pride picnic to follow! [Please click here to share this invitation.](#) If you would like to send a note of congratulations, please email northernspirit@united-church.ca, or send a card to 8510 95 Avenue NW, Edmonton AB, T6C 1Y7.

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.

♥ The memorial service for Pat Bourque, former program staff serving the Northern Region of Alberta and Northwest Conference, will be held at Sherwood Park United Church at **1:30 PM on Thursday, May 16, 2024.** Plans are in place to make the service available live on line, using [Sherwood Park United's YouTube account](#).

♥ **Offering:** Living Spirit United has two unused Ricoh Toner cartridges (2120D - Staples -Type K) they will send to a church who could use them. They ask that the recipient pay shipping and handling. Contact Living Spirit United Church, livingspirituniteddv@gmail.com, if these would be of use to your community.

New & Featured Events

★ **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 **today, Tuesday May 7 at 1:30pm Mountain** ([access Zoom link here](#)).

★ **Treaty Land Sharing Network Alberta launch and networking day, 6 July, near Camrose.**

Join us as we celebrate the official launch of Land Sharing efforts to the west side of Treaty Six in Alberta. [The Treaty Land Sharing Network](#) is a group of Farmers, Ranchers, Land Trusts, Acreage owners and other rural landholders who are dedicated to acknowledging and living out the spirit of the Treaties through voluntarily sharing land with Indigenous peoples. This event is an opportunity for landowners and Indigenous peoples to learn more about the network and how to get involved. [Click here for more information and tickets](#). Those too far to travel to this: the TLSN would like to make contact with Indigenous people and nations, and non-Indigenous people, in others parts of AB. Please have a look at their website.

Upcoming Events & Learning Opportunities

May Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage: in your own community and with national church leaders

The worldwide Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage which began in Lent continues. This renewed invitation is for everyone! Walk or roll together in your own community, preferably before May 22. 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 urge government 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. Here's a [new, introductory little guide](#) for planning your pilgrimage, especially in smaller communities. 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.

Last chance to register! 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! Last chance to register for the May 16th session: Planning for Creation/Fall 2024. [Click here for more details + to register!](#)

**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.

★ Local Implications Concerning the Premier's Recent Announcement on Transgender and 2SLGBTQIA+ Youth, A Panel Discussion and Round Table Event: Saturday, May 25th from 11:00-1:30p.m., Edmonton (Highlands Golf Club, 6601 Ada Blvd.)

The Premier's recent policy announcements clearly constitute a coming government assault on the human rights and ethical treatment of sexual and gender minorities, particularly on 2SLGBTQIA+ youth who are among our most vulnerable. These proposed policies also represent an extraordinary and dangerous overreach into health care, education, and human rights. Edmonton Public Teachers' ATA Local 37 is hosting an invitational, private meeting of concerned groups, organizations, parents, and community members to discuss ways in which we can effectively and strategically collaborate to make a difference in combating these proposed policies. We would greatly value your contribution in this strategic dialogue. **Please RSVP [using this Link](#) by the end of day May 17th** to secure your space at the table.

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

~ 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.

★ Learning on Purpose: Changing Leadership for a Changing World: June 17-28, Quebec

Join this 2-week intensive leadership development module hosted by the Centre for Christian Studies. It is a practical, holistic, hands-on, learning community experience, and those who take it come out feeling transformed (in a good way!). [Register for Learning on Purpose.](#) This year Learning on Purpose will be held in Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue (Montréal), QC from June 17-28. It is open to Continuing Studies students as well as CCS diaconal ministry and certificate students beginning their programs. Bursaries are available. For more information: <https://ccsonline.ca/program/leadership-development/>.

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!](#)

★ **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 and [registration is now open at this link](#).

★ **Care of Creation Town and Country Garden Tour: July 13, 10 am - 4 pm, Drayton Valley**

Enjoy a day in the sunshine, tour beautiful gardens and celebrate God's creation! Tickets are \$15, all proceeds to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. [Click here for full details!](#)

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](#).

• [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
1(800) 268-3781 ext. 6029
northernspirit@united-church.ca
www.northernspiritrc.ca



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