



Events Newsletter: June 5, 2024



Photos from Affirming Celebration and Celebration of Ministries, June 1, 2024. Photos and photo collage by Julie Graham. More photos will be posted to the website soon!

Featured: Top left: Rev. Mickey Wilson, AJ Janewski, and Rosa Janiszewska. Top right: Carrie Symondson and Rev. Helen Reed. Middle left and middle: setting up in Mill Woods. Middle right: RW Hoekstra. Bottom: photos of St. Paul United's SPAN Group.

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

♥ **Covenanting with Grace United, Lloydminster: *Sunday, June 9, Lloydminster***

Lloydminster invites you to join them in person or in prayer at their covenanting service this Sunday, June 9, 10 am at 4708 50 Ave, Lloydminster, AB, followed by a potluck lunch. We send our best wishes as they covenant with their new minister, Rev. George Mafuleka!

♥ **Happy Birthday St. Albert United! *Sunday June 23, St. Albert***

St. Albert United Church is 70 years young. To help us celebrate these 70 years of Ministry, we invite you to an informal lunch on our patio and back lawn. Join us on Sunday June 23 at 11:30 for a hamburger and a piece of Anniversary cake.

♥ **Celebrating Rev. Bill Doyle's retirement, *Saturday, June 29, Spruce Grove***

Rev. Bill Doyle is retiring and St. Andrew's United Church in Spruce Grove is hosting a "Siesta Fiesta" in his honour. Join us on Saturday, June 29 for a Mexican themed party, including a taco salad bar, beach themed mocktails, photo booth, pinata, and karaoke! Tickets are \$25.00 per person with all proceeds going towards a new sound system for the church. Tickets can be purchased by contacting the church office at (780) 962-9888.

★ **Northern Spirit Regional Council's Affirming celebration and celebration of ministries service** took place on Saturday, June 1st, at Mill Woods United and was livestreamed [on our YouTube channel](#) (where it is still available to view). Huge, heartfelt thank you-s go out to Mill Woods for hosting us, to everyone who helped to plan the service, and to everyone who participated. Thank you to everyone who attended or was with us in spirit and online! And thank you to our Affirming task group, to Affirm United, and to everyone who has contributed to our Region's Affirming journey, which continues forward heartened by the joy and community of Saturday's celebrations. Deep congratulations to Carrie Symondson, who was Ordained at the celebration, and will be Called to Hanna Pastoral Charge, in Hanna AB.

[Click here to read Carrie's bio.](#) 

General Commissioners for GC45: new information page, helpful videos from our colleagues in Shining Waters Regional Council, and Nominations form now available on our website.

[Learn more about becoming a Commissioner for GC45 here.](#)

[Nominate yourself or someone else using the Commissioners Nomination form, here.](#)

★ Rev. Ruth Lumax is downsizing her library and has assorted books pertaining to ministry available for the cost of shipping/pick up. Please contact her at firstunitedwetaskiwin@gmail.com before June 21 for a pdf of book covers.

★ **Job opportunity: - Youth Ministry Coordinator position available: Riverbend United, Edmonton**

Riverbend United Church is searching for a new Youth Ministry Coordinator to begin in September 2024. Please [click here for a full job description](#). If you are interested, email your cover letter and resume to searchruc@gmail.com. The position will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.

New & Featured Events

★ **June is Indigenous History Month.** There are gatherings of all kinds throughout the month, especially on Friday June 21, National Indigenous Peoples' Day. Most are in person but some are online (keep reading for information about one.) Please look for local opportunities and online learning spaces; use your church's signage and lawn to express your support for this significant day and month. Please invite a speaker if you can, show a film (school and public libraries have many), make time to honour this month.

Sunday June 16 is **Indigenous Day of Prayer across the church.** Thank you to Rev. Kimberly Roy for preparing this service! [Click here to download it.](#) [You can find many other order of service here.](#)

★ **Awasisak: Our Children, Our Future, film and talk with Dr. Patricia Makokis, Monday, June 10, 2024, 7:00 to 8:30 pm MDT/ CST, 8:00-9:30PM CDT, online**

The Being Good Relations Network in Northern Spirit and Chinook Winds Regional Councils invites you to a webinar in honour of Indigenous History Month. We will watch the video together and be in conversation with the film producer and walk organizer Dr. Patricia Makokis, Saddle Lake Cree Nation servant leader, about what our children are learning, how we take part in treaty, and the possibility of organizing treaty walks and talks in our communities. To view the first two videos in the series, see www.treatytalk.com All welcome! [Click here for a shareable invitation.](#)

Zoom connection details:

<https://united-church.zoom.us/j/83155001968?pwd=wj7UI4C8Hen4VdGgrp17OtP2Zpbfzo.1>

★ **Faith Spaces | Safe Spaces virtual workshop, June 9, 1-3 p.m. MT, online**
Edmonton's interfaith anti-racism project, Faith Spaces | Safe Spaces is presenting a virtual workshop on June 9, 1 - 3 p.m. MT, online. Join us for an engaging online event where we will explore ways to create inclusive and welcoming environments free from racism. This workshop is designed to equip participants with tools and strategies to address racism within faith communities. Inspiring speakers - interactive activities - inclusive atmosphere! [Register at this Eventbrite link.](#)

Upcoming Events & Learning Opportunities

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.

★ **Getting Started in Stewardship meeting, June 11, 2 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. MT, 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. In this 90-minute live meeting we'll answer questions like: *What is stewardship all about anyway? Isn't stewardship just a churchy word for fundraising? Why do people give, and why would they give to our church? What can we do to encourage greater generosity?* This course is FREE, but you must register in advance. [Find more information here.](#) Contact Vicki at vnelson@united-church.ca with any questions.

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/>.

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](#).

~ Into the Future:

Save your spot: 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. Early bird pricing has been extended to **May 31!**

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!](#)

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.

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!](#)

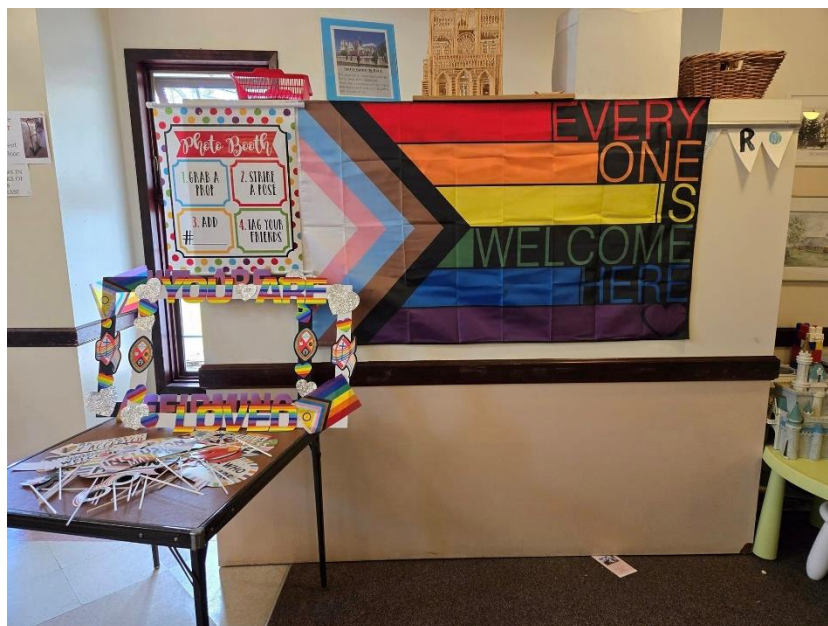
Stones Cry Out: Praying with the Land, Lutheran and Anglican National Worship Conference: July 18-21, 2024, Regina.

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](#).

Save the Date - How Is It Going 3.0: Connecting Dots, Saturday September 28, 2024, 9:30 am - 2:00 pm, Sherwood Park AB

Facilitator: MaryAnn Pastuck. A cluster gathering for Edmonton area United Churches at Sherwood Park United Church, 20 Fir St, Sherwood Park, AB. Co-hosted by Salisbury United. This is a follow-up to the gatherings at McDougall and St Albert, open to anyone interested in knowing ways we can help each other. Attendance at previous gatherings not required.

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- [Click here to view our regional events calendar.](#)
 - [Click here for the latest United in Learning](#) online conversation and learning offerings.
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- [Click here to access past Newsletter issues.](#)
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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
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