



Events Newsletter: August 28, 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

♥ Prayers and Support for Jasper

It is with heavy hearts that we confirm that the Jasper United Church and manse were both destroyed by the fire. The congregation of Jasper United, as well as all those evacuated from Jasper and the first responders still working in the area, are in our hearts and in our prayers. [Please click here](#) for full details on offering both prayerful and

financial support to Jasper United.

United Church 100th anniversary new event map!

June 10, 2025, will mark the [United Church's 100th anniversary](#)—an opportunity to honour our past and look to the future! **Is your church community planning something special to commemorate this milestone?** We'd love to hear about it! [Submit your event details](#) on our brand new [Centennial event map](#)!

Upcoming Events & Learning Opportunities

★ River Run and bell ringing in support of Grassy Narrows First Nation, Wednesday Sept 18, 11:00AM CST/ MDT, 12:00PM CDT.

This United Church endorsed action supports Grassy Narrows First Nation in northern Ontario, whose river is contaminated with mercury from off-reserve industrial operations. Their struggle for justice, health, and a return to clean water has gone on for decades. Grassy Narrows has called on the national community to help raise the profile of this struggle, and the United Church is asking us all to join in. This includes ringing our church bells or creative alternatives (and being clear about why). That's when a community march is predicted to arrive at the Ontario provincial seat of government. (Freshwater is a provincial jurisdiction and successive Ontario governments have not taken action on this desperate situation and injustice.) [Please see the link for full details and join in!](#)

★ We Sing Our Faith: A conversation on the evolution of intercultural music in the United Church of Canada, Thursday September 19 2024, 11:30AM-1:30 PM Pacific, 12:30-2:30PM MDT/ CST, 1:30-3:30 CDT.

Join us for some singing, a look at our past music, and a look forward to living more fully into expressing our intercultural hopes through song. As we turn 100 in less than a year, we'll bring an intercultural approach to exploring together what our music could become. Resource people: Rev OhWang Kwon, Rev Dr Lisa Waites, and Dr Becca Whitla. Free; all welcome. Sponsored by the Western Intercultural Ministries Network; this is also a 100th Anniversary event. [Click here for full details, including the Zoom link.](#)

★ St. Andrew's College Contemplative Gathering, September 10, 10 a.m., online

We hope you can join us on **Friday, September 20 at 10 a.m.** (Saskatchewan time) for an hour of quiet contemplation and conversation. As we begin a new academic year, we will explore the **Ember Day** theme of "**Birthing Hope and Harvest**". Please [join online at this Zoom link.](#)

★ **Calling all Northern Spirit Lay Leaders: LLWL retreat *September 28, 2024, Leduc***

All Licensed Lay Worship Leaders are invited to join in a time of gathering and learning on September 28, 2024, at St. David's United in Leduc, AB. There will be lunch, time for reflection and catching up, and a presentation on how to officiate a funeral service, led by Rev. Leigh Sinclair, minister at Leduc United, and Adam Hall, Pastoral Relations Minister. This event, organized by the Lay Leadership Support Committee, is also open to lay folks who are interested in leadership in their communities, or are interested in pursuing the LLWL program. [Read full event details](#), and [register at this link!](#)

★ **Honouring Orange Shirt Day/ National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, *Monday September 30, 2024***

Orange Shirt Day/ the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is an important public space for truth telling and for commitments to challenging ongoing colonization. It's now an [official day across Canada](#). The [Orange Shirt Day society](#) offers leadership for this important space, as all of Canada joins in efforts to honour, remember, and change. [Click here for more information and resources](#) on how United Church communities in our Regional Council can support this day. *"When you wear an orange shirt it's like a little bit of justice for us Survivors in our lifetime, and recognition of a system we can never allow again."* -Phyllis Webstad

★ **Fall LLWL training and further learning opportunities**

This fall, five Learning on the Way groups are being offered. Two will focus primarily on providing a forum for connecting with other LLWLs for support and assistance in navigating the challenges of being an LLWL. The others focus on specific topics, including baptism and worship as pastoral care. For full details, [see the ChurchX listing at this link](#). The online training programme for LLWL certification continues as well. This Fall is the Liturgy, Advent/Christmas unit ([details here](#)).

Sacramental Elder Training

If your community of faith is without a minister, your board can nominate someone from your congregation to become a Sacramental Elder. We are planning a round of training for new Sacramental Elders for this Fall. This training is held in two sessions, online over Zoom, one evening per week, in the weeks of October 7 and October 14. If you are interested in learning more about this training and would like to provide input on what day of the week would work best for this training, please [contact the office](#).

★ **Planning Worship Together: Advent Planning, *October 10, 2024, Leduc and via Zoom***

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. There is also an option for online

attendance. Registration is now open for the October 10th session planning for Advent 2024: [register at this link](#).

UNJPPI's National Gathering: "Faith in a Time of Genocide", November 1-2, Toronto, and **Palestine Land Exercise Training, Thursday, October 31, Toronto**
"Faith in a Time of Genocide" is both an important conference to reflect on our faith and a call to faithfulness in solidarity with Palestinians. "What does our faith call us to now?" The conference sponsored by UNJPPI invites you to wrestle together with these questions and find paths of effective action that bear witness to our faith. Our congregations, our United Church, our partners in Palestine Israel and our ecumenical friends need your faithful leadership now. We welcome your prayers for the people of Palestine and for UNJPPI as we prepare this conference. [Full details here](#).

[Past Newsletter issues are archived on our website.](#)



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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