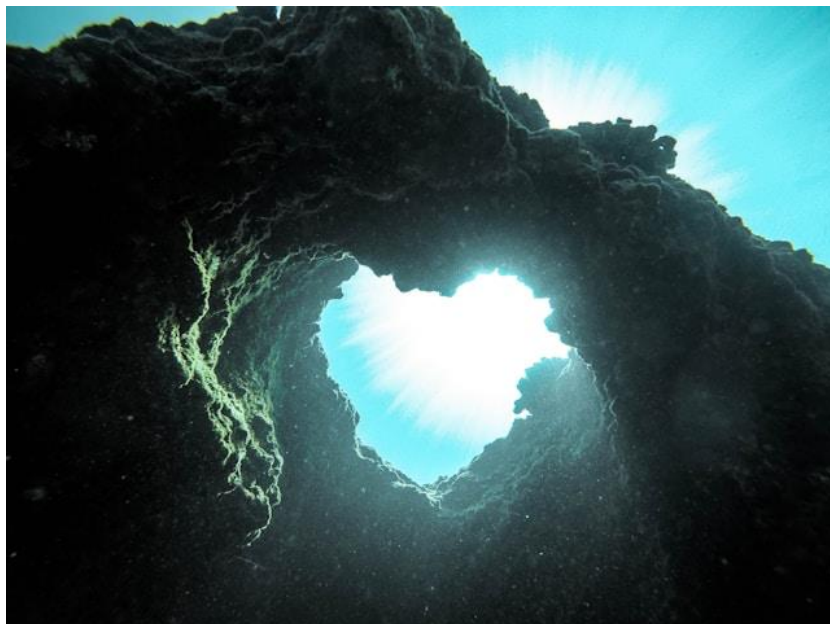




Events Newsletter: September 11, 2024



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

♥ **A note of thanks:** Rev. Marilyn Carroll and her family wish to express their gratitude for all the support and condolences they have received this summer.

★ **Northern Spirit Regional Meeting part 2, Thursday October 24, 6:30-8:30 MDT, on Zoom.**

Northern Spirit delegates and friends, we gather again for an online meeting of the Regional Council October, chaired by Rev Helen Reed, Thursday October 24 from 6:30-8:30PM MDT. This is part two of our 2024 regional meeting. The primary focus will be business, including proposals to the Regional Council or General Council. An agenda will be shared a bit later. Please arrive at least ten minutes before we begin. If you would like to check your connection or learn/ re-learn any Zoom techniques, please arrive 20 minutes in advance. [Please click here for all details.](#)

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!](#)

★ **An offer:** Free to clergy who might be interested in having some of these items. Stoles that are appropriate for each season of the church year, plus some special stoles: United Church, wedding, etc.. A woman's Clergy Alb size 11 (medium) Ivory. Crossover closure. Pleats. Washable. Made by Slabbinck. Worn only a couple of times. Please contact Sharon or Dale at (780)450-1766 or email to d.s.irving@shaw.ca. {Pictures included at the bottom of newsletter}.

New & Featured Events

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!](#)

Registration closes September 18!

★ **How is it Going 3.0 - Connecting Dots: Edmonton + area cluster gathering, *Saturday, September 28, 2024, 9:30 am - 2:00 pm, Sherwood Park United Church, 20 Fir Street, Sherwood Park***

Co-hosts: Sherwood Park and Salisbury United Churches | Facilitator: MaryAnn Pastuck

Open to all United Churches in the Edmonton Area. All participants are asked to bring their lunch. Tea, coffee, juice and light coffee break refreshments will be provided. **To**

RSVP, please send your name, email address and Church name to: office@sherwoodparkunitedchurch.ca by **September 25, 2024**. *Note: Although this is a follow-up to the events held in May 2023 and February 2024, attendance at them is not required.* Come and share your blessings and concerns.

★ **Sacramental Elder Training: *October 8 & 16, 6:30 p.m., online***

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, on **Tuesday, October 8, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.; and Wednesday, October 16, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** If you are interested in learning more about 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](#).

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 20, 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.](#)

★ **New Network on ChurchX.ca! Church Tech Best Practices: Learning together how to use technology to enhance our ministry - first webinar September 24**

Just as the Treasurer's webinars and network have offered a space for peer learning, questions, and support, this new network aims to support communities of faith seeking to enhance their ministry through technology. It will offer regular webinars and an interactive forum where participants might explore topics such as theology, digital discipleship, ethical tech decisions, and practical implementation. **Highlights include** regular workshops and webinars; peer-to-peer learning through discussion forums for both clergy and lay; all experience levels welcome: no question too big or too small! **First webinar is on Tuesday, September 24th at 7:30.** "Building a Sound Foundation for Worship" with John Bedell from Niagara Online Worship. [Learn more at this link.](#)

★ **Grounding the Future: Spiritual resources for responding to climate change, KAIROS Prairies North fall regional gathering, Saturday, October 26, 9:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m. CST, St. Luke's Anglican Church, 8424 – 95 Ave, Edmonton, AB with some online options.**

KAIROS Prairies North covers Northern Spirit and Living Skies Regional Council. Climate change is a spiritual crisis rooted in fear and greed. Individual actions like recycling and biking are important responses, but they aren't enough. Political and collective decisions are required, but they will always be thwarted unless people's hearts and values are also involved. What spiritual postures can we adopt that can ground both our personal actions and our collective decisions? [Click here for the event link.](#)

★ **49th Annual Conference of the Canadian Society of Presbyterian History, Saturday, September 28, 2024, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET**

This year's conference will be a hybrid one – both online and in-person at Knox College, University of Toronto. The conference will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. E.T. Zoom links will be sent to those who pay their membership fee and register for the online presentation. In order to participate in this year's conference, the membership fee (\$55 for in-person registration; \$45 for online

registration) must be received by Monday, September 23, 2024. Find full details about membership and conference [on the Society's facebook page](#).

Honouring Orange Shirt Day/ National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in our Region, 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](#)).

★ Worldwide Communion Sunday, October 6: Palestinian Olive Oil liturgy and resource

We invite United Church people into this opportunity to understand the violence facing Palestinian farmers and villagers as they commence their annual olive harvest. In Gaza, part of the Occupied Palestinian Territories, harvest will not happen at all this year, amidst the unspeakable devastation and starvation. Our partners ask us to learn from them, to see signs of hope with them, and to offer them solidarity. Join us! Hosted by Living Skies Regional Council and Mennonite Church SK, with all invited to participate with special liturgy, and online film and learning events. [Details are here](#).

★ 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism 2024: Live event every Tuesday, October 15–November 19, 7:00 p.m. ET (please convert the time for your zone, noting that Daylight Savings Time ends Nov 3).

[40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism](#) returns this fall with brand-new content! The series is an excellent way to delve deeply into exploring anti-racism—as well as to engage in related faith reflections and ideas for action. This year's series features several dynamic speakers for the online events, which all run on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. ET, in October and November. There are also accompanying [study groups](#), which offer ways to integrate and reflect on the content with learners from across the church. [Register for this year's live events](#)—and please [sign up for the newsletter](#) to stay up-to-date with regular content for this year's exciting program.

★ **Bold Discipleship: The 6th Intercultural Adventure Seminar, Oct. 21-22, 2024** in person and online, St Andrew's College, Saskatoon.

Join us to explore bold discipleship with Korean members of the United Church through three lectures by Don Schweitzer and Ohwang Kwon, workshops by Rev. Eun-Joo Park and Rev. Taylor Croissant and a panel discussion led by St. Andrew's College faculty and Rev. SunDo Hyun, of Meadow Lake. There will be translation between Korean and English. Registration: \$120 in person (accommodation and meals are included); Online: free. Registration deadline is September 30, 2024. To register contact Melanie Schwanbeck at melanie.schwanbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca.

★ **LeaderShift Rural Ministry Conference, Friday October 25 - Sunday October 27**, Trinity United Church, Fort Macleod AB. In person, online TBC.

This conference is for lay leaders and ministry personnel whose church life and work is rooted in a rural setting. Come experience rural hospitality, inspiring theme sessions and practical workshops tuned to today's rural ministry contexts! Workshops include a focus on intercultural ministry and anti-racism; Affirming ministry; youth; and much more. [Click here for full details.](#)

★ **St. Stephen's College 100th Convocation, Monday, October 28, 2024**, Edmonton.

The Principal and Dean, Dr. Fred Tappenden, together with Chancellor Michael Phair, warmly invite you to attend the 100th Convocation of St. Stephen's College, which will be held on Monday, October 28, 2024. Please join us as we celebrate our graduating students and honorary degree recipient. The ceremony will be held on October 28, 2024 at 7:00 pm at Convocation Hall at the University of Alberta. Rev. Dr. Catherine Faith MacLean, this year's recipient of the Honourary Doctor of Divinity, will deliver the convocation address. Further details regarding the Convocation and related festivities can be found [on our Convocation webpage](#).

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.](#)



Please contact Sharon or Dale at (780) 450-1766 or email to d.s.irving@shaw.ca if interested!



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