



## Events Newsletter: September 25, 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](mailto: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

♥ Our thoughts, prayers and sympathies are extended to the family, friends, colleagues, and those touched by the life and ministry of **the Reverend Brenda Fawkes**. Brenda died in a motor vehicle accident on Friday, September 20, 2024. Brenda was the Office of Vocation Minister for Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds Regional Councils. Our hearts go out to her partner and two sons in Vancouver, her extended family, her colleagues in Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds Regional Council, in the General Council Office Theology and Ministry Unit, and across the country. Funeral arrangements are pending.

♥ With great sadness, The United Church of Canada announces the death of **The Very Rev., The Honourable Dr. Lois M. Wilson**, the denomination's 28th Moderator, and the first woman to fill the role. She faithfully served as Moderator from 1980 to 1982. The Rev. Wilson died in hospital in Fredericton, NB, on Sept. 13, 2024. She was 97 years old. A memorial service is planned for **October 15**, at 11:00 a.m. at Metropolitan UC, 56 Queen St E, Toronto, ON. The service will be [livestreamed on YouTube](#). [Read the full news story on the UC website](#).

★ **Covenanting:** Spirit of Peace United Church, in Spirit River AB, will be celebrating their covenanting with their new minister, Rev. Harold Imes, on October 20th, time TBA.

★ **Covenanting:** Trinity United (Cold Lake) and St. John's United (Bonnyville) invite you to their covenanting service for Rev Sungsoon Park on **Saturday Oct 5**. Service will be at 11 am at St. John's United Church in Bonnyville, 4508 43 Ave. Hosted by the St. John's (Bonnyville) and Trinity (Cold Lake) United Churches. Potluck lunch to follow, all are welcome!

★ **Register now: 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](#). **Register at this link!**

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## New & Featured Events

♥ **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

★ **General Council cross-country check-in, Tuesday October 22, 5:00PM CDT, 4:00PM CST/ MDT.**

Spend an hour with members of the General Council Executive, the decision-making body for the United Church between meetings of the General Council, in an informal, thoughtful town hall on Oct. 22. With the annual General Council meeting scheduled for October 19, this is an opportunity for you to engage with the decisions and dialogue from the annual meeting – right after it happens. [Here is a video invitation](#) from the General Secretary. **Everyone is welcome.** [Please click here to register.](#)

**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.](#)

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

Looking forward to advent already? 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.](#)

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## Upcoming Events & Learning Opportunities

★ **Invitation from Jasper: Come From Where You Are Online Prayer Services**

We Gather as a Community of Faith: all are invited to join on Sunday mornings at 10:30 for a short prayer service followed by a time of fellowship. We gather as an ecumenical community to be reminded: We are not alone. We live in God's World. [Click this Zoom link to join.](#)

**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](#).

### **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: *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](#).

### **★ Connect, Learn, Share: Disability and Accessibility Network Meeting, *Wednesday October 9 at 1:00PM MDT/ CST and 2:00PM CDT***

This network meeting will highlight the [Leadership Counts](#) project, which surveyed United Church of Canada ministry personnel, staff, and national committee members about their self-identification, including in terms of disabilities. Join us for a networking session to connect with others and discuss how to build a more inclusive church. Open to persons living with disabilities and interested in advancing disability rights and accessibility within The United Church of Canada and beyond. [Please register here](#). Don't forget to join our [Disability Ministries in the United Church of Canada Facebook group](#) for ongoing discussions and resources.

### **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](mailto: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.](#)

**Faith in a Time of Genocide Conference, November 1-2, 2024 Toronto.**

You are invited to the United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI) national gathering in Toronto. This is an important time to reflect on our faith and a call to faithfulness in solidarity with people in Palestine and Israel. The gathering is a time to learn, gather strength in community and come together for advocacy.

**There is a hotel room discount available until October 4th.** Scholarships are available for students. People can also register for an additional event: training on the Palestine Land Exercise on October 31. [Please register here.](#) [More program details are here.](#)

★ ***What will we sing when we need to sing a new song?* with the Then Let Us Sing! committee: November 26, 7pm ET**

Join the *Then Let Us Sing!* committee on Tuesday, November 26, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. ET for a thought-provoking discussion on the future of music in The United Church of Canada. As we celebrate our 100th year, we'll explore how music can reflect our commitment to anti-oppression, hymns that inspire deeper spirituality, bold discipleship, and daring justice, and the evolution of our songbook: new hymns to embrace and

those we might consider retiring. [Register now](#) and explore more 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism Live Events.

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**United Church 100th anniversary event map:** Is your church community planning something special to commemorate this milestone? We'd love to hear about it! [Submit your event details](#) on the UC [Centennial event map!](#)

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

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