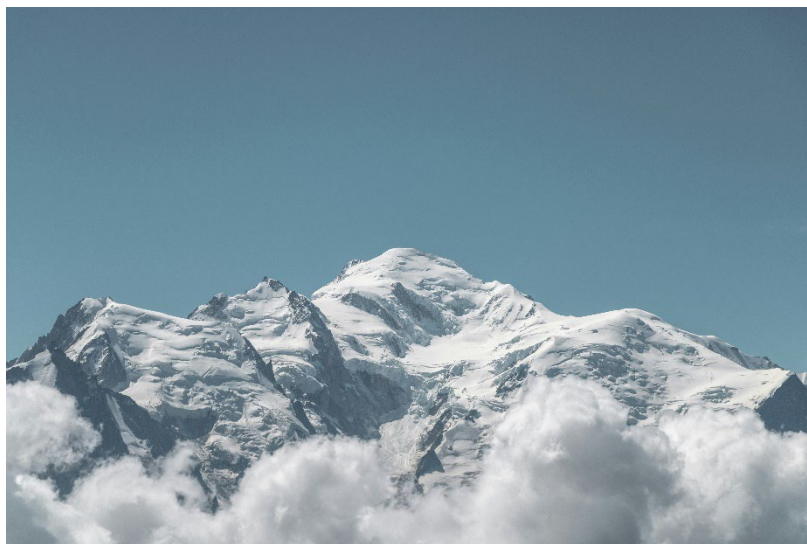




Events Newsletter: January 15, 2025



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 and Other Ministries

★ New Staff Phone Numbers

The United Church Staff phone system is changing!

Adam Hall's new phone number: 1-587-407-0329

Northern Spirit Office / Chloe Burns' new phone number: 1-587-407-0330

These numbers are already set up and in service. The former 1-800 numbers will not work after today, January 15. Please spread the word and save our new phone numbers! Many of the tri-Regional and National staff numbers are changing as well: [all staff contact information is available on the website.](#)

★ **New Prayer Cycle Available for 2025**

The Northern Spirit prayer cycle for 2025 is [now available at this link!](#) This prayer cycle is created to ensure every congregation in our Region is held in prayer over the course of the year. Our prayer cycles are always linked on the [Worship Resources page](#) of our website.

★ **2025 AGM: Save the date** for the 2025 in-person Regional Annual Meeting, which will be held **May 29 - June 1**, at Riverbend United Church, Edmonton.

★ *Prayer Request:*

Prayers please for our friend & retired colleague, David Denholm.

Dave has lived with cancer for the past two & a half years. Thankfully, following successful rounds of treatments, until quite recently, he's still been able to enjoy some golf games, fishing trips, and artisan markets (selling his live-edge turned-wood items). Dave's care is now coordinated by a Palliative Care team, and, with the help of family, friends, and homecare staff, he's resting comfortably at home in Stettler. This gives him time to think back on the breadth of connections he made through his life in pastoral ministry.

Dave is an alumni of VST. He first came to Alberta in 1971 as a student minister for Warburg-Telfordville. It was at that pastoral charge he met and married Patricia (Trish) Lansdell. By the mid-80s Dave was serving with Bashaw-Mirror and in 1987 moved to a team ministry position at Stettler United Church.

Perhaps you remember meeting Dave (complete with boots & jeans) as the chair of the Settlement Committee for Alberta Northwest Conference, or through Coronation Presbytery? Maybe it was at Naramata Centre, Bar Harbour Camp, a Jesus Seminar, or the 1996 Conference meeting hosted in Stettler.

In 2010 Dave transitioned away from formal ministry to providing carpentry and woodworking for people in the Stettler area.

In reading and reflecting on Psalm 139, we join in praying with & for David, by praising God for being fearfully and wonderfully made... and trusting that when we come to the end I am still with you.

If you'd like to send personal messages to David Denholm, please email: fisherden2020@gmail.com

Upcoming Events and Learning Opportunities

★ **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18-25 January 2025**

An annual global ecumenical celebration. [All resources for Canada are here!](#) Remember to [post your service on our community of faith events calendar](#), please- let's share these opportunities widely. Community worships or workshops that have been submitted to the national body [are available here](#).

★ **Online Town Hall: The United Church's Draft Apology to LGBTQIA2S+ Communities, Tuesday January 21, 2024: 11:00AM- 12:30 PM Mountain, Noon- 1:30PM Central on ChurchX (the UCC's online learning hub).**

The United Church of Canada's Apology Task Group invites you to a town hall meeting to present a draft of our upcoming apology to members of the 2S and LGBTQIA+ communities by The United Church of Canada. The United Church of Canada recognizes that it is complicit in harms experienced by members of the Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ communities. We are exploring concrete ways to repair broken relationships and seek wholeness in reconciliation, and we're hoping that a final version of this apology will be ready by late Spring 2024. Join us on January 21 to get an update on where we're at. Help us discern what's already working and what needs more attention. Get a preview on the direction that the Task Group has been moving, and a first take on the wording that's emerging from their discussions, and then bring your ideas in small groups. [Click here for full details and free registration](#). You must create a free account that can be used for all other classes and events on Church X.

★ **It didn't start on October 7: Zionism and its Victims, January 21 - March 18, 2025. Tuesdays at 6:00PM CST, on Zoom.**

A series of 9 one-hour illustrated talks that trace Zionist / Israeli efforts to take the land of historic Palestine, dispossess the Palestinian inhabitants, and deny them fundamental human rights and self determination. Each talk is 60 minutes followed by 30 minutes of discussion. The talks are introductory and non-academic and are suitable for anyone who wants to learn more. No prior knowledge of the history of Palestine / Israel is necessary. You [can learn more about the sessions here](#). Presented by the [United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel](#). Please [click here to register](#).

★ **Getting Started in Stewardship, Wednesday, January 22, 2pm or 4:30pm MT (90minutes), online**

Make 2025 the most generous year yet at your community of faith! Join United Church people from across the country on Zoom to learn some stewardship first principles. Whether stewardship is brand new to you, or you just need a refresher, this course is a great fit. [Register online here](#), or contact Vicki Nelson - vnelson@united-church.ca with any questions.

★ **Worship Planning Gathering: Planning for Lent 2025, January 30, 9am - 3pm, online and in-person in Leduc, AB.**

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. \$35 in person, \$25 to join online. [Click here for the full details](#), and [click here to register](#)!

★ **PIE Day Prep Party! Tuesday 4 February 2025 at 6:00PM Mountain on Zoom.**

All Affirming, in-process, and exploring ministries welcome, and individuals too. Hosted by the Living Skies Affirming Committee, all are welcome from every Region. We'll explore our plans for [Affirming PIE Day](#) on Friday March 14. (New materials are now up!) This year's theme is Sing Out Proud, so come with your creative ideas. We'll also do an update from advocate Dr Fran Forsberg on efforts against the government of SK's pronoun policy and sexual health education restrictions, which align with AB's recent legislation.

<https://united->

[church.zoom.us/j/85257234676?pwd=7XleWg4QVjMv95zQLJUQEEQwFiaK3Y.1](https://united-church.zoom.us/j/85257234676?pwd=7XleWg4QVjMv95zQLJUQEEQwFiaK3Y.1)

Meeting ID: 852 5723 4676 Password: 981332 855 703 8985 Canada Toll-free

★ **"Carrying the Light Into the Ordinary" Contemplative Gathering, February 18, 10:40 am MT, online**

St. Andrew's College (in partnership with leaders from the Living Skies Regional Council, Northern Spirit Regional Council, and Green Spirit Chaplaincy) invites you to our next contemplative gathering, to be held with the Saskatoon Theological Union Chapel community on Tuesday February 18, at 11:40am Sask time. Come spend 40 minutes or so in quiet contemplation, centered on the ancient practice of lectio divina. Join us via zoom right here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82963758924>. All are welcome ... and invite a friend!

★ **United Church Women offer a Centennial service for March 2 or other times**

United Church Women groups across Canada are dedicating Sunday March 2 to remembering the faithful and dedicated service of women's organizations throughout the past 100 years of the church's life. [Click here for resources for the service](#) (scroll to the bottom). Talk to the people in your community of faith and consider making this part of your service March 2 or another time that suits.

Godly Play Core Training 2025, Via Zoom, 10:30am to 1:30 pm Central time, April 26, May 10 & 24, June 7; then in person Aug.12 and13 2025 in Vancouver, BC.

Get ready to enter the stories of our faith! Through an action/reflection model of learning you will learn more about creating sacred space, building and working in community, nurturing spiritual development, using silence, story and play to make meaning. All learning takes place in a prayerful and playful atmosphere with creative and experienced Godly Play trainers. \$350 CDN to register for all sessions. Space is limited to 12 people. [Click here to register.](#)

***United Church 100th anniversary event map:** Is your church community planning something special to commemorate this milestone? [Submit your event details](#) on the National [Centennial event map!](#)

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



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