



## ***Events Newsletter: March 11, 2026***



### **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).*

*[Check out our local events calendar](#), and [submit your own community events!](#)*

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## **News from the Pews and Other Ministries**

♥ We celebrate with **St. David's United in Leduc, AB**, as they celebrate their church becoming officially Affirming! 🏳️ They will be celebrating this designation on [March 15 at 10:30 a.m.](#)

♥ You are warmly invited to celebrate a sacred and joyful milestone: **The Ordination of Kimberly Roy**. Date: April 19, 2026 / Time: 1:30pm / Location: Goodfish United Church Whitefish Lake Reserve. Please join us in witness, prayer, and celebration as we mark this important step in ministry and community service. A light lunch will follow the service. **Please RSVP** to [kimberlyroy@hotmail.com](mailto:kimberlyroy@hotmail.com) so we have lunch numbers 🍽️ For those with accommodation needs, we will be staying at the [Lodge at Metis Crossing](#).

★ **Stewardship Thought: *Follow the Yellow Brick Road... Follow the Yellow Brick Road...***

Inspire, and Invite and Thank! Oh, my! Inspire, and Invite and Thank! Oh my! Like the Yellow Brick Road's lions and tigers, and bears (oh my!) , the Stewardship's road of inspiring, inviting and thanking also represents a journey toward personal growth, self-discovery, and the realization that the power to achieve one's goals lies within oneself, or within one community of faith. Like the Yellow Brick Road's golden path, the path through the "Called to be the Church: the journey" programs will help to shed light on and inspire you to build up faithful disciples who desire to support their community of faith through gifts of time, talents, and treasures. Book time to meet with Sarah or check out the program options on ChurchX! [Book time with Sarah Giles](#) / [Click here for our Stewardship Programs on ChurchX](#).

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## **New & Featured Events**

★ **Clergy retreat, May 5-6, *registration deadline approaching!***

**Please complete the registration form by March 15.** These days apart will be intentional, spacious, and restorative. If your soul has been whispering (or shouting) that you need a pause, I hope you'll listen. *You deserve rest. You deserve care. You deserve community that holds you gently.* **Retreat details: May 5-6** (option of staying longer for personal retreat time); Held at **Star of the North Retreat Centre** in St. Albert, AB; You will find details about cost [on the registration form](#).

★ **Register now for the Regional Connection Event, April 25 and 26, Grande Prairie**

The Regional Council is travelling to you! The weekend of April 25 and 26, all of Northern Spirit is invited to join us in Grande Prairie for a time of connection, learning, and worshipping. [More details are now available on our website](#), and you can [register to attend this event here](#). (*Future connection events are also in planning, for those not neighbouring Grande Prairie or those who can't attend in April.*) We look forward to gathering this Spring!

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## **Upcoming Events and Learning Opportunities**

★ **PIE Day: March 14**

Every year on March 14, The United Church of Canada celebrates National Affirming PIE Day. PIE stands for Public, Intentional, Explicit Inclusion of 2SLGBTQIA+ People. This year for the [Moderator's 2026 PIE Day message](#), we are broadening our horizons to celebrate every kind of creator—woodcutters, crocheters, gardeners, and bakers—who

help weave connections between 2S and LGBTQAI+ people, the church, and all in our communities. Why PIE Day matters right now: With 2SLGBTQIA+ rights under threat, living into our faith means more than just words. It means: showing up at Pride rallies and standing against hate, and creating spaces where everyone truly belongs. Visit [PIEDay.ca](http://PIEDay.ca) to explore PIE Day resources and find affirming initiatives across the country, read the [full news story](#) and watch the [Moderaor's PIE day message](#).

### **Lenten Prayer Meetings**

Come together, let us pray. Every Sunday during Lent come let us gather to pray. Each prayer meeting starts at 4:00 p.m. Mountain Time. ALL ARE INVITED. Everyone in the Edmonton area is invited to join in-person: all prayer meeting locations are [listed on our website](#). For all our communities not in the Edmonton area, we invite you to join us in one of two ways: over Zoom ([connection info on our website](#)); or by gathering to pray in your own community at the same time, joining your prayers and spirits to ours. *The prayers of the people of God are powerful and effective.* (James 2:16, paraphrased). [Full details](#).

### **A Pause for Peace and Justice, every weekday in March, online**

In these troubling times at home and in our world, let's come together to hear words of hope, justice and empowerment, to be grounded in compassion and radical kindness. Join us at 8 pm (SK time) each weekday Monday to Friday through March 2026. [Zoom link here](#). Rest and Receive.... Everyone Welcome.

A community initiative of Grace-Westminster United Church in collaboration with the Oliver & Gruchy Learning Centre, St. Andrew's College (Saskatoon). For More Info: Jan Clarke [jlclarke@sasktel.net](mailto:jlclarke@sasktel.net) / Brenda Curtis [c.b.curtis@sasktel.net](mailto:c.b.curtis@sasktel.net) / Bernon Lee [bernon.lee@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:bernon.lee@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca).

### **★ Western Intercultural Ministry Network Coffee Chai, March 19, 12:30 MT, online**

Korean Stories and Wisdom in Intercultural Ministry in the United Church of Canada. Event Date: Thursday, March 19, 2026, 11:30AM (PT) /12:30PM (MT) /1:30PM (CT) /2:30PM (ET) /3:30PM (AT). Koreans in The United Church of Canada are deeply thankful to God for leading us to the United Church to serve God and neighbours in solidarity for love, justice and peace. UCCan Korean Network is honoured to share Korean stories and wisdom with friends in Western Intercultural Ministry Network. In Coffee Chai, Koreans will talk about their historical experiences of intercultural ministry, their dynamic involvement in diverse activities and theological contribution in the United Church. [Please register for this event to receive the Zoom connection information. Full details are on our website here.](#)

***Buds and Shoots: Groaning towards New Creation: A Contemplative Gathering on March 20, 2026, 10 to 11 AM (Saskatchewan time), online***  
Please join us [with this Zoom link](#). An Offering of the Oliver & Gruchy Learning Centre (of St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon) in Collaboration with GreenSpirit Chaplaincy, and the Living Skies, Prairie to Pine, and Northern Spirit Regions of the United Church of Canada.

***Edmonton & Area Affirming Check-In 2.0, March 21 @ 10:00 am - 2:30 pm, SSUC, Edmonton***

We are doing it again! All Affirming and curious ministries and individuals from Edmonton and the surrounding cities, town and villages are welcome. Saturday MARCH 21/26 10:00 aM -2:30 PM, at Southminster-Steinhauer United Church (SSUC), 10740 – 19 Ave, Edmonton. Hosted by the Northern Spirit Affirm Team and supported by SSUC. This is a time for learning, connecting, mutual support, and yes – sharing lunch, which is provided! [Register here](#).

***Women of Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit Conference and AGM, April 9 – 11, 2026, Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton, Alberta.***

Registration is now open for the 2026 WUC Conference. Theme: Justice and Hope. Full details and registration [on our website](#).

**★ Be Part of the Migrant Justice Network!**

The United Church of Canada Migrant Justice Network will meet both during the day and in the evening over the next five months, to try to ensure the most people possible can participate. Are you passionate about supporting migrant justice and improving living conditions for migrants in Canada? The United Church of Canada's Migrant Justice Network invites you to be a part of our collective efforts to advocate for international students, refugees, asylum seekers, immigrants, and migrant workers. We welcome anyone aligned with the concerns of (im)migrants in Canada and globally. [Learn more, and register on CHURCHx](#).

***Imagine children's retreat, April 17-19, Sylvan Lake, AB, Kasota East Camp.***

Mark your calendars! The *Imagine* children's retreat (ages 8-11) will be **April 17-19** in Sylvan Lake, AB, at Kasota East Camp. Children and their leaders are invited to come to this springtime sleep over for games and crafts, singing, worship, and campfire. Bursaries are available. To learn more, visit [First Third Ministry](#) or contact [Kevin GT](#).

***Shared Way, Shared Witness: A Gathering on Ministry for a Collaborative Church, May 19–22, 2026, Montreal***

This three day gathering for lay and ordained leaders in the Anglican and United Churches of Canada focuses on developing the skills, relationships, and theological imagination needed for collaborative ministry in a rapidly changing church. Together, we will explore two central questions: What is the church for, now? and What ministry

do we need to sustain a vital Christian presence in communities across Canada? Through keynote presentations, workshops, and structured conversations, participants will engage emerging models of church and ministry that move beyond the colonial, Christendom patterns we have inherited. More information is available at [www.sharedway.ca](http://www.sharedway.ca). The early registration deadline is **March 20**.

**Learning on Purpose leadership development, June 15-26, Paris Ontario**

The Centre for Christian Studies' transformative two-week leadership development course is coming to the Five Oaks Retreat Centre in Paris, ON, June 15-26, 2026. Whether you are discerning a call to ministry, starting a program of diaconal formation, building your skills for lay leadership, connecting your community engagement and your faith, or just trying to figure out what your purpose is, Learning on Purpose is for you. For more information, [visit our website](#).

**Naramata Summer Sessions 2026 : Overview**

Summer Sessions are hosted weeks where community life is part of the experience. Days have a beautiful rhythm, shared meals, space to rest, time at the lake, and daily offerings that support learning and spiritual grounding. Each week has its own theme and its own mix of people. Explore themes, details, and how to register here: [naramatacentresociety.org/2026-summersessions](http://naramatacentresociety.org/2026-summersessions).

★ **Naramata Offering: The Queer Family Retreat, July 6–10, 2026**

A week at Naramata with lake days, chosen family energy, and space for queer families of all shapes and stories to rest, play, and connect. Dates **Monday, July 6 – Friday, July 10, 2026**. All ages welcome. On-site arrival **Sunday, July 5** if staying on-site. [Full details on the Naramata website](#).

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



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