



## ***Events Newsletter: April 22, 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!](#)*

---

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

### **★ Sign on invitation: Christian leaders opposing upcoming AB Christian Summit**

Friends, lay and ordered, including church boards/ Councils, you're invited to reflect on this open letter from Christian leaders, and discern signing it. On May 4 and 5, Premier Danielle Smith is hosting the Premier's Annual Christian Summit in Red Deer. The event is organized by Michael Clark of the Christian Impact Network, whose stated goal - documented by CBC News - is to manufacture 10,000 Christian political candidates across Canada and align Canadian law with biblical principles. The letter notes, "No single tradition, congregation, or political movement speaks for all people of faith. And the faith we know - across our many traditions - has never been most itself when it is closest to power. Rather, it has been most itself when it is closest to the people that

power overlooks." Read the full statement, see the signatory list, and add your name if you are a faith leader or community leader: <https://tinyurl.com/albertafaithleaders>.

Regional family in BC and NWT, you can likely sign too, if you like. Please add Northern Spirit Regional Council, United Church of Canada to add context.

★ **Summer Worship Planning: Watch for a gift from your Regional Council...**

*Inventions of Summer*: A simple, creative, theologically rich companion for a Summer Sabbath or Worship Series. *Inventions of Summer* is a four-week, ready-to-use Summer Sabbath booklet and worship series inviting you to enrich your summer through simple reflections on sunflowers, string beans, mosquitoes, and fireflies. Watch in the coming weeks for a link to these materials, free of charge for our Northern Spirit Communities of Faith.

★ **POSTPONED: Affirming Circle Check In, Saturday May 2, Athabasca United Church, 10:00AM-2:30PM.** Not enough registrations; postponed til the fall. But- read on!

**Invitation: National Moosehide Campaign against violence, 14 May**

Canada is in the midst of an ongoing national crisis of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2S-LGBTQIA+ people. The Moosehide Campaign is a call to all people in Canada to take a stand against racism and for justice. This year we are hoping for a record United Church turn-out at the virtual events, local walks to end violence, and fasts to end violence. [See all information about the national campaign here.](#)

National events include a sunrise ceremony, educational plenary, and workshops (all available via livestream). You can register [here](#) for virtual events (including livestream links to all the national campaign day events). Local marches are being organized across the country. Find your local march on the map located [here](#), or register [here](#) to become a community steward and organize your own events.

**Discover the power of PAR month this May!**

May is *PAR* month...

*P* - practical

*A* - accountable

*R* - rewarding

Let your community of faith be able to rely on your generosity through automated remittance! All the resources you need, including a full sermon, two sample letters, and announcements are ready for you to download and use, on the [Giving Monthly through PAR](#) page. Reach out if you need some help with sharing this message with your community. For more information about PAR or other Stewardship Resources, contact Sarah Giles, Stewardship Support for Western Regions [sgiles@united-church.ca](mailto:sgiles@united-church.ca)

---

## New & Featured Events

### ★ **Red Dress Day, May 5: the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people (MMIWG2S).**

Let us honour the lives lost, support the grieving, seek justice for the missing, and call on all levels of government and society to implement the Calls to Justice from the Final Report of the National Inquiry. We can: Hang a red dress outside your church or home. Attend a local vigil: please search on the web and social media, as these are planned by local groups. Pray for and with all survivors, loved ones, families, and communities. Year round: Consider inviting (and certainly paying) advocates and survivors who wish to speak publicly. Develop trusted sources of information you can learn from, including grassroots and university groups that offer online learning. This violent pandemic is not improving. The facts are so hard and so important to learn.

---

## Upcoming Events and Learning Opportunities

### ★ **United in Learning events**

The latest [United in Learning newsletter is now posted here](#), and it has lots of opportunities for online community and learning. \*Scroll through, as events are not listed chronologically, but are instead arranged by series and networks.

### ★ **Earth Week is here! Add events, find resources, and more:**

For the Love of Creation event map: <https://fortheloveofcreation.ca/earth-week-2026/#mymap>

United Church resources: <https://united-church.ca/news/together-love-creation-earth-week-2026>

### ★ **Canadian Foodgrains Bank: Live from South Sudan, Thursday, April 23, at 10:00 AM Mountain Daylight/ Central Standard, 11:00AM CDT.**

Executive director Andy Harrington will join us live from South Sudan, a place where many families are fleeing to, seeking safety from the conflict in Sudan. You'll hear from our members' local partners who are responding to this crisis. They'll share firsthand accounts of the hunger, displacement, and loss that communities are facing, and the difficult choices families are being forced to make to survive. [Click here](#) to register. [Learn more](#) about why this is the world's largest humanitarian crisis.

### ★ **Faithful Footprints Conversation: practical advice from United Churches who've done carbon reduction retrofits, 24 April, 1:00-2:00PM Central Daylight, 12:00-1:00PM Mountain Daylight/ Central Standard.**

Coming together for the love of creation is a way to connect, grow, listen, inspire hope and affect change. In celebration of [Earth Week \(April 19–26, 2026\)](#), join us for a **Faithful Footprints: Retrofit Conversation**, a live panel discussion featuring United Church members who have led carbon reduction retrofit projects supported by the United Church of Canada's [Faithful Footprints Grant](#), and are eager to share what they learned along the way. [Details and registration](#).

**Get ready to enter the stories of our faith - Godly Play Core Training Intensive 2026, May 7-10, 2026, in person, Burnaby BC**

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 18 people. [More information and registration](#).

**★ Preparing for Pride- Affirming open forum, Tuesday May 12, 7:00- 8:30 MDT/ CST, 8:00-9:30PM Central Daylight**

June is Pride Month and Indigenous Peoples' Month. Join us for a community conversation on Pride festivals, and church plans for being Public, Intentional and Explicit supporters of Pride. Come with your ideas and questions. All people of goodwill, and all Affirming/ Affirming-curious ministries welcome. Thank you to Prairie to Pine's Equity and Diversity Committee for hosting this space for everyone!

<https://united-church.zoom.us/j/84351884794?pwd=Ks94rXZSnDjvwFZAUriDfai1hcRyF1.1> / Meeting ID: 843 5188 4794 / Password: 474411 / 1- 855 703 8985 Canada Toll-free

**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).

**★ Treaty Land Sharing Network (TLSN) Spring Feast, May 23, 11:00AM-1:00PM, Davidson Farm near Alliance AB**

We know this gathering isn't accessible to many in our Region, but we want you to also know about this network, which is seeking landholders who want to share in the spirit of Treaty. If you can attend, please do, and let Julie Graham know ([jgraham@united-](mailto:jgraham@united-)

[church.ca](#)) Full details are on the [TLSN site](#). And let her know if you'd like to connect with the TLSN.

★ **Affirming Circle Check In, in person only at St Paul's United Church, Grande Prairie AB, Saturday 30 May, 10:00AM- 2:30PM.**

All 2SLGBTQIA+ Affirming and Affirming- curious ministries and individuals from Grand Prairie and all the surrounding towns and villages are welcome to this time of sharing and community. Yes, there will be a free lunch, and a lot of community and story-sharing. Hosted by the Northern Spirit Affirm Team. For more details, please contact [nsaffirm@gmail.com](mailto:nsaffirm@gmail.com)

**REGISTER HERE:** <https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/nw-affirming-circle-gathering> Shareable link and information: <https://northernspiritrc.ca/event/affirming-circle-gathering/>

**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](#).

**Whitehorse Worship Arts Festival & Contemplative Retreat, July 2-5, 2026, Whitehorse, Yukon**

Join us in the Yukon for a four-day immersive gathering designed to heal and inspire. A partnership of the Anglican, Lutheran, and United Church traditions, this practice-forward retreat offers a restorative balance of **deep contemplation and vibrant, embodied worship**.

Click [here](#) for more information and registration.

★ **Prairie Pilgrimage 2026: "Seeking the Extra in Ordinary" with St. Andrew's College, July 27 – 31 in and around Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Treaty Six Territory**

Join pilgrimage guides Carolyn & Blaine Woodall and GreenSpirit Chaplain Shawn Sanford Beck, in partnership with the Oliver & Gruchy Learning Centre at St. Andrew's College, for a five-day spiritual exploration of Saskatoon. Together we will travel from St. Andrew's College, through urban greenspace, along the South Saskatchewan River, sojourning in church-space and cemetery, exploring the beauty of Wanuskewin, Ancient Spirals, and Beaver Creek. As we journey, we will be joined by wise guests and guides who will help us engage creation and creativity, Indigenous spirituality, Celtic Christianity, Labyrinth mysteries, and more. Space is limited to nine pilgrims, who are also eligible to earn a Certificate in Spiritual Exploration through St. Andrew's College if so desired. The cost of the pilgrimage is \$1000 which includes food, lodging, program, and internal transportation when needed. Registration deadline is **June 1**, so sign up

soon! For more information, or to register, please contact Rev. Carolyn Woodall at [carolynsparlingwoodall@gmail.com](mailto:carolynsparlingwoodall@gmail.com) or 780-385-5124 (text is a great way to connect).

---

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



Northern Spirit Regional Council Office  
8510 95 Ave NW Edmonton Alberta  
**1-587-407-0330**  
[northernspirit@united-church.ca](mailto:northernspirit@united-church.ca)  
[www.northernspiritr.ca](http://www.northernspiritr.ca)

*Image: Photo by [MChE Lee](#) on [Unsplash](#)*

*Copyright © 2026 Northern Spirit Regional Council, All rights reserved.*  
[Click here to subscribe to receive this newsletter via email.](#)