



Events Newsletter: February 12, 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

♥ **Covenanting:** The covenanting service between Rev. Shane Goldie and St. Andrew's United Church, Spruce Grove, will be held **Sunday, February 23, 2025**. The service will be a part of our regular service time, which starts at 10:00 a.m. We will be providing a light lunch after the service to which all are invited. Come and share with us as we take this next step on our covenantal journey in faith.

★ February is Black History Month. Here's a very accessible overview of [the long and rich history of people of African descent in Canada](#). Click here for [many resources from our own church tradition](#).

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. Registration will open mid-March!

New & Featured Events

★ **Our Sacred Obligations: learning from the Unmarked Burials report and challenging settler denial, Thursday February 27, 10 am - 4 pm, Southminster-Steinhauer United Church, Edmonton, in person and by Zoom**

All welcome to this day-long learning gathering, open to Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. We will focus on the United Church's national and local responsibilities, but all backgrounds are welcome as a full part of the day. Together we will learn about the recent report on unmarked burials; explore what reparations means; learn about the problem of settler denialism; and practice together how to challenge it.

Community, prayer, traditional ceremony, and cultural supports will be part of our day. A separate support space is also available to First Nations, Métis and Inuit, respecting that this is a hard topic. Lunch and snacks included. Registration is free but required.

[Click here for all the details](#). Planners will update this page with details and confirmed resource people as we go.

Upcoming Events and Learning Opportunities

★ The [February 2025 United in Learning newsletter](#) is out, with all sorts of opportunities for Lent and beyond.

"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!

★ **Sing Out Proud: Music and Conversation for PIE Day! Wednesday, February 19, Zoom, 6pm MST / 7pm CST.**

Join Affirming Connections and Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble for our official pre-PIE Day event! We'll welcome winners from our song contest for live performances and

conversation. Join us to get inspired! PIE Day happens on March 14 every year, where we celebrate being Public, Intentional, and Explicit in our unconditional Affirmation and celebration of all 2SLGBTQIA+ identities. You can listen to and find the lyrics, audio, and lead sheets of the winning songs and choir performance, [right here](#), to use in your PIE Day events. We're honoured that the illustrious [David Kai](#) arranged the lead sheets for the winning songs! [Click here to register](#).

★ **Online Donations and Donor Management Software for communities of faith – A Church Tech Best Practices Webinar, *Wed Feb 19 from 6-7pm CST, 5-6pm MST.***

Is your community of faith considering upgrading your donor management software? Lost in the sea of options? Vicki Nelson is staff to our Region and will help us sort through what to consider when you're considering the various products available. She'll also speak to the importance of online offerings – no longer a "nice to have", but post-pandemic, a "must have".

you will need to sign up for Church X, the UCC's online learning centre, but once you that free account, it works for all events.

Succeed at Advocacy: Casting a Vision for a Better World, *February 25, 2025, 6:00-7:30 PM CST, 5:00-6:30 PM MST.*

A United in Learning event. Your voice counts with our elected officials! Learn how to use it most effectively in raising your and UCC partners' concerns. Share strategies to build community for greater impact. Whether you have never met your MP or regularly call the Prime Minister's office, this webinar will be a chance to learn more or share your experience by connecting with others engaged in federal advocacy across the country. [Click here to register](#); you will need a free account to do so, but that gives you access to materials and recordings, and to many events from many different church traditions.

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.

★ **Save the Date - How Is It Going 4.0: Connecting Dots, *Saturday, March 29, 2025 9:30a.m. – 2 p.m., St. Andrew's United, Spruce Grove***

Facilitator: Jordan Cantwell, Growth Animator. A cluster gathering for Edmonton area United Churches at St. Andrew's United Church, 1A Fieldstone Drive, Spruce Grove. This is a follow-up to the gatherings at McDougall, St Albert and Sherwood Park, open to anyone interested in knowing ways we can help each other. Attendance at previous gatherings not required. Registration information will be coming soon.

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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