



Celebrate **Black** HISTORY *month*

2025-02-12 Newsletter

Important Reminder

For pastoral charges

If you haven't already done so, please submit your annual reports to Brian Ruse (bruse@united-church.ca)

For pastoral charges and ministry personnel

Please be sure that all of the information about your pastoral charge or ministry profile is up to date in ChurchHub; pastoral charges please be sure to identify all the key contacts in your pastoral charge, along with their contact information (eg. Regional Representative, Music Director, Treasurer, etc.) NOTE: ChurchHub is now the central source for all information, so if you are struggling, please let us know ASAP and we will connect you with someone to assist you.

Deep Spirituality - Bold Discipleship - Daring Justice

Black History Month Events

Centre for Christian Studies

Black History Month – From History to Future

By CCS on Jan 23, 2025

On Friday, Feb. 14 we'll be hosting a special CCS Friday/interactive online workshop for Black History Month, in collaboration with Antler River Watershed, Horseshoe Falls and Western Ontario Waterways Regional Councils of The United Church of Canada.

It will be an hour and a half (a bit longer than our usual CCS Friday hour to make space for more discussion and activities), starting at noon Central Time (1 Eastern, 11 Mountain, etc.).

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Our facilitator will be Rev. Thérèse Samuel. Thérèse is an anti-racism education and serves as Minister for Right Relations and Social Justice with ARW, HF and WOW Regional Councils. (She is also a past CCS student).oin this interactive workshop.

Engage with concerns raised in the report on Canada from the first Decade for People of African Descent, and to consider possible actions for each of us and our churches to participate in forging a new future in the second decade.

Black-history-month-workshop-from-history-to-future



For the Healing of Wounds Inflicted by Racism

Let us pray for communities marginalized by systemic and cultural oppression, and for the healing of wounds inflicted by racism.

We ask for God's grace to shine upon those who have been pushed to the fringes of society and have endured the weight of discrimination and inequality.

Help us recognize our own privileges and biases, as well as how they affect others around us.

God, we know that true change begins within each of us. Let us not be complicit with oppression; rather, guide us as we examine our own hearts, to confront our own prejudices and unconscious biases.

May we, as a society, recognize the inherent worth and dignity of every individual, acutely aware that our differences in race, background, or circumstance can bring us closer together.

Grant us the wisdom to forgive ourselves and others, to take the burdens of ignorance of old off our shoulders.

In times of uncertainty and division, remind us of the teachings of love, compassion, and forgiveness that you have bestowed upon us. Let these principles guide our actions as we seek to uplift the marginalized, dismantle systemic racism, and build a society that truly embodies the principles of equality and justice for all.

May we, as your children, work together to create a world where racism has no place, and where all can thrive in your grace.

Amen.

Written by Sarah Yang originally for
[40 Days on Anti-Racism: Learning to Be Fluent in Two Cultures.](#)



Growth - Renew, Create, Invite

Celebrate our Centennial with COLOUR!

Are you looking for a way to engage children and families with the 100th anniversary of the United Church? Read about figures like Lydia Gruchy and Wilbur Howard with our Centennial Colouring Pages. Each PDF features a short story (Grade 3 reading-level), thematic Bible verse, and colouring page exploring the past and present of the United Church. Submit photos of finished artwork to share with the wider church using the provided QR code. Incorporate into a Children's Time during worship, share with children at home, in a Pew Activity bag, or use it as a component in a Sunday School lesson. And keep an eye out for more pages as we draw closer to June 10th (French translations forth coming).

<https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/get-involved/100-years-deep-bold-daring/centennial-toolkit>



100th ANNIVERSARY NEWS AND RESOURCES

Send us your local activities and events so we can include them in the upcoming newsletters!

Please send to: aabrams@united-church.ca



Leadership



Church Property Network (second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. ET)

The Church Property Network is an initiative led by The United Church of Canada and United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC) to support Communities of Faith with property solutions.

This monthly webinar will explore topics to help increase the vitality of your church property. Topics covered will range from increasing revenue through rentals strategies, to energy efficiency, to how to start tackling that leaky roof. Bring all your questions to the Church Property Network so we can learn together.

Upcoming sessions:

Learn more and register: <https://churchx.ca/local/shop/product.php?id=229>

Other upcoming webinars through United in Learning:

- Countering Antisemitism in Worship – January to May 2025
- Racial Justice workshops
- Personal and Professional Boundaries
- Stewardship Programming <https://churchx.us3.list-manage.com/>
- And more...

Learn more and register: <https://mailchi.mp/87a7f4a5819a/united-in-learning-4753763>



Serving the Wider United Church of Canada

Member Engagement has just launched the call for nominations for various committee vacancies for the 45th triennium. Please visit our [volunteer opportunities](#) page to learn more.

The following groups have vacancies: General Council Executive, Judicial Committee, Theology and Inter-Church Inter-Faith Committee, Audit Committee, Finance Advisory Committee, Nominations Committee, Board of Vocation, Admission Board, Credentialing Committee, Remedial Committee, Response Committee, Vocational Standards Committee, Candidacy Boards and Other Candidacy Pathways Volunteers

Use our [online nominations form](#) to nominate someone or express your own interest.



Our Latest Stewardship Blog

Rev. Brenna Baker celebrates the small acts of giving that surround us, and shares how to inspire and capture the spark of generosity in your community in this month's blog: [What I Learned About Generosity From Holiday Shopping](#).

Mission and Service

The 2025 Mission and Service Goal Setting form is [here](#).

Are you a Mission and Service Enthusiast/Volunteer. Please let us know so we can add you to our e-mail list and send you regular updates and resources!

Questions? Email [Mission and Service](#) or call us at 1-800-465-3771.

Get Support to Create your Stewardship Campaign!

If your congregation hasn't undertaken a stewardship campaign in a while, consider registering for a 2-week learning module on creating a congregational giving program with Called to be the Church: The Journey. There are 2 opportunities to participate in the online program this Spring - one starting on April 30th and the other starting on May 1st. [Learn more and register here](#).

Getting Started in Stewardship – March 11th- two options – 4:00 pm or 6:30 pm start (Eastern Time).

Come on your own, or come with a team and join United Church people from across the country to learn some stewardship first principles.

In this 90-minute live meeting we'll answer questions like:

What is stewardship all about anyway?

Isn't stewardship just a churchy word for fundraising?

Why do people give, and why would they give to our church?

What can we do to encourage greater generosity?

This course is great for new Stewardship Committee members, folks looking to activate stewardship work in their community of faith, or those looking for a refresher. It is free to attend!

Read more about the course and register right [here](#).

Stewardship Resource Kits

We now offer a series of free Stewardship Resource kits for download:

- Stewardship Starter Kit
- Stewardship Campaign Kit
- Digging Deeper Kit
- Planned Legacy Giving Kit.

To access these materials, just complete an online form. Ready to save or print, and share. Click here: [Stewardship Kits](#).

A Stewardship Conversation: Are you looking to grow generosity and involvement in your community of faith? Do you want to learn the best practices needed to effectively reach out and build new relationships with those not yet participating in your church's ministry? Do you want to develop an effective leadership recruitment plan? Why not book a Zoom or telephone call with Roger Janes and start the conversation: [Roger's Booking Page](#).

In Memoriam

Reverend Lawrence Robert King

Rev. Larry ministered over 30 years in service preaching the good word and helping families. He led and taught many Boy Scouts throughout his 50 years especially with the 4th Leamington Scouts. [Reverend Lawrence Robert King](#)

Reverend Janelle Towle

Janelle enjoyed a long career serving as a nurse and was subsequently ordained as a minister of the United Church of Canada. She was especially proud of her children and grandchildren. [Reverend Janelle Towle](#)

Climate

GreenFaith Montreal - Winter 2025 Book Study

This is a very 'timely' and worthwhile read with powerful content that is very meaningful to be able to reflect on together in community .

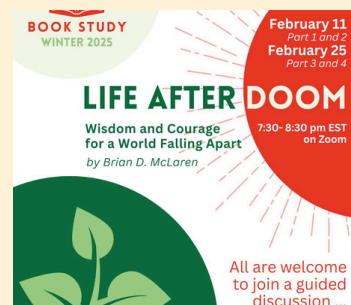
The book: Life after Doom: Wisdom and Courage for a World Falling Apart by Brian D. McLaren

Dates: February 25th (Part 3 and 4)

Time: 7:30-8:30pm on Zoom

Book Study Facilitators: Rev. Wendy Evans and Rabbi Ellen Greenspan

Register/ learn more: greenfaithmontreal@gmail.com



Greenfaith upcoming actions/events:

1. GreenFaith USA has invited us to join in a petition that would go to the president-elect in response to the California Fires. See link here [Sign the Urgent Open Letter from People of Faith to Pres. Trump](#)

2. Bike Pilgrimage Announcement from the Eastern Synod Climate Justice Committee:

Time is running out for our planet. If you're tired of watching humanity speed past heat records and tipping points as governments spin their wheels on climate action—join us in letting climate justice roll!

May 10-12, people from across the ecumenical family are coming together in a “Pilgrimage for the Planet,” culminating in a peaceful demonstration in Ottawa to make a spirited call on the federal government to sign onto the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. It's an initiative spearheaded by the [Eastern Synod](#) Climate Justice Committee, an invitation to let climate justice “roll like waters”! (Amos 5:24)

We will be biking from Montreal to Ottawa—and making pilgrimages around the country—to demand that the federal government walk humbly with us the road to a fossil fuel-free future. By choosing a zero emissions mode of transportation to make this journey, we are walking the walk to keep fossil fuels in the ground, justice in our hearts, and hope in our future.

We are pilgrims for the planet. Are you with us on this journey?

See the full proposal [here](#).

Ready to let climate justice roll? Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/cDNq2rEnh4Kv1Zhs8>

3. Also looking ahead to spring, mark your calendars for the annual Montreal Interfaith Eco-Action Day - Monday, May 19th (Victoria Day). Stay tuned for more specific details.

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For questions, contact us at pilgrimsfortheplanet@gmail.com

REMINDER - NEW STRATEGIC INITIATIVE: Saying goodbye to oil!

As part of the strategic initiative of the United Church of Canada to reduce emissions from fossil fuels and in light of recent oil spill incidents at two churches in our Region resulting in remediation costs of close to \$1M, the Regional Council has undertaken an initiative to have all remaining heating systems in our churches that use oil, replaced.

The Finance and Extension Board is strongly encouraging these churches to use the Faithful Footprint grants that are available to execute this work. Please contact Brian Ruse for further information or to discuss financing or to obtain technical assistance for this urgent project: bruse@united-church.ca

In the News:

[Canada's environmental racism law needs to be stronger](#)



Faithful Footprints Grant

Get detailed information on how to apply for The United Church of Canada grant for up to \$30,000 towards energy conservation and renewable energy projects. Learn about the eligibility criteria, and tips for a successful application. Learn more: <https://www.faithfulfootprints.org/>




Justice

INVITATION: Migrant Rights Petition - Permanent Residency & Rights, Not Cuts

Conseil regional Nakonha:ka Regional Council recently endorsed a letter from the Migrant Rights Network (and sent a letter of our own) to the Federal Government. If you would like to add your voice as an individual, you are invited to do so using this link: <https://migrantrights.ca/take-action/rightsnotcuts/>

In the News:

[How a Montreal church and a refugee advocate built a model of inclusion](#)



Indigenous Pathways

Respect & Kanoronhkwátshera News

You can subscribe to the new LIRR Regional newsletter through this form: <https://nakhakaucc.ca/newsletter/>

Regional Living in Right Relations newsletter: [2025-02-03 Newsletter](#)

National Living in Right Relations newsletter: [Living into Right Relations: January 2025](#)

In the news:

[New report focuses on how to achieve indigenous sovereignty and shared prosperity](#)

[A documentary series exploring the renewable energy revolution empowering Indigenous communities across Canada](#)

[Canada invests in climate change adaptation to keep communities safe in northern Ontario and across Canada](#)

[Crowns duty to negotiate with Indigenous Peoples making reconciliation make sense and move forward](#)

[Indigenous narratives sovereignty and narrative sovereignty](#)

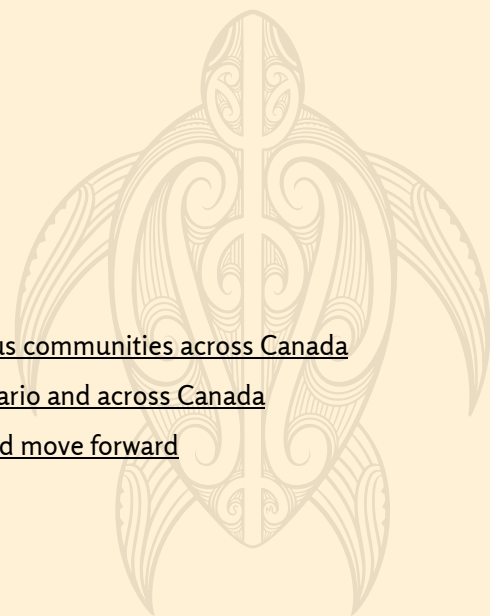

[Tourism opens way to explore Quebecs' Indigenous sites and culture](#)

[First nations reject 36b treaty settlement offer](#)

[Les femmes Michif Otipemisiwak highlights lack of progress on 231 calls to justice](#)

[Federal government ends MMIWG funding to northern prosecution offices](#)

[New online tool tracks progress on MMIWG calls for justice](#)



Legacy Fund – Building Communities through Arts and Heritage

(shared by Lisa Byer de Wever)

As the UCC is celebrating its 100th, we would be eligible. The deadline is before the anniversary date.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/building-communities/legacy-fund.html>

REMINDER - Federal grant for increased security

Please note this grant opportunity from the federal government to provide improved security for churches and other organizations that may be at risk of vandalization or hate-crimes. This can include things like purchasing security cameras, minor renovations (like reinforced doors), planning, training, and security personnel. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until the yearly funding has been allocated. Online information sessions will be offered for interested applicants in both official languages.

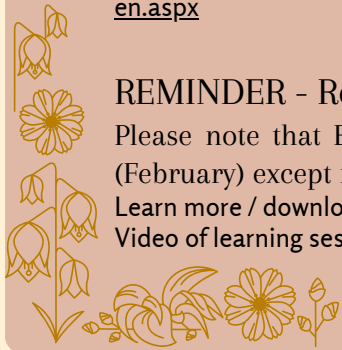
Learn more: <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/cntrng-crm/crm-prvntn/fndng-prgrms/cnd-cmmnt-scrt-prgrm/qlfy-en.aspx>

REMINDER - Regional Council Grants – next deadline February 15, 2025

Please note that Erskine-American-Mountainside grant applications are only accepted once a year (February) except for urgency, new situations, unforeseen emergencies.

Learn more / download forms: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/granting-and-enabling/>

Video of learning session about grants: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/learning-session-grants/>



Community Events and Announcements

A Workshop on “Resonance”

We live in an alienated time in which many seek “Resonance” or “Communion”. This afternoon workshop will explore the ways in a variety of forms of connection--but especially sacred music--helps us to overcome this alienation and experience intimacy and communion with others, with nature and with the world.

February 15, 2025
Cleghorn Common Room, McGreer Building
Bishop’s University
1-5pm
All are welcome

The workshop, which is open to the public, features the live performance of sacred music by the Bishop’s University Chapel Choir, and will also include times of personal reflection, group sharing and study.

It is organized by the Bishop’s University Liberal Arts Program and the Montreal City Mission.

This event is an Eastern Townships precursor to “Resonance 2025”, a three-day conference on this theme to be held in Montreal from June 5-7. It is sponsored by the Nakonha:ka Regional Council of the United Church of Canada and The United Church Foundation.



For more information and/or to indicate that you will attend please contact Bruce Gilbert: bgilbert@ubishops.ca

No More Stolen Sisters!

March for the National Day of Action for MMIWG2+*

Date: February 14th
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Cabot Square

Join us to honor Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People with powerful speeches, songs, and a march calling for justice and change!

Brought to you by The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal

L'ÉGLISE UNIE DU CANADA ET LE MINISTÈRE EN FRANÇAIS ORGANISENT UN ÉVÈNEMENT

Thème:
L'éveil de conscience réside dans une vraie unité tout en gardant notre identité.

01 au 02
 Fev Mars

Localisation
 Hybride (paroisse Plymouth Trinity de Sherbrooke)

<https://egliseunie.ca/mois-de-l-histoire-des-personnes-dascendance-africaine-2025/>

MINISTERS & LLWL's RETREAT 2025

COME TO LEARN, LAUGH AND SING

SCHEDULE

Friday Oct. 3rd Focus day for Ordained and Diaconal Ministers, Retired Ministers, Designated Lay Ministers, Appointed Ministers and Candidates for Ministry	Saturday Oct. 4th All who minister and Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL)	Sunday Oct. 5th Fall Enrichment Day for LLWL's
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When Friday October 3rd to Sunday October 5th 2025
Where Manoir D'Youville

CONSEIL RÉGIONAL NAKONHA:KA REGIONAL COUNCIL

SAVE THE DATE!

Online Open Enrolment Courses

Christianity in a Crisis-Shaped World:
 Tuesdays 7:00pm to 8:30pm
 January 28th to February 18, 2025

Explore what Christian witness can look like in a world shaped by crises like climate change, inequality, and war. Drawing on his book Faithful, Creative, Hopeful, Dio Principal Jesse Zink examines how churches can resist harmful powers and find renewal.

Being Here: Exploring Christian Witness in Our Place:
 Tuesdays 7:00pm to 8:30pm
 March 6th to March 27th, 2025

Explore the significance of place in faith through Scripture, ecotheology, and anti-colonialism. Reflect on God's relationship to the places we inhabit and how our Christian witness is shaped by them.

More information 514 849 3004
 Visit our website montrealdio.ca/our-courses
 info@montrealdio.ca

"THE BIBLE... AND ZOMBIES"

APOCALYPTICISM THEN & NOW

Zombies, Pop Culture and 1st Century Apocalyptic Thought in the Book of Revelation

With Dr. Mona Takarek LaFosse, Emmanuel College of Victoria University, University of Toronto

Register:

2025 Hilliker Preaching Lectureship

SATURDAY WORKSHOP
 1 March 2025, 9 AM - 12 PM
 The Spire, 82 Sydenham St.
sydenhamstreet.ca

SUNDAY WORSHIP
 2 March 2025, 10:30 AM
 Chalmers United Church
 211 Barrie St, Kingston

United Church Women Leading the Way!

For many communities of faith, their first centennial event may be the March 2nd worship led by United Church Women (U.C.W.). U.C.W.'s across Canada are dedicating that Sunday to remembering the faithful and dedicated service of women's organizations throughout the past 100 years of the church's life. More information about the U.C.W. and resources for the service itself may be found at: <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/being-community/united-church-women-ucw>.

U.C.W.'s are encouraged to add these celebrations to the centennial map so that others may join worship that day!

Jobs Postings

Montreal Diocesan Theological College and United Theological College at Dio is hiring!

You can find the details here: [We're Hiring: Director of United Church Studies - Montreal Dio](#)

Richmond-Melbourne United Church

247 Principale Sud, Richmond, QC J0B 2H0

Seniors' Spiritual Wellness Program Job Description

With the retirement of Rev. Scott Patton at the end of June of this year, the Richmond-Melbourne United Church is looking for someone, preferably an order of ministry person, to replace Scott as of July 1, 2025. A very brief job description is included here, and a complete description will be on the Church Hub next week.

The Seniors' Spiritual Wellness Program Coordinator is responsible for providing high quality pastoral and spiritual care for seniors (primarily United Church, but not exclusively) in the Richmond-Melbourne communities. S/he oversees and engages seniors in ways which will provide them with a sense of meaning, purpose and not being forgotten, by connecting or reconnecting them with the United Church and the broader community.

The Seniors' Spiritual Wellness Program Pastoral Care Minister is a half-time appointment through the Nakonha:ka Regional Council, and reports to the Official Board of Richmond-Melbourne Pastoral Charge through its Oversight Committee.

Charlotte Griffith, Chair of Official Board and Program Coordinator

819-826-6204

Minister - Carleton Memorial United Church

Ottawa, ON – Carleton Memorial United Church is inviting applications for a 75% time order of ministry position. We are a small, but resourceful and united community who seek to love God and neighbour, and “honour the past by building a peaceful future.” Spirited, life-giving worship and mission are central to our belonging, behaving, and believing. We are looking for someone who also loves God and life, someone who lives out the good news with grace, someone who will actively add their gifts to ours, as together we answer the call to be salt and light, servants and friends. We are not alone, we are not afraid of challenges, thanks be to God. The full job description and Community of Faith are available on [ChurchHub.ca](#). We are accepting applications, including a letter of interest, CV, and statement of faith, from interested candidates. Please e-mail to cmuc.search2024@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed

The Table des Ministères en français

Is looking for people who are committed to promoting an intercultural church and to using discernment practices to identify, solicit and recommend leadership appointments in the Church.

You can find the French form here: <https://unitedchurch.formstack.com/forms/servir>



Save the Dates

REGIONAL COUNCIL

MEETINGS - 2025

March 28-29, 2025 (online)

June 7, 2025 (hybrid) – location TBD

If you have ideas for presentations or would like to help plan future meetings, please contact Valerie Nickson: vepps_nickson@hotmail.com

Newsletter Schedule

Submission deadline **Publication Date**

February 19

February 26

March 5

March 12

Submit your news and events to:

Aabrams@united-church.ca

Community Calendar:

<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/events/>