



## Deep Spirituality - Bold Discipleship - Daring Justice

"We are Pilgrims on a Journey: A Lenten Message from Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly"

As the church looks back on 100 years and looks forward at the next ten, there are some stark realities we are facing. There is grief and frustration, anxiety and a feeling of helplessness. I am reminded of when Mary and Martha bemoan Jesus' delay at the bedside of Lazarus... "If only you had been here..." (John 11). Why does it seem like God hasn't answered our call and has been leaving the mainline Christian denominations like the United Church to wither?

I understand the reaction to what we're seeing in so many corners of our church. But I am reminded by the story of Lazarus that Christ wept for his dear friend's death... and he also brought life out of the stench of death. It may smell like death all around us, and Christ is grieving the loss of what once was, but we are now called to collaborate with the Holy Spirit and follow Christ's instructions carefully. Now, more than ever, it is time to roll away the stone, to unbind ourselves and to witness new life.

It won't look like it did in the 1950s. It won't even necessarily be in a church building at 10:30am on a Sunday morning. It may not even have a minister in the ways we've known it in the past. While we are letting go of what was, we also need to start imagining what will be.

When I walked the Camino Primitivo in Spain last summer, one of the most common discussions was about the 1200 years of pilgrimage along that route. People wondered and marveled at the many people who walked there before us, why they were doing it, and the experiences they had in times when there were far fewer services to rely upon. It also struck me that we were not only walking in their footsteps, but we were also walking a path that many more would walk in the future. In some respects, we are the ancient pilgrims of the ones who will walk that Camino in 50, 100 or 1000 years.

### In This Issue

#### Deep Spirituality- Bold Discipleship-Daring Justice

A Lenten Message p.1

#### Growth- Renew, Create, Invite

Centennial Celebrations p.2

Invitations p.3

MCM News p.3

#### Leadership

E-Learning for Leaders p.5

Stewardship Updates p.6

#### Climate

Greenfaith Update p.6

Strategic Initiative p.7

#### Justice

Migrant Rights Petition p.7

In the News p.7

#### Indigenous Pathways

Links to newsletters p.7

Application for students p.7

#### Common Good

Fundings and Grants p.8

#### Community Events

Events p.8

Job Postings p.10

Volunteers Needed p.11

Save the dates p.11

We sometimes need to see ourselves, not as the pinnacle of all history at this moment in time, but on a continuum of a much longer time period that extends beyond us. We not only benefit from the foundations of those who came before us, we are establishing the future of the church as well. Like the resurrection of Christ, today is not the end of the story.

This fundamental shift in posture is key for us as a church in times such as these. There is a need for us to figure out what future-shaping decisions and actions we are taking today.

If you're a fan of science-fiction, you'll know that one of the most common stories is time-travel. There is significant anxiety in that literature about the smallest things we might do in the past that will reshape and change the present. Maybe we need to remember to make choices today with the same care and attention... after all, these small things will have an impact and chart the course of the future.

It's a significant change in our understanding of where we stand today. Yes, we stand on the shoulders of giants. And yes, we are the giants upon whose shoulders future generations will be standing. Are we taking that seriously enough, despite the fear and grief we feel at this moment?



## Growth - Renew, Create, Invite



The image displays three distinct logos for the 100th anniversary of the United Church. The first logo on the left features the text '100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY' with '1921-2021' written vertically on the left side of the '100'. The middle logo shows '100<sup>e</sup> ANNIVERSAIRE' with '1921-2021' on the left. The third logo on the right is in Ojibwe, reading 'Enskatewenhniá:we niiohsérá:ke Sa'tekariwa'sóntere' with '100' and a crest above it.

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](mailto:aabrams@united-church.ca)

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 forthcoming).

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

## Strengthen invitation to your community of faith this Lent & Easter

Worship leaders, start your Lent off with invitation in mind. This season, the Growth Team invites you to consider how you can intentionally cultivate an invitational attitude with your community of faith to prepare to invite and welcome in friends new and old this Easter. Get inspired by Growth Animator Scott Reynold's [blog post on making this Easter a time of invitation](#), then use the Plan to Strengthen Invitation This Easter resource, available on the [Easter Sunday worship page](#), to for ideas you can put in place this week! Looking for more hands-on support? Contact your Growth Animator, Tori Mullin, at [tmullin@united-church.ca](mailto:tmullin@united-church.ca) or [book a call online](#).

### MCM NEWS

### MAA'N-ENSEMBLE

### Iftar



In March, we held our annual Iftar gathering (meal at sunset to break the Ramadan fast), welcoming an intergenerational, interfaith, and intercultural group of 80 guests. Together, we shared a delicious meal, were stimulated by a rich and thoughtful interfaith panel discussion, and enjoyed the company of friends both old and new. The room was filled with a palpable sense of connection - fueled by deep conversation, mutual respect, and a shared spirit of curiosity and compassion.

Many thanks to our panelists: Ian Van Haren (St. James United), Rabbi Breah Cahan, and Dr. Hadi Mussadi (Muslim Association of Canada); to Samer Elniz for his beautiful chanting of the Adhan (evening prayer); to two new caterers: Arwa Almahmoodi and Nhaya Almahamed; to Rev. Arlen Bonnar for his gracious welcome - and to MCM staffer Anwar Alhjojo for pulling it all together! And, of course, heartfelt gratitude to our lovely guests!



## JUST SOLUTIONS LEGAL CLINIC

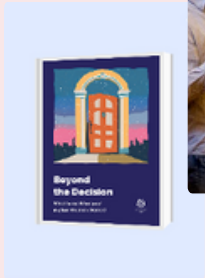
### Mobile Legal Clinics

Thanks to funding from the City of Montreal, the JS team hits the road twice a month to deliver a mobile legal clinic in some of Montreal's most diverse neighbourhoods. The goal is to improve access to justice for individuals who are often isolated by meeting them in community spaces that are familiar, trusted, and safe. Many of those served may be vulnerable to fraud by bogus lawyers and are in urgent need of reliable, professional legal information. Most recently, the team held a clinic in the southwest borough of LaSalle.



### Guide in English

A grant from Justice Canada's program for linguistic minorities allowed us to produce a user-friendly guide on possible recourses following a failed refugee claim for migrants whose main language of communication is English. To access the guide [click here](#). We dedicated the guide to former MCM student intern and long-time refugee advocate, Jenny Jeanes, whose sudden and tragic death in March at the age of 48 has left a big gap in refugee advocacy, and deeply saddened all who had the privilege of working alongside her.



### Student Interns

Our annual spring potluck to thank our student interns is always bittersweet—a mix of sadness as we say goodbye to those we've worked alongside since September, and pride in all they've accomplished and how much they've grown over the past academic year. Many thanks to McGill social work interns: Bianca Maselli and Mathilde Munder, and UdM law student: Kendra Magne Fotso. Kendra announced to us that after her internship at MCM she has decided to focus on refugee and humanitarian law. Bravo!



### Camp Cosmos

This year we will be offering 7 weeks of fun and educational activities at the Selwyn House Campus in Westmount for local and newcomer children, ages 5-12. Registration is now open. Spread the word!

## CELEBRATING WITH KING CHARLES III AND FRIENDS!

Three cherished members of our community of friends were recently awarded the King Charles Commemorative Coronation Medal for outstanding contributions to their communities:

Shaheen Junaid Ashraf for her work in the areas of anti-racism, islamophobia and interfaith dialogue  
Paul Clarke for his work in the area of refugee rights

Rev. Dr. Patricia Lisson for her work at the St. Columba House community center and on human rights in the Philippines.

Congratulations to all of you along with heartfelt thanks for making this world a better place!



## 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/>

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





## April Stewardship Update

**May is PAR Month:** Our Philanthropy Staff Team have just created some resources for pastoral charges to create their own Pre-Authorized Remittance campaign next month (or whenever)! Resources include a Step-By-Step Guide to creating your Own Par Campaign, A Sample Plan, A PAR Sermon, communication messages, as well as links to other previously shared resources. Check out the downloads section of our [PAR Webpage](#).

**Called to Be the Church: The Journey:** When you are ready to make good stewardship a core part of your community of faith, we are here to help. Each course has a specific focus, enabling you to set goals, create a plan, and be successful, including both learning and practical elements. Here are our slated for this Spring and Summer:

Bequests and Estate Giving - 2 sessions that will teach participants about the varieties of Planned gifts and how to inspire and invite people to make a planned gift. April 24th and May 8th.

Setting Up Your Giving Program - 2 sessions that are designed for you and your Stewardship Team to develop the resources you need to get your Congregational Giving Program off the ground! April 30 th and May 15 th .

Getting Started in Stewardship, will run on June 19 th and July 17 th .

**Be the First Bloom! Support Mission and Service This Easter:** Just as the first tulips of spring bring vibrant life, Mission and Service brings hope and action to communities in need across Canada and around the world. This vital work, powered by your compassion, takes many forms, adapting to diverse needs. But Mission and Service needs you. This Easter, we invite you to be a personal embodiment of that vibrant first bloom. Make a critical gift to support our dozens of partners fighting injustice, poverty, and inequality. Your generosity is the essential nourishment for this living church in action.



## Climate

### Greenfaith Montreal Update

Here are a few initiatives to share from partner climate organizations:

To register for the Pilgrimage for the Planet May 10-11 bike pilgrimage with demonstration taking place in Ottawa on Monday, May 12th: <https://forms.gle/YZPcAJG7pSJB3MsW7> (and note that there are many ways to help this campaign beyond biking the full Montreal-Ottawa trek!)

Mères au front - Montreal - Sit-ins first Sunday of each month from 11am-1pm at 770 rue Sherbrooke Street West.

Also a reminder of the Spring Montreal Interfaith Eco-Action Day taking place on May 19th. More details to follow!

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 (up to 30 000\$) 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](mailto:bruse@united-church.ca)



## 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:

[Black History Month Calendar: February March April](#)



## Indigenous Pathways

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



Applications for 2025 Indigenous-Racialized Young Scholars are now opened! You can find the form [here](#).



## Common Good

### 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. You can find the details [here](#).


### 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 vandalism or hate-crimes. Learn more [here](#).

### REMINDER - Regional Council Grants – next deadline May 15, 2025

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

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



## Community Events and Announcements



United Churches Are Going Green! Host or Attend a Faithful Footprints Retrofit Tour!

The United Church of Canada's [Faithful Footprints program](#) has funded green renovations for more than 168 United Church buildings nationwide, supporting communities of faith to become more energy-efficient and reduce their dependence on fossil fuels.


As part of the 100+ United Church of Canada's events in [Together For the Love of Creation Earth Week 2025](#) (April 20-27, 2025), the Faithful Footprints program is calling past and current program participants to [host in-person retrofit tours](#).

The tours provide the opportunity for communities of faith to celebrate the building upgrades they have achieved thanks to the support of UCCan's one-of-a-kind retrofit grant program as well as a chance for others to get a closer look at the renovations.

Inspire others by sharing your experience, lessons learned, as well as the positive impact your project has had on your community.


[Learn more, sign up to host a tour, and find details on upcoming tours near you.](#)

**Église Unie Summerlea United Church**  
220 avenue Acadia, Lachine, H9S 2T7



Vente de livres sur 3 jours:  
Jeudi 10 avril 17h-19h  
Vendredi 11 avril 10h-16h  
Samedi 12 avril 10h-15h

Une vaste sélection de livres de fiction pour adultes, d'intérêt générale, livres de cuisine, croissance personnelle, et livres pour enfants à des prix avantageux!



**3-Day Book Sale:**  
Thursday, April 10th 5-7pm  
Friday, April 11th 10am-4pm  
Saturday, April 12th 10am-3pm

A huge selection of adult "fiction" books, non-fiction – cookbooks, self-help & children's books at great bargain prices!




**FOIRE Artisanale & VENTE DE LIVRES**



**Artisan FAIR & BOOK SALE**



**APRIL 12 AVRIL 10H - 15H**

Summerlea United Church  
220 Acadia Lachine  
514-634-2651

**RESURRECT YOUR BIKE AND PLANT SALE**



Live with respect in creation



**Evaluations and Minor Tune-up for free**

As part of our commitment to live in respect with creation, Ste Genevieve United Church is offering to give your bicycle a boost of life on Earth Day Sunday

This event is open to people of all faiths and no faith

We can get your bike ready for the season and advise about any major repairs it might need

27 April 2025 et 4 May 2025 Noon to 2:00 pm (weather permitting)

Église Unie Ste-Genevieve, 4697 St-Jean, Dollard-des-Ormeaux  
h9pt@stegenyys.org jcollebur@stegenyys.org

Let us know if you are planning a May the 4th Star Wars themed service!

**MUSIC UNITED**

**MUSIC MATTERS 2025: COMMUNITY HYMN SING!**

Friday April 25 7:30pm

Come celebrate song & praise in community with the Music United Delegates! Singing beloved hymns and introducing new favorites!

Union United Church  
3007 Rue Delisle,  
Montréal

Join us at Music Matters 2025!

Music Matters 2025 is our annual gathering of United Church musicians and musicians from the surrounding community who believe in the power of music in worship.

Join us in Montreal, from April 24-27 at St. James United Church and Union United Church for a weekend of inspiring workshops, meaningful conversations, and unforgettable music-making. Whether you are a musician, lead a choir, play an instrument this is your chance to connect, learn, and celebrate the role of music in our community of faith.

Don't miss this chance to learn, sing, and grow with the Music United community.

For details and registration, please [click here](#). Don't miss this chance to learn, sing, and grow with the Music United community!

## Liaison Training

What does a Regional Council Liaison do? How can we best support our neighbouring churches as they search for a new minister? How do we work our way around the mysterious ChurchHub?

Join us on Wednesday April 30th at 7pm to find out these things and more.

To register, please send an email to Rev. Darren Liepold, East Central Ontario Regional Council at [dliepold@united-church.ca](mailto:dliepold@united-church.ca).

For more information, please contact Rev. Dan Hayward, [dhayward@united-church.ca](mailto:dhayward@united-church.ca).



## 100th Anniversary Service

A 100th anniversary joint service for The United Church of Canada will be held on Sunday, June 8, 2025 at Knowlton United Church.

This service will include Emmanuel United from Cowansville, Creek United Church, St. Paul's United Church in Waterloo and Knowlton United congregations coming together to celebrate this special occasion.

The service will be held at 11 a.m. followed by a 3-cake cutting event in the church hall.

All are welcome to join us.



## Jobs Postings

Building on two years of planning and the work of an Interim Executive Director, **Saint Columba House** is now seeking a full-time Executive Director to lead our organization into its next chapter. The Executive Director will provide strategic leadership, manage day-to-day operations, oversee fundraising, cultivate partnerships and carry out our mission.

This is a full time, permanent position, starting summer, 2025.

Applications must include a cover letter and resumé, and be submitted by email to [schsearchcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:schsearchcommittee@gmail.com), by May 2, 2025.

Saint Columba House is an equal opportunity employer. We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees.

For more information, send a request to the email above, or visit our website at <https://saintcolumbahouse.org/>

**Vienna Community Church**, based in Vienna, Austria, is looking for a Part-time Pastor. You can find the details [here](#).

# Volunteers Needed

## Why be a Mission and Service volunteer?



You might be a **Super Sleuth**: You know there are more people out there who want to support Mission and Service, and you've been looking for a way to find them.

As a volunteer, you can share social media messaging about Mission and Service with your personal and/or your community of faith's social media networks (if you're already on Facebook or Instagram, it's just a couple of clicks!)

Contact us today and learn more about how you can help!

**Mission and Service Volunteer Program**  
**The United Church of Canada**  
**ms@united-church.ca**  
**1-800-465-3771**



## 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.

## The Table des Ministères en français

Is looking for people who would like to be part of their board of directors. If you are interested, please write to Ruth Sandeu at [rsandeu@egliseunie.ca](mailto:rsandeu@egliseunie.ca)

## Save the Dates

### REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS - 2025

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](mailto:vepps_nickson@hotmail.com)

### Newsletter Schedule

Submission Deadline	Publication Date
April 16	April 23
April 30	May 7
May 14	May 21

Submit your news and events to:  
[aabrams@united-church.ca](mailto:aabrams@united-church.ca)



### Community Calendar:

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