



2026-01-28 Newsletter

Important Reminders

For pastoral charges

If you haven't already done so, please submit your annual reports immediately after your AGM 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.



In Memoriam-Fiona Duff Wardrop

The memory of Fiona Duff Wardrop (Pointe-Claire, Québec), who passed away on January 7, 2026 at the age of 54, will forever remain in the hearts of those touched by this precious presence in their lives. Family and friends are welcome to leave their condolences on this memorial page and share them with the family.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, January 31st 2026 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Lakeshore Trinity United Church (98 Av. Aurora, Pointe-Claire, QC H9R3G7). A funeral service will be held on Saturday, January 31st 2026 at 2:30 PM at the same location.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to Lakeshore Trinity United Church or The Heart and Stroke Foundation would be greatly appreciated.

Source: <https://www.echovita.com/.../point.../fiona-wardrop-20912298>

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A Special Newsletter for Youth and Young Adults

Resources-Opportunities-Calls to Action-Worship

In this issue, you will get reacquainted with our regional **Program support Minister for Youth and Young Adults, Shanna Bernier**. You will also find an invitation to a **Children's Ministry Roundtable**; **Children's Ministry Resources**; a job offer for the **Young Adult Online Ministry Project**; an invitation for young people between the ages of 18-25 to the **Montreal Missions Internship**; an invitation to **Collective 2026**, which has a **Young Adult Stream** for 19-25s to wrestle with big ideas and explore bold leadership; a **petition to protect trans kids** in Alberta and Saskatchewan; an invitation to **Messy Church** at Roxboro United Church, and a **Prayer for Children**.



Shanna Bernier, Program Support Minister for Youth and Young Adults

As of January 1, 2019, Shanna began serving Conseil régional Nakhonha:ka Regional Council (formerly 13) as Program Support minister for Youth and Young Adults. Prior to this role, she has been working for the former Quebec Sherbrooke Presbytery, Quebec Presbytery and Montreal and Ottawa conferences in various positions for over 8 years. She has a background in Arts Education and received her B.Ed. at Bishop's University in 2011. She has always loved working with kids and teens and education is a passion of hers, but after a year of supply teaching, she decided that Youth Ministry was her true calling and has been trying to make that her primary occupation ever since!

Shanna supports and runs existing programs in Conseil régional Nakhonha:ka Regional Council, such as Youth Forum, Camps and wider church YAYA gatherings. She is planning new programming, providing education and training opportunities to volunteers, and connecting and networking the different youth ministries in our region. She hopes to visit many churches and get to know everyone better. Because she is working full time, she is also available for consultation and pastoral care of youth and young adults who might not have a home church.

Shanna's office is based in Sherbrooke, but she is available to do visits to communities of faith, to offer advice on curriculum and resources or to chat about Children's ministry. You can reach her [here](#).

She will be travelling around as much as she can, so stay tuned for events she may be hosting in your neighbourhood.





Children's Ministry Roundtable

Tuesday, February 3 from 10:30 to 11:45am

Come and share your ideas about resources for children's programs and intergenerational worship/program ideas.

You can register [here](#).



Children's Ministry Resources

Compiled by Natalie Matkovsky, Communications Assistant for the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council

These are a few of many children's ministry resources available. Many of them can be adapted for use at home or at church. We hope these resources will be helpful to you as you plan activities for Sunday School, Messy Church, or for the children in your life.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

[I Am a Changemaker: Teaching Anti-Racism with Children](#) (paid)

[Discover Diversity](#), free printable magazine

[Pride Colours Prayer](#), free download

Lent & Easter

[Lenten Printables](#), free download

[Holy Week Printables](#), free download

[Easter Printables](#), free download

For the entire liturgical year (*only available in French*)

[Des histoires bibliques, des vidéos, des jeux, des chants et des prières par la Table des Ministères en français](#)

At-Home Resources

[BibleWoolies](#), free web app for kids

Last Spring, Tori and the amazing team behind **BibleWoolies** launched a free web app designed for children ages 3–6. Packed with games, stories, and songs, BibleWoolies brings biblical stories to life in a way that's fun and accessible, while highlighting the values of the United Church.

Rev. Tori Mullin (they/them) is a United Church minister passionate about helping children and families explore faith with wonder and joy. They are also the parent of an elementary schooler, an avid crafter and writer, and currently lives with their family in Hampton, NB.

Tori is also the Growth Animator for our regional council. You can read their staff page [here](#).





Young Adult Online Ministry Project – Job Description

Background/Rationale: Following a consultation with participants at a Nakonha:ka Regional Council young adult retreat in September 2025, it was determined that there is a need for the 18–35-year-old community to have more frequent and consistent opportunities for gathering and pastoral care.

Project Proposal: Under the leadership of a part time coordinator, and reporting to and supported by the First-Third Minister, the YA Online Ministry Coordinator will offer a monthly online meeting for United Church affiliated young adults in the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council. This monthly meeting would take place on a Sunday evening (or at another time chosen by the community) and include elements of Worship, Christian education, and pastoral listening/care.

Coordinator Job Description:

- The coordinator would work approximately 8-12 hours a month.
- They would plan a monthly online gathering of approximately 2 hours and prepare the content of the gathering.
- They would communicate and promote this ministry through Regional Council communication channels, on social media, and through direct invitation to young adults.
- They would create an ongoing communication forum or other online space for continued conversation/support.
- They could be a liaison with the First-Third Leadership team and other relevant young adult ministries such as St. Martha’s Chapel.

Required Skills:

- Strong communication and organizational skills
- Strong grasp of current online landscape vis-a-vie young adult usage
- Bilingualism fr/en.
- Familiarity with UCC ethos and theology
- Experience leading UCC ministry programming

Compensation:

This is a 12-month contract.

This position will be paid 30\$/hour with an estimate of 10h/month (300\$). This amount may fluctuate with time, to an annual maximum of 3600\$.

Please send your CV and cover letter to Shanna Bernier, Program Support Minister for Youth and Young Adults du Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council, by Feb 1st.





Photo credit: @timchinphotography

Montreal Missions Internship An Invitation for Young People Between the Ages of 18-25

Who is the Greatest?

When people imagine missions, some may associate the call with heroic acts of sacrifice or even the prestige of a ‘holier’ life.

Even the disciples wrestled with these thoughts. In Luke 22:24–27, we find them arguing among themselves about who was the greatest. Jesus responds by overturning their expectations: “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.” In these words, Jesus teaches that God’s Kingdom does not follow the logic of the world. Greatness is not marked by visibility or recognition, but by a posture of humble service. Often, this is practiced quietly and unseen.

Since 2022, for nine transformative weeks each summer, a group of young Christian adults has been invited to live into this vision of the Kingdom through the Montreal Missions Internship (MMI). Designed as an action-reflection program, MMI encourages participants to deepen their faith through service, and being attentive to God’s presence. Participants between the ages of 18 and 25 are placed alongside some of Montreal’s most vulnerable communities: refugee claimants navigating uncertainty, migrant workers far from home, low-income families facing systemic barriers, and at-risk youth searching for stability and hope.

What sets this experience apart is not only where participants serve, but how they are invited to serve. From the very first days, the program emphasizes that service is not a solo pursuit or a performance, but a shared way of life. One participant recalled a defining moment from orientation week during a hike up Mount Royal:

“I remember we were given the opportunity to take the easier path or the harder path, and everyone chose to take that harder path together. We were panting and we were tired, but we all took that path together... And I felt that was such an impactful moment because you're on the top of the hill with all these people that have supported you going on your way up.”

That early decision, to take the harder path together, becomes a symbol for the rest of the summer. Some participants may struggle with the workload while others become challenged by the routines and silences. The experience often reshapes their understanding of ministry. Another past participant reflected:

“MMI made me realize that ministry isn’t all about preaching or big actions or beautiful vestments.

It's more about the quiet moments—the still, small voice of God in dark places where you wouldn't expect to hear Him. It's also about experiencing and taking on the sufferings of the world around us, and—through that—being a light to the world.”

Across shelters, community centers, urban gardens, and neighborhood organizations throughout Montreal, participants encounter Christ not through grand gestures, but through presence. Each week, the program regroups at the Montreal Diocesan Theological College to reflect on experiences theologically. Participants reflect on what it means to wait anxiously alongside a refugee claimant for a court decision, share meals with migrant workers separated from family, or showing up consistently for young people who experienced traumatic events. In these moments, Scripture begins to feel less distant and more embodied. As one participant shared:

“It's easy to read the Gospels or Paul's letters and think, ‘This was written 2,000 years ago. Does it really apply to me?’ MMI shows you how the Gospel can be lived out—right here in Montreal.”

By the end of the nine weeks, participants often leave MMI changed. They carry with them a quieter, more grounded faith. They have learned to recognize God's presence not only in moments of clarity and strength, but also in fatigue and struggle like that first hike up Mount Royal.

I invite you to share this opportunity with young people in your congregations and ministries.

Enrollment for the 2026 cohort is now open. Visit our website: montrealmission.ca for more information. This summer, we invite young Christians to join us in serving, reflecting, and discerning together. Participants receive a \$5000 stipend for participation in the program. We also invite the church to pray with us in supporting the growth and maturation of the participants.

Alan Ma
Program Director for the Montreal Mission Internship



Dear Friends and Leaders,

In 2024, something groundbreaking happened. The Presbyterian Church in Canada and The United Church of Canada joined forces for the first time to host Audacious Hope. It was a powerful week of connection, renewal, and bold faith—and it was only the beginning.

We are thrilled to invite you to the next chapter of this journey: **Collective 2026**.

From **August 12–15, 2026**, we are gathering at **Brock University** in St. Catharines, ON, to explore our new theme: **(Em)brace for Impact**.

Why (Em)brace for Impact?

We know that today's world can feel heavy. Often, we find ourselves "bracing" for the next challenge. At Collective, we want to transform that feeling. We gather to **embrace** one another in care and authenticity, and we prepare to **embrace** our calling to make a positive impact in the world through the way of Jesus.

What's in Store for 2026?

Whether you are returning from Audacious Hope or joining us for the first time, there is a dedicated space for you:

- **Youth Stream:** A vibrant space for high schoolers to be seen, heard, and valued.
- **Young Adult Stream:** An environment for 19-25s to wrestle with big ideas and explore bold leadership.
- **Leadership Stream:** For clergy and lay leaders to find renewal, practical training, and community.
- **The Full Experience:** Dynamic worship with Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal and Rev. Jeffrey Dawn, small-group Discipleship Groups, and workshops ranging from "Climate Motivators" to "Improv."

The Details

Registration: \$450.00 (Includes 3 nights of housing and all meals).

Travel: Shuttle buses will be available from Toronto Pearson Airport for just \$20 each way.

Accessibility: We are committed to being an inclusive space with accessible facilities and sensory-friendly resources.

Help Us Lead the Way

If you felt a nudge to guide others during our last gathering, we are currently looking for Discipleship Group Leaders! This is a unique opportunity to walk alongside youth or young adults as they explore their faith.

Are you ready to (em)brace for impact?

Visit [COLLECTIVE-GATHERING.CA](https://collective-gathering.ca) to learn more, find registration details, and follow us on Instagram @collective_gathering_2026. **Registration will be open from January 15–June 15, 2026.**

We can't wait to see you at Brock University!

Grace and peace,


The Collective 2026 Team Jess Foy (PCC) & Sarah Williams (UCC)



PROTECT TRANS KIDS

Sign petition e-7027
to call on the federal government to annul or repeal provincial legislation in Alberta and Saskatchewan that restricts the rights of trans & gender-diverse youth.

[Sign Here](#)



**Shelter
À l'abris**



**Saturday, Jan. 31
3 - 6 PM
Roxboro United Church**

**Le samedi 31 janvier
15 h à 18 h
Église unie Roxboro**

Activities and supper for all ages together with other West Island churches

Activités et souper pour tous les âges, en compagnie d'autres églises de l'ouest de l'île

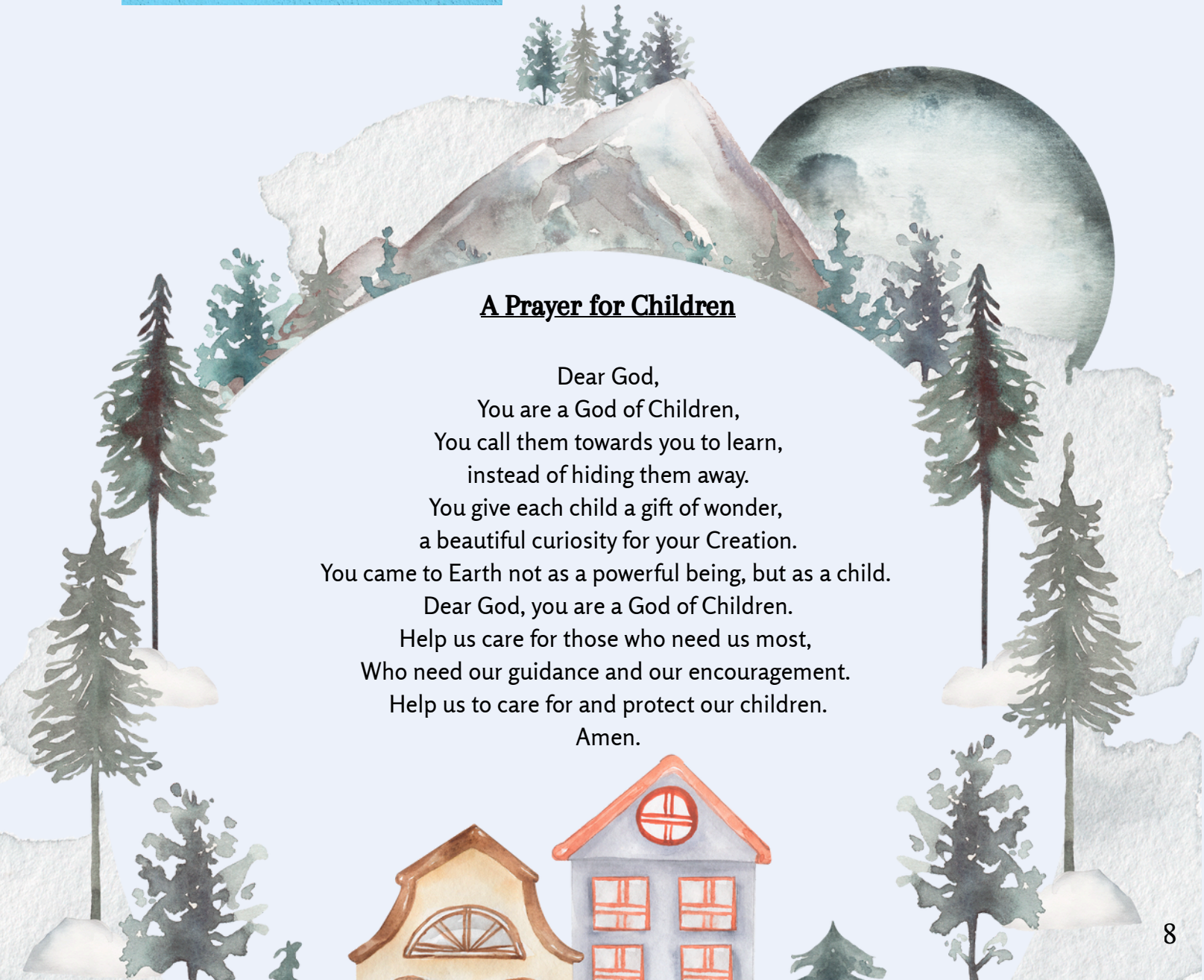
Sign up here!
Inscrivez-vous ici!



MESSY CHURCH

LEGIS DATE-MIE

Église unie Roxboro United
116 Rue Cartier, Roxboro H8Y 1G8
(514) 457-5819 info@mergingwaters.ca



A Prayer for Children

Dear God,
 You are a God of Children,
 You call them towards you to learn,
 instead of hiding them away.
 You give each child a gift of wonder,
 a beautiful curiosity for your Creation.
 You came to Earth not as a powerful being, but as a child.
 Dear God, you are a God of Children.
 Help us care for those who need us most,
 Who need our guidance and our encouragement.
 Help us to care for and protect our children.
 Amen.

Leadership



Stewardship Programming

When you are ready to make good stewardship a core part of your community of faith, we are here to help. Each course below has a specific focus, enabling you to set goals, create a plan, and be successful, including both learning and practical elements.

Find more information and register at CHURCHx.

- [Bequests and Estate Giving -- On Demand Course](#) (Free until June 10, 2026)
- [Getting Started in Stewardship Winter 2026](#): Online session January 26, 2026, and optional reunion March 9, 2026
- [Stewardship Best Practices Winter/Spring 2026](#): February 23 to March 23, 2026
- [Bequests and Estate Giving Spring 2026](#): April 2 and May 6, 2026
- [Setting Up Your Giving Program Spring 2026](#): April 15 to April 30, 2026

For more information on these and other stewardship supports, contact called@united-church.ca.



Church Property Network

Managing Cemeteries on Church Properties—FREE Webinar

Church buildings are more than bricks and mortar, they are also places of worship, community, and memory. How we use or transform these spaces reflects our deepest beliefs, and property decision-making can be an explicitly faith-based process. Join the Church Property Network's next webinar with Rafael Torres, Director of Property Services at Toronto United Church Council (TUCC), to discuss some of the challenges of managing them.

Details: Wednesday February 11, 2026 at 7 pm ET | [Register on ChurchX](#)



Common Good

REMINDER - Regional Council Grants - next deadline February 15, 2026

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://nakhaucc.ca/resources/granting-and-enabling/>

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

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>

Faithful Footprints Grant 2026 Funding Cycle is Open

Eligible United Church communities of faith can receive up to \$20,000 to support decarbonization building upgrades.

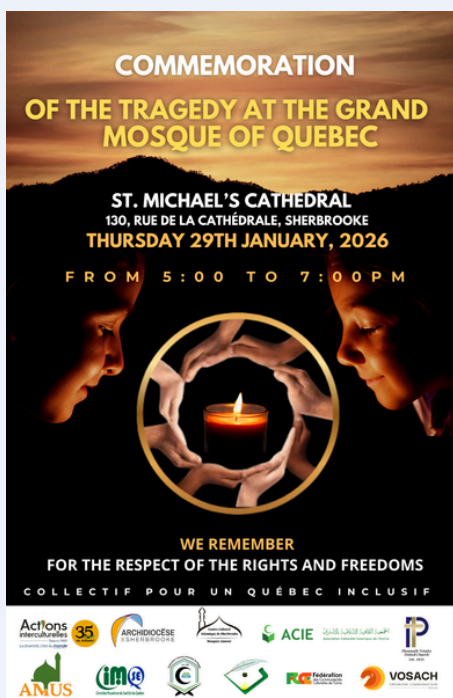
The United Church of Canada's Faithful Footprints Grant Program has funded over 300 energy efficiency and decarbonization building retrofit projects, helping United Church communities of faith lower energy use and greenhouse gas emissions while strengthening long-term sustainability and renewing mission work across the country.

Following a temporary pause beginning in April 2025 to review and strengthen the program, Expression of Interest intake has reopened for a 2026 funding cycle, supporting carbon reduction retrofits of United Church buildings.

[Learn more](#)



Community Events and Announcements



COMMEMORATION
OF THE TRAGEDY AT THE GRAND MOSQUE OF QUEBEC

ST. MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL
130, RUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE, SHERBROOKE
THURSDAY 29TH JANUARY, 2026
FROM 5:00 TO 7:00 PM

WE REMEMBER
FOR THE RESPECT OF THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS
COLLECTIF POUR UN QUÉBEC INCLUSIF

Act'ions interculturelles 35 ARCHIDIOCÈSE SHERBROOKE ACIE الجمعية الكندية للتعاون الإسلامي P AMUS IMR C FCE Federation VOSACH



**إحياء لذكرى الهجوم على
المتنجد الكبير في كيبك**

CATHÉDRALE SAINT-MICHEL /
كاتدرائية سان ميشيل
130, RUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE, SHERBROOKE
الخميس 29/01/2026
من 5 إلى 7 مساء

لكي لا ننسى
من أجل احترام الحقوق و الحريات
COLLECTIF POUR UN QUÉBEC INCLUSIF

Act'ions interculturelles 35 ARCHIDIOCÈSE SHERBROOKE ACIE الجمعية الكندية للتعاون الإسلامي P AMUS IMR C FCE Federation VOSACH

Merging Waters United Church
24 rue Maple, Sainte Anne de Bellevue

A SEASON OF PALESTINIAN FILMS
with guest speakers from Independent Jewish Voices & others



Sat.
Jan. 17
7pm



Fri.
Feb. 20
7pm



Sat.
Mar. 14
7pm



Sat.
Apr. 18
7pm

entry cost : free will donation

UNITED CHURCH STUDIES of MONTREAL/DIO
ÉTUDES DE L'ÉGLISE UNIE


MISSED THE START? JOIN ANYTIME!

FRENCH DISCUSSION GROUP: CHRISTIAN MINISTRY AND THEOLOGY

Fourth Monday of the month

7:00pm to 8:30pm on Zoom

information + registration



montrealdio.ca/courses/french-discussion-group

There are two upcoming major concerts at St Lambert United Church in association with Concerts Centr'art;

The Rising Stars of Opera : January 28 2026, 7:30 - St. Lambert United Church

Concerts Centr'art presents "The Rising Stars of Opera," an exceptional immersive concert featuring star graduates of the Canadian Vocal Arts Institute (ICAV). The performance will take place on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 7:30 PM at Saint-Lambert United Church (Saint-Lambert, QC).

This unique artistic experience breaks with tradition by surrounding the audience with performers, creating an intimate and emotionally intense atmosphere. Under the direction of Nathalie Deschamps, artistic coordinator of ICAV, spectators will discover the greatest opera arias and ensembles by Mozart, Verdi, Puccini, Bizet and other legendary composers.

The evening features exceptional artists: French soprano Lise Nougier, Canadian soprano Natasha Henry, French tenor Emmanuel Hasler, and Brazilian pianist Vinicius Costa. Co-hosted by stage director Nathalie Deschamps and baritone Marc-Antoine d'Aragon, General Director of CVAI.

Admission is pay-what-you-can with limited seating. Reservations recommended at <https://artist.center/organizations/centrart/events>.

Love n'Tune : February 18, 2026, 7:30PM - St. Lambert United Church

The show Love n'Tune, featuring soprano Cloée Morissette, baritone Marc-Antoine d'Aragon and six other musicians, will be launched in February 2026 as the fourth concert of the Centr'art Concert Series. This romantic concert features love duets built on original arrangements by Thierry Côté. The repertoire will cross genre boundaries : from popular music (Queen, Jacques Brel, Billy Joel, John Denver) to musical theatre (West Side Story, Moulin Rouge) and the classical repertoire (Andrea Bocelli, Mozart). The show is directed by Sara Demers and will transport you through the emotion and theatricality of the two lyric artists.



Online Open Enrolment Courses



- Christian Faith in a world of Artificial Intelligence**
 Explore how Christian faith engages with Artificial Intelligence examining ethics, identity, and ministry in a rapidly changing technological world.
Tuesdays 7:00pm to 8:30pm
 27 January - 10 February + 16 February
- The Christian gospel in works of contemporary culture**
 Engage with cultural works, reflect on their messages, and see how Scripture, theology, and faith intersect with today's North American life
Wednesdays 7:00pm to 8:30pm
 February 25 to March 25
- Introduction à l'Église Unie du Canada - son histoire et sa théologie**
 Approfondissez votre compréhension et votre engagement dans la vie liturgique de l'Église Unie.
Les mercredis, de 18h à 21h
 Du 21 janvier au 8 avril



Scan here
OR



Visit our website
montrealdio.ca/our-courses



More information
514 849 3004



info@montrealdio.ca



Convocation 2026!

Montreal Dio's Convocation will take place on Monday, May 4, at 7:00 PM at St. George's Place du Canada. Join us as we celebrate our graduates and honour their achievements in ministry and theological education. Save the date and celebrate with us!

Where: St. George's Place du Canada | 1101 Rue Stanley, Montreal, QC H3B 2S6
When: Monday, May 4, 2026 | 7:00 PM
Visit montrealdio.ca for updates!

REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS - 2026

March 20th – 21st, 2026 – Online AGM
June 6th, 2026 – Montreal, QC (TBC)
November 20th-21st, 2026 – Online Fall Meeting

If you have ideas for presentations or would like to help plan future meetings, please contact Virginia Wallace:
virlynwal@hotmail.ca

Newsletter Schedule

Submission Deadline **Publication Date**

February 4	February 11
February 18	February 25

Submit your news and events to:
aabrams@united-church.ca

Community Calendar:

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

