



## **Testimonial: Forgiveness as a Way of Life**

*From Rev. Marie-Claude Manga*

Previously published on February 22, 2021, as a [blog post](#) on the UCC website.

I grew up in a family of eight children: four boys and four girls. As the second oldest and the eldest of the girls, I benefited from an upbringing where equality was a fundamental value. My father encouraged all his children, without distinction, to pursue their studies and recognize their intrinsic value. From an early age, he confronted me with various challenges in order to instill in me the idea that I was a person in my own right, capable of making choices and taking responsibility for my decisions, regardless of how others viewed me. Looking back, I understand that this learning process nurtured my self-esteem and taught me to assert my rights in order to promote my personal development.

My father encouraged me to listen to programs hosted by women and to free myself from imposed labels, valuing above all the humanity of each person. For him, living meant cultivating harmony and respect for others.

Baptized by my grandfather, a Baptist pastor, I was then sent by my parents to a Catholic boarding school to receive a “good” education. At school, I was baptized a second time. This situation never troubled my parents: for them, God does not favour one religion over another.

Strengthened by these values, I found myself in Canada with my four-year-old daughter to pursue studies in social work. I was working as a social worker in a CLSC when I felt the call to serve God. This call was accompanied by many challenges, which came one after another.

## **In This Issue**

Forgiveness as a Way of Life	p.1
Musical Journey	p.3
Black History Month Events	p.5
Prayer for Black History Month	p.7
MCM News	p.8

## **Leadership**

Stewardship Programming	p.10
Anti-Racism Programs	p.10
Annual Declaration Season	p.11

## **Community Events**

Job Posting	p.11
Upcoming Events	p.12
Save the dates	p.16

I had to undertake a bachelor's degree in religious studies at McGill University, followed by the ordained ministry program at the United Church Seminary—all in English. This journey was not without its challenges.

I remember vividly the situations I faced in my ministry as a Black woman, a French-speaking pastor, in a predominantly English-speaking and rural community that I did not know. During my interview for a church placement, the first question the council asked me was: “What are you doing here?” As I tried to answer in my limited English, one member of the council looked at me with contempt and blurted out, “I don't know what we did to God to deserve this!”

I also remember a pastoral visit to a parishioner who was bedridden and admitted to a hospice. As he was watching a World Vision program, I entered and greeted him. In response, he turned up the volume, drawing my attention to the images of starving black children on the screen, then asked me, “What are you doing here? Is it for my money?” I calmly replied that I wasn't interested in his money and that I was there as the pastor of his church. He laughed. His wife, shocked and embarrassed, wanted to intervene, but I stopped her. Later, she called me to apologize, and I took the time to listen to her and reassure her.

The following Sunday, I noticed that the man's health was deteriorating. I went back to see him every other day for nearly three weeks. I prayed and sang with his wife, while he remained indifferent. One Sunday, I offered him communion at the nursing home. He asked me to sing a specific hymn before taking communion. That moment was a profound blessing for me.

On a subsequent visit, I found him alone and hungry. His wife was late, and the staff refused to feed him because of his behavior. Unable to feed himself properly, he struggled with his fork. I approached him without saying a word and held out my hand. He placed the fork in my hand without resistance. I fed him slowly, in silence. At that moment, Christ's words came back to me: “I was sick, and you visited me...” How could I have remained indifferent to this vulnerable man? I was only an instrument, called to care for a beloved child of God.

On the day of his funeral, as I was proclaiming the praises before the burial, someone ordered the coffin to be lowered as I bent down to make the sign of the cross. I barely managed to stand up straight. Outraged, the widow demanded that the maneuver be stopped so that I could continue the service. Two weeks later, she invited me to her home and simply asked, “How do you do it?”

No matter who we are in Christ's Church, we are called to serve His body by following His ways, guided by the presence of the Holy Spirit. As disciples, forgiveness is not an option: it is a way of life. When we struggle to forgive, let us remember the words of the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." I do not forget, but I forgive and ask God to give me the strength to do what I am not capable of doing.

In this way, we become bearers of light, witnessing to the love of God received for his people without distinction of gender, race, age, language, or orientation. That is why I have never abandoned my calling. I cannot explain why I did not break down or run away, except by the assurance that the Holy Spirit gave me when I served God's people. On the table mentioned in Psalm 23, I find love, forgiveness, reconciliation, and kindness. Unconsciously, I fed on it whenever I needed it. Twenty years later, I continue to feed on it. But at what cost? What must we do to serve God according to His word and His will? Yet the United Church does everything it can to make its servants feel welcome and serve our Lord in complete serenity. What is the problem?



## **Musical Journey**

*By Rev. Dr. Samuel Vauvert Dansokho*

It's Alydia's fault, yes! It was Reverend Dr. Alydia Smith who, during a recent webinar (Coffee with Alydia), invited us to recall songs that have left a deep impression on our lives. So, I invite you to join me on a musical journey during this final week of African American History Month. This journey includes songs that may be familiar to you, and others that may not be. So, in these times of unprecedented technological advancement, feel free to use an app that allows you to play them while or after reading, even if it means interrupting your reading from time to time.

If this exercise inspires you, feel free to send your own songs to Aviyah if you feel so inclined!

**Nkosi Sikelele Africa** (original version) is undoubtedly the song that has most marked, moved, nourished, and galvanized me. My first "encounter" with Nkosi Sikelele Africa was with the book *Cry The Beloved Country* (Allan Paton).

I was very young and had never heard it before, except that it resonated intensely in my soul and in my head. Later, I learned that it was actually a hymn composed by a Methodist teacher named Enoch Sontonga, which evoked the Holy Spirit and asked God to bless Africa.

It was designed to be sung in at least two languages as a sign of desire for unity and recognition of diversity. Several countries in southern Africa have adopted it as their national anthem. We sang it fervently, with our fists raised, and ended with a thunderous “Amandla!”

“**Redemption Song**” by Robert Nesta Marley (who would have turned 80 a few weeks ago this month) comes in second place. It is an unparalleled song of liberation and awakening of consciousness. Bob Marley urges us to realize that the Almighty has endowed us with extraordinary abilities so that we do not sit on our backsides, doing nothing in the face of oppression. He challenges us to free ourselves from our mentality of servitude, because no one but ourselves can truly liberate us.

Marvin Gaye's “**What's Going On**” is a call to speak to our younger brothers and sisters. We must dare to see things for what they are around us and name them.

“**Ain't No Justice**” by The Temptations has brought tears to my eyes and rage to my heart more than once, because it is so true that the image that has been projected of us has been and still is completely distorted. This is radical injustice, at the root of racial, sexual, religious, cultural, and other forms of prejudice.

“**Zenzina**” touches me particularly because it is a lament addressed to the Supreme Judge, asking him simply, but repeatedly, collectively and in unison: “What have we done?” Long sentences are sometimes not enough, and we are ultimately convinced that the subhuman state to which we are reduced is not His will. The God of justice does not tolerate injustice.

“**Sonny's lettah**” is a long poem set to music by Linton Kwesi Johnson. It is a letter from an older brother to his mother from prison. He informs her of the arrest and imprisonment of Little Jim, the younger brother he had solemnly sworn to protect. While waiting quietly for the bus, Little Jim was suddenly accosted by several police officers who beat him up. Sonny, the older brother, could not remain impassive. He threw himself into the fight and a police officer was killed in the melee.

Luther Vandross's “**Dancing with My Father**” reminds me of my own early childhood, dancing on my father's feet. It was a time of childhood, a time of innocence, lulled by the melodious sounds of Nani, Malisadio, and other treasures of Bambara and Mandinka folklore, performed by Sory Kandia Kouyaté. Soundjata du Rail Band is a masterpiece of music and oral literature. It is the epic tale of a clumsy child who was unable to walk until he witnessed his mother being humiliated for baobab leaves. That day, he spoke and declared that he would walk. And so he did, bringing his mother a whole branch of baobab. Soundjata Keita later became one of the greatest emperors of the kingdom of Segou. Mory Kanté and Salif Keita joined forces in 1975 to turn it into something timeless, lasting nearly half an hour. I get chills down my spine just thinking about it!

“Regard sur le passé, volume 2” by Bembeya Jazz is another long-lasting musical masterpiece. It tells the story of Emperor Samory Touré, whom the French colonialists portrayed as a bloodthirsty and savage king. Yet, when he was younger, he did not hesitate to offer his own life in exchange for his mother's. A valiant fighter, he inflicted several crushing defeats before being betrayed. He died in exile in Gabon.

Here are ten musical selections for our musical journey. What would yours be?

Aviyah’s selections: my additions to this superb list are this heart-melting version of Ndikhokele, sang by choir The Unveiled and 7 year old Eliana, from Zimbabwe; **Mdali** from the excellent Thanda Choir from South Africa; **Bambali**, a traditional Senegalese song and an all-time children’s favourite.

Thank you Samuel for this inspiring Musical Journey! You can send your musical selections to [aabrams@united-church.ca](mailto:aabrams@united-church.ca). I will share them in our upcoming newsletters!



## Black History Month Events

**RIVERSIDE UNITED CHURCH**

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2026**

**FOUR SUNDAYS OF CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY**

**SPECIAL NIGERIAN DRUM DISPLAY BY MADAM BUNMI ONIFADE**

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

1. What Does God Requires of Us. – Micah 6: 1-8 – Mr Ojo Emmanuel
2. You are Salt and You are Light. – Mathew 5 vs 13-20 – Mrs Pauline Esho
3. God is Calling You Like Moses. – Exodus 24: 12-18. – Posh Fakorede
4. Black and White United in Love – Colls. 3:14–17: Ps. 133 – Mr Kayode Isaac

**THE FOUR SUNDAYS IN FEB., 2026 / TIAM**  
@ RIVERSIDE UNITED CHURCH  
200 Chem. de la Grande-Cote, Rosemere, Rosemere, QC J7A 1H4  
riversideunitedchurch@hotmail.com

**All are welcome!**

**HONOURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

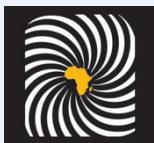
The United Church of Canada features a great playlist on YouTube, for Black History Month.

You can watch the videos [here](#).



## Le mois de l'histoire des personnes d'ascendance africaine – 2026

Les ministères en français ont prévu des activités en ligne, telles qu'un culte d'ouverture, des conférences et des échanges. Un culte de clôture aura lieu à Montréal.



Le culte de clôture de l'évènement se fera en présentiel en date du 1er mars 2026, dans la paroisse Plymouth Trinity de Sherbrooke.

Les activités durant le mois de février se feront chaque jeudi du mois de février; soit les 5, 12, 19, 26 du dit mois de 19h à 20h30. La structure des activités portera sur des conférences sur diverses thématiques, évènements culturels, articles et proverbes à publier.

Les thématiques sont les suivantes :

- Peuples d'Ascendance africaine pour l'éveil de conscience que nous reste-t-il à faire? Que devons-nous changer pour notre essor? Comment porter le flambeau de l'avenir ici ou ailleurs?
- Jeunes d'ascendance africaine d'ici ou d'ailleurs comment continuer à façonner et affirmer pleinement notre devenir en nous positionnant dans un contexte de mondialisation.
- Femmes d'ascendance africaine, épine dorsale de la société, éduquons nos enfants à être fiers de qui ils sont et de ce qu'ils peuvent devenir pour impacter le monde.
- Que pouvons-nous faire pour notre Église? 1 Corinthiens 12:27 « Vous êtes le corps de Christ, et vous êtes ses membres, chacun pour sa part » l'importance de contribuer à l'édification du corps de Christ par : Notre temps- nos Talents et nos Trésors pour Dieu.

### **Anti-Racism Common Table**

The Anti-Racism Common Table will offer feedback, advice, and suggestions for concrete ways The United Church of Canada can live out its National Anti-Racism Action Plan and further deepen the United Church's commitment to becoming an anti-racist denomination.

Vacancies: 6 vacancies

4 appointed by the General Council Executive

2 appointed by the National Indigenous Organization

Experience: Lived experience or a background with anti-racism and justice work. Good communication, animation, or analytical skills along with skills in interpersonal relations, group conflict resolution, understandings of racial trauma, and ability to work in the midst of cultural diversity.

Learn more [here](#).

Ici depuis le début


Célébrer l'histoire de Célébrer l'histoire de l'Église Unie du Canada à travers l'objectif de la population noire



Here from the beginning

Celebrating the history of The United Church of Canada through the lens of Black People

Visit the virtual exhibition [here](#).



For Black History Month, [Inzwi Munikwa shares a prayer](#) inviting us to listen deeply and grow in love as we honour the beauty of every story and every life.

Creator,

Thank you for all the beauty and uniqueness you have blessed each and every one of us with.

Thank you for all those who tell their stories, share their pain, and continue to show kindness to all with pride in existing as you made them.

During this reflection period help us stop and listen to all those who share their stories and experiences with racism, prejudices, and discrimination.

Help us to stay in the discomfort that may arise in our hearts and to open ourselves to reflect on all that is shared.

May we become kinder to each other and share in the love that you unconditionally and unwaveringly give us.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

—by Inzwi Munikwa

[Here](#), you can find more resources for Black History Month: worship ideas, stories, UN Decade for African Descent, prayers, and a worship blog.

## MCM NEWS

### Montreal



### ***Celebrating a Decade of Interfaith Ministry!***

This year marks a decade of interfaith and intercultural engagement through our program **Maa'n/Ensemble**. To launch our anniversary celebrations - which will continue throughout the year - we will host a Gathering at Table event on March 1st.

The evening will begin with a panel discussion/ Q&A in the St. James sanctuary featuring 4 women of faith: Rev. Wendy Evans, Ronit Yarosky, Muna AbdulFathah Ahmed, and moderator Dr. Amal Elsana, followed by an Iftar dinner and continued fellowship in Dawson Hall.

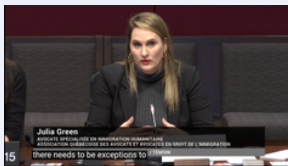
Please join us as we celebrate ten years of steadfast, bridge-building ministry - and step with us into the next chapter of this shared journey, committed to deepening friendship, justice, and hope together.



### **Ottawa**

### ***A Voice for Refugee Rights at the Senate***

MCM Board Chair and member of St. James United, Julia Green, recently represented the Association québécoise des avocats et avocates en droit de l'immigration before the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology. She provided expert commentary and responded to Senators' questions regarding Bill C-12 - the 'Strengthening Canada's Immigration System and Borders Act' - raising serious concerns about how the bill, in its current form, could negatively impact people seeking protection in Canada.



Julia reminded the senators that behind every piece of legislation are human lives, journeys marked by exile, and the hope of a safe future in Canada.

### **Sherbrooke**

### ***Just Solutions Presents at Committee on Intimate Partner Violence***

On February 5th, a couple of our Just Solutions staffers presented our legal clinic services at a meeting organized by the Concertation violence conjugale Estrie (coordinating committee on intimate partner violence for the Eastern Townships region). Those present were also invited to attend our upcoming advocacy and awareness project launch on March 11th at Café 4-40. See flyer for the March event on the announcement page below.



## Quebec City

### *Just Solutions Trains Quebec Shelter Workers*

On February 10th, members of the Just Solutions team headed out to Quebec City for the annual meeting of L'Alliance des maisons d'hébergement de 2e étape pour femmes et enfants victimes de violence conjugale (Alliance MH2), an alliance of second-stage shelters for survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) in Quebec. There, our JS team presented a workshop on the different options available to individuals who experience IPV when their immigration status depends on their abusive spouse or common-law partner. Approximately fifty workers from women's second-stage shelters participated in our workshop. The team also attended a training session offered by Juripop on best practices when intervening with women experiencing IPV and their children.



### *Dialogue islamo-chrétien Québec*

MCM is now one of the participants in the Dialogue islamo-chrétien, a group that formed following the shooting at the Grande mosquée de Québec in 2017. Discussion groups, presentations and conferences are organized as a means of dismantling stereotypes and false information and building friendships and solidarity between communities.

In February topics included Charia (What it is and what it is not) and historical and sociological perspectives on Laïcité. The presentations are informative and the strong bonds of friendship between participants allow for deep, honest conversations that leave space to respectfully discuss tough questions. Is this not the Vivre ensemble as it should be?

- Rev. Darla Sloan, MCM Community Liaison



# 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](http://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](mailto:called@united-church.ca).



## Anti-Racism Programs

These workshops each meet the requirement for mandatory training in racial justice for ministers and licensed lay worship leaders. Please choose the one that corresponds to your category of ministry.

Note: We have lowered the price for Lay Leaders from \$99.99 to \$69.99. You will receive a refund if you have already registered for the Anti-racism for Lay Leaders courses.

Registration is open!

- [Intro to Anti-Racism for White Ministers in North America Winter: February 9 - March 10, 2026](#)
- [Intro to Anti-Racism for Indigenous and Racialized Ministers Spring: April 13, 2026 to May 12, 2026](#)
- [Introduction to Anti-racism for White Lay Leaders Spring: May 18, 2026 to June 16, 2026](#)
- [Intro to Anti-Racism for Indigenous and Racialized Lay Leaders Summer: June 15 - July 14, 2026](#)
- [What Now: Action Plans to Dismantle Systemic Racism Fall: September 21, 2026 to October 20, 2026](#)
- [Intro to Anti-Racism for White Ministers in North America: September 28, 2026 - October 27, 2026](#)
- [Intro to Anti-Racism for Ministers Applying for Admission from Outside North America Fall: October 19 - November 17, 2026](#)
- [Intro to Anti-Racism for Indigenous and Racialized Ministers Fall: October 26, 2026 - November 24, 2026](#)



## It's Annual Declaration Season!

Each year between **January 1 and April 30 (new deadline this year)**, all ministry personnel, including retired ministers and candidates, are required to complete their **Annual Declaration** in [ChurchHub](#). This short online form asks you to confirm whether you have had any criminal charges in the past year and to attest that you have reviewed three key documents: the Creating Safe and Respectful Environments Policy and Procedures and the Ethical Standards and Standards of Practice for Ministry Personnel. **Completing the Annual Declaration is essential to remain in compliance with United Church standards and to maintain eligibility for calls, appointments, and, in some regions, licenses for sacraments and marriage.**

To submit the declaration, ministry personnel log in to [churchhub.ca](http://churchhub.ca), open their **My Ministry Page**, and select the **Annual Declaration** link within the My Professional Requirements box. The process takes only a few minutes, and the required policy documents are linked directly within the form. If you have questions or would like assistance submitting your Annual Declaration, please contact your Office of Vocation Minister, **Caroline Penhale Lukacs**, at [cpenhale@united-church.ca](mailto:cpenhale@united-church.ca).

You can read the full article [here](#).



## Job Postings

### **Mount Royal United Church JOB POSTING: Church Administrator & Building Manager**

**Applications are due by February 27th, 2026.**

Mount Royal United Church (MRUC) is a multi-cultural, affirming United Church of Canada congregation of approximately 150 members, with as staff: a Minister, 3 regular employees, a part-time Bookkeeper and several part time employees & is located in TMR. MRUC is currently seeking a highly motivated & multi-faceted individual, to fill the position of Church Administrator & Building Manager.

**Hours and compensation:** This permanent position will require a 5 day/35 hour work week, with the potential of remote work. Base salary will be between \$48,000-\$58,000 plus benefits which include medical, dental plan and pension.

**To apply:** Please forward your resume by e-mail to both: [alisonsmithlaurin@gmail.com](mailto:alisonsmithlaurin@gmail.com) and [elaineconway@videotron.ca](mailto:elaineconway@videotron.ca). with the subject line: Application for Church Administrator & Building Manager.

Your resume will be reviewed in confidence. Note: you do not need to be a member of the United Church to be considered. For more information on the church, please visit: [mountroualunited.ca](http://mountroualunited.ca).



## **Mountainside United Church community of faith is looking for a part-time office administrator 14 hours per week.**

The optimal schedule would be Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (10-3). The schedule could be over 3 or 4 days but all day Friday is essential.

This is an in-person position at an office at the Presbyterian College (3495 University) next to McGill University easily accessible by public transit.

The salary is \$22.19/hour + benefits. Two years of office experience (or other relevant experience) is requested with experience working with standard office equipment and printers.

A successful candidate should be capable of producing each week a multi page booklet (worship bulletin), sometimes with pictures, using Word.

Proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite (Word), Excel and Zoom is necessary. Proficiency in English is essential (oral and written).

Knowledge of French would be helpful but not required. Efficient typing, effective interpersonal and organizational skills and ability to work alone are required.

Daily tasks include: answering the phone and email, communicating by phone and email with other staff, volunteers and members and keeping printed reports/files up to date. If there is a funeral, an extra worship bulletin may be needed (extra hours).

Other tasks involved are producing a monthly newsletter, an annual report and updating our website. Knowledge of basic bookkeeping would be an asset. Interest in Social Media in view of helping our congregation to grow would be helpful though not a current requirement.

Position to start April 1, 2026 for a 1 year period with the possibility of extension. There would be a 3 month probation period. No holiday can be taken during Advent or prior to Easter as these are our busiest times.

A training period (over 3-4 weeks) will be provided.

Please send your CV to Lynne Dawson: [ldawson\\_2002@yahoo.com](mailto:ldawson_2002@yahoo.com)



## **Community Events and Announcements**

### **Ministry by the Whole People of God**

Have you heard this term "collaborative ministry" floating around the UCC? What about "mutual ministry"? Would you like to learn more about what these ministry models could mean for your community of faith, and Christ's church in the wider world? Join Community of Faith Support Minister Dr. Esther Guillén and Growth Animator Rev. Tori Mullin for a lively and informative learning session on just this topic!

Join Esther and Tori as they demystify collaborative ministry as more than just sharing a preacher! Mutual ministry takes place when communities of faith work to empower members to share their gifts in a true “ministry of all believers”. Learn about the characteristics of a co-operative ministry; the skills leaders need to steward them well; and ideas for getting started in your own community of faith.

Join us in-person or live on Zoom!

Three workshop options:

- Ministry Personnel, 2pm-4pm March 9th IN-PERSON
- General public, 7pm-9pm March 9th IN-PERSON
- Combined event, 7pm-9pm March 17th ONLINE/ZOOM

In person location: Westmount Park United Church 4695 Blvd. De Maisonneuve Ouest, Westmount, Quebec H3Z 1S4

The event will take place at Westmount Park United, with wheelchair accessible parking lot at the back of the church, barrier-free access to the meeting space, wheelchair accessible bathrooms, gendered and non-gendered washrooms available. The church is 12-minute walk from Vendome metro station, 4-minute walk from the 24 Sherbrooke bus stop. Limited parking is available, please indicate if you will need parking reserved due to mobility needs.

[Register for in-person](#) | [Register on Zoom](#)



## **Bless, Break, Share - Lenten Study 2026**

Tuesdays at 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. ET, February 24 - March 31, 2026

Join us on Tuesdays in Lent to explore your faith through food, we begin on February 24, 2026.

In this six-week series, join Rev. Christine Jerrett as she uses the United Church's new Devotional Book, Bless, Break, Share to guide a time of reflection and discussion on food and hunger throughout Lent. All sessions will be Tuesdays from 2pm-3pm ET

Session #1: February 24, 2026 - The Table of Invitation

Session #2: March 3, 2026 - The Table of Longing

Session #3: March 10, 2026 - The Table of Blessing

Session #4: March 17, 2026 - The Broken Table

Session #5: March 24, 2026 - The Table of Justice

Session #6: March 31, 2026 - The Table of Solidarity

Find more information and register on [CHURCHx](#).



## Watch Kitchen Conversations with the Moderator!

Kitchen Conversations with the Moderator is a 6-part video series that introduces the new Moderator in a warm, accessible way while promoting the Lent devotional Bless, Break, Share, and reinforcing the vision of Toward 2035. Episodes centre on storytelling, food, and faith, and lift up our shared values of Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, and Daring Justice.

You can find the episodes on the [Kitchen Conversations webpage](#) and [The United Church of Canada YouTube channel](#).

You can also purchase the Bless, Break, Share: Recipes for Faithful Living book through [this link](#).

**More info and registration [here](#).**

2026 EOORC Online Educational Event

## Shaping the Future – Bâtir l'avenir

Saturday, March 7, 2026

8:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**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

MARCH  
**11**  
MARS  
2026

Café 440, 146 Rue Wellington S, Sherbrooke

**5 à 7**  
5 to 7

# ENRACINER

Prise entre les lierres migratoires  
Trapped in Migratory Vines

Avec la participation financière de

**Québec**

Ce projet est rendu possible grâce au soutien financier de:

This project is made possible by the financial support of:



## An Open Enrolment Course

# The Christian gospel in works of contemporary culture

### The Christian gospel in works of contemporary culture

Wednesday evenings February 25th to March 25th, 7:00pm to 8:30pm, online.

<https://montrealdio.ca/the-christian-gospel-in-works-of-contemporary-culture/>

Previously offered at Dio, this course is now back with a fresh lineup of movies, music, and media. Even if you've taken it before, you'll encounter new material and new angles on how the gospel speaks into today's culture.

Two thousand years after Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, his good news—what Christians call the gospel—still speaks powerfully to the world we live in. But where do we see that message in modern culture? And where is it missing?

This course invites you on a journey through the movies, music, books, and media shaping North American life today. Together, we'll explore how these cultural voices echo—or distort—the gospel message, and why that message remains profoundly relevant in our time.

There are no exams, papers, or homework. Instead, students will engage with selected cultural works and learn more about how they speak to central gospel themes. Whether you want to learn more about Christianity, are fascinated by pop culture, or are eager to see how the two intersect, this course offers fresh insight into the good news that continues to transform lives and societies.



**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](https://montrealdio.ca/our-courses) More information 514 849 3004 info@montrealdio.ca



**UNITED CHURCH STUDIES** MONTREAL DIO  
 ETUDES DE L'ÉGLISE UNIE

**MISSED THE START? JOIN ANYTIME!**

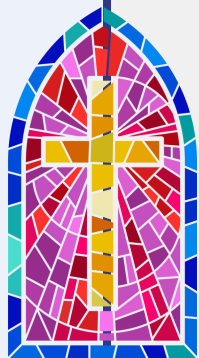
**Bienvenue**  
*Entrez c'est OUVERT*

**information + registration**

**FRENCH DISCUSSION GROUP: CHRISTIAN MINISTRY AND THEOLOGY**

Fourth Monday of the month  
 7:00pm to 8:30pm on Zoom

[montrealdio.ca/courses/french-discussion-group](https://montrealdio.ca/courses/french-discussion-group)



## 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](http://montrealdio.ca) for updates!



## Shared Way, Shared Witness: A Gathering on Ministry for a Collaborative Church in Montreal, May 19-22, 2026.

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). The early registration deadline is March 20.

## REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS - 2026

- March 20th – 21st, 2026 – Online AGM
- June 5th, 2026 – Celebration of Ministries, Cedar Park United Church, Montreal, QC
- June 6th, 2026 – In-person Regional Gathering, Cedar Park United Church, Montreal, QC
- 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](mailto:virlynwal@hotmail.ca)

## Newsletter Schedule

**Submission Deadline**   **Publication Date**

March 4	March 11
March 18	March 25

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

## Community Calendar:

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

