



Love Knocks and Waits

March 20th & 21st, 2026
Via Zoom

2026-03-11 Newsletter

Reminder: Love Knocks and Waits-Annual General Meeting

We're hoping you will make time to join us at our March meeting online, Friday March 20th and Saturday March 21st.

Apart from regular business, we will also be exploring some aspects of what ministry looks like in our part of the world and in our context. Since we come together only three times a year, this is an important opportunity to be connected with the wider church.

Context is everything. How we do ministry, how we speak to people, how we organize ourselves. God doesn't stop speaking to us when our context changes. God is still knocking at the door and our ability to respond in a way that is contextual is key. In Quebec we face continued pressures to secularize. Conversation about the benefits of church are a challenge. What can we learn about our context and how does ministry stay relevant in our context today. As we formally review the work we've done over the last year and examine our structure, we will also be learning more about how the law is affecting our work and how we might respond to the needs of the world. We continue to learn how to answer when love knocks.

You can register [here](#).

You are also invited to an optional event, on Saturday, March 21st, at 1pm, also on Zoom: **The Great Synchronization** (<https://vision2028usa.org/>) -This is a global social experiment in unity. No travel required. No politics. No sides. Just people pausing at the same exact time and choosing a better rhythm. The goal is simple: 1% of the planet — roughly 80 million people — in one synchronized moment.

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5 minutes. 4 words. A global pause. At the exact same moment worldwide, we pause for five minutes and speak the same four words: Peace. Love. Unity. Respect. You can say them out loud, whisper them, sign them, write them, meditate on them, or just breathe with them. Not to “summon” anything. Not to pretend the world fixes itself. You can stay on the call at the end of the AGM, or join again at 1pm through this link: <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/83978343222> - let's join in unity, show that we haven't forgotten that we can still move together.



Moderator’s Message for Pie Day

Every year, on March 14th The United Church of Canada celebrates National Affirming PIE Day, which was founded by Affirming Connections and Affirm United/S’affirmer Ensemble.

Last year, we celebrated the music that moves us. This year for PIE Day 2026, we are broadening our horizons to celebrate every kind of creator—woodcutters, crocheters, gardeners, and bakers—who help weave connections in our communities.

Why PIE Day matters right now: With 2SLGBTQIA+ rights under threat, living into our faith means more than just words.

You can watch Crafting Community: Celebrating Affirming PIE Day 2026 [here](#).



The Story of Merging Waters United Church Becoming an Affirming Congregation *By Wendy Sherry, Affirm United Representative fro Merging Waters united Church*

In 1982, the United Church of Canada established Affirm United to support individual lesbian and gay members of The United Church of Canada and to advocate for their full inclusion. At the time, Merging Waters was known as Union Church, and our minister challenged the congregation to address this social justice issue. We were the only congregation in Quebec to send forward a petition of support for the proposal to ordinate gay and lesbian clergy.

Work to become an affirming congregation began in earnest in 1998 and was completed in 2002. The decision to become an affirming congregation was a natural evolution of the church's lived experiences of supporting gay members of the church leadership. Gathered and shared knowledge focused on learning about sexual orientation and how it challenged personal attitudes, feelings, and faith. Videos and books were made available to congregation members to further the educational process.

Over the decades, our church continued to openly welcome members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. In 2012, Union and Beaurepaire began working together. Our values aligned: faith, love of music, and the importance of social justice work. Beaurepaire had never taken the steps to be affirmed, but lived it in practice. Our collaboration led to a legal merger of our churches in September 2022. The merger allowed us to be explicit once again in our support of the rainbow community!

The work began in 2023 with Reverend Curlett, from Affirm United. We immediately started working on the four needed steps:

- A vision statement: Our mission/vision statement was revised to include the full participation of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in the ministry's life and work
- A marriage policy: Rev. Curlett graciously shared the marriage policy of her church, and a small dedicated group adapted it for use at Merging Waters.
- A plan of how we plan to be PIE - Public, Intentional, and Explicit: Congregational vote: Sessions for grandparents to meet and speak with two members of the local West Island 2SLGBTQIA+ Community Center; set up a dedicated section of our website that lets everyone know that we are welcoming, to provide resources, and notify the larger community of upcoming events; the addition of the rainbow flag was added to the Merging Waters United Church sign, and a larger flag in the sanctuary that incorporates all the colors of the rainbow family and the BIPOC community.
- And finally, following a presentation on the completed documents to our members, a vote was held on the decision to affirm. It was unanimous! 😊

Our affirmation celebration was held on October 26, 2025. Testimonies from members of our congregation and remembrances of those who led the way but were no longer with us generated joy and tears. This is but the beginning of our renewed journey to make everyone feel welcome.



How église unie St-Pierre became affirming

By Nicole Hamel, inclusivity representative for St. Peter's United Church

In 2003, I attended my first Affirm United conference in Tatamagouche. The following year, I became a member of the board as the Francophone contact. Immediately, the name S'affirmer ensemble (Affirm United) was linked to AffirmUnited.

For more than seven years, St-Pierre's welcomed LGBT people on a monthly basis to discuss their spiritual and religious values. This interfaith group was called Spiritualité entre-nous (Spirituality Among Us).

At St-Pierre's, as early as 2001, parishioners decided to allow same-sex unions.

In 2004, the community took steps to become affirming and a member of S'affirmer ensemble/Affirm United. We also decided to start officiating same-sex marriages.

For all these years, I have been the "Inclusivity Advocate" for my community. I provide support, communicate relevant information, organize events, and participate in conferences on these issues, even outside the parish. I gave a report at the annual general meeting. Here is an excerpt from the 2025 report.

Are you familiar with the program: Pour que vieillir soit gai (Making Aging Gay), in conjunction with the Fondation Émergence?

Here is a summary of the training I am involved in:

"The Fondation Émergence is currently touring Quebec to offer free LGBTQ+ training courses for professionals and organizations. These courses, including "Pour que vieillir soit gai" (Making Aging Gay), aim to raise awareness, equip, and support practitioners in order to create more inclusive and safe environments for LGBTQ+ people, particularly seniors.

Offered in person and online in several regions of Quebec, these training sessions make a concrete contribution to preventing discrimination, supporting LGBTQ+ individuals, and promoting inclusive professional practices."

The meeting takes place in two parts: theory, attitudes to promote, and a personal testimony: this is where I come in. My role is to share my journey. The question of the influence of religion comes up repeatedly. Each time, I talk about my involvement in the United Church of Canada in relation to inclusivity and that I was married in this church.



You can find out about the upcoming activities of the Émergence Foundation by following [this link](#) (in French).

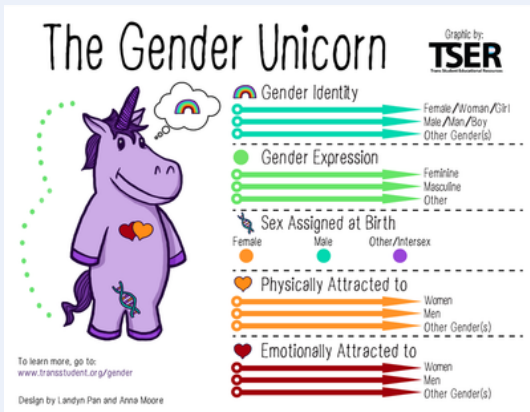
You can also watch "[Être homosexuelle dans l'Église](#)", recorded in French by Nicole Hamel for Mon Credo.

Some 2SLGBTQIA+ resources available on the Merging Waters United Church website:

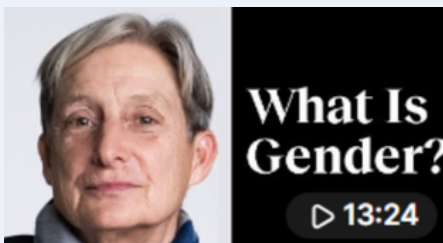


Love Me Gender-A Guide

LGBTQ+ Terminology



The Gender Unicorn



What is Gender? Judith Butler explains gender theory.



Queer Planet Documentary



Proud, Prepared, Protected



I shouldn't have to 'look' non-binary for my identity to be respected

More resources and events for Pie Day!



2026 National Affirming/PIE Day
crafting community

NEW Worship Templates!

- Service Français
- Children's Service
- Youth Service
- Services by Rev. Jane Thirikwa, Rev. Tony Snow, & Rev. Ruth Noble!

Logos: affirming connections, Affirm/Offers, pleday.ca

[Link to worship templates and more!](#)



AN ECUMENICAL PANEL
on 2S-LGBTQIA+ Advocacy
March 14, 2026 12pm EST

More info and registration [here](#).



BETWEEN PROTECTION AND PRECARIETY

Analysis report on access to justice for migrant women and 2SLGBTQIA+ migrants with precarious status or no status

MARCH 16 2026 Report presentation
Online | Zoom
12:00-14:00
*English subtitles available

Logos: Solutions Justes MCM, agir, Femmes et Égalité des genres Canada, Women and Gender Equality Canada

The Just Solutions – MCM legal clinic is pleased to invite you to the launch of the report “Between Protection and Precarity”, which will take place on Monday, March 16.

Produced in collaboration with **AGIR**, this report documents barriers to accessing justice for migrant women and 2SLGBTQIA+ migrants with precarious status or no status and proposes recommendations to improve their safety and well-being.

The report focuses particularly on intimate partner violence in sponsorship contexts and the challenges related to the Temporary Resident Permit for Victims of Family Violence. The findings were drawn on a literature review and semi-structured interviews with 32 professionals affiliated with more than twenty organizations.

Time: Monday, March 16 12:00-2:00 PM
Location: Online (Zoom)

To register: **Between Protection and Precarity**. *Registration required.


Language: French with English subtitles.
Please feel free to share this invitation within your networks.



FROM ASHES TO FIRE
THE ROADS OF
WITNESS, RECKONING, AND RENEWAL

LENTE LITURGIES
FOR USE IN
TWO SPIRIT & LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITIES
AND THE WIDER CHURCH

You can download the liturgy [here](#).



Boundary Workshop [REC]

8 Kind & Direct Responses To Defend Trans Folk

Recording Available

Free!

Led by boundary coach and author of “Say The Thing” Kami Orange!

You can watch the workshop [here](#).
Password: AFFIRMING25



Egale

Room for Everyone

A Guide for Creating Gender-Inclusive Washrooms

Room for Everyone-Download the guide [here](#).



A PIE Day Blessing

Beautiful Rainbow God,
bless the sweet treats before us!
At our PIE table across the church and around the world,
may we Publicly, Intentionally and Explicitly proclaim
our desire to create a world where all rainbow, LGBTQIA+ and Two Spirit
People,
can live safely with their freedoms, rights and dignity celebrated.

As we share in our pies together,
may we remember our liberating friend Jesus,
and how he loved to eat food with people,
especially those whose rights were being attacked;
May we share our feast with all whom Jesus would have us eat with.

As we feast,
may the Spirit touch each of us,
so that we might foretaste the sweetness that is to come in your great kin-
dom of love.
May it be so,
Amen.

—prayer by Alydia Smith



Credit: Michele Petick



MCM NEWS

Montreal

Standing Up To Hate: Justice Work Across Faith Traditions



Rev. Paula Kline participated on February 23 in an interfaith panel and Q&A with Social Work and History students at McGill University organized by PLEDJ and MCM. Her presentation addressed the long - and often painful - tension within institutional Christianity, tracing the historical divide between those who have supported, and continue to support, imperial or power-over expressions of religion, and those who, following the teachings of Jesus at their own risk and peril, have chosen instead to stand alongside people pushed to the margins, both in the past and in our present moment.

A compelling contemporary example arises from our neighbours south of the border, where faith leaders and community members are protesting the presence of ICE in American cities and offering accompaniment to migrants who are afraid to go to work, send their children to school, or even venture out for basic necessities. In New Hampshire, an Episcopal bishop recently urged clergy to update their wills, suggesting that the time has come for Christians to place their bodies between ICE agents and vulnerable migrants.

The discussion was both rigorous and deeply personal. Several students approached Paula afterward to share their own struggles with their Christian roots and to express gratitude for what they experienced as a fresh articulation of what it can mean to live out Christian faith today - not as dominance, but as solidarity.



Bâtir l’Avenir: Engagement Social, Résilience et Bien-être

Earlier that day, Paula participated in a conference at the Montreal Memory Museum organized by our long-time partner Brian Bronfman and the Peace Network for Social Harmony. Through dynamic presentations and small-group discussions, participants reflected on how organizations - and those who lead them - can remain resilient and creative in the face of a challenging social and political climate, ongoing funding pressures, and the risk of burnout.

Several key insights emerged from the conversations: the importance of making space in the work week for creative activities; the role of confidence in oneself and in one’s colleagues as a pillar of resilience; the need to integrate self-care into organizational planning rather than treating it as an afterthought; and the importance of partnerships - recognizing that none of us can do this work alone. One speaker also recalled Cicero’s warning that law carried to its highest point becomes unjust, reminding us of the need for flexibility, nuance, and adaptability in our work. Finally, participants noted that strong organizations are not those that avoid mistakes, but those that are able to recognize and learn from them.

All in all, it was an enriching morning of connection, shared learning and renewed inspiration.



From Static « Word » to Living Exchange

*In principio erat Verbum, et Verbum erat apud Deum, et Deus erat Verbum.
In the beginning was the conversation, and the conversation was with God, and the conversation was God. -John 1:1*

When the monk and theologian Jerome began translating the Bible into Latin in the fourth century, he rendered the rich Greek term *logos* - word, speech, discourse, reason, meaning - as *verbum*. Eco-theologian Joanna Macy draws on both the Greek and Latin linguistic traditions in her evocative reimagining of the text as “conversation,” suggesting responsiveness, relationship, movement, and co-creation.

Rev. Wendy Evans shared that insight during a thought-provoking panel discussion in early March, as 75 friends gathered for our annual *Iftar* and to celebrate the 10th anniversary of MCM’s *Maa’n/Ensemble Interfaith* program.

Our four panelists from the Abrahamic faiths challenged inherited assumptions and spoke candidly and with vulnerability about tensions within their own faith communities, inviting us to consider how we might move beyond dialogue as exchange toward dialogue as shared action.

Following a lively Q&A in the St. James sanctuary, the conversation continued over a delicious meal in the church hall prepared by our Women Weaving Their Dreams Catering Collective, and supported by a dedicated group of young student volunteers from Yemen, Pakistan and India.

A former member of MCM's Pollinators Sewing Bee and current PhD candidate, artist Nagva Shaghluf, graciously offered guests the opportunity to have their names rendered in Arabic script... adding a quiet beauty and contemplative spirit to the evening.

Thank you, Wendy, Ronit Yaroksy, Muna Ahmed and Amal Elsana, for your wisdom, courage, and generous leadership - and Nagva for your quiet hospitality. If in the beginning, there was conversation, then our shared table, graced by art, is holy ground.

Resources: [Church of the Wild by Victoria Loorz](#); [Work that Reconnects](#); [sermon on logos as conversation](#)



Sherbrooke

During ICI-Sherbrooke's online lunch-and-learn event on February 24, Just Solutions presented its services and highlighted barriers to accessing justice faced by migrant women and 2SLGBTQIA+ migrants experiencing intimate partner violence. The presentation focused on the Temporary Resident Permit for Victims of Family Violence (FMV-TRP), including challenges related to its short duration, low renewal rate, and unclear eligibility criteria.

Quebec City

MCM-Québec, in partnership with CAPMO, is joining forces to offer a space for renewal, reflection, and shared strength.

Together, MCM-Québec and CAPMO are facilitating a time of collective resourcing for those engaged in the work of justice ... for those who continue to struggle, resist, and re-enchant the world even in demanding times.

This French-language gathering is designed specifically for people actively involved in movements for social transformation, offering an opportunity to pause, breathe deeply, and draw inspiration from one another for the work ahead.

“Toward 2035 – a Prophetic Voice?”

By Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Cunningham

Trinity United Church, Uxbridge

Sunday, February 15, 2026

Transfiguration Sunday 2 Peter 1:16-21

Today is Transfiguration Sunday – the day when the disciples, Peter, James, and John, saw Jesus rise into the air, and to the left and right of him stood Moses and Elijah – representing the Law and the Prophets from the Old Testament. Our reading this morning comes from the second letter of Peter, which was added to the books of the Bible in the 4th century. There is differing opinion on who authored both 1st Peter and 2nd Peter. You might be familiar with these words from the first letter of Peter, “Wives, in the same way, accept the authority of your husbands ... Husbands, in the same way, show consideration for your wives in your life together, paying honor to the woman as the weaker sex.” (1 Peter 3: 1,7) In the second letter, Peter goes back to this moment of the transfiguration – a moment of transformation for him – as he connects Jesus with the prophetic tradition of the Old Testament.

Look at these rather remarkable words about the prophetic message: “So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place.” (2 Peter 1:19.) The Venerable Bede, an English monk from the Middle Ages, commented on this passage, “In the night of this world, so full of dark temptations ... what would become of us if we did not have the lamp of the prophetic word?”(1)

While the 21st century isn’t plunged in the same gloom as the 600s, there is a sense that as a church, we have been losing our way slowly over the last few decades. I understand that some of you have read the ‘Toward 2035’ presentation from the National office. You have probably seen several graphs that depict data from 1992, 2023 and with a projection to 2035. And you will not be surprised at its declaration of perceived ‘vulnerabilities’ in communities of faith as we move towards that 2035 marker. Deficit budgets; less than 50 at a worship service (including online); no clergy in place. In this Toward 2035 report, as a denomination, we are accepting, not postponing, the inevitable future for many of our churches – that they will close and disband, or amalgamate.

Here is my question to you – with what you have read of the Toward 2035 document and discussed, do you perceive anything prophetic in its message? Prophetic words can be a light in a time of shadows, in a time of uncertainty about the path forward. As Walter Bruggemann writes, “Prophetic ministry seeks to penetrate despair so that new futures can be believed in and embraced by us.”(2) But what are these new futures? If the Toward 2035 document is in any way prophetic, how do we, as the church, respond?

There is something called ‘Theory U’ that I have had practice using during my time as clergy to the United Community Ministry (or UCM for short) – a collaborative ministry just north of here – initially from Beaverton over to Lindsay area. Theory U is about learning to anticipate the future as it emerges in the present. Otto Scharmer picked the letter U for his theory for these reasons: “One traveled down the left-hand side of the U from surface to source, differentiating levels of perception (projecting, perceiving, perceiving perception, intuition), and then up the right hand side of the U, passing through different levels of action (envisioning, enacting, embodying).” (3)

1. Feasting on the Word Bible Commentary, Year A, Vol 1, Theological Perspectives, 450.

2. Walter Brueggemann, *The Prophetic Imagination* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1985), 111.

3. C. Otto Scharmer, *The Essentials of Theory U: Core Principles and Applications* (Oakland: Barrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc., 2018), 19.

Theory U is about trying to anticipate the future and hold a space for it. And to wait with anticipation for something to emerge. Now the ‘something that is trying to emerge’ – how do you know what that is? You know it by ‘hunch’. Hunch isn’t something we give much weight to in church meetings – we want documented reports and data charts before we decide to move forward. We aren’t really interested in following through on someone else’s hunch just because they say they have one. And yet, in the UCM, 20% of my call was to observe what was trying to show up – my hunches. Explain that to most M&P Committees across Canada today.

Hunches might lead to a change in the status quo of how we ‘do’ church. Here’s one ‘hunch’ I had while at the UCM, and it continues to want to emerge. There will be a shift in the ‘pastoral identity’ of the clergy. My hunch is that the ‘shepherd’ role of the minister, long associated with our congregations, will shift. Because one person cannot provide pastoral care to several congregations in a collaborative. Others will now share in this ‘shepherding’ energy – in the caring, guiding, and supporting. And it will come from a resurgence of identity in the laity. What has typically been a ‘clergy’ role, only delivered by clergy, will become more typically provided by the people in the congregations. Here is evidence of exactly this happening – in an upcoming workshop on February 19th, offered by the United Church Rural Ministry Network, is this description: “Lay-led Leadership Workshop” If you are engaged in lay-led ministry without regular clergy leadership, what kinds of training do you most need? How might a lay-led, collaborative ministry model in rural contexts be developed and flourish?”

The other part of Theory U is to hold the space for whatever is trying to emerge. As a church, we don’t hold space well. We fill it up with church work. Look at a typical Council or Board meeting – is much time ever spent in holding a space for ‘pondering’ or imagining what is trying to emerge? No. We go right to the money discussions, the property repair discussions, the work of community dinners, etc. We fill our time with running the church in the ways that we have always run it.

Otto Scharmer, the person behind Theory U, writes, “Staying with it” means holding the space for something to be born that is not quite there yet – building and evolving the holding space for something new to develop and be born.”(4) Scharmer noticed as well that where his attention was placed, that energy would follow. This is part of the ‘anticipation’ component of creating an open space. That something will emerge. Scharmer writes, “The way I pay attention shapes how the social reality around me unfolds. I *attend* [this way], *therefore it emerges* [that way]. Why? Because **energy follows attention**. Where you put your attention as a leader, as an innovator, as a change maker, or as a parent, that is where the energy of the system around you will go – including your own energy.”(5)

Since retiring from the UCM, I have had the joy of working with groups of churches who are trying to ‘listen’ for the future that is trying to emerge in their communities –Peterborough, Kingston, and over to the churches just west of here, Mount Albert up to Sutton over to Queensville – the Northern York United Church Cluster. There is something about energy following attention. There is a traction beginning to be visible across our church, and in our region, in the conversations, in the pilot projects, in the gatherings and events where collaborative ministry is the talking point – and where the Regions will be permission giving – to say, yes this has energy and momentum – run with it!

4. Scharmer, *The Essentials of Theory U*, 29.

5. Scharmer, *The Essentials of Theory U*, 40.

Canadian theologian Sarah Travis writes about this reframing of ‘ecclesiology’ or how we are church, “Hope for the church, I believe, is located not in the possibility of returning home but in the fact that we have been released for something new.”(6) I do believe that there is something prophetic about the document *Toward 2035*. It points to a reality that is trying to emerge in the present – a shifting of how we do church, how we ‘are’ church. Silo ministry, as in single point charges, will become less favoured than a collaborative ministry, where clergy and laity share their gifts across several communities of faith. The tradition of one church, one pastor, will recede into the past, and an enriched and provocative menu of options for congregational formation will begin to find definition in our church.

Again, Walter Bruggemann, the man who knew more about biblical prophecy than anyone I know, writes, “The dominant ... misconception ... is that the prophet is a future-teller, a predictor of things to come (mostly ominous), ... while the prophets are in a way future-tellers, they are concerned with the future *as it impinges upon the present*.”(7) We are in this place in history where the future is indeed trying to impinge upon the present – we can see it in the conversations around us, in our Region and in the National Church. We can see it in the energy and momentum found in discussions for ministry alternatives to the status quo – one church, one pastor. It is an exciting place to be.

As Douglas Hall reminds us, “While we cannot know what the future of the church will be, we can trust that God will be faithful.”(8) When it comes to faith, this is something we can understand. That God is and *will* be with us as we explore and create space for what is trying to show up, in this church that we call home.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

6. Sarah Travis, *Metamorphosis: Preaching after Christendom* (Eugene: Cascade Books, 2019), 58.

7. Bruggemann, *The Prophetic Imagination*, 12.

8. Douglas John Hall, *The Future of the Church: Where are we headed?* (Toronto: The United Church Publishing House, 1989), 80.



Further key messaging: follow-up on Bill C-9

We have had some time now to revisit more conclusively Bill C-9: Combatting Hate Act, and have developed more refined messaging, which you are free to use and distribute among your communities of faith (especially if they or their clergy have been approached by a local MP, or invited to a town hall on the subject). This content will also be shared through the justice networks, with justice coordinators and regional leadership.

Goals

1. Push back against the misinformation being deliberately spread by some MPs
2. We continue to be against C-9 for the reasons noted in the public statement we signed on to (link in the content below), regardless of whether the religious text defense is removed or not.

Bill C-9 messaging

Our first and overall concern about Bill C-9, known as the Combatting Hate Act, is about its impact on the right to protest. To this end, in late 2025, The United Church of Canada joined a coalition of organizations to amplify the concerns of racialized folks, 2S and LGBTQIA+ communities, and civil liberties organizations, among others. Those concerns remain and are [outlined here](#).

It is clear some Members of Parliament are actively using the removal of the religious text defence to hate crimes charges as a fear-mongering tactic amongst churches, promoting the idea that people may be prosecuted for simply reading scripture. This is false; it misrepresents and grossly exaggerates what the law would do if it were passed.

The United Church of Canada has concerns with Bill C-9's impact on the right to protest, first and foremost. People who are already targeted by hate campaigns, or policed heavily, will feel more vulnerable because of Bill C-9. The debate about religious text not only draws attention away from this larger issue, but also is misinformation or a misinterpretation broadcast by some MPs.

The Criminal Code says that **wilfully promoting hatred against any identifiable group** is an offence. In Canadian law, for activities to be considered "wilful promotion of hatred," it would require much more than simply reading a religious text.

We remain committed to standing against hate speech and acts of hatred.



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)
- [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.





Get ready to PAR-ty this May!

Our communities of faith depend on **monthly giving** to support our life and work together. One of the ways people can give is through Pre-Authorized Remittance (or PAR). The month of May is dedicated to PAR and we have a number of resources to help you **inspire, invite and thank** your community to give.

PAR month resources will be available under Downloads at the bottom of the [PAR webpage](#) in March. Have questions? Get in touch with Tori at tmullin@united-church.ca



Toward 2035 Survey: Share Your Voice

The United Church of Canada invites anyone connected to the life of the church to complete a short survey on Toward 2035, the framework introduced in 2025 to guide our shared direction for the next decade. Rooted in our Call and Vision, Toward 2035 invites us to imagine and shape the future together.

Learn more about the Call and Vision: <https://united-church.ca/call-vision>. Your responses will help us understand how Toward 2035 is being received and what supports communities may need.

There are no right or wrong answers—just your insight.

Take the survey: bit.ly/survey2035

Survey close date: March 31, 2026



Common Good

Three Bursary funds are available through the Finance and Extension Board of the Nakonha:ka Regional Council for students registered in Universities and post-secondary institutions who are active members in Congregations in the Nakonha:ka Region.

Preference will be given to students registered in Canadian educational institutions.

For further information and downloadable application forms, please visit <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/bursaries/>

Applications should be submitted by May 31, 2026.



Community Events and Announcements



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.

This week, [King Julez/Julian Rose talks with the Moderator](#) about their experience at the pro-Palestinian protest encampment at the University of Toronto, and providing spiritual care and community in moments of crisis. They also discuss their experience participating in the [A Place at the Table](#) photo for the United Church's centennial last summer, all while cooking a delicious broccoli frittata based on a recipe from Bless Break Share.

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](#).



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 #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](#).

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
Ce projet est rendu possible grâce au soutien financier de:
This project is made possible by the financial support of:

Québec Femmes et Égalité des genres Canada Women and Gender Equality Canada

Solutions Justes MCM Carrefour de solidarité internationale

BIDS YOU A WARM WELCOME!



Photo Credit: Brian Allen

In days gone by, horses waited in a shed out back during Sunday services. Times have changed since 1878, but we are still an active and growing congregation, involved in our community!

Come join us for our free Lenten Book & Bible Discussion Series on Thursdays this March:
March 5th • March 12th • March 19th

These sessions will run from 12:30 to 2:30 PM. You are welcome to join us for any or all of them. We'll start by sharing a meal together: please bring your brown bag lunch and we will provide tea, coffee, and dessert.

Our special program will follow. Nathaniel McMaster, our resident ministry student, will share a fresh take on an age-old question, "How do we make sense of our place and calling in the world?"

Do you have any questions or would you like more information? Do you need a ride? Please call us at 450-525-2797.

You are also invited to join us at our regular 9:00 AM Sunday worship services, including music led by John and Laura Barr, and followed by coffee hour. Please check the Brome County Community Bulletin Board in this paper for news of special service times and events such as potlucks, soup luncheons, bake sales, etc...

Come and experience the caring and sharing at the Creek United Church!

Proud of our history, engaged in our present, building our future!

CREEK UNITED CHURCH
278 Brill Road, West Bolton
(Part of the Joint Pastoral Charge with St. Paul's United Church, Waterloo, Quebec)

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

Ressourcement pour des gens engagés



Dans un monde de plus en plus éclaté, comment s'unir pour lutter, résister et ré-enchanter le monde ?

Vendredi, 3 avril 2026 à 9 h30 à 15 h 30
2ème étage, 435 rue du roi à Québec
Un léger goûté sur l'heure du midi
418-525-6187

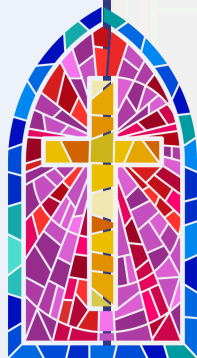
MCM APMO

Upcoming Events at Valois United Church

March 14 (Saturday) Book Bake and Craft Sale: Our UCW Spring Book, Bake and Craft Sale is nearly here—mark your calendars for Saturday, March 14, AT A NEW TIME between 10:00 am and 12:30 pm. There will be plenty of unique items to shop for, and a tea room to relax. We are currently looking for volunteers to help setup tables, put up flyers, help at tables during the sale, and help put away tables and move boxes back into storage areas. Donations of baking, books, new knit, crochet, sewn and handicraft items would also be appreciated. You can drop off items Tuesday March 10 & Thursday March 12 from 1 pm to 3 pm, or Friday March 13 between 9 am and 3 pm. Baking can also be dropped off the morning of the sale before opening.

March 21 (Saturday) at 7:30 pm - Valois Concert Series FREE concert with Flutist Sylwia Niedzwiecka and pianist Judy Hung, performing works by Poulenc, Reinecke, Chaminade, and Gary Schocker. A McGill and Université de Montréal graduate, Sylwia is an accomplished performer and passionate Suzuki-registered teacher, active in solo, chamber, and orchestral projects.

March 28 (Saturday) at 7:30 pm: Lakeshore Chamber Orchestra, under direction of Sylvie Allaire, presents: Serenade to Spring, Saturday, March 28 at 7:30 pm. Suggested Donation of \$20, 18 and under free. For details visit www.lakeshorechamberorchestra.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!



Spring Craft Market

St. Lambert United Church
Saturday, May 9, 2026
10:00 am to 3:00 pm



UCW
BAKE TABLE

Marché printanier d'artisanat

Église unie de Saint-Lambert
Le samedi 9 mai 2026
10 h à 15 h

Antiques /
Collectables



St. Lambert United Church
415, ave Mercille
St. Lambert
slucartisans@gmail.com



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. 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

Newsletter Schedule

Submission Deadline **Publication Date**

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| March 18 | March 25 |
| April 1 | April 8 |

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

Community Calendar:

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

