



DEEP SPIRITUALITY - BOLD DISCIPLESHIP - DARING JUSTICE

ADVENT REFLECTIONS (by Judy Coffin, Communications)

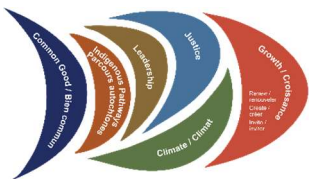
We continue to live into our theme of "Strengthening Invitation" as we prepare again to actively welcome the baby Jesus, born in Bethlehem so long ago and again in our hearts every year.

As we prepare and wait, we affirm that:

- making space for **hope** means inviting our fear of change to come into the light and be transformed.
- making space for **peace** means inviting patience and understanding into every interaction.
- making space for **joy** means inviting the entire family of our emotions to be present and valued.
- making space for **love** means inviting this baby into our hearts, and inviting God to teach us again this coming year about how to truly love ourselves and each other, and all of God's creation.

May the blessings of the gifts of Advent be with you every day of the coming year!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please note this is our last newsletter in 2023; the first newsletter of 2024 will be sent out on **January 17th**. In the meantime, please note that this issue offers a sneak peek at some format changes coming for the new year, with news and events grouped by sections related to the 2024 strategic plan; with most recent news at the top, reminders in the middle and last call announcements at the bottom of each section. As always, please let me know what you find helpful or challenging about the format or the content: jcoffin@united-church.ca



GROWTH – RENEW, CREATE, INVITE

PLEASE SHARE! Invite others to participate in bringing the strategic plan to life

After the adoption of the regional council strategic plan at our recent meeting, an invitation was sent out to everyone on the regional council mailing list to invite participation in the various activities and working groups outlined in the plan. **This invitation is open to ALL**, so if there are people in your community of faith or local community who have particular skills or interests (e.g. in justice issues, in the environment, in youth ministry, in communications, in aligning the flow of finances to strategic priorities, in building relationships between communities of faith and the regional council, etc.), please invite them to share their enthusiasm, experience and energy to transform words into action for their preferred section of the strategic plan. By pooling our resources and talents, we hope to amplify the outcomes across the communities of faith in our regional council. Let's work (and play) together!

Share the invitation! <https://bit.ly/2023-11-24-Invitation-StrategicActivities-EF>



FOLLOW-UP - REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Strengthening Invitation: Taking a Strategic Approach to Growth

Thanks to all those who joined us last week to reflect on what it means to strengthen invitation and take a strategic approach to growth. If you missed the meeting (or the two online learning opportunities offered in advance of the meeting for in-depth exploration of the strategic plan and the budget), recordings are now (or will soon be) available on our web site.

Download final versions of documents/ watch recordings (to be posted soon):

<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/regional-council-meeting-november-2023-online/>

Evaluation survey: <https://bit.ly/2023-11-24-25-Evaluation>

NOTE (from Jessica Gauthier): A few people expressed interest in my French words for VU 701. Here it is, then! Do feel quite free to use it. I've attached the sheet music I made for myself, because I like to see the French well while I'm playing and singing and those words are further away from the notes: <https://bit.ly/2023-12-06-VU701-bilingual-JGauthier>

SAVE THE DATES – 2024 REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

- **March 15-16, 2024** (online)
- **May 25, 2024** (hybrid) – location TBD
- **November 1-2, 2024** (online)

REMINDER - United Church Rural Ministry Network (UCRMN)

The United Church Rural Ministry Network is for all rural and small town folks – lay and ministry – and offers resources, events and a regular newsletter focused on rural issues. Upcoming events include an in-person **Rural Church Network (US and Canada) Spring Meeting** in Calgary on **June 18-21, 2024** (Cost \$360)

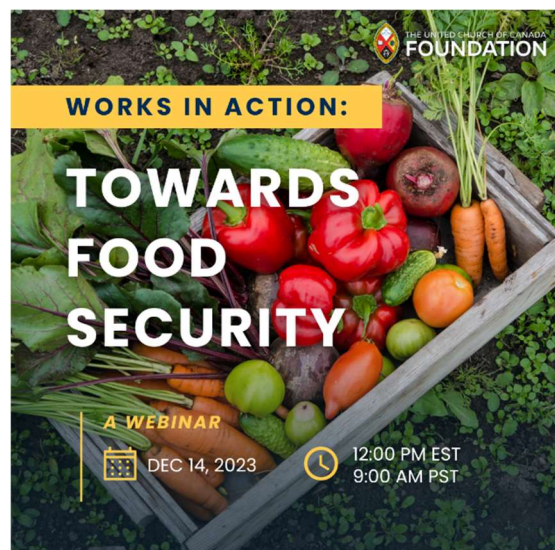
Learn more: <https://mailchi.mp/843713c49355/may-2023-ucrmn-enews-13568236>

JUSTICE

TODAY - National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

It has been over 30 years since the murder of 14 young women at Polytechnique Montréal (December 6, 1989). This act of violent misogyny shook our country and led Parliament to designate **December 6** as The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. This day is about remembering those who have experienced gender-based violence and those who we have lost to it. It is also a time to take action. Achieving a Canada free from gender-based violence requires everyone living in this country to educate themselves and their families and communities on gender-based violence, centre the voices of survivors in our actions and speak up against harmful behaviours.

Learn more: <https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/commemorations-celebrations/16-days/national-day-remembrance.html> and <https://united-church.ca/worship-special-days/national-day-remembrance-and-action-violence-against-women>



Works in Action: Towards Food Security

December 14, 2023 at 12 pm (online) - FREE

This one-hour webinar from the United Church of Canada Foundation will highlight initiatives championed by dedicated United Church people actively working towards food security. The event will feature a panel of previous grant recipients discussing how they are addressing food insecurity with the support of the Foundation. Gain valuable insight from our panellists as they share inspiring projects that support and strengthen their communities.

This panel will be moderated by Foundation Board Member Mary Royal-Duczek and will include stories and reflections from:

- Lisa Harrison, Brunswick Street Mission (Halifax, NS)
- Emilie Jacques, Maison Saint Columba House (Montreal, QC)
- Caroline Gallop and Beth Martin, Knox United Church (Lower Sackville, NS)

Learn more: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/faithful-steward-webinar-8736136>

The Drag & Spirituality Summit

Coming to Toronto next fall, the Drag & Spirituality Summit invites drag artists, spiritual leaders, and community members from around the globe to support the exploration and celebration of the intersections of drag, queerness and spirituality and they are looking for help for the following: to build a planning team, performers, keynotes, workshop facilitators, sponsors, and a large team of volunteers to make this summit a success.

This event was shared with us from King Julez (or Julian), they/them, drag performer, United Church of Canada Ministry Candidate and Master's student at Emmanuel College in Toronto.

Learn more: <https://dragandspirituality.com/>

Preliminary expression of interest form: <https://bit.ly/2024-DragSpirituality-ExpressionOfInterest>

Download PDF: <https://bit.ly/2024-DragSpirituality-Invitation>

MONTREAL CITY MISSION

LAST CALL - Make the Season Kind Holiday Market

This December, CBC Quebec is holding a *Make the Season Kind* Holiday Market. The one-day event takes place on **Thursday, December 14 from 11 am to 6:30 pm** at the Maison de Radio-Canada (1000 Papineau Ave).

Yummy local food and beverage, zero waste/handmade items, whimsical gifts, pottery, jewelry & clothing - you name it - with a focus on sustainability.

MCM was CBC's Charity of the Year in 2022, and this year the honour goes to The Food Banks of Quebec. In keeping with the values of Food Banks of Quebec, the *Make the Season Kind* Holiday Market creates a space for equitable, transparent, and mindful consumption.

A recent member of St. James /MCM Community of Friends, Hind Ahmed, will be sharing her artwork on this occasion. You can purchase Christmas cards with Hind's designs. A wonderful way to spread your Christmas message of peace in today's world through supporting the local refugee population.

Learn more: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/community/cbc-quebec-2023-charity-of-the-year-1.6956900>

Montreal City Mission
communauté de Montréal

ST. JAMES

**celebrating
refugee leadership**

Vernissage
Sunday December 10th
12:30 to 2:30pm
St. James United Church

Christmas cards
available to
order NOW!

Internationally Acclaimed
**SUDANESE ARTIST
HIND AHMED**

Art pieces will be available until the afternoon of 13/12/2023

Montreal City Mission
communauté de Montréal

10 / \$30
+ shipping

**DISCOVER UNIQUE
SUDANESE ARTISTRY!**
Exclusive Holiday Cards
"The Market"

**À LA DÉCOUVERTE DE
L'ART SOUDANAIS**
Cartes de fêtes uniques
"Le Marché"

Purchase/Acheter:
maan@montrealcitymission.org

Thank you for your support of MCM's work with vulnerable migrants
Merci pour votre soutien au travail de la MCM avec des migrants vulnérables

Art has been Hind Ahmed's lifelong passion. Influenced by her family's artistic lineage, Hind honed her skills at the College of Fine and Applied Art in Khartoum, Sudan.
Son style unique combine des techniques d'art libre et des paysages au couteau, créant des compositions captivantes.

CLIMATE

Climate Crisis Is Also a Spiritual Crisis

The United Church's virtual COP28 delegation is making important connections between spirituality, faith communities, and climate change.

Learn more: <https://united-church.ca/news/climate-crisis-also-spiritual-crisis>

Atwater Club, Selwyn House receive 'Green Legacy Hiroshima' ginkgos

By Rosemary Burt
The Atwater Club, located at 3801 Atwater Ave. near the corner of St. Lawrence St., was the recipient of a 'Green Legacy Hiroshima' ginkgo tree. The tree was planted in the front yard of the club. The tree is a symbol of peace and resilience, and it was planted in memory of the victims of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945.



Photo: David Leggett and Rosemary Burt. The tree is a symbol of peace and resilience, and it was planted in memory of the victims of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945.



Photo: David Leggett and Rosemary Burt. The tree is a symbol of peace and resilience, and it was planted in memory of the victims of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945.

WESTMOUNT PARK UNITED CHURCH

IN THE NEWS!

Expanding the Peace Trail with Green Legacy Hiroshima Ginkgos

Rev. Neil Whitehouse of Westmount Park United Church recently spoke at a tree-planting ceremony at the Atwater Club. The tree in question is a Green Legacy Hiroshima Ginkgo tree, a symbol of the resilience of nature in the face of war's destructive forces. Westmount Park United has partnered with Chris Adam at Dawson College to nurture 12 trees that were grown from seeds from a ginkgo that emerged from the ash. This new tree (along with one at Selwyn House) will be added to the Peace Trail map before the next International Day of Peace in September 2024.

Learn more: <https://www.westmountindependent.com/Wlv17.11d.pdf> (page 21)

SHAWVILLE UNITED CHURCH



Energy Results from Faithful Footprints Project

At General Council 44 in 2022, The United Church of Canada committed the whole church to a bold new target of an 80% decrease in carbon emissions by 2030. Last year, Shawville United Church (Shawville, QC) received a grant to install high-quality, low-energy fans in their sanctuary and hall, and a new electric boiler and hot-water heater. A year following their projects, Shawville United reduced its source EUI by 37.4%, GHG emissions by 99.6%, and energy costs by 44.9%.

Learn more: <https://www.faithfulfootprints.org/maps>



GREENFAITH MONTREAL BOOK STUDY (online)

Braiding Sweetgrass - Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge & the Teachings of Plants (by Robin Wall Kimmerer)

All are welcome to join a guided discussion of one section of the book per week, on five consecutive Mondays (**January 15th to February 12th from 7:00 to 8:15pm EST**) on Zoom.

To register/for more information, email: greenfaithmontreal@gmail.com

Download poster: <https://bit.ly/2024-01-BraidingSweetgrass-GreenFaithMTL>

CCS Fridays: Engaging Youth in Climate Justice -

Dec 8 at 12:00 CT (online) - FREE

This summer, 15 youth from across the church participated in the United Church of Canada's Climate Motivators program. Each student was sponsored by, and in partnership with, a local community of faith where they worked together on local climate justice or environmental needs. The motivators connected online and in-person to learn how to be leaders, worship, be in nature, act for change, and influence church policy. Our special guest will be Amy Crawford, team leader for Faith Formation and Mission with the General Council of the United Church of Canada. She will share some of her insights about getting youth involved in educating about climate change.

Register: <https://bit.ly/2023-12-08-CCS-ClimateMotivators>

For the Love of Creation Bilingual Newsletter

- **COP28 - Unite. Act. Deliver. - November 30-December 12**
- **Candles for COP28 Vigils - December 8-10**
- **New Report from KAIROS Canada**
Addressing Ecological Debt: Equity and Justice for Climate-Related Loss and Damage
- **Hope in Action – Free PWRDF Advent Resource 2023**
Reflections on Farming, Family & Faith in the midst of the Climate Crisis
- **Churches' Advocacy on Loss and Damage (recording of webinar)**
- and more...

Learn more: <https://mailchi.mp/bc484371e977/for-the-love-of-creation-update-may22-13551677>

Subscribe: <https://gmail.us10.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=9d3c6a31c52da4ccee2384011&id=eab511128f>

access grants up to \$30,000!

ONLINE WEBINAR

FAITHFUL FOOTPRINTS GRANT

REGISTER NOW

"The Faithful Footprints Program offers up to \$30,000 to United Church congregations to green community faith spaces. Join our webinar to learn more!"

DATE Dec 15th 2023 | **TIME** 1 - 2 PM (CDT)

REGISTRATION INFORMATION
Email ktaylor@purposeconstruction.ca or register at:
<https://forms.gle/WsPbu6tEvuzx89JP8>

www.faithfulfootprints.org

REMINDER - Faith & the Common Good Newsletter

Subscribe: https://www.faithcommongood.org/mailling_list

REMINDER - Green Churches Network Newsletter

<https://mailchi.mp/a2c86c365e60/green-churches-newsletter-6674099>

LEADERSHIP



WESLEY UNITED CHURCH

Reflections on Covenanting Service with Rev. Cynthia Reynolds

Wesley United Church and Rev. Cynthia Reynolds came together on November 12, 2023 to officially celebrate their joining in covenant with each other. The service included Rev Mark Hammond who preached for us and acted as the representative from Nakonha:ka Regional Council. Rev. Hammond had helped to guide Wesley through its search process

and we were honoured to have him join us. We were also thrilled to have Rev. Helen Hliaras, who had mentored Rev. Cynthia at her SME, lead us in a centering prayer at the beginning of the service. We were very grateful that many members of Riverside United Church were in attendance to support Rev. Cynthia in her new ministry at Wesley. During the service a new banner was unveiled celebrating the joy that we feel in coming together in this new relationship. Rev. Cynthia was also presented with a new stole that had some of the same symbols as the banner. The banner also included some of the artwork of the youth of the congregation and they played a part in the service as well. A great deal of gratitude goes to all who helped make this special service happen: the Covenanting Committee for their creative spirit, our service leaders, readers, and presenters, the people who worked behind the scenes to set up the worship and fellowship space, the bakers and cooks for their delicious offerings, the choir for the gift of music, and to all who attended for celebrating this heartwarming moment in the life of the Wesley United congregation. Special thanks to April Lepitre for her beautiful artwork used on the cover of the bulletin, bookmarks, stole, and banner.

INVITATION: Questionnaire about how communities of faith experienced the COVID-19 pandemic

Earlier this week, an email was sent to active ministers and other church leaders with a request to participate in an international research project about how religious and spiritual groups experienced the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are a church leader but did not receive the email, please contact Judy at jcoffin@united-church.ca.

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/2023-12-04-Questionnaire-COVID>

Letter from Regional Executive Minister regarding Designated Lay Ministers

A bilingual letter was sent out on November 29 outlining a proposal recently adopted by the regional council regarding Designated Lay Ministers, which responds to the phasing out of the Designated Lay Ministry program as adopted at the national level. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/2023-12-04-DLMLetter-EF>

Online Ministry Support

The next online gatherings for ministry support will be on **January 9, February 6, March 5 at 1:30 pm.**

Contact Rev. Dan Hayward at dhayward@united-church.ca to learn more.

UNITED CHURCH STUDIES AT MONTREAL DIO: Winter Open Enrolment Course Offerings

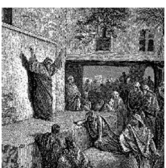


Perspectives on Medical Assistance in Dying: Ethical, Pastoral, Theological, and Cultural

Medical Assistance in Dying is now part of health care in Canada. This course offers a variety of Christian perspectives on the topic. It will be co-taught by Cory LaBrecque, Erin LeBrun, and Jesse Zink.

Tuesday evenings, January 30th to February 13th, 2024, 7:00pm to 8:30pm

For more information: <https://montrealdio.ca/courses/perspectives-on-medical-assistance-in-dying>



God's Spokespeople: Introducing the Prophets of the Old Testament

The prophets of the Old Testament offer some of the most compelling passages in all of Hebrew Scriptures. This course is an introduction to these texts.

Thursday evenings, February 15th to March 14th, 2024, 7:00pm to 8:30pm

For more information: <https://montrealdio.ca/courses/gods-spokespeople>

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Music Director at St Lambert United Church

St Lambert United Church, St Lambert, Quebec is seeking a part-time (6 hours per week) Music Director to provide professional services on a long-term basis commencing April 2024. The ideal candidate will be a skilled musician in pipe organ and piano and possess a solid foundation in music in terms of the level of training and/or years of applicable experience. Current students or recent graduates in Bachelor of Music programs having pertinent experience and solid music credentials will also be considered. Download PDF: <https://bit.ly/2023-MusicDirectorPosition-SLUC>

CORRECTION - Executive Meeting Date

Next Executive meeting will be **January 18, 2024**. Executive members and staff are requested to submit any correspondence, reports or other documents one week in advance, by **January 11**. NOTE: Once approved and translated, final minutes of Executive meetings are posted at: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/minutes-and-reports/>

FOLLOW UP - Ministry & Personnel Committee workshop - Saturday, November 25th

There was a workshop for Ministry and Personnel Committee members in the Nakonhaka, Eastern Ontario Outaouais and East Central Ontario Regional Councils on November 25th. The recording of the online session is available from Rev. Dan Hayward, Pastoral Relations Minister dhayward@united-church.ca, for M&P folk who attended, or those who were not there but would like to learn more about M&P's role and explore the questions posed by participants.

LAST CALL - Ministry of Supervision (Jan 11 to Feb 8, 12-3 pm)

The Certificate in Ministry of Supervision provides participants with the information and skills to mentor individuals preparing for ministry by equipping them for supervision including pastoral practices, leadership, reflection, feedback and spiritual guidance. It is designed for clergy and lay individuals who are interested in supporting students and communities for supervised ministry education (SME), internships and field education.

PREREQUISITES: A minimum of five years of post-ordination or commissioning, experience in congregational ministry leadership OR equivalent lay leadership

Registration: <https://churchx.ca/local/shop/catalog.php?id=2>

For more information, please contact Andrew Richardson: ARichardson@united-church.ca

INDIGENOUS PATHWAYS

NEW VIDEO - Indigenous Peoples Speak to the Remit



In July 2023, people from Indigenous communities across The United Church of Canada came together at the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering, where they discussed and voted on *Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous Indigenous Organization*. Much wisdom was shared about why the Indigenous church wants this change in structure, and what it means for everyone in the church. The remit passed overwhelmingly at this gathering – now it is up to those who haven't yet voted to have their say. But first, please see and hear what was said at the Spiritual Gathering in this

new video (released on November 21, 2023).

Watch video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UhiQZWcfZzw> or on the regional council resource page about the remit, along with the recordings of the two regional council learning sessions about the remits (in English and in French):

<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/remit-1-establishing-an-autonomous-national-indigenous-organization/>

******* YOUR VOTE MATTERS! The governing board of each pastoral charge has a right and responsibility to vote on this remit, and all votes must be submitted by March 31, 2024. If a pastoral charge does not submit a vote, the default will be to count the missing vote as a vote against the remit. *******

LEVÉE DE FONDS

Le 17 décembre, entre 12h et 16h, **Résilience Montréal** organisera une collecte de fonds pour soutenir les membres de la communauté dans le besoin.

FUNDRAISER

On December 17th between 12-4pm, **Resilience Montreal** will be holding a fundraising drive to support community members in need.

Nous recherchons des dons de :

- vêtements d'hiver
- bottes/chaussures d'hiver
- produits alimentaires (nourriture des fêtes, dindes, etc.)
- cartes-cadeaux
- argent comptant

Veuillez déposer vos dons à 4000 rue Sainte-Catherine Ouest, Montréal.

FAIRE UN DON

We are looking for donations of:

- Winter clothing
- Winter boots/shoes
- Food items (holiday food, turkeys, etc.)
- Gift cards
- Cash

Please drop off your donations at 4000 St-Catherine West, Montreal.

DONATE

resiliencemontreal.com

COMMON GOOD

COMING IN THE NEW YEAR – Learning opportunity: 2024 Grants - Date TBD

A learning opportunity about applying for available grants in 2024 will be offered in late January or early February. Watch this space for details...

New trust reporting requirement for tax years ending on or after December 31, 2023

Earlier this week, an email was sent out to church treasurers in our regional council, with news shared with us by Erik Mathiesen, Chief Financial Officer of The United Church of Canada. **Please confirm with your treasurer;** if they did not receive this message, please ask them to contact Judy at jcoffin@united-church.ca to be sure that they are on the regional council mailing list.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE – DECEMBER 2023

Our Latest Stewardship Blog – “[A Fitting Christmas Gift](#)”. Rev. Dave Jagger writes, in a season of spending and gifting, let's take a moment to consider how we choose to use our money.

Upcoming Stewardship Programs – Winter and Spring 2024. See [here](#).

Mission and Service - 2023 is drawing to a close and on behalf of Mission and Service we want to thank you for your contributions. The money received from Communities of Faith like yours enables us to feed hungry children, help those devastated by natural disasters and war and fund the vital work our partners are doing.

And now we are asking you to send in your Community of Faith's Mission and Service contributions as soon as possible to ensure this work continues. Remember, to have your contributions counted towards 2023 you must send them in postmarked before **January 15th, 2024**. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

We are currently looking for volunteers in every community of faith to take a leadership role with Mission and Service. Volunteers will be the communication lead between the congregation and those who produce our resources. If you are interested, or know someone who would be good for this, please reach out. Call us at 1-800-465-3771 or e-mail us at ms@united-church.ca

Book a time to talk about stewardship

Are you thinking about year-end or wanting to make a stewardship plan for 2024? Would you like to talk about legacy giving to your congregation, but don't know where to start? Do you have questions about growing giving to Mission & Service?

Roger Janes is your stewardship support person and is available to share resources, answer questions, or brainstorm with. Don't know where to start? Book a phone or zoom conversation with Roger today using [this link](#).

REMINDER - Next Regional Council Grant Application Deadline: **February 15, 2024**

Grant application forms and information: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/granting-and-enabling/>

REMINDER - NEW RESOURCES FOR TREASURERS

Nakonha:ka Regional Council has taken three initiatives to assist treasurers of our communities of faith in performing their duties.

1) Software discounts

Firstly, we have evaluated and are recommending the use of two easy-to-use and inexpensive non-profit accounting software products from the company Software4Nonprofits. Their bookkeeping software is called “Accounts” and has the following capabilities:

- bookkeeping (journal entries, sample or custom chart of accounts)
- banking (deposits, cheques, reconciliation)
- tracking income, expenses, assets, liabilities, funds
- generating financial statements (income statement, balance sheet)
- generating annual charity information returns (federal and provincial)

The annual cost of this software is \$129 plus tax. We have arranged for a \$50 discount on the first-year purchase price (i.e., you will pay \$79 for the first year). The second software product is called “Donation” and allows you to track donors and to create automated charitable tax receipts. A plus is that donations can be imported directly from PAR. The annual cost of this software is \$99 plus tax. We have also arranged for a \$50 discount on the first-year purchase price of this software (i.e., you will pay \$49 for the first year)

If your community of faith wishes to purchase the software, please can use this link:

<https://www.software4nonprofits.com/download-all/> During the registration process, in the comments section please

indicate “Referral from Nakonha:ka Regional Council”. The \$50 discount should then be applied when you are invoiced. If you want to look at the program without purchasing it, please visit software4nonprofits.com and sign up for a 30-day free trial.

2) Free assistance with bookkeeping and accounting

Secondly, we have arranged with the Quebec Council of Christian Charities/Conseil Québécois des Organismes Chrétiens to assist the treasurers of our communities of faith. You will be able to take advantage, at no cost to you, of their bookkeeping and accounting services (in both French and English), including:

- calculating payroll deductions
- preparing tax slips (T4, T4A, Relevé 1, etc.)
- applying for GST & QST rebates
- preparing annual charity information returns (T3010, TP985.22-V)

3) Scheduling calendar/spreadsheet

Thirdly, the Property and Finance Leadership Team, thanks in large part to the efforts of member Craig McAlpine, has developed an auto-generating scheduling calendar/spreadsheet for treasurers, which creates a customized to-do list for treasurer tasks throughout the year.

We will be providing more information on these initiatives in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please contact Brian Ruse at bruse@united-church.ca with any questions.



A few words about Software4Nonprofits (from Shirley Cartmill, Trinity United Church)

“I noticed in one of your newsletters, you mentioned “Software4Nonprofits”. I urge our pastoral charges to subscribe to this software. I have been using this software for keeping track of all donations at Trinity, since 2017. I love it! One good thing is you can import PAR donations saving time. So easy to print out Tax Receipts and reports. All questions to them are answered very quickly. Our Director of Finance just started using their Accounts Software and likes it very much. Helps doing your 3010 at the end of the year.”

LAST CALL - Online Information Session for Treasurers

On **Monday December 11 at 7:00 p.m.**, Craig McAlpine and Brian Ruse will conduct a Zoom information session for Regional Council treasurers and other interested persons. The purpose of the session is to explain the new Regional Council resources available for treasurers (see above):

- the accounting software “Accounts” and “Donation” available from the company “Software4Nonprofits”
- the bookkeeping and accounting services available from the Quebec Council of Christian Charities/Conseil Québécois des Organismes Chrétiens to assist the treasurers of our communities of faith
- the auto-generating scheduling calendar/spreadsheet for treasurers, which creates a customized to-do list for treasurer tasks

Zoom link: <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/82796326338>

LAST CALL - CEBA Loan Repayment

In anticipation of the repayment of federal Canada Emergency Business Account ‘CEBA’ loan, the United Church has developed a repayment program for UCC congregations who find themselves struggling to fully repay their commercial CEBA loans - which would trigger foregoing the already accounted for forgiveness portion. We have created a loan program to support our congregations through this transition. To take advantage you must respond **prior to December 10, 2023**. To provide bridging support, the national office is prepared to facilitate a swap out of the commercial loan and replace it with a UCC loan. In short, UCC would issue loans of \$30,000 or \$40,000 for the express purpose of paying off CEBA. All eligible United Church CEBA loan holders in good standing with UCC are able to take advantage of this loan at an interest rate of 5.0%. First payment comes due **February 1st, 2024**. To get started simply complete the loan agreement and forward to Maria Pimpinella at mpimpinella@united-church.ca along with a copy of void cheque. Download form: <https://bit.ly/2023-CEBA-CloseoutForm-UCC>

LAST CALL - Discontinuation of Hybrid Worship Technical Assistance Fund

The Hybrid Worship Technical Assistance Fund grants will be discontinued as of **December 31, 2023**. The grants are still available until then, as long as the application and receipts are submitted to Brian Ruse by year-end.

Grant application forms and information: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/granting-and-enabling/>

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

Recent news from United Church of Canada

- Broadview newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/broadview/pretendians>
- Église Unie du Canada: <https://mailchi.mp/egliseunie/infolettre-21-novembre-1053428>
- E-ssentials: <https://mailchi.mp/a22fa7501a5c/es230905-1053532>
- GC44: <https://generalcouncil44.ca/news>
- Gifts with Vision: <https://mailchi.mp/85a65d419534/gifts-with-vision-is-live-1050972-1052956>
- Living into Right Relations: <https://mailchi.mp/226da2807311/living-into-right-relations-1053492>
- Philanthropy News: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/gods-mission-our-gifts-1053404>
- UCC Foundation News: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/good-news-you-can-nov23>
- United Church Resource Centre: <https://mailchi.mp/ucrdstore.ca/advent-is-just-around-the-corner>
- UC Rural Ministry Network: <https://mailchi.mp/843713c49355/may-2023-ucrmn-enews-13568236>
- United Action for Justice: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church/uaj-1052244>
- United in Learning: <https://mailchi.mp/b7be503d76eb/united-in-learning-1053552>

Subscribe to United Church of Canada e-newsletters: <https://united-church.ca/e-newsletters>

Abonnez-vous à l'infolettre de l'Église Unie du Canada : <https://bit.ly/EgliseUnie-infolettre-Subscribe>



SHAREABLE ONE-PAGE SUMMARY

REGIONAL COUNCIL DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec 10

LAST CALL to submit **CEBA loan closeout** form to mpimpinella@united-church.ca
Download form: <https://bit.ly/2023-CEBA-CloseoutForm-UCC>

Dec 11 – 7:00 pm

Information Session for Treasurers (online)
Zoom link: <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/82796326338>

Dec 31

LAST CALL to submit **Hybrid Worship Technology Assistance Fund** application to bruse@united-church.ca Download form: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/resources/granting-and-enabling/>

Jan 9 – 1:30 pm

Online Ministry Support Circle
Contact Rev. Dan Hayward: dhayward@united-church.ca

Date TBD

Learning opportunity: Grants 2024

Other special dates to engage with our communities in Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship and Daring Justice:

TODAY (Dec 6)

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
<https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/commemorations-celebrations/16-days/national-day-remembrance.html>

Dec 10

UN Human Rights Day
<https://united-church.ca/worship-special-days/un-human-rights-day> and
<https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day>

Jan 18

Week Of Prayer For Christian Unity
<https://united-church.ca/worship-special-days/week-prayer-christian-unity> and
<https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/resources-for-the-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2024>

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Can you identify the folks in your community of faith who care the most about the following strategic priorities?

- ☐ **Renewal** – strengthening existing ministries
- ☐ **Creation** – exploring potential for new ministries
- ☐ **Invitation** – reaching out and welcoming in
- ☐ **Justice** – standing up and speaking out
- ☐ **Climate** – manifesting change for a healthier planet
- ☐ **Leadership** – enabling and empowering others
- ☐ **Indigenous Pathways** – journeying beside (as allies)
- ☐ **Common Good** – sharing resources equitably

Please invite them to affirm their interest for strategic activities in 2024, using the link below. All are welcome!

<https://bit.ly/2023-11-24-Invitation-StrategicActivities-EF>

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Submission deadline	Publication date
January 12	January 17
January 26	January 31
February 9	February 14
February 23	February 28
March 8	March 13
March 22	March 27
April 5	April 10
April 19	April 24
May 3	May 8
May 17	May 22
May 31	June 5
June 15	June 19

Submit news/events: jcoffin@united-church.ca or
<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/events/community/add>