



Salisbury United Church

*"Connecting hearts, minds, and lives
in community with God"*

"Jesus said to her, "Mary!"
She turned to him and said,
"Rabboni", which means
teacher.

-John 20:16

April 2024 E-News

SOMETHING TO PONDER BY REV BRITT

The story of Jesus always comes down to this moment - the arrival of Jesus in the city of Jerusalem amidst the praises of the crowds, only to quickly be denounced as a fraud mere hours later. Jesus, according to Luke's way of telling it, wept over the city of Jerusalem shortly before he arrived within her walls. "If only you had known the path to peace today," Jesus said at that time. "Only now it is hidden from you, ... because you did not recognize the time of your visit from God." (Luke 19:41-44) He then went on to tangle with the religious authorities and break bread one last time with his inner circle of friends before being arrested.

Jesus knew the inevitability of what lay waiting for him in Jerusalem, in large part because he was wise to the ways of the history of ancient city states in general and Jerusalem specifically. It is hard not to look at the long history of Jerusalem along with the land all around it, and not see that the march of history still plays a deep role in relationships and politics in the land of Jesus' birth.

Over 15 years ago, when I was in Jerusalem with a United Church delegation, we met with Jeff Halper, the founder of The Israeli Committee of House Demolitions. Jeff Halper is an Israeli man deeply committed to seeing the end of arbitrary land clearances and home demolitions within Palestinian districts of Jerusalem. These days he is also a strong nonviolent Jewish voice, along with allied Christians and Palestinians, for ending the assault on Gaza, and the mass killing and starvation of children and civilians. His message and work is not always well received and comes into conflict with many others who speak from a military or nationalistic viewpoint. And yet thank goodness for him and many like him who continue to weep over history while believing that an alternative future is possible.

As we now enter into the cycle of Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter, a cycle we call Holy Week, we as Christians cannot forget that this ancient land with its long chaotic history is also the crucible out of which Christian faith emerged. We also belong to the history of the land that is now Palestine and Israel. As the story of Jesus' last days unfolds again in worship this next week, let us not hear it as an abstract story which has no real connection to our own history or to human suffering other than our own. Jesus walked along the scarred paths of his own human community toward the cross. In doing so he walked across the broken decks of human history in every time and age, taking it all with him into the finality of death. And yet he himself arose again, revealing the power of God to make a new beginning within human history.

Jesus' rising again toward Easter, past all hope and expectation, is our rising again, as well as the rising again of communities and creation itself. The empty tomb, located not far from his execution grounds, offers us a vision of the divine seed of a new world where compassion and courage are reborn for the sake of the world's transformation.

Let us pray...

In the power of Easter and through the enduring Spirit of the Christ:

Thank you, God, for people of faith throughout the Earth,
including those who do not call themselves Christians,
but who know the Spirit of truth, and courage, and love. ...

We who live in a world perched on a precipice,
where any false step is death, pray for a new
community of nations and peoples, where waste
is no more, and where we may sit and
eat together at the Table of Peace.
Amen.

(Source: Crosswalks, Prayers from a City Church, by David R. Allan, pg 95-6.)

Peace and blessings,
Rev. Britt

UPCOMING DATES:

- March 24th – Palm Sunday
- March 29th – Good Friday, 7pm
- March 31st – Easter Sunday, with Communion
- April 4th – Rev. Britt away in Winnipeg
- April 5th & 6th – Bottle Drive, 10am-1pm
- April 17th – Vision Support Team, 5pm
- May 1st – Board Meeting
- May 17th – MCT Meeting
- May 26th – Congregational Meeting



BOTTLE DRIVE - Friday, April 5th & Saturday, April 6th @ 10am-1pm



It's time to save your bottles once again! Our next bottle drive will be Friday, April 5th and Saturday, April 6th with drop-off from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Half of proceeds will be donated to the Saffron Centre. Saffron Centre is located in Sherwood Park and offers counselling to those who have been impacted by Sexual Assault, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence.



MEDITATION CIRCLE - Online Wednesdays at 10am

Join Rev. Britt each Wednesday for Meditation Circle online.

You can access the online link [here](#) or from our website:

<https://www.salisburyunited.ca/>



FOOD BANK DONATIONS - ONGOING

We continue to accept food bank donations for the Strathcona County Food Bank. Please bring non-perishable items and drop them off in the yellow box under the coat rack in the Salisbury United Church Narthex (lobby).

For a list of most-needed items and special request items, please visit the Strathcona County Food Bank's website [HERE](#).

LAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS, DOOR GREETERS & COFFEE SET-UP HELPERS NEEDED

Each week we are looking for help from volunteers as lay worship assistants, door greeters, and help with setting-up before worship, for coffee.

Please check the sign-up sheet in the church lobby (narthex) each week, or call the church office to sign up!



TRUEARTH ONGOING FUNDRAISER

TruEarth is a Canadian company which sells environmentally friendly cleaning products for your laundry, kitchen, and bathroom. By purchasing any of "TruEarth's products, not only are you helping the environment, but Salisbury UC will also receive 20% commission from any online purchase made through our link:

<https://tru-earth.sjv.io/SalisburyUnitedChurch>

To place an order online, go to our website and click on our unique fundraising link, or access it here:

<https://tru-earth.sjv.io/SalisburyUnitedChurch>.

Or, place an order over the phone at **1-888-536-4211** – just be sure to mention your order is associated with the Salisbury United Church fundraiser program.



Our fundraiser will **earn 20% on every sale** made through our Tru Earth Fundraising link.

FREE SHIPPING

Free shipping is available for orders over \$50 **OR** any orders that are placed as a subscription.

MONTHLY ORDERS

For those of you who are not comfortable making purchases online we have a new option for you! Salisbury United Church will make an online order on the 30th of each month. Just send your order and money to Salisbury United Church by the 25th of each month and we will place an order on your behalf.

FINANCE CORNER - Update as of February 2024



Financial results for the first two months of 2024 are quite encouraging. Here are the year-to-date highlights compared to budget as of February 29th:

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income:	\$35,479.79	\$31,849.41
Expense:	\$35,782.18	\$52,086.82
	(\$302.39)	(\$20,237.41)

Net Income (total income less total expenses)

We essentially broke even versus a budgeted loss of \$20,200

Income (revenue)

\$3300 more than budgeted with Local Envelopes +\$2900 and Rentals +\$1300.

Expenses

\$16,300 less than budgeted with Repairs & Maintenance -\$1600, UCC Assessment -\$9500 (due to amortizing over 12 months versus entire amount budgeted in Feb).

Thanks for helping our new year get off to a solid start!

If you need any help with giving envelopes – new supply, pick-up, etc. – or other giving options (monthly giving through PAR, e-transfer or donating online through Canada Helps on the Salisbury Website), please contact: Brittany at the Church Office. Phone: 780-467-7310 E-Mail: salisburyuc@telus.net

LOCAL UNITED CHURCH & OTHER NEWS & EVENTS



INSPIRED WITH SONG @ Lendrum Mennonite Church



Saturday, April 6th @ 7pm & Sunday, April 7th @ 2pm

Te Deum Singers present "Inspired with Song", a choral concert to welcome spring. Held at Lendrum Mennonite Church (11210 - 59 Ave.). Free Parking & Free Admission. Donations welcome.

For more information, please see the poster in the Narthex (lobby).

SHERWOOD PARK UNITED CHURCH:

Spring Book Discussion - Monday, April 22nd at 6:30pm



Sherwood Park United Church spring book discussion of *The Pull of the Stars* by Emma Donoghue: "During the 1918 flu pandemic, nurse Julie works in an understaffed Dublin hospital, where expectant mothers are quarantined together."



For Additional Events and Connections with Sherwood Park United Church, please access their most recent Newsletter [HERE](#).

SPIRIT OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH - Jazz & Reflections - April 7th-May 5th

NEW

Starting Sunday, April 7th, Spirit of Hope United Church will begin its Spring Series of Jazz & Reflections. Admission is by donation at the door. Refreshments will be served. The series continues weekly, each Sunday afternoon (from 3:30 to 5pm), until May 5th with a different jazz performance and spiritual reflection each week. Spirit of Hope is located at 7909 82 Ave. NW, Edmonton. For additional details on the various jazz performers, please see the poster in the Narthex or call the office for more information.



NEW

ARDROSSAN UNITED CHURCH - Roast Beef Dinner - April 13th



Ardrossan United Church, located at 22 Main Street in Ardrossan, is hosting a Roast Beef Dinner on April 13th, with two settings: 4:45pm and 6:45pm. Tickets are \$30 for Adults, \$10 for Children (Under 6 Free). For tickets, call: Keith or Lauraine Barber at 780-464-7235

MILL WOODS UNITED CHURCH - Spring Soirée fundraiser - April 27th @ 7pm

NEW

Mill Woods United Church will be hosting a Spring Soirée fundraiser on Saturday, April 27th at 7:00pm. Located at 15 Grand Meadow Crescent. Admission is by donation at the door. The evening will be filled with entertainment by bell and church choirs, vocalists, storytellers, and a string quartet. The fundraiser will also include a silent auction with donated items that will be part of “themed” baskets. Everyone is welcome! There will be appetizers, desserts, coffee/tea and soft drinks. Wine and beer will be available for purchase throughout the evening. The monies raised will be used to support the work of Mill Woods United Church in the community, including their weekly Bread Run, community Clothing Bank, Prayer Shawl Ministry, & various other activities. **Please RSVP by Apr. 20th:** mwuc1@telus.net or 780-463-2202

STRATHCONA COUNTY NEWS

SHERWOOD PARK ALLIANCE CHURCH - Clothing Exchange - April 20th

NEW

Sherwood Park Alliance Church is hosting a clothing exchange on April 20th at 10:30am. Everyone is welcome! Location: 1101 Clover Bar Road. You do not need to donate to attend and everything is FREE! If you have items to donate, drop off is April 19th, starting from 4pm. Items accepted: men’s/women’s and children’s clothing, footwear, belts, purses, small household items, small children’s toys and books. Items not accepted: car seats, sports equipment, helmets, furniture, and damaged goods.

STRATHCONA COUNTY GOES GREEN WITH NEW ELECTRIC ICE RE-SURFACERS

NEW

(Source: excerpt from Strathcona.ca, published March 13, 2024)

Strathcona County has added three new state-of-the-art electric (EV) ice re-surfacers to its fleet, thanks in part to a grant from the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC). This represents another step on the County’s path to a greener future for the community. For the full article, click [HERE](#).



COUNTY RESIDENTS INVITED TO SHARE OPINIONS ON HEALTHY AGING

(Source: excerpt from *Strathcona.ca*, published March 5, 2024)

Launching in April, Strathcona County will use a variety of methods to capture the input of a representative sample of Strathcona County's older adults and better understand their diverse needs and priorities, including the need for a senior's hub in Sherwood Park.

Interested residents can read more online on the County's website [HERE](#) or sign up for project updates and be notified when the project opens by joining County Voice and following the Healthy Aging project at strathcona.ca/HealthyAging.

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA NATIONAL COUNCIL NEWS

THE MODERATOR'S EASTER MESSAGE NEW

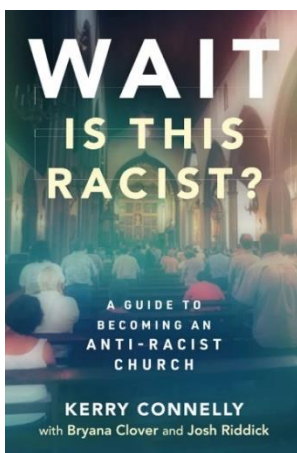
In her [Easter message](#), Moderator Carmen Lansdowne's hope for the church is that we will know that even in our deepest grief the risen Christ will show up, call us by name, and remind us that this is not the end of our story.

Watch it now on [The United Church of Canada's YouTube Channel](#).



[Image credit: The United Church of Canada/Moderator Carmen Lansdowne]

UNITED IN LEARNING: WAIT—IS THIS RACIST? WEBINAR NEW



Starting April 22, join a community of people from across the church who are exploring anti-racist practices! Together, over six sessions and with themes from the book [Wait—Is This Racist? A Guide to Becoming an Anti-Racist Church](#), we will explore practical ways of co-creating anti-racist congregations. As part of the first session, Kerry Connelly, the author of the book will join us.

Come as a community of faith team:

- Receive two copies of the book.
- Work together as a group on action plans.
- Create change in your congregation!

[Register](#) today, and find out more!

[Image credit: Wait—Is this Racist?]

YOUR MISSION AND SERVICE STORIES: PRESERVING CULTURE THROUGH LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION



Take a moment to think about your favourite story. Now imagine that story being at risk of disappearing because the language it's written in is endangered. This is something that nine Elders from Haida Gwaii, British Columbia, are [passionately trying to change](#). Your gifts to [Mission and Service](#) support programs and partnerships for Indigenous cultural revitalization around the world.



[Photo credit: Haida Gwaii Skidegate]

Thank you for your support of Salisbury United Church and congratulations for helping your church to meet ongoing ministry obligations.

[Click Here](#)

TO DONATE ON-LINE WITH CANADA HELPS



We are now set up to accept Interac ETransfers. If you are familiar with Etransfers, just use our email address salisburyuc@telus.net to send your donation.

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWS & EVENTS



A LETTER FROM OUR GROWTH ANIMATOR ON COMPOST



Prairies Growth Animator, Jordan Cantwell has written a letter reflecting on compost... *"To compost something is an act of faith... an affirmation of our belief in resurrection."* [Read the full letter here.](#)

THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OFFICE HAS MOVED - New Address is 8510 95 AVE NW



At the end of March, the Northern Spirit Regional Council Office moved to a smaller space.

The new mailing address is:
8510 95 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB T6C 1Y7

The new office number is:
1(800) 268-3781, Extension 6029

Email will not change: NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca.
If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out!

ADVANCE NOTICE: CALL FOR GENERAL COUNCIL 45 COMMISSIONERS

NEW

In 2025 we'll celebrate the United Church's 100th birthday and see a return to an in-person General Council in Calgary. It's going to be a big and busy year. Important preparation for the 45th meeting of the General Council will include the election of General Council Commissioners, who serve a three-year term, attend the in-person meeting, and attend multiple online meetings through those three years as part of the overall governance of our church. Your Regional Nominations Committee will soon launch a process for identifying people who wish to stand for election, which takes place at their Regional Council meeting. For now, [here's the description of a Commissioner's role](#) for your discernment pleasure. Please share it freely.

EARTH WEEK IS COMING: HERE ARE SOME OPPORTUNITIES

NEW

[Earth Week – 2024 – For the Love of Creation](#), April 21-28, 2024: events, resources, and more at the link! And: Climate Motivators Program. Do you know a young adult who could help the church live into its climate justice commitments? Please tell them about a paid opportunity through the national church's [The GO Project – Engaging faith-based curriculum for children and youth](#).



FOR THE LOVE OF CREATION

Deadline is April 15, 2024.

SAVE THE DATE! 2024 Regional Annual Meeting: MAY 2ND & 9TH ONLINE

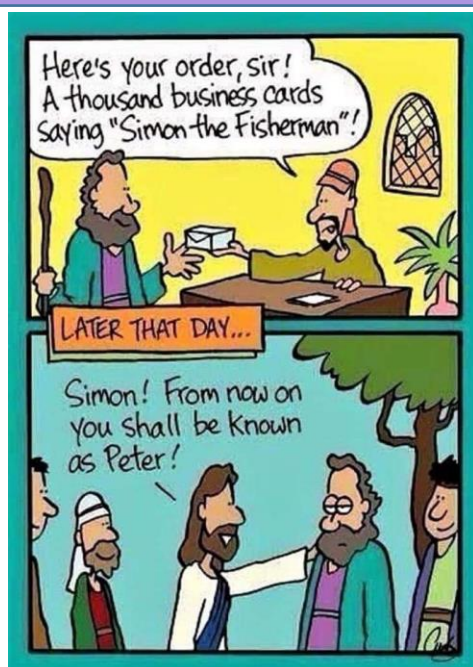
The 2024 Northern Spirit Regional Council Meeting will be held on the evenings of May 2 and May 9, online, via Zoom, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Planning is in progress – [check for updates on the website page, here](#).



NORTHERN SPIRIT WEBSITE

Northern Spirit has a website! Go to www.northernspiritrc.ca for more information.

TODAY'S FUNNIES



The entire Bible explained in one Facebook post.

This guy nails it.

Genesis

God: All right, you two, don't do the one thing.

Other than that, have fun.

Adam and Eve: OK.

Satan: You should do the thing.

Adam and Eve: OK.

God: What happened?

Adam and Eve: We did the thing.

God: Guys ...

The rest of the Old Testament

God: You are my people, and you should not do

the things.

People: We won't do the things.

God: Good.

People: We did the things.

God: Guys ...

The Gospels

Jesus: I am the Son of God, and even though you have done the things, the Father and I still love you and want you to live. Don't do the things anymore.

Healed people: OK! Thank you!

Other people: We've never seen him do the things, but he probably does the things when no one is looking.

Jesus: I have never done the things.

Other people: We're going to put you on trial for doing the things.

Pilate: Did you do the things?

Jesus: No.

Pilate: He didn't do the things.

Other people: Kill him anyway.

Pilate: OK.

Jesus: Guys...

Paul's letters

People: We did the things.

Paul: Jesus still loves you, and because you love

Him, you have to stop doing the things.

People: OK.

Paul's letters, Part II

People: We did the things again.

Paul: Guys ...

The Revelation

John: When Jesus comes back, there will be no

more people who do the things. In the

meantime, stop doing the things.

The end



RECOGNITION OF LAND



We worship with respect on land where people have lived, prayed, and held ceremonies since long before Canada was a nation. This is Treaty Six Territory, and we affirm the traditional relationship of the Cree, Blackfoot, Déne, Assiniboine, Nakota and later the Métis people with this land, along with our ongoing treaty relationship with each other.

RECOGNITION OF MEMBERSHIP



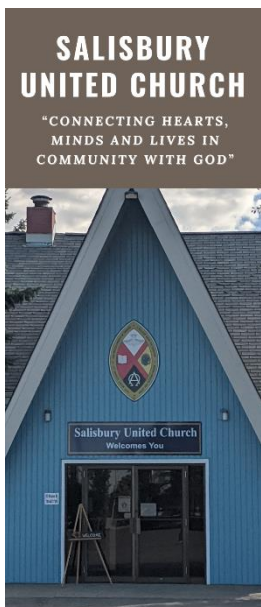
*Salisbury United Church is a member of the Northern Spirit Regional Council and the United Church of Canada.

WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN QR CODE

We have posted a QR code on the door of the sanctuary. When you arrive for worship, you can scan the QR code on your cell phone and it will appear in your downloads for you to use. We also e-mail our bulletin each week for those who prefer to print one at home and bring it with them.



WELCOMING VISITORS TO SALISBURY UNITED CHURCH NEW



If you notice an unfamiliar face or have invited a visitor to Salisbury United Church during one of our worship services, would you kindly direct them to our “Welcome” information brochure (at left) or the Worship Service “Program Flow” insert (at right)? Both are available on the table in the Narthex.

Doing so will help all guests feel welcomed and included. Not only do these informative guides provide important information about the Church and our Worship Services, but it also gives us an opportunity to extend a heartfelt *Welcome* to all guests of Salisbury United Church.

Thank you for your hospitality!



Program Flow

Welcome & Announcements
Hymn Medley
Call to Prayer
Welcoming the Light of Christ
Passing of the Peace
Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer
Discovery Time
Scripture Readings
Sermon
Offering
Prayers for the Journey*
Saying Goodbye to the Light of Christ
Blessing

*Replaced with The Sacrament of Communion during a Communion Service

Salisbury United Church E-mail Addresses

Church Office Administrator:

salisburyuc@telus.net

Rev. Britt's email:

revvedtoo@gmail.com

Contact Us:

2 Mission Street, Sherwood Park, T8A 0V3

Church Office: 780-467-7310

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday

9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



Minister:
Rev. Britt Aerhart



Music Coordinator:
Lucienne Holzman



Church Office Administrator:
Brittany Pelletier