



Salisbury United Church

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

*"Why do you search for the
living among the dead? He is
not here. He is risen!"*

(Luke 24:5-6)

April 2025 E-News

SOMETHING TO PONDER BY REV BRITT

*Some of the Pharisees in the crowds said, "Rabbi, tell your disciples to pipe down!"
"I tell you," Jesus replied, "even if they did keep quiet, the very stones of the city would cry out!"
(Luke 19:39-40)*

It has been more than 15 years since I travelled to the birthplace of Christianity as part of a United Church study delegation. One of the accompanying United Church ministers, Desmond "Des" Jagger-Parsons, had previously spent some time as an Ecumenical Accompanier in Palestine/Israel. Ecumenical Accompaniers, when requested by local churches, are sent out by the World Council of Churches, of which the United Church of Canada is a member. Their job is to take up residence in different conflicted areas in Israel/Palestine where a visible Christian presence can buffer residents from violence or advocate for peace. Des, who is also a former lawyer, was an invaluable guide during my visit because of the strength of his lived perspectives about faith, the law and what constitutes justice and peace.

Palm Sunday and Holy Week are just around the corner, and this year I find myself relying on Des's reflections about the role of the crowds in the Palm Sunday story.

In a 2019 article Des wrote, "It is tempting to follow every wagon that pulls out, shouting platitudes and joining in the chorus of those with whom we have sympathy, without examination." This is the downside of being drawn into a crowd. We can stop examining why we are on-side with whatever the crowd is part of. We stop gathering evidence and get by on hearsay. We just go along with what "they" say. As a "fellow disciple following the One who leads us," Des wrote, "the thing that has garnered my deepest respect is diligent respect for evidence."

For Des, evidence is what helps those who would follow Christ to recognize him when he is present. Evidence is our witness to "the shocking courage of the One who will not turn from the cross," who "walks by my door on a humble donkey".

Where is such evidence found in the world? Des tells the following story:

It was a short few moments, in a truck owned by a Roman Catholic Bishop, loaned to a United Church of Christ in the Philippines Pastor and a Bishop of the Independent Church of the Philippines. It was there that I listened to Bishop Ablon talk about the need for the church to stand against the impunity of corruption in his country that **I glimpsed for a second what it would be like to feel that shock and compulsion to follow, that those first witnesses of Jesus must have felt.** For a few minutes, I tasted what church was meant to be and its raw power. I witnessed the shocking courage of our partners who literally face peril to their bodies in their courage against injustice.

In other words, evidence that leads to faith is not found in the palm-waving crowd that is so temporary. Evidence comes from the endurance of the community of faith which exists beyond the crowd. It is found in the courage to do good in spite of the overwhelming presence of opposition and discouragement. It is in the on-the-ground actions of those who take a different stance from the crowd, doing unto others as they would be done by.

I am grateful to know Des, who now lives in Newfoundland. He gives me a lot to think about in terms of what really testifies to a living faith and a living God. I, and I suspect all of us, need to remember that there are so many people of faith around the world whose lives are evidence of the goodness of God, who make visible the Holy Presence when we are not sure how to point to it in our own lives. I also find that Des' prayer for himself is a prayer we may all want to say as we move through these days, as we come to Palm Sunday this year. "For me, when the Christ appears in my town, when it is time to scatter my coat across the road, and shout without shame, "Glory to God in the Highest Heaven," ... I hope I am like the stones who cannot but shout out."

This Palm Sunday it is not the palms we wave that are really important. What is important is the way we move on in faith with or without the palms in our hands, the way we are like a city of stones who rise from the depths and give voice to the presence of God even though many remain silent or are caught up in crowd politics.

A city of singing stones ... that is one way of thinking about being the church that we are and that we are to be in time to come.

A blessed Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter to you all.

UPCOMING DATES:

- April 12th – Board Retreat
- April 13th – Palm Sunday
- April 18th – Good Friday, 7pm (OFFICE CLOSED)
- April 20th – Easter Sunday, with Communion
- April 23rd – Rev. Britt away the week after Easter
- April 30th – Board Meeting
- May (TBD) – MCT Meeting
- May 10th – Roast Beef Dinner, 6pm
- May 15th – Worship Committee, 2pm
- May 25th – Congregational Meeting, Annual Report
- June – 100th Anniversary Month
- June 8th – Anniversary Service



BOTTLE DRIVE - THANK YOU!

NEW



Our recent bottle drive was held despite the snow and cold. Many bags of bottles, cans and other empties were collected! Although final tallies are not yet in, half of the proceeds will be donated to The United Church of Canada Philanthropy Unit – Ukraine Emergency Response. The United Church of Canada has supported ACT (Action by Churches Together) Alliance's efforts to deliver essential aid to displaced Ukrainians. Thank you for your generous support to make our bottle drive fundraiser a success for our church and for providing critical support and resources to those in Ukraine!

PURDY'S CHOCOLATE EASTER FUNDRAISER - IMPORTANT UPDATE

NEW

Thank you to all those who supported our Purdy's Chocolate Easter Fundraiser. We successfully raised over \$400! A great BIG Thank You for your orders and for sharing our fundraiser with family, friends and neighbours!

Please note that orders can be picked up at the church on Thursday, April 10th from 4:00-5:00pm. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.



ROAST BEEF DINNER - IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS!

NEW

The Fundraising Committee is planning a Roast Beef Supper on May 10th at 6pm in the lower hall. In order to make it a successful event, we need volunteers to sign up by April 6th! Sign-up sheets are available in the Narthex. We have 20 volunteer positions filled and are looking for several more. More information on the Dinner to follow once we have enough volunteers.

"FILL THE PEW" LENTEN FOOD DRIVE - MARCH 9TH - APRIL 13TH

NEW

In partnership with JA1 Sherwood Park and Sherwood Park Seventh-Day Adventist Church, we are participating in a Food Drive this Lent. Please donate canned goods and other non-perishable items in the yellow bins set out on the pew in the Narthex. Monetary donations are also encouraged. You can donate directly to the [Strathcona Food Bank](#) or Corrine Cheng will collect cash or cheque donations and deliver them to the Food Bank. Lenten Food Drive donations for the Food Bank will be collected until April 13th. Thank you for your generous support of our community!



SAVE THE DATE! MODERATOR'S FLOURISHING WORKSHOP - Saturday, May 3rd

NEW



The members of the Collaborative Committee, invite you on behalf of Salisbury United to join with representatives of Sherwood Park United to spend the day with The Right Reverend Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator of the UCC, on Saturday, May 3, 2025. Details are in the poster in the Narthex, with more information to follow in the coming weeks.

We hope to have several folks from each congregation register and engage together in reflection about what it means to be individual flourishing United churches in Sherwood Park and how we might bring collaborative solutions to the challenges facing our community and the world.

If you are interested in attending on behalf of Salisbury, please contact the Church office or Lucille Birkett or Corrine Cheng.



MEDITATION CIRCLE - In-Person on Wednesdays at 10am

Join Rev. Britt in-person each Wednesday at 10am for Meditation Circle in the Church's Meditation Room. Details and updates on meditation circle will be posted on our [website](#).

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. To place an order, please go to our [unique fundraising link](#). As always, Salisbury UC earns 20% on every sale!

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 2025

Financial results for the first two months of 2025 are quite encouraging. Our Net Income (total income less total expenses) is “in the black”, compared to a budgeted deficit. The difference between our actual net income vs. budgeted net income is nearly \$19,000!

| | ACTUAL | BUDGET |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Income: | \$43,694.39 | \$40,743.66 |
| Expense: | \$38,704.59 | \$54,745.84 |
| | \$4,989.80 | (\$14,002.18) |

This was in part due to income higher than budgeted, with Local Envelopes +\$777, Investment Income +\$1600 and Rentals +\$2448. As well, our expenses were less than budgeted with Property expenses -\$5217 and UCC Assessment -\$9372 (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

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.

LOCAL UNITED CHURCH & OTHER NEWS & EVENTS



SONGS OF JOY @ Lendrum Mennonite Church

NEW

Saturday, April 5th @ 7pm & Sunday, April 6th @ 2pm

Te Deum Singers present "Songs of Joy", a choral concert including Beethoven's Hallelujah Chorus. 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:

CHAIR YOGA - Wednesdays at 10:30am

NEW

Join us for an hour of gentle stretching and relaxing breathing on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Each session is \$10.00. For further details contact: Lesley Ratcliff – ratclifl@telus.net or Diane Porter – dianep.porter@gmail.com.



SoulCollage® - Friday, April 4th from 9:00am to 12:00pm

NEW

Join us for a beginner course in SoulCollage® on Friday, April 4, from 9 AM to 12 PM at Sherwood Park United Church. This workshop promises a creative and fun experience as you learn to build a deck of your own cards using collage techniques and is inspired by the method founded by Seena Frost, which integrates art and self-discovery.



Margaret, our SoulCollage® facilitator, will guide you through the process. All necessary materials for creating your collage cards will be provided. Just bring your enthusiasm and an open mind! Cost is \$60. To register for the course, please contact Margaret 780-467-6656 or margaretlangston@telus.net

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



SAVE THE DATE - UCC 100th Anniversary Sunday, June 8th

NEW

St. Paul's is hosting a 100th Anniversary celebration at Fort Edmonton Park on June 8th, 2025 and you are invited to join us! Save the date for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada with the Edmonton and surrounding area cluster at Fort Edmonton Park. The celebration includes Fort Edmonton Park admission discount, worship service at McDougall Methodist, and cake! *Organized thanks to a grant by Northern Spirit Regional Council* and hosted by: St. Paul's United Church, 11526 76 Ave. NW, Edmonton.

SPIRIT OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH

NEW

Jazz & Reflections - Sundays from March 30-May 4

Spirit of Hope United Church invites you to join them for their Spring Jazz & Reflections series each Sunday from 3:30pm to 5:00pm, beginning March 30th and going until May 4th. Admission by donation. Spirit of Hope is located at 7909 82 Ave. NW, Edmonton.

JAZZ & REFLECTIONS

ADMISSION BY DONATION

| | |
|----------|-----------------------|
| MARCH 30 | PJ PERRY QUARTET |
| APRIL 6 | MALLORY CHIPMAN TRIO |
| APRIL 13 | KENT SANGSTER QUARTET |
| APRIL 27 | ARETHA TILLOTSON TRIO |
| MAY 4 | DANA ANDERSON TRIO |

3:30 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

SPIRIT OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH

7909 82 AVENUE NW
EDMONTON, AB T6C 0Y1

CHALMERS-CASTLE DOWNS UNITED CHURCH - RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

NEW



Saturday, April 26th from 10am-3pm

Chalmers-Castle Downs United Church, located at 12315 132 Ave. NW, Edmonton, invites you to their Spring Rummage & Bake Sale! The sale runs on Saturday, April 26th from 10 am to 3 pm and will feature books, toys, small appliances, décor, household items, games and kitchen supplies...along with delicious baked goods!

SHERWOOD PARK ALLIANCE CHURCH - Clothing Exchange Saturday, May 3rd

NEW



Sherwood Park Alliance Church is hosting a clothing exchange on May 3rd 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 May 2nd, from 4-9pm and May 3rd, from 7:30-11:30am. 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.

EDMONTON GRANDMOTHERS FABULOUS FABRIC FRENZY SALE - April 26th

NEW

A HUGE selection of fabric, yarn, notions, and craft supplies at rock bottom prices. This will be our only fabric sale this year - we hope to see you there!!!
Saturday, April 26 2025 from 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Strathearn United Church 8510 - 95 Avenue, Edmonton
\$2 admission (cash only). Payment for purchases by cash, credit or debit.

Details on the poster in the Narthex.



SHERWOOD CARE BAKE SALE - Thursday, April 17th

NEW

Mark your calendars!

On Thursday, April 17th, Sherwood Care located at 2020 Brentwood Blvd. in Sherwood Park, will be hosting a delightful Easter Bake Sale, to raise funds for important initiatives.



We invite everyone to contribute their favorite baked goods and help spread the word for a great turnout. Volunteers are also needed to assist with organizing and managing the event. Sign-up online: <https://forms.gle/XLASHQMXLgZLVw2Y9>.

Let's make this a memorable and meaningful occasion for all. We look forward to seeing you there!

STRATHCONA COUNTY NEWS

COUNTY LAUNCHES EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM

NEW

(Source: excerpt from Strathcona.ca, published March 12, 2025)

On April 1, 2025, the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program will go into effect in Strathcona County. As part of the program residents will see expanded recycling options, including plastic clamshell containers and plastic takeout containers, and receive a credit on their utility bills. For the full article, click [HERE](#).



THE COUNTDOWN IS ON TO THE 2026 ALBERTA SUMMER GAMES

NEW

(Source: excerpt from Strathcona.ca, published March 3, 2025)

Strathcona County will host the 25th Alberta Summer Games from July 16 to 19, 2026. Around 5,000 participants are expected to take part in the competitions and festivities.

The 13 sports that will be hosted throughout Strathcona County and neighbouring sites are athletics, basketball, baseball, beach volleyball, canoeing/kayaking, golf, lacrosse, mountain biking, rugby, soccer, softball, swimming and tennis. For more information on the Alberta Summer Games, visit the County's website to read the full article [HERE](#).



UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA NATIONAL COUNCIL NEWS

TOGETHER FOR THE LOVE OF CREATION EARTH WEEK 2025

NEW



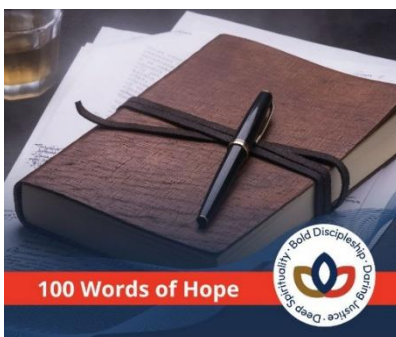
Moderator Carmen Lansdowne invites you to [take bold action for climate justice!](#) Join The United Church of Canada and faith partners for "Together for the Love of Creation Earth Week 2025" being held April 20 - 27.



Coming together for the love of creation is a way to connect, grow, listen, inspire hope, and affect change. Your activity could be visibly joining a community-wide event or creating something new. This is a chance to reach out to other faith communities and neighbours in your climate justice initiatives. These times when we are having to respond to multiple crises at once and powers are seeking to divide and polarize us, we are called to hopeful action that will bring people together. Engage in powerful cross-country events focused on prayer, education, and advocacy.

Explore these initiatives and many more, including making climate justice a federal election priority—[read the full news story](#).

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]



100 WORDS OF HOPE

NEW

A minister in the early church, Paul, said it well for me, "No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation can ever separate us from the love of God, revealed in Christ Jesus..."

*Two-thousand years ago or today, this is world-changing. Even in moments when humankind's worst impulses are enormous, there is a real, vital, overwhelming impulse that draws us towards healing and wholeness - God's love - and there is **nothing** that can stop it.*

(continued on next page...)

It may be hard to believe, it takes a lot of work, but we live in that hope.

—The Very Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, Grace United Church, Burlington, ON

Feeling anxious about our world right now? So are we. But we know there is hope.

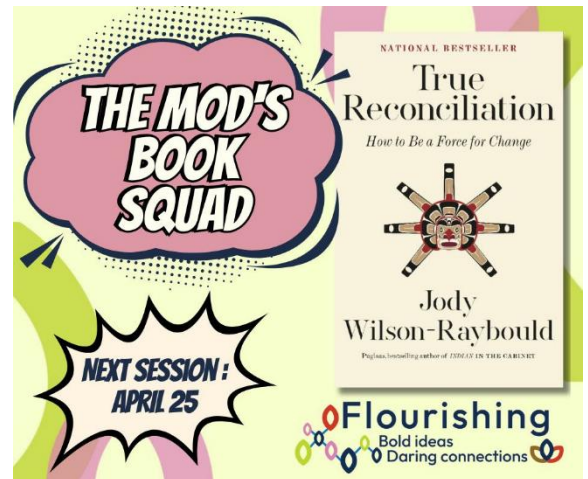
We've invited United Church leaders to share "100 Words of Hope" that speak to these moments of high anxiety, and that lean into deep spirituality. We also invite YOU to share your own 100-word reflection, poem, or prayer on hope and faith in these times. Submit your reflection or prayer using [this form](#).

Together, we can lift each other up in faith, hope, and love. We are not alone. We live in God's world.

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]

THE UNITED CHURCH BOOKSTORE: NEW
BE A FORCE OF CHANGE AT THE NEXT MOD'S BOOK SQUAD!

On Thursday, April 25, 2025 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. ET, join Moderator Carmen Lansdowne and special guest Lori Ransom as they discuss the book [True Reconciliation: How to be a Force for Change](#) by former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Jody Wilson-Raybould in the next Mod's Book Squad session.



Broken down into three core practices—Learn, Understand, and Act—what individuals and organizations need to do to advance true reconciliation is self-evident, accessible, and achievable.

Register on [CHURCHx](#), and use discount code **MODSQUAD** for 15% off your purchase of two or more [Mod's Book Squad featured books](#).

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: CENTENNIAL WORSHIP SERVICE ON JUNE 8, 2025



[Photo credit: Gower St. United Church, St. John's, NL]

Join us on June 8, 2025 at Gower St. United Church in St. John's, NL, for a historic day marking the 100th anniversary of The United Church of Canada. The Centennial Worship service will be livestreamed, allowing people from across Canada to participate in real time.

Consider hosting a watch party at your church to connect with fellow congregants and celebrate this milestone together.

A special worship service is also being prepared for communities of faith to mark this historic occasion. Stay tuned for more information by visiting our [Centennial webpage](#) and subscribing to the [Centennial newsletter](#). Other activities are planned for June, so stay tuned for further details!



2025 AGM: SAVE THE DATE! NEW

2025 AGM: Save the date! for the 2025 in-person Regional Annual Meeting, which will be held May 29 - June 1, at Riverbend United Church, Edmonton. Registration will open soon!



**FLOURISHING DAY OF IMAGINATION AND WORK WITH
MODERATOR CARMEN LANSDOWNE - MAY 3RD ALL
DAY @ SOUTHMINSTER-STEINHAUER UNITED CHURCH**

All in Northern Spirit Regional Council are invited to spend a day with the Moderator, engaging in reflection and energizing activities toward dream-oriented actions for our churches and communities. You're invited to create a team from your ministry whether in person or online so that your ministry can create plans grounded in a belief that, despite all the challenges of church life in this day and age, we can move from despair to transformation – from languishing to flourishing.

[Click here for details and registration.](#)

GC CROSS-COUNTRY CHECK-IN: NEW
APRIL 2, 6 PM EST, ONLINE

All are invited to an informal, thoughtful national town hall on April 2 at 6:00 p.m. with Rev. Michael Blair, and guests from the General Council Executive – live online. Everyone is welcome.

[Register here on CHURCHx.](#) Facilitated by: Treena Duncan, Regional Executive Minister, Pacific Mountain Regional Council.



FROM THE EDGES TO THE CENTRE: BLACK VOICES SHAPING THE CHURCH, NEW
THURSDAY, APRIL 10TH AT 12pm MST (90 min.)



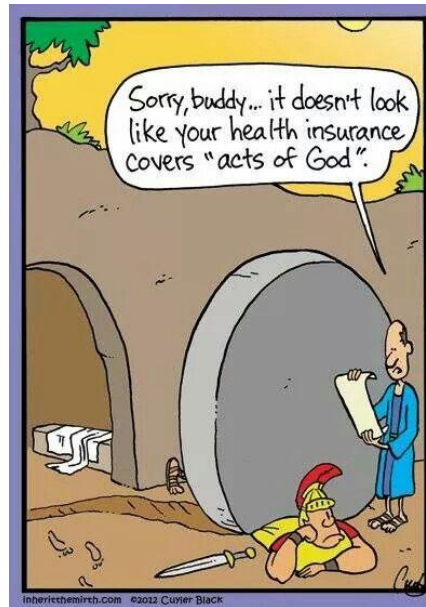
People of African descent and other ethnocultural groups have long contributed to the life and mission of the church, yet their voices have often been overlooked or sidelined. From the Edges to the Centre challenges us to recognize, amplify, and embrace Black leadership in shaping the future of the church. Here at the 100th anniversary of the United Church, where do the vision and practice of intercultural ministry challenge the church from local to global? Join the Western Intercultural Ministries Network for an interactive presentation and community conversation with Rev Franklyn James, co-chair of the Black Clergy Network. [Click here for all details.](#)



NORTHERN SPIRIT WEBSITE

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

TODAY'S FUNNIES



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



NORTHERN SPIRIT
REGIONAL COUNCIL
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



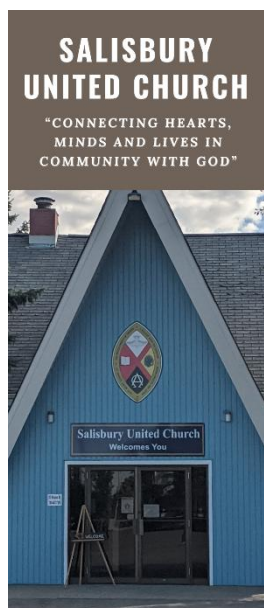
*Salisbury United Church is a member of the Northern Spirit Regional Council and the United Church of Canada.

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



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