



# Salisbury United Church

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



## December 2023 E-News

### *SOMETHING TO PONDER BY REV BRITT*

Our annual Advent season is about to begin. In our church services we will light the candles on the Advent wreath and count the weeks until Christmas day. The candlelight representing gifts of hope, peace, joy and love will spiral up in our prayers and preparations as a blessing.

And yet, perhaps you, like me, have a sense of, well, duller expectations this year? Given the trauma and tensions in the world around us, given the way the earth is aching for a bit of good snow right now so that it can properly rest, the idea of Christmas itself seems a bit far away.

It's the mood of the season, I am talking about I suppose, more than anything. Is it possible to announce hope, peace, joy and love when their evidence is less abundant? Is it the reality we are pointing to in Advent, or the faithful expectation that in God these things have real substance, real presence, in human life?

This morning the sun shining through the balcony window is brilliant and warm on my face. A blessing. My son made me breakfast tortillas - I can say I was tickled and nicely surprised. My old dog who is mostly blind still tries to bet me to throw her chew stick around the living room. Such small goodnesses are sustaining blessing in the ordinary cycles of the everyday world.

But then there comes a time for something more powerful to break through. Something to reach across the great distance of the world's disconnect from hope, peace, joy and love. Something to reach through our sense of mood or expectation. Something that is independent of these things and can transcend them.

What Advent brings us is the opportunity to hear the message, "He comes." We don't create this coming nor do we inspire it by our disposition. Rather, the One Who Comes is coming now and soon, however we may be within ourselves. As the weeks of Advent pass we become more attuned to the meaning of the message. He comes. As he came once long ago in a humble birth, and he comes again, now. His coming is sure, certain even. We have but to wait and watch as we are, and Christ will surely arrive in time for us to celebrate his birth and welcome him in.

May yours be a slow and blessed Advent this year and may you find yourself warming up to his coming as the time approaches.

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## UPCOMING DATES:

- December 17<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Dessert Potluck
- December 20<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> – Church Office Administrator away, modified office hours
- December 21<sup>st</sup> – Memorial Tree Service, **7pm**
- December 24<sup>th</sup> – Family Carol Sing, **10am**; Candlelight & Communion, **7pm**
- January – Rev. Britt away
- February 11<sup>th</sup> – Pancake Brunch



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## CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL TREE LIGHTING

We will be holding a Christmas Memorial Tree Service again on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm. If you are interested in honoring the memory of a friend or relative on this occasion, please complete the form available in the Narthex and deposit it into the collection plate, along with a monetary donation of your choice, on any Sunday between now and December 17<sup>th</sup>. During the Memorial Tree Service, we will be singing Christmas Carols and reading out the names of our loved ones. After the service there will be hot refreshments served in the Narthex followed by everyone going outside (weather permitting) for the tree lighting and to sing Silent Night.



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## CHRISTMAS EVE AT SALISBURY

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year. Come in the morning for our 4th Advent service with extra Christmas Carolling. The evening service will be at 7 pm and will include candles, carols and communion. A blessed Advent and Christmas to all!



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## SALISBURY ADVENT GIVING PROJECT

The No Room in the Inn campaign this year is in support of A Safe Place. A Safe Place is a residential facility, opened in 1984, for those who are escaping intimate or family violence. It is located in Sherwood Park. A recent review of their facility found major and unexpected issues with the roof.

[Click here to view the poster with full details](#). We are collecting separate donations for No Room in the Inn. These donations can be sent via e-transfer, Canada Helps or by separate envelope.



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## TEA & BAKE SALE SUCCESS!



Thank you to all those who attended, donated or helped set-up for our Tea & Bake Sale on Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. Many goodies were purchased in support of our church and some wonderful door prizes were won! An update on the amount raised will follow in the coming weeks; so, thanks again to all those who participated in making this a successful event!

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## UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA 2024 CALENDARS

We have placed a small bulk order for the 2024 UC Canadian Church Calendars. If you are interested in purchasing one for \$7.50, please contact the office and we will notify you when they are ready for pick-up.



The theme of this year's calendar is the United Church's Call and Vision: Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice and features photos of United Churches from across the country and notes special days and church seasons.

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## MEDITATION CIRCLE

Join Rev. Britt each Wednesday for Mediation Circle online.

You can access the online link [here](https://www.salisburyunited.ca/) or from our website:

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

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## 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](#).**

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## 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 FUNDRAISER - Sale from Nov 1-Dec 10

Our ongoing fundraiser with TruEarth, a Canadian company which sells environmentally friendly cleaning products for your laundry, kitchen, and bathroom, is having a sale that runs from Nov 1st to Dec 10th and features some awesome bundles for amazing prices, so you won't want to miss a chance to support our fundraiser! As always, Salisbury UC earns 20% on every sale made through our fundraising link:

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



## BUY 1, GET 1, GIVE 1

When you buy one item, you will get the second for FREE and we will donate the third item to charity.

NOV 1-DEC 10, 2023



Also, new this year, TruEarth is offering a weekly Buy One, Get One, Give One - When you buy one item, you get the second item for Free that you can either use yourself or give to someone you know. And TruEarth will donate a third item to charity!

To place an order online, go to our unique fundraising link: <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.

### 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 30<sup>th</sup> of each month. Just send your order and money to Salisbury United Church by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month and we will place an order on your behalf.

## FINANCE CORNER - Update as of October 2023

|          | ACTUAL        | BUDGET        |
|----------|---------------|---------------|
| Income:  | \$181,021.91  | \$168,678.98  |
| Expense: | \$212,758.99  | \$192,234.25  |
|          | (\$31,737.08) | (\$23,575.27) |

Primarily due to ongoing inflationary pressures, Salisbury's deficit after the first 10 months of 2023 increased to -\$31,700. Though income was \$12,300 above budget, repair and maintenance expenses exceeded budget by about \$21,800, including one-time expenses such as the church lighting project and the fire alarm system upgrade.

Last year at this time our deficit totalled -\$18,500. We went on to finish 2022 with a surplus of +7,300 – a turnaround of \$25,800!

Our financial challenge is considerably larger this year. With just two months to go, we all need to pitch in if we're going to finish the year in the black. Judging by the way we rallied last year, we can do it. Thanks for doing your part!

**Thank you for your continuing support of Salisbury United Church.**

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](mailto:salisburyuc@telus.net)

***SPIRIT WEST UNITED CHURCH: Morning Star Christmas Concert, DEC 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7pm***

The Spirit West UC Choir is excited to say they are preparing for a Christmas Concert to be held on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023 at 7:00pm. This is our first Christmas Concert since COVID! Titled "MORNING STAR", this production is a story of hope, in word and music, to remind us of the Light of the World, Jesus Christ. We hope to see YOU there! Featuring: voice, piano, flute, harp and percussion. Donations will be directed to the Ministry of SWUC, located at 7003 – 199 Street NW, Edmonton.

NEW***MILL WOODS UNITED CHURCH: Christmas Craft Market, DEC 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10am-4pm***

With over 50 vendors, Mill Woods United Church is hosting their Christmas Craft Market on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10 am to 4 pm. The Christmas Market has been happening for over two decades. We have a variety of vendors selling items from handmade products to commercial vendors such as Norwex and Epicure on both floors of our church. There is usually a hot lunch with soup put together by our Heavenly Hospitality group for purchase at the downstairs concession on the date of the sale. Entry to our sale is by donation. This fundraiser supports the life and work of our Mill Woods United church (15 Grand Meadow Crescent) in the community of Mill Woods. [Click here](#) to see all our vendors

***SHERWOOD PARK UNITED CHURCH:***NEW***White Gift Sunday, DEC 3<sup>rd</sup>***

Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> is White Gift Sunday. We are collecting the following to bring joy to families in need. The mitten tree will be set up for Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> to accommodate the mitts, hats and scarves that you have created.

New unwrapped gifts for infants, children and youth:

- Infants (0-2) musical toys, rattles, shape stackers, board books
- Children (3-11) picture books, graphic novels, basketball, soccer ball, craft or science set, puzzles, art supplies, dolls, building toys, vehicle toys, animal toys
- Youth (12+) gift cards, sporting goods, sealed cosmetics, board games/puzzles and art supplies

**Please NO plush toys/used toys or books/clothing/food or candy.**

***Seniors Christmas Lunch, DEC 12<sup>th</sup> at noon***NEW

Enjoy good food, fun and Fellowship at the Seniors Christmas Lunch, scheduled for Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Limited tickets are available at \$25 each. See Dianne and/or Mary for tickets at coffee time after church.

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

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NEW

***SOUTHMINSTER-STEINHAUER UNITED CHURCH: Blue Christmas, DEC 13<sup>th</sup>, 7pm***

SSUC's Blue Christmas gathering is Wednesday, December 13th at 7:00 pm, in person at 10740-19 Ave NW Edmonton and streamed on our website at [ssucedmonton.com/live](https://ssucedmonton.com/live).

***ROBERTSON WESLEY UNITED CHURCH: Blue Christmas, DEC 17<sup>th</sup>, 7pm***

NEW

Christmas is a holy time that is not always happy. It brings up so many memories that heighten our feelings of grief or sadness, pain or loneliness. Blue Christmas is a service of quiet reflection, remembrance, and peace. Everyone is welcome. 10209 123 Street, Edmonton.

**STRATHCONA COUNTY NEWS*****STEVE BELL IN CONCERT: December 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm***

NEW

Christian singer-songwriter Steve Bell will be in Sherwood Park for a Solo Concert on Sunday, December 10th, 7:00pm at Sherwood Park Alliance Church (1011 Clover Bar Rd.). Tickets \$25. Visit [www.stevebell.com/events](http://www.stevebell.com/events) for more info.

***CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY: December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10am-4pm***

NEW

Get in the Christmas spirit with country markets and activities for the whole family in south rural Strathcona County. For a full list of participating locations and details on the fireworks celebration afterward, please visit [Go East of Edmonton](http://GoEastofEdmonton.com).

***JOSEPHBURG CHORAL SOCIETY: Christmas Concert, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7pm***

NEW

Josephburg Choral Society presents "Good News, Christmas Is Coming with Bells Ringing and Voices Singing". Sunday, December 3, 7pm at Sherwood Park United Church. Admission: Adults \$20, Youth 12 and under are free. Tickets at the door. A second performance will also be held on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in Fort Saskatchewan at the Dow Centennial Centre.

***SNOWBUSTERS: Looking for Volunteers***

Being a part of your community can be as simple as helping a neighbour. Help a senior and/or person with a disability clear their sidewalk and driveway of snow this winter season – Volunteer Today! Please contact Dianna with Volunteer Strathcona at 780-464-4248 for more information.

**UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA NATIONAL COUNCIL NEWS*****40 DAYS ON ANTI-RACISM RESOURCES***

NEW

As this year's 40 Days on Anti-Racism study comes to an end, we wanted to remind you of the resources related to Indigenous Justice and Reconciliation. These include video sessions on [race-shifting](#) with Dr. Darryl Leroux, [environmental racism](#) with Dr. Ingrid Waldon, and [Indigenous identity in the church](#), with leadership from the United Church and the Anglican Church of Canada. There's also lots of good [written material](#) as well, and these resources are available year-round...not just for 40 days!



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## MISSION AND SERVICE STORIES: WHAT DID JESUS DO?

NEW

The question “[What would Jesus do?](#)”—often shortened to the acronym “WWJD?”—has graced wrist bands, T-shirts, and bumper stickers since the 1990s. And while it might sound like an overused cliché, it’s a question that can lead our spirit and, by extension, our lives to profound transformation.

Mission and Service is one of our church’s best answers to the question “What would Jesus do?” Read more at [United Church website](#).



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## ADVENT UNWRAPPED 2023!

NEW

Every week from now until Christmas, [Advent Unwrapped](#) will be sharing a round-up of resources to help us all engage with the reason for the season. Be sure to [sign up for the newsletter](#) and join our [Facebook](#) group, where you can share links to resources, ideas, and inspirations that have inspired you.



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**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](mailto:salisburyuc@telus.net) to send your donation.

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## UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWS & EVENTS



## TREATY LAND SHARING NETWORK ON THE ALBERTA SIDE OF TREATY SIX- LANDHOLDERS SOUGHT

NEW

The [Treaty Land Sharing Network](#) is thrilled to announce that they will be formally **expanding to the Alberta side of Treaty 6 in 2024**. “Since shortly after we launched in 2021 we have been in discussion with a committed group of people there who have formed an Alberta working group, and, earlier this year, completed a successful pilot project in the [Beaver Hills Biosphere](#) east of Edmonton. We are busy updating our outreach materials, printing more signs, applying for grants, and connecting with potential members. **If you know of any landholders in Alberta** who may be interested in joining the network, please send them our way!” Email: [alberta@treatylandsharingnetwork.ca](mailto:alberta@treatylandsharingnetwork.ca).

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## ADVENT LETTER INTRODUCING NORTHERN SPIRIT'S NEW GROWTH ANIMATOR

NEW

[Click here to read a letter from Jordan Cantwell](#), Northern Spirit's Growth Animator, offering Advent Greetings. Advent is a time of anticipation, waiting and preparing for the coming of Christ and all that means for each of us... What will be born anew in you?

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## ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE CONTEMPLATIVE GATHERING:

NEW

### *The Gift of a Pause - DEC 1<sup>st</sup>, online*

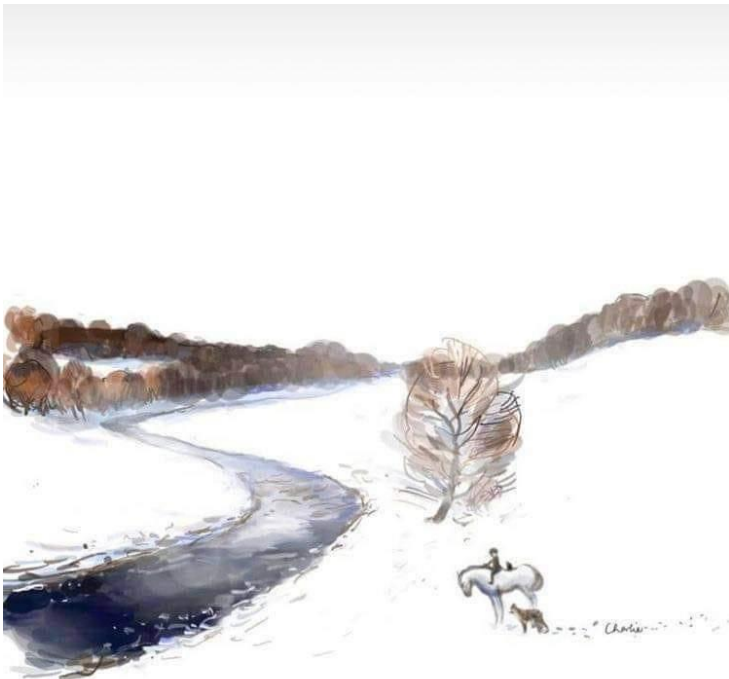
December 1 is between seasons; a time to pause and.... Each of us will pause in ways unique to our lives. Join us for an hour of prayer, scripture, quiet meditation, and conversation. 10 – 11am\* ... all are welcome! [Please register here](#). Note: The zoom link is set for Saskatchewan time zone—please check your time zone. We don't want to miss your participation!



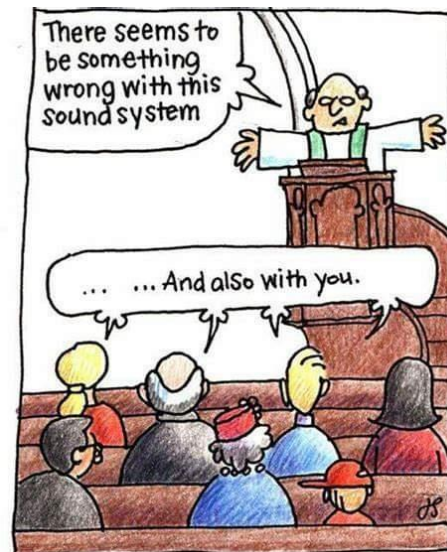
### NORTHERN SPIRIT WEBSITE

Northern Spirit has a website! Go to [www.northernspiritrc.ca](http://www.northernspiritrc.ca) for more information.

## TODAY'S FUNNIES



"One day you'll look back and realise how hard it was, and just how well you did."





## 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, D ne, Assiniboine, Nakota and later the M tis 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.



## **Salisbury United Church E-mail Addresses**

**Church Office Administrator:**

[salisburyuc@telus.net](mailto:salisburyuc@telus.net)

**Rev. Britt's email:**

[revvedtoo@gmail.com](mailto: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