



# Salisbury United Church

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

"Speak to one another  
with psalms, hymns, and  
spiritual songs."

Ephesians 5:19

## March 2025 E-News

### *SOMETHING TO PONDER BY REV BRITT*

I am writing this reflection a few weeks ahead of time. It's mid-February and I am about to leave for Winnipeg to spend some time with my dad. After a tough year of health crises his situation is finally secure in long-term care.

I don't know what will be going on in your life or the world by the time you read this. I hope you are alright and not too overwhelmed by whatever is going on around you. One thing I can predict with some certainty is that you will be reading these words of mine just before the beginning of the Season of Lent.

This year at Salisbury United Church our theme for the Season of Lent is one of discernment for our whole congregation. The word "discernment" comes from the Latin word *discernere*, meaning "separate." Discernment separates what's important or vital and true from what's not.

I think it is fair to say that we could all use a bit of discernment right now about one thing or another. In the life of our community of faith, to discern what is vital and true is to revisit what matters to us most as a gathered people. It is to acknowledge that God has a purpose for our community while opening ourselves up to listen to what God might be saying to us about our values, aspirations and divine calling.

During Lent this year, which starts on Sunday, March 9th, we will be using music as a metaphor for reviewing and exploring our community's purpose and identity. We will reflect on our collective journey using music as a template, and we will seek holy guidance about our unique purpose as a congregation. We will not answer all our questions or develop specific lists of future activities. This is a pre-planning time of listening for the Spirit's moving us along in terms of principles and priorities. A separate Board retreat in April as well as a follow-up congregational conversation in May or June will lead us into more specific planning for our future "song".

For now, in the lead up to Easter, we will ponder this question together: "What song is God giving us to sing?" Each week in Lent we will explore a different aspect of the church's song:

- Week 1: Singing Our Heritage;
- Week 2: Singing Tribulation and Lament;
- Week 3: Singing Justice and Peace;
- Week 4: Singing Healing and Salvation;
- Week 5: Singing Liberation and Hope.

Each week you will receive some questions for reflection along with the church bulletin. Come Sunday Morning we will be in dialogue with each other and God's Spirit about the holy song that is moving through us right now in our community of faith.

Please pray for this Lenten season and our discernment with me:

"Eternal God, we remember there is a deep heritage of song and music which has shaped and inspired your people's purpose and identity. During this year's Lenten journey, tune our ears and our hearts to listen for the flow of your song of love and grace in our church. Help us to discern songs you give to be sung through us, that we may sing it now and on into the future. Amen."

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### UPCOMING DATES:

- March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Pancake Brunch, after worship
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Worship and Sacrament of Communion with Rev. Heather Koots
- March 5<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting, 3pm
- March 9<sup>th</sup> – Daylight Savings begins
- March 9<sup>th</sup> – Lent Begins, Theme: *Discerning Our Song*
- April 12<sup>th</sup> – Board Retreat
- April 13<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday
- April 18<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday, 7pm
- April 20<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday
- May 25<sup>th</sup> (tentative) – Congregational Meeting, Annual Report
- June – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Month



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### PANCAKE BRUNCH - SUNDAY, MARCH 2<sup>nd</sup>

NEW

This year's Pancake Brunch will be held Sunday, February 11th, after worship service. Before Lent begins, we enjoy the sweet flavours of this annual breakfast as well as each other's company. Please join us after worship on the 11th. This pancake meal is by free-will donation, with all proceeds donated to the Salisbury United Church Kitchen Improvement Fund. All are welcome! So, please invite your friends, family, neighbors, etc.



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### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS IS COMING - SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR!

NEW



Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> is Daylight Savings Time, which means it's time to advance your clock ahead 1 hour. This practice of advancing our clocks is to take advantage of the extra daylight available as summer approaches and darkness falls at a later clock time. Be sure to set your clocks ahead Saturday night so you make it to Sunday Worship on time!

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### LENT BEGINS IN MARCH!

NEW

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme is "Discerning Our Song". Each week we will have a Devotional available, "Lift up Your Voice: Singing through Lent and Easter" with the first one available the week of March 2<sup>nd</sup>, for Ash Wednesday (March 5<sup>th</sup>), but can be used anytime the week before March 9<sup>th</sup> (first Sunday in Lent).



## PURDY'S CHOCOLATE EASTER FUNDRAISER

NEW

Returning this year is our Purdy's Easter Fundraiser! Order forms are available in the Narthex along with the Purdy's Spring 2025 Fundraising booklet. **All orders are due Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at noon.** Please bring all completed order forms, along with payment, to the office before the February 28<sup>th</sup> deadline. Additional details to follow about when orders will be available for pickup. Thank you for your support!



## SAVE THE DATE: HOW IS IT GOING 4.0 - MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>

NEW



Join Facilitator Jordan Cantwell, Growth Animator on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am-2:00 pm for "How Is It Going 4.0: Connecting Dots", a cluster gathering for Edmonton area United Churches at St. Andrew's United Church (1A Fieldstone Drive, Spruce Grove).

This is a follow-up to the gatherings at McDougal, St. Albert and Sherwood Park, open to anyone interested in knowing ways we can help each other. Attendance at previous gatherings not required. Registration information will be coming soon.



## 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!



## 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](#).

## 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.

### **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 January 2025

**NEW**

Financial results for the first couple months of 2025 are off to a good start with about \$1,000 higher net income than budgeted. While income is approximately \$3,200 less than planed, expenses are also lower, by about \$4,200.

	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
<b>Income:</b>	\$18,346.00	\$21,595.33
<b>Expense:</b>	\$17,667.76	\$21,927.96
	\$678.24	<b>(\$332.63)</b>

Remember, if you donate through PAR (pre-authorized remittance), please review your monthly contributions for the new year to ensure we keep ahead of inflation and upcoming Property expenses. Contact the church office with any revisions.

**Thanks for helping our new year get off to a positive 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](mailto: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](mailto:salisburyuc@telus.net) to send your donation.

## LOCAL UNITED CHURCH & OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

### SHERWOOD PARK UNITED CHURCH:

#### ***TAI CHI CLASS - Tuesdays at 10am, until April 8<sup>th</sup>***

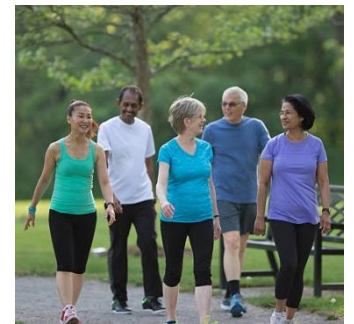
Tai Chi will be held in the Fellowship Hall. This shortened and modified Ta Chi is great for beginners, easy to learn and has only 14 movements repeated many times. Join with others in experiencing this meditative form of slow flowing movements that increase muscle strength, bone density, range of movement, and brings with it a sense of relaxation and decreased anxiety.



Margaret Langston invites you to Tai Chi taught with a story to aid memory. She will lead you in a practice to improve form with the intention that once learned, it will become part of your daily selfcare, improving balance, mental clarity and emotional stability.

#### ***WALKING GROUP - Thursdays at 9:30am***

Walking Group will be meeting on Thursdays at 9:30am at Sherwood Park Mall by DSW Shoes. New location to be announced in the spring. If you have any questions, please call Barb Goulden at 780-235-4543. Hope to see you there!



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



### SPIRIT OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH ST. PATRICK'S DAY ARTISAN MARKET & TEA March 15<sup>th</sup> @ 10am-3pm

Spirit of Hope United Church, located at 7909 82 Avenue NW, Edmonton, is hosting a St. Patrick's Day Artisan Sale & Tea on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Please contact their church office for more information at [officeadmin.spiritofhope@shaw.ca](mailto:officeadmin.spiritofhope@shaw.ca) or 780-468-1418.

## STRATHCONA COUNTY NEWS

### ***NEW! INDIGENOUS ENEWSLETTER***

*(Source: Strathcona.ca)*

Launching in February, the new Indigenous eNewsletter is focused on building authentic, meaningful relationships with Indigenous Peoples across Alberta. Led and informed by Indigenous voices, each edition will share opportunities to gather and celebrate, stories and traditions, ways to learn and heal together, and more. Sign up on the [County's website](#) today!



[Photo credit: Dawn Marie Marchand & Gary Sutton©, "Amisk-wa-chi" – Relationship with the Land, 2020, mixed media, Strathcona County Art Collection]

## WRITER IN RESIDENCE EVENT: MUSIC IN THE PRACTICE OF POETRY

NEW

Strathcona County Library is delighted to welcome Anna Marie Sewell as our 2025 Writer in Residence! In this month's event, held Tuesday, March 11, 2025 from 7-8:30pm at the Strathcona County Library, you'll join Anna Marie to explore how listening to and writing with different styles of music can help you build sound awareness and develop stronger rhythm, imagery and lyricism (but not necessarily lyrics) in your poetry.



[Photo credit: sclibrary.ca]

Come explore how listening to and writing with different styles of music can help you build sound awareness and develop stronger rhythm, imagery and lyricism (but not necessarily lyrics) in your poetry. Register at through the library [HERE](#).

Anna Marie has chosen the twin themes of Peace and Play for her residency. She says "I'm honoured to present talks with artists whose work for peace I greatly admire, in hopes of inspiring our own community to write for peace. And play? Play is the best way I know to free up artistry."

Find out more at [sclibrary.ca/writer-in-residence](https://sclibrary.ca/writer-in-residence).

## UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA NATIONAL COUNCIL NEWS



[Image credit: Marion Parody]

### THE VERY REV. DR. MARION PARDY TO BE AWARDED CORONATION MEDAL

NEW

The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Parody, 37th Moderator of The United Church of Canada (at left in photo), will receive the King Charles Coronation Medal in recognition of her leadership and commitment to interfaith community service. This is not her first medal of recognition; in 2013, the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador awarded Dr. Parody a Queen's Jubilee Medal in recognition of her contributions to church and community. Read the [full news story](#).

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO HUMANITARIAN CRISIS INTENSIFIES: URGENT AID NEEDED

NEW

Violence in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo has displaced 400,000 people this year, adding to the 4.6 million already displaced. The United Church of Canada, through its Global Partnership, is supporting local partner Église du Christ au Congo's efforts to provide food, shelter, water, and mental health support. We urge prayers and donations to the Global Emergency Response Fund to aid those affected by this escalating crisis. Read the [full news story](#).



[Image credit: © Rose Villote | Dreamstime.com]

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## 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!

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### UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWS & EVENTS



#### *NEW VIDEO ON TREATY LEARNING AND THE PROPOSED AB CURRICULUM*



The Being Good relations Network invites you to have a look at this [recording of a rich discussion with Dr Pat Makokis and educator Hayley Christen](#), focused on taking action on Treaty understandings, and how current AB curriculum plans undermine those understandings. There is much we can do, from continuing to refuse to let the government off the hook, to thinking about how we all learn about and support Treaty relationships, all the year long. Dr Pat offers us truth and hope through her Treaty education series and the Treaty walks she has organised. [Click here for the video](#).



[Photo credit: northernspirit.ca]

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#### *TRUTH & RECONCILIATION COMMISSIONER TALKS THE TRUTH ABOUT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS - MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup> @ 11 AM*



Come and hear Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner Wilton Littlechild tell his story - March 6<sup>th</sup>, 11 am at Timms Centre of the Arts, University of Alberta, Edmonton (87 Avenue, 112 St NW, Edmonton, AB T6G 2C9).



[Image credit: Government of Alberta]

Chief Wilton Littlechild served as a commissioner to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (2009 – 2015). The task was difficult and the work culminated with the final report and the 94 Calls to Action. The contributions made by Chief Littlechild are many and he has received many honors. On March 6, he will be honouring us with his story. For full details, please visit the [University of Alberta event page](#).

\*Please note that this talk will include sensitive subject matter.

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## NORTHERN SPIRIT WEBSITE

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

### TODAY'S FUNNIES



"What are you giving up for Lent?"



### 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.

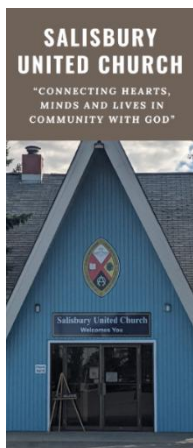
### WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN QR CODE

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!



Also, be sure to check out some of our other brochures, which have recently been updated. These include: “Wedding Ceremonies”, “Funeral & Memorial Services”, “Facility Rentals”, “Baptisms” and more to come... Keep your eye out for them in the Narthex!

### 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