



# Salisbury United Church

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

Hallelujah!  
Christ is risen!  
Christ is risen indeed!

## May 2026 E-News

### *SOMETHING TO PONDER BY REV BRITT*

I have to confess that I have lived a rather safe life as an ordained Christian minister. I have never received a death threat on the church answering service. I have never had a member of local police or political observers show up during worship to monitor what I might be saying in my sermons. I have not had a nasty letter written to me because I am a woman who is ordained, although I did have a letter written to me during Covid complaining our church supported vaccines. Generally, I live in safety as a minister, which is not to say that hard things don't happen here, because they do. But on a relative scale, mine has been a relatively easy ministry from the point of view of safety

Yet, I have known colleagues who have not been safe in their vocations, their sanctuaries and their homes.

I think of an Orthodox priest I met in Palestine whose church office had been set on fire by an Israeli military incendiary device the year before I met him. His church office walls were rebuilt wrapped in layers of protective sheet metal.

I think of an American colleague who received death threats for both being an ordained woman and for having a rainbow portrayed in the church window.

I think of a non-ordained church member I met from a place where secret police regularly showed up in worship and everybody expected it.

I do not take for granted the relative ease and comfort with which I am able to appear in public and go about the life of being your minister at Salisbury United Church. But living with that comfort sometimes means that I, along with all of us, can make the mistake of not rocking the boat, thinking that that will keep us safe. Not rocking the boat actually does the opposite. It requires us to look away from things that are not safe while pretending they don't really matter in the long run. There is a price that comes from that kind of security.

Am I rocking the boat when I say that the upcoming Alberta Christian Leader's Summit featuring our Premier as the Keynote Speaker, along with several key cabinet ministers, is not only deeply troubling, but is in fact a negative development for the Christian faith community in our province? Perhaps. It doesn't feel that dangerous for me to say that. But it is necessary to plainly say that this leadership gathering happening in our province is not good news for local Christianity, for political life or for people of faith in general.

It is billed as a summit which "brings pastors, elders, ministry leaders, educators, and policy influencers into one room to align leadership, deepen understanding, and advance practical cooperation that produces real civic impact." Sounds great, you might say. Let's get the church working as a bloc across Alberta to have civic impact. Yet the summit, if you dig just a little deeper, is deeply connected with the very same Christian theological

faction currently in favour in American politics, seeking a marriage of "biblical principles" with party politics in order to influence social policy and legislation. Digging deeper, as one member of our congregation did, you will find that this is a faction which is supportive of:

- criminalizing MAID and abortion
- discouraging vaccination and public health measures designed to control the spread of disease
- decriminalizing hate speech in a "religious context "
- ensuring "acceptable" Christian churches have direct input in setting priorities and creation of legislation, but not other faiths or "unacceptable" Christian churches
- separation of Alberta from Canada by creating a religious basis for objecting to federal versus provincial policies, laws etc.
- increased restrictions imposed on human rights for non-heterosexual people.

The United Church's Broadview magazine website has a short, worthwhile article about this summit: <https://broadview.org/albertas-christian-summit-critics/>. Recently, I signed the widely circulated pastoral letter opposing this marriage of religion and politics in Alberta. This is not really sticking my neck out, more like putting a toe in the water. But I do believe all of us, ministers and ordinary church members, have to decide, do we want the church to settle for safety-at-all-costs in the face of hardline factional ideology? Or, do we imagine the church as both a sanctuary and place of inspiration for lives of faith lived with courage and compassion?

Together with the Church Board, we have been revising our Vision Statement to express how we see ourselves as a church now and on in to the coming years. I shared it during worship this past Sunday and you can read it at the end of this newsletter. Read it, sit with it, and imagine how we might be the church together in a positive and christ-honouring way in Strathcona County.

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### UPCOMING DATES:

- May 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Britt away, *Clergy Retreat*
- May 7<sup>th</sup> – Screening of *Mission: Joy, Finding Happiness in Troubled Times*, 7pm
- May 8<sup>th</sup> – MCT Meeting, 10am
- May 10<sup>th</sup> – Recognizing Red Dress Day (May 5<sup>th</sup>) during worship
- May 13<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting, 3:30pm (*to be confirmed*)
- May 14<sup>th</sup> – Brittany away, *Church Office Closed*
- May 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Britt away
- May 17<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Britt's Convocation in Austin, Texas (*see below for livestreaming details*)
- May 31<sup>st</sup> – Congregational Spring Renewal Meeting, *after worship*
- June 10<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting, 3:30pm
- June 28<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Britt's Convocation Luncheon, *after worship*



NEW



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### CONGREGATIONAL RENEWAL MEETING - Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>

Every year in May, we have an annual renewal meeting to celebrate the life and work of our congregation in worship and afterwards to receive the past year's Annual Report. This year's Renewal Meeting is planned for Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> after worship. Please join us as we review the Annual Report, which will be sent out in the coming weeks leading up to the Renewal Meeting.

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## RECOGNIZING RED DRESS DAY & MOOSE HIDE CAMPAIGN DAY NEW

Red Dress Day is May 5<sup>th</sup> in Canada, so we will be recognizing that day during our service on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. We invite you to wear something red to church that day. Those who have Moose Hide pins are also invited to wear them on the 10<sup>th</sup> in recognition of the annual Moose Hide Campaign Day, which is May 14<sup>th</sup> this year.



MOOSE HIDE  
CAMPAIGN  
CAMPAGNE  
MOOSE HIDE

## LENT FOOD DRIVE RESULTS NEW

Our Lenten “Fill the Pew” Food Drive was a massive success with over 400 pounds of non-perishable items donated to the local food bank! Thanks to your generous donations, we were able to deliver 409 pounds of canned food and other desperately needed non-perishable items to the Strathcona Food Bank. Your participation in this food drive helps support those in need in our community. **Thank you so very much for your incredible support!**



## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW AV TECH STUDENT! NEW

Easter Sunday was the official start date for our new AV Tech student Oliver who joins us from Salisbury Composite High School. Not only do we extend a warm welcome to Oliver as he continues to run our technical services each Sunday, but we also extend a big THANK YOU to Tilman who stepped in to fill this role in the interim as well as provided training for Oliver to take over.

## INTERFAITH FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE OF STRATHCONA COUNTY MOVIE SCREENING - May 6<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm NEW

The Interfaith Friendship Circle of Strathcona County invites you to a **FREE** showing of “Mission: Joy, Finding Happiness in Troubled Times” on **Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** in the sanctuary at Salisbury United Church. The film shares the humor and wisdom of two of the world’s most beloved icons, His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu who show the world how to live with JOY, even in troubled times.



## INVITATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TRANSFERS NEW

Spring is a great time to consider arranging for a transfer of your community of faith membership to Salisbury United Church. If you are moving from another United Church, simply ask your past congregation for your transfer certificate to be sent to Salisbury United Church. If you were part of a community of faith in another denomination, they may be able to issue you a similar membership form that we can receive here in our church. Alternatively, speak to Rev. Britt about what might be needed to receive you into the membership registry of this congregation. We welcome you with open arms!





## REV. BRITT'S CONVOCATION CEREMONY - WATCH IT LIVE!

Rev. Britt's convocation ceremony is Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm CDT (1:30 PM MDT). Although her commencement will physically take place at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Austin, Texas, it will be livestreamed for those looking to watch it live! We have placed links up on our website for you to access from anywhere. Or, you can also come back to this section and click the [LIVESTREAM LINK HERE](#).



**Congratulations Rev. Britt on all your hard work and the long journey to achieve your DMin Degree!**



## MEDITATION CIRCLE - WEDNESDAYS @ 10am

Join Rev. Britt in-person each Wednesday at 10am for Mediation Circle in the Church's Meditation Room and **also now online!** Details and updates on meditation circle will be posted on our [website](#) under the "Weekly Meditation Circle" section on the main page.



**Please note that Meditation Circle will not be meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> while Rev. Britt is away.**



## FINANCE CORNER - Update as of March 2026

As of the end of March, 2026, our offering status for 2026 is:

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Offerings for Church Operations:	\$24,072.90	\$21,924.00	\$2,148.90
M&S Offerings:	\$3,595.00	\$3,987.01	(\$392.01)

To the end of March, Offerings for day-to-day operation of the church are above budget at 25% of our goal for 2026, while M&S Fund donations are lagging a little, having reached 21% of our goal for 2026. Other inflows like rent are proceeding normally with no large unbudgeted expenses on the horizon.

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 increased Property expenses. Contact the church office with any revisions.

***As we look forward to our annual Spring Renewal Congregational Meeting in May, we thank you for your continued financial support.***

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.**



**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:

NEW

### SPRING MUSIC CELEBRATION - Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am

Please join us for our annual Spring Music Celebration on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 10:00am, presented by The Choirs and Musicians of Sherwood Park United Church, located at 20 Fir Street in Sherwood Park. Refreshments to follow in the Fellowship Hall.



### CHAIR YOGA - Wednesdays at 10:30am

Join us for an hour of gentle stretching and relaxing breathing on Wednesday morning, 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Each session cost \$10.00. For further information contact: Lesley Ratcliff [ratclif@telus.net](mailto:ratclif@telus.net) or Diane Porter [dianep.porter@gmail.com](mailto:dianep.porter@gmail.com).



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

### GRACE UNITED CHURCH GARAGE SALE

NEW

Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 4:00-7:00pm &  
Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00am-2:00pm

Join us at Grace United Church for our upcoming Community Garage Sale—a great opportunity to find amazing deals right in your neighbourhood!

Browse a wide selection of antiques and collectibles, household items, clothing, jewelry, toys, books, sporting goods and more!  
Location: 6215-104 Ave NW, Edmonton



### JOSEPHBURG CHORAL SOCIETY - MEN'S CHORUS & BELLS IN HARMONY

NEW

"Songs from Coast to Coast" - May 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>

Josephburg Choral Society presents their spring concert: "Songs from Coast to Coast". There will be two shows: Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm at First United Church in Fort Saskatchewan, 10409 100 Ave. and Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Trinity Baptist Church in Sherwood Park, 22550 Township Rd. 530. Tickets available at the door (cash only): \$20 for Adults, youth 15 & under are FREE. A hamper drive will be held at each location in support of the local Food Bank.



## SPIRIT WEST UNITED CHURCH - SOUNDS OF SPRING

NEW

Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm

Spirit West United Church is hosting "Sounds of Spring: Celebrating the Gift of Spring through Music" on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Featured performers will be presented by HarpBeat (a harp quartet), Spirit West Choir, Harp and Flute duets by Bonnie and Margery, and UkePics (a small ukulele group). Please spread the word to friends and neighbours and then plan to attend this amazing concert. The free-will offering will go to Outreach programs to help feed the hungry in the west end of Edmonton. Spirit West is located at 7003-199 Street NW, Edmonton.



## ICPM/SANCTUARY OF PEACE RELAUNCH PARTY!

NEW

Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1:00pm-3:30pm

Sanctuary of Peace, formerly Inner City Pastoral Ministry, is so proud and excited to invite you to the launch party for our new name and new brand. Please join us on May 23<sup>rd</sup> as we celebrate! Location: Bissell Centre East (10527 96 Street). Program: 1-2pm. Lunch: 2-3:30pm. Funky Sanctuary merch will be available for purchase. Note that space is limited so plan to arrive early to ensure a premium seat!

## SPIRIT OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH

Jazz & Reflections - Sunday Afternoon Series

Sundays from March 29-May 3

Enjoy an afternoon of live jazz in a welcoming and relaxed setting. Performances take place from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. each Sunday, followed by refreshments and conversation.

### Upcoming Dates:

May 3 – Jacob Do Trio

Admission is by donation at the door.

Location: Spirit of Hope United Church (7909 82 Ave NW)

A graphic for the Spirit of Hope Jazz & Reflections series. It features the Spirit of Hope logo at the top left, the word "JAZZ" in large, colorful letters, and a saxophone illustration on the right. Below this, it says "& REFLECTIONS" and "Sunday afternoons 3:30 to 5 pm". A box contains the following schedule:

- MAR 29 - PJ PERRY QUARTET
- APR 12 - ALLEN JACOBSON TRIO
- APR 19 - SHELLEY JONES TRIO
- APR 26 - DOUG BERNER TRIO
- MAY 3 - JACOB DO TRIO

At the bottom, it says "Admission by donation at the door. Refreshments served."

## GRACE UNITED CHURCH - AFFIRMING PRESENTATION

NEW

SERIES: EXPERIENCING INTERSECTIONAL OPPRESSIONS

Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 12:00pm-3:00pm

Grace United, located at 6215 104 Ave. NW (Fulton Place Neighborhood), invites you to their event on Experiencing Intersectional Oppressions, as part of their Affirming presentation series. This event held on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> from 12-3pm at Grace United Church highlights what allies need to know to be truly supportive and good advocates.



***PITCH-IN: HELP CLEAN OUR COMMUNITY AFTER THE SPRING MELT***

**NEW**

*(Source: Strathcona.ca)*

Strathcona County residents are invited to show their community pride and pitch in for a cleaner, healthier environment from April 20 to May 3, 2026. This annual campaign brings volunteers together to remove litter left behind after the spring thaw. Participants may use their own garbage bags or pick up complimentary bags provided by Strathcona County.



Pitch-In bags are available for pickup at the Recreation, Parks and Culture administration office during regular business hours, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m., at 2025 Oak Street. County staff will confirm the dates and location of each cleanup site to coordinate the pickup of the filled garbage bags.

Additional information including Pitch-In event registration is available online at [strathcona.ca/PitchIn](http://strathcona.ca/PitchIn) or by calling 780-467-2211. Registration is open until the end of Pitch-In week on May 3. Please visit [The County's Website](#) for full article.

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***WE SENIORS MAKE & TAKE WORKSHOP: ACRYLIC ART DECO***

**NEW**

***Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-3:30pm - Cost is \$12***

***(cost includes all materials to create one art deco piece, and coffee/tea and muffin)***

Get creative and add a personal touch to your home in this hands-on Paint Pouring Art Deco Workshop! Transform a simple trinket tray into a one-of-a-kind decorative piece using the decoupage technique.

You'll learn the basics of paint pouring techniques, including how to mix colours, create mesmerizing patterns, and achieve that beautiful "wow factor" finish. No experience is necessary—step-by-step guidance will be provided, making this workshop perfect for beginners and seasoned crafters alike. All supplies are included, and you'll leave with a functional and art deco piece that's perfect for carrying drinks, displaying décor, or organizing everyday items.



[Photo credit: Strathcona.weseniors.ca]

Come enjoy a creative break, explore a new craft, and take home something truly your own!

***[Register Today!](#) Or Call 780-400-2111 for questions or to complete your registration.***

***WeSeniors Strathcona is located at 501 Festival Ave #140, Sherwood Park.***

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## STRATHCONA COUNTY HOUSING RIGHTS ACTION GROUP

Strathcona County Housing Rights Action Group is a collective of Strathcona County residents coming together in solidarity with those experiencing housing insecurity or in need of temporary shelter. Interested in joining?

Contact [SChousingrightsactiongroup@gmail.com](mailto:SChousingrightsactiongroup@gmail.com) for more information or to join this grassroots group.

### UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA NATIONAL COUNCIL NEWS

#### JOIN IN LOCAL ACTION FOR MOOSE HIDE CAMPAIGN DAY (MAY 14)

NEW

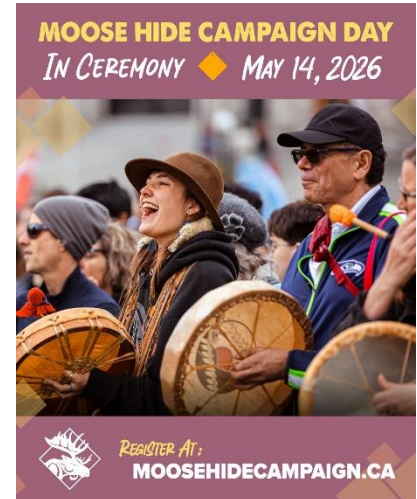
The Moose Hide Campaign Day (May 14) is approaching. While national events are happening in Toronto (Queen's Park) and Victoria, there is power in local action.

You can become a community steward and organize a walk in your own neighborhood or at your church. It is a simple, powerful way to say "racism and violence have no place here."

See the [map of local marches or sign up to host your own](#).

Register for the [virtual educational plenary](#).

[Learn more about the Moose Hide Campaign Day](#).



[Image credit: Moose Hide Campaign Day]

#### NEW BLOG! BECOMING AN INTERCULTURAL CHURCH

NEW

Many communities of faith are living in an "in-between" time—marked by change, uncertainty, and grief. In a new blog, Rev. Hyuk Cho invites us to see this moment not as a problem to fix, but as a season of transformation.

Drawing from his upcoming book, Cho explores *intercultural becoming*—a way of life rooted in companionship, honesty, and a willingness to be changed through relationship.

[Read the full blog](#) and learn more about the upcoming [Becoming an Intercultural Church course on CHURCHx](#).



NEW



## ***MOURNING THE PASSING OF FORMER GENERAL SECRETARY, REV. "GINNY" COLEMAN***

The United Church of Canada mourns the passing of Rev. Kathryn Virginia "Ginny" Coleman, who served as General Secretary from 1994 to 2002. A faithful and dedicated leader, Rev. Coleman guided the church through significant and challenging moments, including its response to residential schools and the establishment of the Healing Fund.

She played an important role in the church's 1998 apology to former students of United Church Indian Residential Schools and encouraged the church to face its history with honesty and accountability.

Rev. Coleman also oversaw the church's 75th anniversary in 2000 and served in various leadership roles across the country throughout her ministry. She died on April 3, 2026, and is remembered with deep gratitude for her leadership and service. Read the [full news story](#) to learn more about her life and legacy.

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]

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

### ***RED DRESS DAY, MAY 5: THE NATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS FOR MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN, GIRLS, AND TWO-SPIRIT PEOPLE (MMIWG2S)***

NEW

Let us honour the lives lost, support the grieving, seek justice for the missing, and call on all levels of government and society to implement the Calls to Justice from the [Final Report of the National Inquiry](#). We can: Hang a red dress outside your church or home. Attend a local vigil: please search on the web and social media, as these are planned by local groups. Pray for and with all survivors, loved ones, families, and communities. Year round: Consider inviting (and certainly paying) advocates and survivors who wish to speak publicly. Develop trusted sources of information you can learn from, including grassroots and university groups that offer online learning. This violent pandemic is not improving. The facts are so hard and so important to learn.



[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]



### ***UNITED IN LEARNING EVENTS***

NEW

The latest [United in Learning newsletter is now posted here](#), and it has lots of opportunities for online community and learning. \*Scroll through, as events are not listed chronologically, but are instead arranged by series and networks.

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]

## BEAUTIFULLY MADE

NEW

The celebration of May as Asian Heritage Month begins this week. Officially recognized in Canada since 2002, this is a time to prayerfully reflect on the contributions of Asian Canadians to Canadian society.

For Asian Heritage Month, Rev. Sun-Young “Sunny” Kim writes about the unique challenges of being queer, Asian, and Christian in her blog post [“Beautifully Made”](#) on the United Church of Canada’s *Round the Table* Blog.



Credit: Photo by Clark Gu on Unsplash



## NORTHERN SPIRIT WEBSITE

Northern Spirit has a website! Go to [www.northernspiritrc.ca](http://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, 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.

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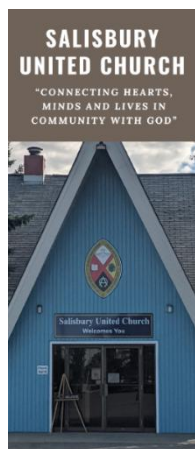
## WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN QR CODE

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.



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## 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!

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## OUR STRATEGIC JOURNEY 2027-2032: VISION STATEMENT

*(Continued from “Something to Ponder by Rev Britt”)*

We are a church guided by a vision of life rooted in the deep love of God for all people.

Open to being led by the Spirit, we welcome and connect with all people wherever they may be on their faith journey.

We nurture all people’s relationship with God, as revealed in Jesus, the Risen One present among us and the source of our hope.

Connecting across faith experiences, we learn to value being a community in which we understand, learn from, and serve each other and God.

Recognizing our integral connection and responsibility to the earth and one another, we are guided to participate in caring for neighbors and the world.

Trusting in the love of God, we invite as many people as God calls to join us in this journey.

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## 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)



**Minister:**

Rev. Britt Aerhart

**Contact Us:**

2 Mission Street,  
Sherwood Park, T8A 0V3  
Church Office: 780-467-7310



**Music Coordinator:**

Lucienne Holzman

**Church Office Hours:**

Tuesday-Friday  
9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



**Church Office**

**Administrator:**

Brittany Pelletier