



## First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Weekly Announcements March 23, 2021

[info4rc16@united-church.ca](mailto:info4rc16@united-church.ca)

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[Making Hope Visible Podcast – Justice and Mission Network of the Atlantic Regions of the United Church of Canada](#)

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### **Weekly Prayer – Rev. John van Vliet, First United Church Corner Brook**

God of grace and peace, we've come to a challenging time of year, in what's already been a very difficult year. Over the upcoming weeks we'll be challenged to choose between being part of Pilate's triumphal entry into Jerusalem – or Jesus' less spectacular alternative. We'll be challenged to take our seat at a table of comfortable thoughts and routines – or at a table of curiosity, questions and occasional *discomfort*. We'll be challenged to leave Jesus in the garden and make excuses like Peter in the courtyard – or to be expansive in our outlook and We'll be challenged to pursue the easy nostalgia of empty words and traditions – or to live as engaged, creative and vibrant Easter people.

At the end of winter, after such a long and trying year, when so many are tired and discouraged, it would be easy to allow ourselves some time off from any further challenges. So, we pray for the gift of the Spirit to strengthen us to embrace this time to truly consider what our faith means, and how it shapes our daily lives. AMEN

### **Holy Week Services**

The United Communities of Faith Holy Week services will take place online and can be viewed on the First Dawn Eastern Edge Region YouTube channel and your church's social media. The services on Monday and Tuesday will go live at 7:30 pm and the Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services are taped and will be available to you starting at 8 am each day. The Maundy Thursday service will have communion and foot washing so make sure to have supplies on hand.

#### **Your Hosts:**

Monday: First United Church, Mount Pearl

Tuesday: Wesley United Church

Wednesday: Bell Island - Portugal Cove Pastoral Charge/ St. James United Church

Thursday: Cowan Heights United Church (Communion & Foot Washing)

Friday: Cochrane Street United Church

### **Bridges to Hope**

Please use the following link to view Bridges to Hope newsletter.

<https://ucceast.ca/61571-bridges-to-hope-newsletter/>

### **Lay Members of first Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council**

Lay members are elected by their Community of Faith. We need all Communities of Faith to fill in the online form: <https://uceast.ca/61182-official-members-form/>

This form confirms your elected members of the Region. This is a required form and provides the Region with the needed contact information. Representatives must be members of the Community of Faith. If you have not had your annual meeting and have not elected new representatives, please confirm with last year's representative that they are still willing to continue for this year and please complete & submit the necessary forms.

### **First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Annual Meeting**

"**Presence and Hope**" is the theme for the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council 2021 Annual Meeting being held May 14-16, 2021 via Zoom. Some of you will be aware of that format and for some it will be new. Not to worry if you are unfamiliar, we are here to help you. If you are not able to join via Zoom, then you can join the meeting by phone.

The Annual Meeting will begin on Friday, May 14 at 6 pm with Opening Worship and In Memoriam. The evening will end with Milestones in Ministry, a celebration of our Retirements, Anniversaries and an acknowledgement of those ministry personnel who have left or will be leaving our Region. We will continue the meeting again on Saturday morning at 10 am. The meeting will end with the Celebration of Ministry Service (in person invitation only) live streamed on Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 2 pm. The full draft agenda will be circulated once all the pieces are in place.

Please note that all ministry personnel and lay members will have to register for the meeting. The registration deadline is April 15, 2021. Please complete the registration form found on the website: <https://uceast.ca/first-dawn-eastern-edge-regional-council-16/first-dawn-eastern-edge-regional-council-annual-meeting-2021/>

### **First Dawn Eastern Edge Region – Nominations Team**

**Affirm Committee:** The terms of reference for the Affirm Committee that was proposed and accepted at our annual Regional Meeting in November, 2021, have now been finalized and accepted by the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Executive. The mandate of the committee will be to provide leadership, guidance and dedication to the Region with respect to understanding and becoming a safe and welcoming place for all people.

Should you be interested in participating on the Affirm Committee, please contact the chair of nominations, Rev. Bruce Rideout, at [bruce.rideout@ymail.com](mailto:bruce.rideout@ymail.com) to express your interest and/or to see the terms of reference. We look forward to hearing from people from a variety of ages, orientation, ethnicity and gender backgrounds. The committee needs a Convenor, Secretary and 5 members.

Some people have already expressed an interest, but we do need more. Please submit your expression of interest to Nominations by March 31.

### **Soul of the Preacher**

An online program rooted in the contemplative tradition to nourish your soul and support your worship ministry. This program is open to all who offer worship leadership. I am very grateful to the three Regional Ministers for the eastern Regions of The United Church of Canada for their support of the *Soul of the Preacher* program and for financial support for the program. All who register may use this coupon code to claim a 25% discount for this program. [Soul25](#)

You can find the program description and more information here: <https://prayerbench.ca/product/soul-of-the-preacher-zoom/>

## **New Stewardship Program: Called to Be the Church: The Journey**

To support the mission of your community of faith, as you dive into the vital work of stewardship, we are excited to announce the newest, most comprehensive approach to stewardship training: **Called to Be the Church: The Journey**; a series of tailored and topical modules with coaching and ongoing support to meet your stewardship needs.

Called to Be the Church: The Journey module 1 will start the second series of sessions in your Region in early May!

**Module 1: Stewardship Best Practices** consists of four 2-hour online sessions to dive into these vital best practices:

- Claim Your Mission –it is why people give to you
- Cultivate Generosity –practical ways to increase giving
- Create A Culture of Gratitude –saying thank-you is critical
- Stewardship Is Discipleship –integrating stewardship in your spiritual growth programming

Module 1 also includes a **Stewardship Analysis report**, customized with your community of faith's giving and stewardship data. Along with ongoing coaching and support after the four classes, the recommendations in the report will help you set solid, achievable, stewardship next steps.

Sound interesting?? **Wondering what to do next?**

Start gathering your team of three participants (plus the minister!).

1. **Subscribe** to the monthly e-newsletter "God's Mission-Our Gifts" at <https://united-church.ca/e-newsletters>
2. contact **Roger Janes** ([rjanes@united-church.ca](mailto:rjanes@united-church.ca)) to sign up, or to seek more information.

## **Spring Book Study: Rachel Held Evans' Inspired**

The Region 15 Faith Formation and Leadership Development Committee will be leading an online book study at 10am on Wednesdays, April 21<sup>st</sup> – May 12<sup>th</sup>. Our title is Rachel Held Evans' *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*, selected for its youthful voice, accessible approach to the interpretation of scripture, and imaginative retellings of well-known stories. Participants are asked to obtain their own copy in advance, but no reading is required for the first session. Lay people and ministry personnel across the Regions are invited to join us, please register by April 13th for what is sure to be a lively and inspiring group: <https://ucceast.ca/61453-rc15-inspired-book-club/>

## **The Network of Bible Storytellers of Canada & Pacific Mountains Region**

You are invited to attend The Festival of Biblical Storytelling! This year's theme is This Changes Everything: The Peacebuilding Power of Scripture Telling. Dates: April 9-11, 2021, all online! For more details see: <https://www.leadershiftpm.ca/festival-of-biblical-storytelling-2021> or email Catherine Stuart [cstuart@united-church.ca](mailto:cstuart@united-church.ca) or Linnea Good [lg@linneagood.com](mailto:lg@linneagood.com)

## **2021 Information Forms**

The 2021 Information Forms can be found on our Regional Council website!

If you have had your annual congregational meeting and have elected your governing body for 2021, please click on the below link to complete each form. Once submitted, you will receive copies of the completed forms by email.

If you have not had your annual meeting, and have the same people serving in the governing body, we kindly ask you to still fill out the information forms. [2021 Information Forms](#)

## **The Prayer Room**

In the season of Lent, we will be praying for every Ministry Personnel by name throughout the whole United Church of Canada. You can join in once, a few times or for all the gatherings. Please also share this information with your congregation.

In this time of pandemic, prayer is even more important as a way of connecting with each other and with God. I hope that, in the challenges of pandemic ministry, it will be an encouragement for you to know that you are being held in prayer.

May God richly bless you and your ministry as you stand in the gap for other ministry personnel of the United Church of Canada. Please use the following link: <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/91380277387>



**Vacancy – Harmony Pastoral Charge, Saint John, NB**

Position: Full time minister (40 hrs per week)

At Harmony United, we are a forward thinking and engaging church that is filled with anticipation and hope of what is yet to come in our ministry. We believe the main role of the Minister at Harmony is to lead the congregation as it continues to give life to its vision of being “Compassionate, inclusive Spirit-filled followers of the Way”. We look to a Minister to provide innovative and creative ways of worship through use of technology and different mediums that engage all the senses (i.e. fabric, colour, symbols, PowerPoint, video, etc.). We are looking for your leadership in moving us toward being an Affirming church. We recognize the need to focus on growth and development and we need your wisdom and guidance to make that happen. We need our Minister to provide leadership in exploring ways to connect and grow both within the church and by leveraging our diverse neighbourhood and the wider community. We need a Minister that will build upon a vibrant and Spirit-filled ministry. See further details at <https://ucceast.ca/61194-harmony-united-church-st-john-nb/>

**Ministry Innovations in Midst of a Pandemic**

A virtual lunch and learn series, free of charge, with a special welcome to students

All sessions will be on Thursdays at 1:00 - 2:00 pm (Atlantic Time)

**Schedule**

March 25	Rev. Dr. Dave Csinos	Topic TBA
April 15	Rev. Dr. Sadekie Little-Forbes	Good News or Bad Times – Preaching in a Pandemic
April 22	Rev. Dr. Rhonda Britton	Faith Formation

\*More dates and topics to be added. To register visit: [Ministry Innovations](#)

Recommendations. It is then our plan to do a follow-up with past participants and provide coaching and ongoing support as they take on Stewardship initiatives.