

RendezVous 2017 Workshops

Thursday, August 17, 2017 AM - 11:00am -12:30pm

TA1: Song Writing with Coco Love:

Max# 35

Coco Love Alcorn

PLAY Youth

Come and learn about Gorilla style song writing! We will write a complete song and make a quick YouTube video to upload. Totally fun!

TA2: What Are You?

Max# 30

Melodie Mui & Springwater Hester- Meawassige

PLAY Youth & Young Adults

We will use role-play to spark a fun but still courageous conversation about how we experience race, identity and racism in our lives and communities.

TA3: Explorers Program Session

Max# 30

Chelsea Skanes

PONDER All Ages

Are YOU being called? The Explorer's Project is a United Church of Canada initiative that engages young adults and encourages them to discern where God is calling them. Young adults travel to a different faith community than their own to work alongside a new congregation. This allows both parties to learn from one another, and to let the young adults experience the church in a different context than what they might be familiar with. This workshop will allow previous Explorers to share their experiences, as well as help prospective participants and host sites to learn more about the personal experiences and benefits of participating in the project.

TA4: Living Gender Identity 101

Jordan Sullivan

Max# 30

PLAY All Ages

An Engaging and interactive introduction to the basic terminology and understanding of gender identity and the gender binary. Focused primarily on the sharing of personal stories from trans people of faith, intentionally including stories of two-spirited people, and racialized trans people.

TA5: Living Spiritually in a Multi Religious World:

Max# 20

Karen Georgia Thompson

PONDER All Ages

What is the nature and scope of the current religious landscape globally and across North America? What does the changing landscape mean for the Church and for local congregations? How does this impact personal commitments to faith formation and interreligious engagement? Come be a part of this workshops that examines ways to be engaged with ecumenical and interfaith communities to strengthen your spiritual life, the life of your congregation or faith community.

TA6: Privileging Reconciliation:**Max# 40****Sara Stratton****PONDER All Ages**

Recently, we've heard a lot about the call for reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. Those of us who identify as white are learning more and more about the privilege we carry in society. What is white privilege? How does it affect reconciliation? More importantly, how can our efforts to dismantle it help us build different relationships in a different Canada?

TA7: Creation Stories/Cosmic Stories:**Max# 25****Susan Sheppard****PONDER All Ages**

Where did we come from? Cultures have sought to answer this question for thousands of years. In this workshop we will look at several creation stories from around the world (including our own) Then we will take a walk through time in The Cosmic Walk taking time to ponder the vastness of time, the wonder of space and the delights of our own small corner of the universe.

TA8: Scripture as a Weapon**Max# 20****Jackie Harper****PONDER All Ages**

Scripture as a weapon, scripture as a promise. Come engage in an interactive workshop engaging scriptures and finding promise and hope in God's unending love for all of God's people.

Bring a Bible.

TA9: How to be a Good LGBTQ Ally:**Max # 25****Lara Esrey & Ian Nelson****PONDER Youth & Young Adults**

This workshop will explain "polite" homophobia and transphobia and what it means to be an ally. The workshop will also cover terms within the realm of sex, gender, and sexuality. Each section will include examples. The workshop incorporates activities encourages discussion.

TA10: Digital Bible Collage**Max# 20****Amy Crawford****PRAY: All Ages**

An interactive workshop where participants will together create a digital collage of a biblical story. The Bible often seems dry and dusty or completely incomprehensible. In this workshop participants will hear a Bible story and then be sent out to take digital photos that bring the story to life for them. Using Twitter and Instagram, photos will be collected and then turned into a digital collage.

TA11: Prayer of Protest**Max# 30****Peter Haresnape & Selina Mullin****PRAY Young Adults & Leaders**

Prayer can be used to name injustice; lament sickness, destruction and death; to glorify God and much more. Prayer has always been part of faith-driven social movements as a way to unify struggles, collectively calm our woes, and remind ourselves (and others!) that God is bigger than the Powers that aim to deny God's goodness in the world.

Participants will discuss their experiences of prayer - good and bad, faithful or desperate, silent or shared. We will talk about how glorifying God can be a revolutionary practice. We will design tools to help bring prayer into the public square.

TA12: Learn to Meditate: Think like Jesus**Max# 25****Henri Lock****PRAY All Ages**

Meditation is the most advanced technology for the Mind that humans have come up with. It is both simple, and really hard. Once you learn how to meditate, you can do it anywhere – on a Mountain Top, on a Train, in your Bed or in Outer Space. And it is a tool that will change the way you think and how you experience yourself. Jesus spent silent time by himself to pray; he probably meditated! In this workshop you will learn how to meditate and, if you want, how to make it an important part of your life.

Henri Lock is the United Church Campus Minister at the University of Victoria and he loves to play in Creation and find quiet places to Meditate.

TA13: Discoverment Process:**Max# 30****Bronwyn Corlett, Karen Orr, Andrew Hyde****PONDER All Ages**

Are you trying to make some big decisions in your life? Would you like to know how to make big decisions in the future? Are you just not sure what to do? Or what it all means? Did you really enjoy your Confirmation Class but haven't found a small group to discuss your faith and questions with since?

The Discoverment Process is a tool that will help you connect with a small group made of members of your congregation. Reflect on your experiences, other people's experiences, scripture and tradition. Have some fun and make some new friends.

<http://www.discoverment.org/>

Learn more about the process and how to get it started near you!

TA14: Surprised by Prayer**Max# 30****Connie den Bok & Heather Joy James****PRAY/PONDER All Ages**

Ancient Christian practices are alive and dynamic in this group setting. Accessible to beginners or to those with long experience of disciplined prayer, this 90 minute Prayer Summit will guide participants through 5 patterns of prayer ending with communion. We respectfully request that you plan to come as a participant rather than an observer.

TA15: Cross-Cultural Game:**Max# 40****Adele Halliday****PLAY All Ages**

Come and learn about cultures, with a fun and interactive game!

What happens if we don't speak the same language? What if we come from different cultures and backgrounds? Through a game, we will have a chance to explore these questions and talk about how to reconcile differences. After the game, we will have some time for discussion about the cultural experience.

TA16: GO Project:**Max# 30****Alana Martin****PONDER All Ages**

Join the The GO Project in a time of creativity, discernment and action-reflection to discover where you are being called in your everyday life to create and inspire change in your community. Throughout the workshop we will hear powerful stories of past participants and staff and apply The GO Project's values of learning our story through the discovery of others', to then leave with a sense of call and action. All while having fun!

TA17: Spiritual Practice as a way of Life:**Max# 30****Ruth Noble****PRAY All Ages**

A Spiritual Practice can be anything from running, walking, listening or playing a piece of music, it is anything that helps you to experience the divine on a different level, it is a regular practice of connection. In this workshop, youth will explore different aspects of spiritual practice from journey such as pilgrimages, to a daily practice of prayer, to see the spiritual practice of church involvement both at a congregational level and beyond. The workshop will be conversational and experiential, where youth will create prayer beads and learn about spiritual practice opportunities in The United Church of Canada.

TA18: Theology of Play**Max# 30****Kerrie Perry****PONDER All Ages**

Why play? Why not? As Stuart Brown argues, it is extremely pleasurable. But we don't play simply because it is pleasurable. Play has theological, biological, social, political and spiritual dimensions. Playing is part of what it means to be a human being. Come discover, think, and ponder why play is incredibly important to youth ministry. We explore theology, bible and science as we build a case for playing more! And, we will play!

TA19: Here I Am, Lord; Send Me - My Pilgrimage to Rendez-Vous

Stephanie Larstone

Max# 30

PONDER All Ages

God calls us using so many different voices that it can take a long time to figure out what exactly you are meant to do. This informal workshop is the story of one person answering God's call to walk from Sudbury, ON to Montreal, PQ.

I am walking from Sudbury, ON to Montreal, PQ as an awareness and fundraising campaign for future Rendez-vous (or other National UCC Youth gatherings). This workshop is a chance for me to tell my story and share the experience.

TA20: Equal in Dignity, Equal in Rights: Migrant Justice Organizing

Shannon Neufeldt

Max# 25

PONDER All Ages

KAIROS firmly believes that the basic rights of migrant workers do not disappear when they cross human made borders. Do you agree? Yet migrant workers experience violations of human and labour rights all the time. How can a government program cause exploitation? How can we fix it? Come, hear the voices of migrant workers. Consider the many migrants in the Bible. Be part of interactive exercises to explore our own Canadian government policies - it will help you see how rights violations are common. Then become engaged in KAIROS advocacy efforts that seek to address the structural inequalities migrant workers face.

TA21: My Journey from Hate to Hope (CANCELLED)

Julio Cochoy

PONDER All Ages

Come and hear Julio's personal story of transformation. He has learned the spiritual practice of Forgiveness and letting go of past trauma and hatred. Julio suffered great trauma as a teenager growing up during the civil war in Guatemala and through the help of people, his faith and creating a new story he has transformed his own life and the life of his community. Julio will also ask participants to share some of their own stories and their own questions about Forgiveness in their own lives.

Julio is visiting Canada from Guatemala and is an economist and a Maya-Quiche Human Rights activist from Santa Lucia Utatlan in Guatemala. He travels North America sharing his story and the work of the Maya Skills Project.

TA22: Mining and its impact in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Global Partner

Max# 25

PONDER All Ages

Join a United Church global partner from L'Eglise du Christ au Congo for a workshop on mining and its impact in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This workshop offers engagement with one of many United Church partnerships that exist around the world for advocacy, awareness and relationship building. This workshop will be offered in French.

TA23: Sacred Circle Dance**Max# 30****Kim McNaughton****PLAY: All Ages**

People have been dancing since ancient times and continue to dance for many reasons - for fun, for healing, for connection. In the seventies, German Ballet Master Bernard Wosien took a collection of Folk Dances, combined with newer music and choreography, to the spiritual community of Findhorn, Schotland. Through those dance circles evolved Sacred Circle Dance as we know it today. No experience needed, dancing in this safe place helps us to feel connected to each other, the Earth and Creator God. I think of it as "dancing my prayer."

TA24: Art as a Spiritual Practice**Max# 30****Shanna Bernier****PRAY: All Ages**

Come and make art as a way of praying or taking time to ponder life's great questions. Crayons, pastels, watercolour, collage... Create a piece of art to inspire your own creativity and connect you to the spirit.

Workshop will be bilingual

Thursday, August 17, 2017 PM – 2:00pm – 3:30pm

TB1: Geocaching as a Spiritual Practice**Max# 30****Janet Jones****FULL****PLAY All Ages**

Geocaching is an outdoor adventure where you search for hidden treasures in the woods. It is a sport of play but can have you praying and pondering while you're enjoying the beauty of the world. Participants will engage in a short presentation before heading outdoors to find some geocaches. Where possible, download the Geocaching app on your phone or bring along your GPS. (These are not requirements to participate.)

TB2: LGBTQ2S Allyship**Max# 40****Anna White****PONDER All Ages**

This is an opportunity to explore terms relating to the LGBTQ+ spectrum and discover how you can engage in allyship. We will explore terms relating to the LGBTQ+ spectrum and discover ways to engage in allyship. Our faith communities strive to practice radical welcome in the manner that Jesus showed us. We open our hearts and doors to all, but sometimes we are unaware of exclusive societal norms. One of the most pervasive myths in our society is that there are only two sexes, male and female. The fact is, there are folks who are born intersex. The accompanying myth that there are only two genders--man and woman--allows little room for folks who experience gender outside of or across this gender binary. Participants will gain understanding of the differences between biological sex, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation as well as gain strategies for trans and non-binary gender inclusivity in congregational, community, and camping life.

Through interactive activities and personal reflection, we will practice striving towards allyship by examining how our own gender and sexuality privileges operate and affect our assumptions, interactions, and spaces.

TB3: Turned Upside Down by God: Christian Discipleship in the New Era.

Jessica Hetherington

(CANCELLED)

PONDER Young Adults & Leaders

Imagine God picking you up by your ankles, shaking you upside down, everything falling out of your pockets, then turning you right side up again! You are never the same... This workshop presents and explores a dynamic understanding of Christian discipleship, filling out an understanding of "Christian belief lived out in the world," especially in response to social and ecological injustices. We will explore together how this can happen, and how we can use this idea in our ministries with youth.

TB4: The world next door

Max# 30

Sarah Harrington & Heather Spares

PONDER All Ages

The world has never seemed smaller. And yet we still travel, still yearn to see the world with our own eyes. Journeying to new places and experiencing unfamiliarity has the incredible power to transform and to provoke, to compel us to reconsider our space and place in this world. Join the People in Partnership team to explore how the United Church of Canada engages the global neighbourhood.

TB5: Niizh Manidoowag-Who are the Two Spirit People?

Max# 30

Evan Smith & Jess Swance

PONDER All Ages

Who are the Niizh Manidoowag (Two-Spirit) people? Come and learn about gender identity in Indigenous cultures and hear from Reverend Evan Smith, an Anishinaabe Two-Spirit Minister at Toronto Urban Native Ministry as well as from Jess Swance, currently a student at Emmanuel College who is Evan's Oshkebewis (Helper). This Workshop will incorporate stories, interactive participation, and Indigenous/Christian Spiritual Practices.

TB6: Creating Tibetan Prayer Flags

Max# 20

Jackie Harper

PRAY All Ages

Come engage in an ancient prayer practice of creating Tibetan Prayer Flags. You will be invited through words and image to create prayers for "Being the church/soyons l'eglise", locally, nationally and globally.

TB7: Taize - A Taste of the Pilgrimage Experience

Max# 30

Derek Marsellus, Terri Hill, Alison Andrew

PRAY All Ages

Since the late 1940's, young people have been drawn to a small community within the French town of Taize. While some are committed Christians from all denominations, others come with little or no church background. During every week in the community, the core principles of Joy, Simplicity and Mercy are experienced through assigned tasks, daily

prayer, bible reflection, workshops, and music. Woven through all of this is a sense of peace and rhythm that is unique to this place. We will share with you some history, what a typical day is like, as well as taking a look at the music. Finally, we will experience an actual Taize Prayer service together.

TB8: Meditation

Max# 30

James Aitchison

FULL

PRAY All Ages

Let yourself relax and release what you no longer need, developing greater peace and patience. Guided by gentle reminders to feel our breath, our bodies and our natural gratitude, we will learn to trust ourselves more deeply and to live from our hearts. After a brief introduction, we will have about half an hour of quiet meditation together, followed by an open floor discussion about our spiritual lives.

TB09: Social Innovation Challenge

Max# 30

Carla Leon

<http://www.socialinnovationchallenge.ca/montreal-2017/>

PLAY All Ages

Develop your concept, discover new partners, and compete for a chance to win start-up funding! Focusing on proposals that have financial sustainability, positive social impact, an environmentally friendly focus, or are spiritually grounded, the winning ideas will have the support of mentors from across the business world, receive start-up funding, receive ongoing support, and create connections with many other like-minded people from around the local community. You can come as either pitcher with a social idea, or you can come to support & hear these awesome pitches! Each pitch should be 60 seconds in length.

TB10: You Can't Stop the Beat

Max# 20

Teresa Burnett-Cole

PLAY All Ages

All of life moves to a beat. The blood pulsing through your body moves to the rhythm of your heart. In this hands on workshop we will explore drumming's extension of this life beat by actually playing. Everyone is welcome. There is no such thing as having no rhythm! Please bring you own drum if you have one.

OR

Exposure Trips Thursday 2:00-pm – 5:00pm

TB1: Visit to Kanawake – Mohawk Nation

FULL

You are invited to meet Mohawk Nation teens from Kanawake, a reserve 20 minutes outside of Montreal. Together with Mohawk youth as co-learners, we will explore the mindsets imported into Canada by the European Settlers. Learn how YOU can be part of the SOLUTION! Native Rights are Human Rights!

TB2: Musée Pointe-à-Callière

Cost: \$15.00

Archeological museum. The permanent exhibit shows how Montreal has changed based on archeological findings. www.pacmusee.qc.ca

TB3: St-Joseph Oratory and Mont Royal

Cost: \$10.00

St-Joseph is a Montreal Landmark.

TB4: Insectarium & Botanical Garden

Cost: \$12.00

Insectarium: The Insectarium is considered North America's leading museum devoted to insects.

Botanical Garden: A popular oasis in the heart of the city, the Montréal Botanical Garden is recognized as one of the world's largest.

TB5: Biodome & Planetarium

Cost: \$12.00

Biodome: Come immerse yourself in five ecosystems, home to over 4,500 animals from 250 different species.

Planetarium: The Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium is redefining the essence of a planetarium through its innovative approach to astronomy.

TB6: Montreal Science Centre

Cost: \$15.00

TB7: Montreal Art Gallery

Cost: \$10.00

TB8: Notre-Dame Basilica of Montreal

Cost: \$10.00

Renowned for its extraordinarily rich interior decoration and the daring architectural experiment of the Notre-Dame du Sacré-Coeur Chapel, Montreal's Notre-Dame Basilica attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors from around the world.

Friday, August 18, 2017 – 11:00am – 12:30pm

FC1: Skyrim & Theology

Max# 35

Adam Kilner

PLAY All Ages

This workshop will offer participants a new way of engaging their faith as they explore the vast and rugged landscapes and culture of Skyrim. This workshop will explore the meaning of faith through the lens of quest (and adventure), seeing the life of Jesus (and the Israelites) as its own open-world quest.

FC2: Queering Masculinity, Our Understanding and Experience of Gender Max# 30

Jordan Sullivan & Dixon Challoner

PONDER All Ages

Sharing of experiences and learnings from trans men, trans women, and gender queer people with the focus of addressing the issue of masculinity for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Workshop will include issues such as trans-masculinity and how it can avoid being complicit with patriarchy, sexism and misogyny.

FC3: How to Make a Prayer Journal a fun eco-DIY!

Max# 20

Aaron Miechkota

FULL

PLAY All Ages

A prayer journal is a personalized way to connect to the One... in your own way. Develop your own style of prayer. Share it or keep it private, it's up to you! Write in it as often as you want... and see your journey with God develop and deepen. In this workshop each participant will personalize their own eco-friendly prayer journal. We'll also ask about different ways you can inspire or organize your prayer time. You will leave with a journal and lots of information on how to use it.

FC4: Kitchen Party Bible Study

Max# 30

Lisa Blais & Cindy Brownlee

FULL

PLAY/PRAY All Ages

We've all been told "don't play with your food" but in this workshop we will be encouraging you to do just that! We will have a chance to delve into the bible and explore the stories through some fun and creative recipes. Participants will have a chance to make at least one food item and bring home a "recipe" book of bible stories to use in their own contexts.

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God
1 Corinthians 10:31

FC5: Game for Growth and Re-Creation

Max# 30

Andrew Hyde

PLAY All Ages

Games are a substantial part of many youth programs, but do we really know why? In this workshop, we will explore how to get the most out of our games and their power to shape our communities. We'll compare games to other forms of experience-based learning opportunities, explore game-sequences as a means of taking your group on a growth

journey, and of course, we will have fun playing and learning. Come prepared to be moderately active, but don't think you need to have athletic prowess. Bring a notepad or journal if you want to jot down some different games to take home.

FC6: God said "Go," but Jonah said "No!": Prophecy 101

Max# 25

Alyson Huntly

PONDER

Do you ever wonder if God has a plan, or a hope, or a dream for you? Is God calling you to be something special in your life (a prophet, maybe) and if so, how would you know? Come and join in this playful and dramatic retelling of the story of Jonah and the Whale. We will create and use giant puppets to explore the depths of this very funny and yet very profound biblical parable. We will read between the lines of this whale of a tale to discover that Jonah is far more than a story about a reluctant prophet and a big fish. It is a biting social commentary about prophetic power, social justice, and much more. Along the way, you will be invited to consider how each of us is called to play a part in God's dream of love, compassion, and justice in the world. And we will have a chance to think about the really big life questions such as:

- What is the meaning of my life?
- What does it mean to be "called" to do or be something in life?
- How would I know if God is calling me to do something for justice?
- How do we know if we are on the right path or not?

FC7: Sacred Ecology: How to live on the Earth like your life depends on it.

Henri Lock

Max# 20

PONDER All Ages

FULL

Sacred Ecology: How to live on the Earth like your life depends on it. This is an eye-opening workshop where we will discover that we live in the most amazing corner of the universe and that we have important things to do to keep it that way. This is for everyone who loves the Earth and who wants to BE the change.

We'll see some amazing visuals, play some games that will help us see with Spirit eyes, and figure out some things we can do to help heal Mother Earth.

Henri Lock is the United Church Campus Minister at the University of Victoria and he loves to play in Creation and commune with the Spirit.

FC8: Still Here, Still Queer

Max# 30

Katie Vardie & Katlyn Munro

PONDER Young Adults & Leaders

Have you ever wondered what it's like being a rainbow sheep (aka queer) within your congregation? Perhaps you're a leader and have some rainbow youth. Regardless of who's the sheep, "Still Here, Still Queer" is a workshop designed to educate young adults and leaders on how they can address and understand their rainbow sheep within the church. Often people of gender and sexual minorities are overlooked and this is often done by accident. Leaders and young adults in the church, often lack the vocabulary or tools in order to help and understand those rainbow sheep around them and this workshop will provide you with those tools. Gender and sexuality are two very confusing, broad and sometimes hidden topics, especially within the church. It is of utmost importance that

leaders and young adults within the church understand and have compassion for those who are a part of the LGBTQ+ community. Are you part of the rainbow flock in your church? Maybe a lone rainbow sheep? Perhaps a rainbow sheep that is hiding in a cave? Or even a rainbow sheep ally? Regardless what kind of sheep you are, we are determined to make any and every sheep welcome in our church. We invite young adults and leaders to participate in this work-sheep.

FC9: Residential Schools and Reconciliation

Max# 30

Robin McGauley

PONDER All Ages

Come and learn about an extremely difficult and sad part of our church's history - how we participated in running Residential Schools for Indigenous children. Together we will explore how we can participate in the process of reconciliation

FC10: Mission and Service in the 21st Century

Max# 25

Ruth Noble

PONDER All Ages

Mission & Service in the 21st Century: As we move into a new way of being church, we need to reflect on the past of Mission & Service and explore how it will be transformed in the future. We will accomplish through an interactive timeline, discussion of the theological meaning of Mission & Service, and a process of visioning Mission & Service in the future

FC11: Godgasm: Faith & Sexuality

Max# 35

Kenji Mauri

PONDER All Ages

This workshop examines the interplay of public religion and individual sexuality. Participants will begin to identify and cultivate a personal ethic for relationships. All this will be connected to scripture. And there will be candy.

FC12: Preaching our stories – to be the church

Max# 15

Moses Kang

PONDER Youth & Young Adults

Our lives are viewed as a pilgrimage, and when our collective lives come together this becomes the story of the church. Preaching is about preaching our stories of the church. This workshop will look at how we can locate our story in the greater biblical narrative. We can all be great preachers and I introduce you to try preaching.

FC13: Spiritual Practices

Max# 30

Dan Leaver

PRAY All Ages

Spiritual practices are ways for you to find a deeper connection with the Holy. This session will explore a variety of spiritual practices and prayers that will help you question, respond, and examine your own faith and the role of Spirit in your daily life. All are welcome to come and experience God in new ways.

FC14: Daily Breathing**Max# 30****Kelly Jkanovich****FULL****PRAY Youth**

Let's face it, life gets busy. Sometimes we get so caught up in everything going on around us, we forget to focus on the small things, like breathing. In this workshop we will talk about what we do when life gets us down, and some ways to cope with the stress that comes with living day to day life. Hear from others going through the same things you may be, and share your own story if you're comfortable doing so. Learn some new relaxation techniques to help you get through hard times and be the best version of you. We will also be making a prayer kit, giving you that extra reminder that everything will be okay.

FC15: The Spirituality of Jesus: A Retreat**Max# 25****Susan Sheppard****PRAY Leaders**

This workshop will outline the background, format and activities for a youth retreat which we have developed based on the spiritual practices of Jesus as found in the Gospels. While designed as a weekend event we will discuss ways to shorten it to a daylong event or expand to a multi week activity. Participants will be given an opportunity to try out several of the Spiritual practices and other activities used in the retreat.

FC16: Ministry with SBNR Young Adults ("Spiritual But Not Religious")**Max# 40****Tom Sherwood****PONDER Young Adult & Leaders**

Many young adult Canadians describe themselves as "Spiritual But Not Religious" and do not connect with church ministries or communities. This workshop considers dynamics of the SBNR population and successful ministry strategies for connecting with them.

FC17: Faith and the search for peace in Colombia:**Max# 25****Paola Marquez****PONDER All Ages**

Faith and the search for peace in Colombia Colombians are working to end 60 years of civil war, and Colombian churches are both part of the solution and part of the challenge. Paola Marquez (volunteer coordinator of the Colombian Methodist Church) and Jim Hodgson (Latin America program coordinator of The United Church of Canada) will share some stories of their participation.

FC18: Spiritual Direction and Youth Ministry**Max# 25****Karen Orr****PONDER All Ages**

As a trained Spiritual Director and Youth Coordinator, Karen will share: how she is using contemplative practices in youth ministry, how to implement a Faith Journey group and the difference all this is making in the lives of the youth. We will also explore and experiment with a few spiritual practices during the session in groups and on our own.

FC19: How shall I live? Conversations and practices of Justice and Compassion.

Doris Kizinna

Max# 30

PONDER All Ages

The world needs us, our hands and our hearts to make change and to bring light into dark places. How can we best use our lives to be of use? Spiritual Practices of Compassion and Justice will guide this workshop. So will conversation about band-aids in a world of hurts, the difference between charity and solidarity, how our deep gifts can intersect with the deep needs of the world and how we are called to serve. Come and get courage and be inspired for the road ahead.

FC20: Justice-Seeking as a Spiritual Practice

Max# 35

Laura Hunter & Lauren King

PONDER All Ages

A workshop exploring the strategic approaches of striving for just peace in our world, centered around the premise of practice. A space for mutual learning - come share your stories as we examine the spiritual practice of justice seeking together.

FC21: Youth Ministries with an Intercultural Lens

Max# 25

Adele Halliday & Alydia Smith

PONDER Young Adults & Leaders

Youth programs are full of differences—and engaging differences is exactly what intercultural ministries is about!

Particularly as young people explore and discover aspects of their identities, differences emerge. This workshop is an excellent opportunity for youth leaders to explore how to: effectively honour the multiple differences in community; identify what difference and diversity might look like in youth programming; and consider how to create intercultural youth ministries.

FC22: African Music and Drumming: An Intercultural Exchange:

Emmanuel Ofori

FULL

Max# 30

PLAY All Ages

This is a free pilgrimage to the continent of Africa through the power of music, drumming, dance and culture. Participants will engage sounds of Africa. Listen to African folklore to stimulate reflection on our own faith. The dance part is fun and energetic. The goal is to help you to engage another (African) culture and encourage you to an experience in a very different way than what you are used to. African music and drumming workshop will help release stress, overcome inhibitions and fear of the unknown, cross cultural barriers and activate the natural rhythm of your body.

This interactive drumming workshop is simple and does not require prior knowledge of drumming or musical skills. It will follow oral tradition, the medium of transmitting African drum music. ENJOYMENT IS GUARANTEED

FC23: The Word Made Fresh: Engaging Millennials in Faith and Worship

Dave & Beth Exley

Max# 30

PONDER Leaders

Are you looking for new ways to connect with the millennial generation in worship? In this one hour workshop, we will explore some key ingredients needed to move the church beyond the stale old worship service and into a more engaging approach to worship. Creative liturgy, new options for music, and a number of other things that will help to make worship more engaging for everyone.

FC24: Nurturing a Faith that Matters: Important faith practices with young people.

Rodger Nishioka

Max# 30

PONDER: Leaders

Our ministry with young people is ultimately about faith. Everything we do from conferences like Rendez-vous to mission trips to youth group to worship to sharing coffee at Timmy's is ultimately about helping to form a vibrant, sustaining faith in God with our young people. So what do we do that helps grow that faith and what do we do that might hinder that growth? This workshop, designed for adult leaders, will examine seven specific practices that help nurture a strong faith among our young people.

FC25: Writing as a Spiritual Practice

Gordon Lambie

Max: 20

PONDER: All Ages

A series of creative and reflective writing exercises meant to offer those with an interest in writing a chance to try new things in a no-pressure environment. Workshop will explore the idea of writing as a spiritual practice as well as just a fun way of sharing ideas. Writing activities will be accessible in either French or English. Bilingual workshop leader. Please bring something to write with (like a pencil), and something to write on (like paper).

Friday, August 18, 2017 2:00pm - 3:30pm

FD1: Beautiful Earth: Ecotheology & DIY Health and Beauty Products

Aaron Miechkota

FULL

Max# 20

PLAY All Ages

Learn about eco-theology and a new way of understanding God's creative love response in the world. Hey, beautiful United Churchers! In this workshop we'll live our eco commitment by making DIY beauty and grooming products. We'll blend up some texturizing sea salt hair spray, face powder & blush, deodorant, fizzing bath bombs and lip balm. They will be all natural and kind to you and the planet. We'll also talk about the relationship between how we understand God and how this plays out toward environmental justice.

FD2: Trans & Gender Non-Conforming Allyship**Max# 50****Anna White****PLAY Ages**

Allyship is a practice - let's practice together! A space for cis-gender folks who want to learn more about trans issues and allyship. Participants will have an opportunity to practice active witnessing and consensual allyship by using forum theatre! A space to discuss issues facing each of us and our trans friends, partners, and communities. What does striving to be a trans ally mean to you? How can you foster trans inclusive spaces? Our aim is to leave the space with a toolkit and action tips to be able to act in solidarity with trans & gender non-conforming folks.

FD3: Movies & Spirituality**Max# 40****Alydia Smith****FULL****PONDER All Ages**

Movies are powerful story-telling tools! A good movie can transport us to another time, place or galaxy! It can spark our imaginations to a new realm of possibilities. It can challenge us to look at the world around us from a different perspective. Join us at Movies and Spirituality to explore the power of popular movies to tell a story and how those stories influence our spirituality.

FD5: Once Upon a Story**Max# 25****Amy Crawford****FULL****PRAY: All Ages**

Do you love a good story? Do you struggle to find biblical stories interesting or meaningful? If so, come and hear some biblical stories told in a relaxing yet meaningful way, engage in a time of wondering together about what they mean for you today, and then choose your own creative response.

FD6: Learn about UCC Youth Pilgrimage**Max# 40****Sam Chambre and 2015 Youth pilgrimage reps.****PONDER All Ages**

In 2015, 13 youth aged 16-18 along with 2 chaperones travelled across Canada over the course of 5 weeks to learn first hand about important social, environmental, spiritual and economic issues that would be discussed and voted on at General Council. Come join (most of) us and we'll tell you all about it!

FD7: Praying in Colour**Max# 40****Meghan Witzel****FULL****PLAY/PRAY All Ages**

Come explore a hands on way to explore prayer-through colour, doodling and fun. No art skills necessary! All ages can enjoy!

FD8: KAIROS Blanket Exercise**Max# 40****Shannon Neufeldt****FULL****PONDER All Ages**

Take a step towards reconciliation. In this exercise you will take on the roles of Indigenous peoples in Canada. Standing on blankets that represent the land, you will walk through pre-contact, treaty-making, colonization and resistance. We will engage your emotions and your intellect and finish off with a talking circle debrief. Education is key to reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples and the KAIROS Blanket Exercise covers over 500 years of history in one participatory workshop.

FD9: Faith, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Colombia**Paola Marquez****Max# 25****PONDER All Ages**

How do people in other countries navigate issues of sexual orientation and gender identity? What can people in Canada learn from other experiences? Is there anything we can do to assist LGBTQ people who confront human rights issues in other countries?

FD10: Social Innovation Challenge, the Finale**Carla Leon****PLAY All Ages** <http://www.socialinnovationchallenge.ca/montreal-2017/>

Develop your concept, discover new partners, and compete for a chance to win start-up funding! Focusing on proposals that have financial sustainability, positive social impact, an environmentally friendly focus, or are spiritually grounded, the winning ideas will have the support of mentors from across the business world, receive start-up funding, receive ongoing support, and create connections with many other like-minded people from around the local community. You can come as either pitcher with a social idea, or you can come to support & hear these awesome pitches! Each pitch should be 60 seconds in length.

FD11: Vocations**Max# 25****Bronwyn Corlett****PONDER All Ages**

Considering a call to ministry in the United Church of Canada? This is the workshop for you! We will explore the processes and training options for becoming a minister. We will also discuss what you may consider when making this decision.

FD12: Geocaching as a Spiritual Practice**Max# 30****Janet Jones****PLAY All Ages**

Geocaching is an outdoor adventure where you search for hidden treasures in the woods. It is a sport of play but can have you praying and pondering while you're enjoying the beauty of the world. Participants will engage in a short presentation before heading outdoors to find some geocaches. Where possible, download the Geocaching app on your phone or bring along your GPS. (These are not requirements to participate.)

FD13: Skyrim & Theology**Max# 30****Adam Kilner****PLAY All Ages**

This workshop will offer participants a new way of engaging their faith as they explore the vast and rugged landscapes and culture of Skyrim. This workshop will explore the meaning of faith through the lens of quest (and adventure), seeing the life of Jesus (and the Israelites) as its own open-world quest.

FD14: African Music and Drumming: An Intercultural Exchange:**Emmanuel Ofori****Max# 25****PLAY All Ages**

This is a free pilgrimage to the continent of Africa through the power of music, drumming, dance and culture. Participants will engage sounds of Africa. Listen to African folklore to stimulate reflection on our own faith. The dance part is fun and energetic. The goal is to help you to engage another (African) culture and encourage you to an experience in a very different way than what you are used to. African music and drumming workshop will help release stress, overcome inhibitions and fear of the unknown, cross cultural barriers and activate the natural rhythm of your body.

This interactive drumming workshop is simple and does not require prior knowledge of drumming or musical skills. It will follow oral tradition, the medium of transmitting African drum music. ENJOYMENT IS GUARANTEED

OR**Service Projects****TB1: St. Columba House**

Saint Columba House is a community centre in the neighbourhood of Point Saint Charles in Montreal and will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2017. As a community ministry of The United Church of Canada, Saint Columba House is not merely providing programs for Pointe Saint Charles`population. Our approach is to empower and involve citizens in groups and actions which directly involve their lives.

TB2: Montreal City Mission**FULL**

We are an open, diverse, inclusive and interfaith community of risk takers which advocates and empowers "from the edge" to those most vulnerable in society.

We value being a community without borders, a mission without walls...

Nurturing talents and gifts, we make connections through outreach to the wider community by means of our programs and partnerships.

We value social and global justice...

We advocate and use our individual and collective energy, ability, compassion and will to effect change and to adapt to future needs

TB3: South West Mission

Our **Vision** is to "provide a table for all, with food for body, mind and spirit"

Our **Mission** at SouthWest, is that our sense of community is inspired by our Christian faith. We partner with individuals and organizations to address issues like food security, poverty, education and wellness. Our programs and activities encourage and inspire all of us to realize our potential as uniquely gifted individuals in our families and neighbourhoods.

Friday, August 18th 3:30pm – 5:00pm

A Play: Trans – “Script”**Presented by Tom Sherwood**

Based on real stories collected in script development workshops and crafted into a 45-minute play for six actors, Trans-Script dramatizes the dynamics of love and family relationships in the context of transgender experiences. It has been performed in high schools, churches and at the 2016 Affirm Conference. It is always followed by a talk back session with the audience and cast.

Or

Sabbath (Free) Time