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*News from the Region: June 27, 2023*



**News of interest to the people of the Northern Spirit Region.**

If you have news or events to share, please write a short description, with a clear headline and a link to more information, and send it to [northernspirit@united-church.ca](mailto:northernspirit@united-church.ca).



★ Add your local events to our Northern Spirit events calendar! ★  
[Click here to view upcoming events.](#) And [click here to submit your event.](#)

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**Family News**

**Generous Donors in Northern Spirit: Are you in need of music?**

Multiple people have reached out to the office with donation offers recently: please contact the office if you are interested in adopting an **Upright piano** in good condition; **Voices United hymnbooks**, or **Good News bibles**. ♪

## **Regional letter and resource on Pride vigilance and courage**

A [Pride season letter has been sent to all ministries](#) in Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils. In light of vandalism involving United Churches across Canada, and angry words sent to 2SLGBTQIA+ Affirming ministries, the letter thanks the many ministries of all kinds who offer a public, intentional and explicit support to Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ people in the face of a sharp increase of hate speech and attacks. It invites faithful vigilance and courage through the summer Pride season, and offers resources on dealing with harassment. [Download it here](#) (PDF) and share widely.

An [accompanying article on our website](#) outlines a little of the history and context of the extremist movements that have gained strength in Canada in recent years. Many thanks to Chloe Burns for transforming a lot of text into clear and colourful layout and to Affirming ministry and task group members for their wisdom. If you have any concerns, or further ideas for addressing the situation outlined in the letter and article, please call your Regional Council office or Regional Minister Julie Graham, [jgraham@united-church.ca](mailto:jgraham@united-church.ca)

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## **Featured News**

### **June is Pride Month: Celebrating Our 2SLGBTQIA+ Communities**

Throughout June, Pride celebrations take place in communities across the country. We wish the Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ community a happy Pride Month and encourage allies to renew their commitment to fighting alongside the 2SLGBTQIA+ community for a future where all can live in freedom and security. [Read the full statement from the United Church of Canada.](#)

### **National Indigenous History Month**

June is National Indigenous History Month, a time to commemorate and honour the history, contributions, and diversity of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples in Canada. We encourage you to make connections with Indigenous neighbours, dive deeper into Indigenous history, and experience the beauty of Indigenous cultures and traditions. Please look carefully at your local gatherings, which are a rich opportunity to learn. Show up whenever and however you can; use your community of faith signage, space, and budget to lend your public support. In her message for National Indigenous Peoples Day, Moderator Carmen Lansdowne offers many ways you and your community of faith can celebrate or mark this day. Stream the Moderator's message on [YouTube here](#), or [view and download the file here](#).

### **★ National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering**

The Indigenous church gathers on Treaty 6 Territory in Edmonton, AB, on July 28 - 30, for the 2023 National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering. The theme is "With Strong Voices." Moderator Carmen Lansdowne will give a keynote address on Friday, July 28. Other program elements include installation of new members of the National Indigenous Elders Council and the new National Indigenous Council; panel and plenary

discussions, and workshop opportunities. The National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering will bring together 35 young Indigenous people to build community through hand drum songs, arts and crafts, swimming, and activities. Updates will be posted on social media and The United Church of Canada website. Stay tuned!

★ **Hold the date! Western Intercultural Ministries Network Conference and AGM 2023, 19-21 October, St Albert AB, Treaty Six**, at Star of the North retreat centre.

All welcome to our first in-person gathering since 2019! Theme to be announced, but it will carry our commitment to being intercultural practitioners in ministry together, uniting perspectives and lived experiences that carry racial, gender, abilities, and sexual diversity. Song and worship, speakers, workshops, and lots of time for visiting and telling stories are all in the plans. **October 21** we will join Northern Spirit Regional Council at their Celebration of Ministries service and Affirming celebration. More information coming later in the summer. ~ Who is WIMN? [Click here for an overview and news.](#)

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## **Wider Church News & Resources**

### ★ **Flourishing: The Moderator's Project**

The Moderator is on a three-year journey to connect with the nation on big questions. With the goal of enhancing “flourishing” in church, among our leadership, and within the broader community, she is encouraging dialogue on this question of flourishing, and how it could influence our future. Read more about the [Flourishing Project!](#)

### ★ **40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism 2023: October 10-December 1**

40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism will return **October 10—December 1, 2023** with brand-new content! Live events with dynamic speakers will be running on Tuesdays, anti-racism books will be featured by the United Church Bookstore, and there'll be reflections by diverse United Church members every day but Sundays. [Click here for more information.](#) And [sign up for the 40 Days newsletter to stay up-to-date!](#)

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### ***Worship Resources:***

See United Church [Worship Resources](#) for upcoming Sundays and special celebrations.

[Fifth after Pentecost - July 2, 2023](#)

[Sixth after Pentecost - July 9, 2023](#)

[Seventh after Pentecost - July 16, 2023](#)

[Eighth after Pentecost - July 23, 2023](#)

[Ninth after Pentecost - July 30, 2023](#)

[Tenth after Pentecost - August 6, 2023](#)

[Eleventh after Pentecost – August 13, 2023](#)

[Twelfth after Pentecost – August 20, 2023](#)

[Thirteenth after Pentecost – August 27, 2023](#)

\* *Votes for the remit process now underway!* We invite you to learn more and explore the [remit process](#). / [Click here for more information about this remit!](#) The deadline date is March 31, 2024.

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★ **Office Notice: The Regional Office will be closed Monday, July 3,** reopening on Tuesday July 4. ★

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