



NORTHERN SPIRIT
REGIONAL COUNCIL
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

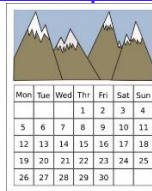


News from the Region: June 12, 2024



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.



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

Family News

★ **Letter from our Chair: *On Summer***

Rev. Helen Reed, our Regional Chairperson, has shared a letter reflecting on summer plans and hopes. [Read the letter here.](#)

★ **Thank you to all for the Affirming celebration and ordination turn out!**

120 people had a wonderful celebration of an ordination and a becoming-officially-Affirming June 1 at Mill Woods United Church. Deep thanks to all the many people who

offered ceremony to start us in a good way, created the service, participated in leadership, reflected on their stories, offered communion, and danced us out to share in good food, conversation, and reunions together. Now the Affirming journey continues, and we heard many good challenges to the Regional Council for how to live that out. 🌈❤️👉❤️👉❤️👉❤️👉❤️

We've had some technical struggles getting the lovely photos posted to the website, so for now, see the [celebration and ordination album on our Facebook group](#) (still private because we're waiting for enough admins to be ready for it to turn into a public group).

❤️ **Happy Birthday St. Albert United! *Sunday June 23, St. Albert***

St. Albert United Church is 70 years young. To help us celebrate these 70 years of Ministry, we invite you to an informal lunch on our patio and back lawn. Join us on Sunday June 23 at 11:30 for a hamburger and a piece of Anniversary cake.

❤️ **Celebrating Rev. Bill Doyle's retirement, *Saturday, June 29, Spruce Grove***

Rev. Bill Doyle is retiring and St. Andrew's United Church in Spruce Grove is hosting a "Siesta Fiesta" in his honour. Join us on Saturday, June 29 for a Mexican themed party, including a taco salad bar, beach themed mocktails, photo booth, pinata, and karaoke! Tickets are \$25.00 per person with all proceeds going towards a new sound system for the church. Tickets can be purchased by contacting the church office at ***(780) 962-0488** (*note the phone number was incorrect in last week's newsletter!*).

★ Rev. Ruth Lumax is downsizing her library and has assorted books pertaining to ministry available for the cost of shipping/pick up. Please contact her at fristunitedwetaskiwin@gmail.com **before June 21** for a pdf of book covers.

Featured News

★ **June is Indigenous History Month and Pride month.** Let's stretch ourselves and our communities of faith to participate in local Indigenous, Two Spirit, and LGBTQIA-led events and learning spaces. Use your church signage or lawn to show your support; check out the many excellent books and movies both communities offer; and support your local library, school, community groups, and more in addressing the continued realities of anti-Indigenous racism, transphobia, and homophobia in our communities and country.

★ **Pride Month event and resources**

There is a lot going on- [click here for all our resources and invitations!](#)

The theme for this month's 100th anniversary national newsletter is Love is Louder, in honour of Pride Month. [Click here to view or download it.](#)

Wednesday June 19, join the Prairie to Pine Equity and Diversity Committee for a debrief and planning community conversation on Pride plans through June and the summer. [Click here for the full details and a shareable invitation.](#)

As many of you know, public, intentional, and explicit support of Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ people and their loves ones can attract negative attention. Our [Pride safety resource](#) has some tips for building and online security, and encouragement for committing to our public, intentional, and explicit support for Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ people.

June 21st: National Indigenous Peoples' Day

How will you be marking this time that has come to be recognized because of the advocacy and leadership of First Nations people? New worship materials are available on the [United Church website](#). This site also contains all previous National Indigenous Day orders of service as well as many other Indigenous-themed worship resources.

Wider Church News & Resources

★ United Church 100th anniversary resources

Lots of preparations for the June 2025 centenary of the United Church are getting underway. [Click here for the YouTube video of the national service](#) celebrating our 99th!

This from AB Archives: "Will you or someone you know be celebrating the 100th anniversary of The United Church of Canada next year? Don't wait until the last minute to start your research! Many United Church congregations have donated records to the Provincial Archives of Alberta. [Search our online database to find them.](#)" We'll do some research on accessing NWT and BC archives too.

★ Farewell to Camp Wohelo, July 6

Greetings Friends of Camp Wohelo! Countless women in our region spent many memorable times at beautiful Camp Wohelo and this is our opportunity to share our memories and good-byes. Please join us at 10 am on July 6 for visiting and reliving a day at Camp Wohelo! (Activities planned 10 am to 6 pm). Please RSVP with the number of people attending, ages, allergies, dietary restrictions/preferences to campwohelo@yahoo.ca so that we may be well prepared for you all. Note the method of payment, an e-transfer or bring the payment with you. (15 years old and up, \$20 / Seniors and under 15 years old, \$10 / Free for 10 years old and under).

Call for General Council 45 Commissioners

In 2025 we'll celebrate the United Church's 100th birthday, and see a return to an in-person General Council in Calgary. It's going to be a big and busy year. Important preparation for the 45th meeting of the General Council will include the election of General Council Commissioners, who serve a three-year term, attend the in-person meeting, and attend multiple online meetings through those three years as part of the overall governance of our church. [Click here for full information](#), including some videos prepared by former Commissioners in Shining Waters Regional Council, which may help

in your discernment. If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else, [please fill out the Nominations form here](#).

In Case You Missed It:

From the Growth Animator: Ideas for summer ministry ~ Intergenerational Worship

Not every church has the ability to run a Vacation Bible School during Summer Break, but that doesn't mean there aren't other fantastic opportunities for ministry with families in your community. Jordan Cantwell, Growth Animator, shares the second in a series of three articles providing ideas for ways that communities of faith can connect with families over the summer. [Read the second summer ministry idea here](#). Share your favourite ideas from your community of faith with your Growth Animator (jcantwell@united-church.ca). Your gifts of growing might be seeds of inspiration for others! (If you missed previous ideas from Jordan, all Growth Animator letters are now linked at the bottom of our [Newsletter archive, here](#)).

Part 1 of Northern Spirit Regional Meeting done!

- Reports Booklets:

[Initial 2024 reports are posted on the website on the annual meeting page.](#)

Read the reports for a vibrant, exciting look into the work happening in & beyond our Region! We have posted: [Reports from the Region](#) | [Reports from Networks + Clusters](#) | & [Reports from Community, Education, and Outreach Partners](#).

- Session 2: We will reconvene on Thursday October 24 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm on Zoom. At this time we will elect 11 General Council 45 Commissioners, and focus on other business such as proposals. Please click here for the [Proposals PDF overview](#) (best for sharing and reviewing) and [click here for the Word version](#) (best for copying and pasting into a new document so you can build your proposal with the correct information and format.)

Job opportunity: - Youth Ministry Coordinator position available: Riverbend United, Edmonton

Riverbend United Church is searching for a new Youth Ministry Coordinator to begin in September 2024. Please [click here for a full job description](#). If you are interested, email your cover letter and resume to searchruc@gmail.com. The position will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.

Attention ministry personnel! The Annual Declaration deadline is June 30, 2024.

Complete yours on ChurchHub.ca ("My Ministry Page") to avoid impacting ministry roles. Incomplete declarations mean removal from active status. Questions? [Contact your Vocational Minister, Laura Fohse](#).

Worship Resources:

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

[Indigenous Day of Prayer - June 16, 2024](#)

[Fourth after Pentecost - June 16, 2024](#)

[World Refugee Day - June 20, 2024](#)

[Fifth after Pentecost - June 23, 2024](#)

[Sixth after Pentecost - June 30, 2024](#)

[Seventh after Pentecost - July 7, 2024](#)

[Eighth after Pentecost - July 14, 2024](#)

[Ninth after Pentecost - July 21, 2024](#)

[Tenth after Pentecost - July 28, 2024](#)

[Eleventh after Pentecost - August 4, 2024](#)

[Emancipation Sunday- August 4, 2024](#)

* [Click here to access Northern Spirit's 2024 Prayer Cycle](#)

● [Click here to access past Newsletter issues.](#)

Notice: We have moved!

The Regional Council office has moved into a smaller space as of April 2024.

Our new mailing address is:

8510 95 Ave NW,
Edmonton, AB
T6C 1Y7

Our phone number has also changed. The new office number is:

1(800) 268-3781, extension 6029.

Email remains the same: NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca.





Northern Spirit Regional Council Office
8510 95 Ave NW Edmonton Alberta
1(800) 268-3781 ext. 6029
northernspirit@united-church.ca
www.northernspiritr.ca

Image Credits: Photo: Transformation Mask, by Kwakwaka'wakw artist, Beau Dick. The mask is shown in the open position, revealing the face of the first human being nestled between the split image of a bird. Painted on the inside panels, above the face, are two supernatural Wolves. When the mask is closed, it turns into Raven. Transformation masks are physical manifestations of the concept of changing from one state of being to another. They are worn by costumed dancers, who open and close the beaks by pulling on strings attached to the sides of the mask. Because of its enormous size, this mask could not be worn; it was conceived as a sculpture to be hung on a wall. Photo taken by Jon Kolbert, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Indigenous_art_at_the_Canadian_Museum_of_History.jpg, accessed June 12, 2024.

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