

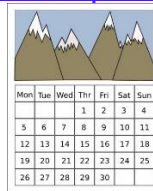


News from the Region: June 26, 2024



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

★ **From the Growth Animator: Ideas for summer ministry** ~ *Special Events & Encouraging Connections*

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 third 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](#)).

♥ **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!*).

Featured News

★ **Hold the date! Rural Ministry Conference, *October 25-27, 2024 in Fort Macleod, Alberta.***

With workshops specifically designed for ministry in rural contexts, including First Third (children, youth, young adults) Ministry, Becoming Affirming, Intercultural Ministry, and Community Partnerships. Keynote speaker Rev. Bronwyn Corlett, Rural and New Ministries Coordinator, UCC. Registration opens late July!

★ **Spots available: Naramata Youth & Young Adults Retreat, *June 30 - July 6***

Naramata Centre is hosting a retreat for youth and young adults this summer. Join us for Ignite: Leadership for Young Adults with Jenne Newman, Gord Oaks and Christopher Giffen. At the Naramata Centre, June 30 - July 6. [Find registration and program information at this link.](#)

Wider Church News & Resources

★ **Standing Together Against Hate Based on Religious Identity**

The [Canadian Interfaith Conversation](#) has issued a statement on behalf of over 60 signatory faith traditions and institutions, including The Canadian Council of Churches, of which the United Church is a founding member. The goal: to present a common public position adopted by Canada's faith communities, on combatting hate against and between our country's religious communities. [Click here to read the statement in English.](#)

★ **Season of Creation resources available now**

The 2024 Season of Creation will take place from September 1st to October 4th with the theme "To hope and act with Creation". This year, the September 1st celebration falls on a Sunday, providing a special opportunity to prepare prayer services in tune

with this year's theme and symbol. We invite everyone to start planning your events and celebrations! [Download the 2024 Celebration Guide here](#). Further information about the [Season of Creation is available here](#).

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.

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:

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](#).

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.

[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.northernspiritrc.ca



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