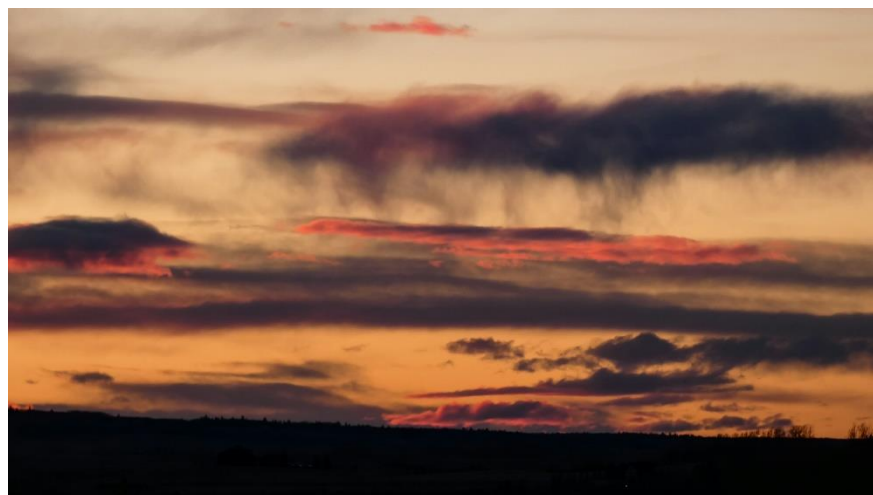




NORTHERN SPIRIT
REGIONAL COUNCIL
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

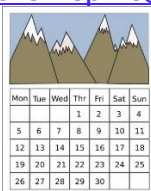


News from the Region: October 2, 2024



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.



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

★ 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

♥ Our thoughts, prayers and sympathies are extended to the family, friends, colleagues, and those touched by the life and ministry of **the Reverend Brenda Fawkes**. Brenda died in a motor vehicle accident on Friday, September 20, 2024. Brenda was the Office of Vocation Minister for Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds Regional Councils. Our hearts go out to her partner and two sons in Vancouver, her extended family, her colleagues in Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds Regional Council, in the General Council Office Theology and Ministry Unit, and across the country. Funeral arrangements are pending.

★ **Covenanting:** Spirit of Peace United Church, in Spirit River AB, will be celebrating their covenanting with their new minister, Rev. Harold Imes, on October 20th, time TBA.

★ **Covenanting:** Trinity United (Cold Lake) and St. John's United (Bonnyville) invite you to their covenanting service for Rev Sungsoon Park on **Saturday Oct 5**. Service will be at 11 am at St. John's United Church in Bonnyville, 4508 43 Ave. Hosted by the St. John's (Bonnyville) and Trinity (Cold Lake) United Churches. Potluck lunch to follow, all are welcome!

★ **Community of Faith Present & Futures:** how is your community of faith doing? If you would like to arrange a visit with the Pastoral Relations Minister and/or Pastoral Relations Commission to discuss your church's present situation or future visions, please [contact the office](#) to discuss possibilities and to schedule a meeting, either online or in person.

Northern Spirit online Regional meeting October 24; registration & proposals reminder

[Registration is open for our online Regional meeting.](#)

All are most welcome- you do not need to be a delegate or member of the Regional Council to attend. Delegates are of course both invited and expected. We need your wisdom and discernment as we learn, pray, and decide together here in our 100th year as the United Church. [Click here for details.](#)

Proposals are part of our business for this meeting. These set policy and direct the Regional Council and General Council (the national church) towards specific actions or priorities. [Learn more, and find a template, here.](#)

LAST CALL! Northern Spirit General Council 45 Commissioners nominations

The Regional Executive encourages you to discern whether you are called to be a Commissioner to the 45th General Council, a three year term that includes the in-person meeting of the General Council this coming August in Calgary. And you're asked to help others discern. [Please click here for an updated invitation and resources](#), and share this widely.

What are your plans for the 100th anniversary? New resources available!

We're not far from turning 100! We have [a Centenary resource and supports summary page](#) up on the regional website, and that includes an invitation to share your events with everyone. And find here [a short planning guide for communities of faith](#) from our Northern and Prairie Regional Council archivists Erin Acland and Leanne Templeton.

Featured News

Regional network statement on the police killing of an Indigenous child

The Being Good Relations Network of the United Church in Alberta, Yellowknife, and Northeast BC expresses its heartfelt sorrow to the family and community of 15-year-old Hoss Lightning of Samson Cree Nation. Hoss was shot dead by the RCMP in Wetaskiwin AB after he called 911. We name that Hoss was seeking help, and that yet again, a call from a person in need resulted in a shooting death instead. We name [that police shootings disproportionately target Indigenous people across Canada](#), and that this has been happening for many years, and continues. Between August 29 and September 8 2024, across Canada, [six Indigenous people died at the hands of police](#). Being Good Relations invites you to [read and share the statement](#).

Wider Church News & Resources

♥ With great sadness, The United Church of Canada announces the death of **The Very Rev., The Honourable Dr. Lois M. Wilson**, the denomination's 28th Moderator, and the first woman to fill the role. She faithfully served as Moderator from 1980 to 1982. The Rev. Wilson died in hospital in Fredericton, NB, on Sept. 13, 2024. She was 97 years old. A memorial service is planned for October 15, at 11:00 a.m. at Metropolitan UC, 56 Queen St E, Toronto, ON. The service will be [livestreamed on YouTube](#). [Read the full news story on the UC website](#).

★ General Council Executive meeting summary

The GCE met September 27-28, as the church begins to prepare for an upcoming online meeting of General Council Commissioners, and the 45th General Council in Calgary this August. [Please click here for a summary](#).

★ GC Nominations Calls: closing October 24

General Council have launched their Fall 2024 Call for Nominations. This round of nominations is closing Thursday October 24. There are three different open calls at the moment that are all unique opportunities to engage in the work of the church: *the Justice and Reconciliation Fund Committee*; *the Faith and Life Sciences Reference Group*; and *the General Council 45 Equity Support Team*. [Click here for all details](#).

Commemorating death and grief in Palestine and Israel: worship resource available

Mennonite Church Canada's Palestine-Israel Network (PIN) encourages congregations to mark the October 7 anniversary of the mass murder and kidnappings in Israel, and the start of the genocide in Gaza. The PIN has prepared an online package of resources designed for congregational prayer or small group use. It features scripture, stories, and the song "If the War Goes On" by John Bell, who gives voice to the questions we ask in times such as these. [Click here for a video of the song](#). The free download for worship leaders [is available here](#) and at the PIN web page [here](#).

Olive harvest focus and resources for Palestine, October 2024

People in Living Skies Regional Council, with support from some great Manitoba expertise, invite United Church people into this opportunity to understand the violence facing Palestinian farmers and villagers as they commence their annual olive harvest. In Gaza, part of the Occupied Palestinian Territories, harvest will not happen at all this year, amidst the unspeakable devastation and starvation. Together, we will explore why, and what Canadians can do. This focus is intended for everyone, and we hope people who live in rural or remote areas closer to the rhythms of harvesting, fishing, and hunting will bring their lived experience to this work. **The planners warmly welcome participation from across Turtle Island** to film viewing, learning, worship, personal reflection, and advocacy. Key dates to help us prepare in advance include the Season of Creation, and the World Council of Churches' Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel. In October we'll offer resources for World Communion Sunday and World Food Day. [Information will be shared throughout on this web page.](#)

Worship Resources:

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

[World Communion Sunday - October 6, 2024](#)

[Creation Time 5 - October 6, 2024](#)

[Creation Time 6 - October 13, 2024](#)

[Thanksgiving Sunday - October 13, 2024](#)

[International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - October 17, 2024](#)

[Twenty-second after Pentecost - October 20, 2024](#)

[World Food Sunday - October 20, 2024](#)

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

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



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