



NORTHERN SPIRIT
REGIONAL COUNCIL
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

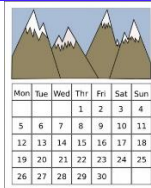


News from the Region: November 13, 2024



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

★ **Congrats to Athabasca United Church on becoming Affirming!**

Our Regional Council's newest Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ affirming ministry is [Athabasca United Church](#) which will hold the final step in its formal process on November 24 at a

public service of celebration. As an Affirming ministry itself, Northern Spirit offers its congratulations! This was a journey taken with faith, integrity and care by the many across the entire congregation, and we're delighted that there's now official recognition of ministry that has been going on for a long time. We wish you many blessings on your continued path, at a time when Two Spirit, transgender, and other gender-diverse people need to hear more than ever that God's love is for all, no exceptions.

★ A reminder that **Northern Spirit's [Affirming Committee](#)** is ready to support any ministry or person that wants to further their Affirming work, consider the process, or have thoughtful conversations. This includes online gatherings of Affirming or curious ministries and people (and hopefully an in-person gathering one day). You can contact them through the office: northernspirit@united-church.ca Just put "Affirming Committee" in the subject line. [Read more about their work here.](#)

★ **Clarity on 100th anniversary package sent to communities of faith**

In October, many communities of faith or pastoral charges received communication from Brian Arthur Brown, chair of Friends of the United Church Foundation. The Regional Council notes that you are free to accept or ignore the invitation to plan a worship service, and offers some details on worship related to the United Church's 100th anniversary in 2025. [Please click here to read and share the clarification.](#)

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.

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.

Wider Church News & Resources

★ **Advent Unwrapped liturgical resources**

As planning for Advent continues, or as the need for creative new liturgy comes up at the last moment, don't forget to check out the United Church's Advent Unwrapped and its many and diverse resource. [All the resources are listed here](#), and there's a [Facebook community here](#).

★ Honouring Advent's radical roots: Resources on Palestinian human rights, event on avoiding anti-Semitism

As enormous violence continues in the Holy Land in Gaza and the West Bank, including Bethlehem, the United Network for Justice in Palestine and Israel is again offering an Advent candle-lighting liturgy for public worship and household prayers. [Click here for a copy](#). Two songs, written by Rev Juanita Austin, are also available for public use: O Town of Bethlehem ([YouTube link here](#)) and Will You Grieve for Gaza ([YouTube link](#)). [Here's the PDF of lyrics for both songs](#), and an explanation. These biblical places are real communities that today are gripped by immense violence and trauma, and our Christian family and human rights activists in Palestine are asking us not to erase their lived realities as we re-tell our sacred stories.

There is also a live national online event on Advent scripture and avoiding anti-Semitism coming up November 19 with Dr Amy-Jill Levine that will be a rich time of learning and discussion. [Click here to register](#).

Update on United Church policy on Palestine and Israel

On October 19, the online meeting of General Council 44 adopted new policies related to Palestine and Israel. In summary, the United Church is: (1) adopting the strategies of Boycott, Divestment and Sanction (BDS) movement; and (2) responding positively to the request of NEW04 - Join the Apartheid Free Communities Movement; and (3) joining the consensus of the international human rights community in recognizing and rejecting Israel's apartheid system of laws and legal procedures towards the Palestinian people. [Please click here for more details](#), including a letter from the Moderator. These policies are an invitation to the entire church, not just the General Council, so we are all encouraged to be informed of the details.

2025 UCC Calendars

The [2025 Canadian Church Bilingual Calendar](#) is here! Featuring stunning visuals of United Churches from coast to coast, this calendar showcases the beauty and diversity of our faith community. Stay organized with essential information like church seasons, liturgical colours, significant United Church Days, and lectionary dates. Looking for a unique fundraising opportunity for your community of faith? Receive 20% off on bulk orders of 50 or more calendars by using the code **MYCHURCHCAL** at checkout. This code is valid until **November 15**. The bookstore reports these calendars are over 50% sold out!

In Case You Missed It:

Survey on the Roles of the Moderator and General Secretary

The task group reviewing the roles of the Moderator and General Secretary would love to hear your input regarding these important Offices of our denomination. We would be grateful if you would participate in this 7-minute [survey](#) by no later than **November 15, 2024**. These recommendations will be presented to the General Council Executive

at their first meeting in 2025. If you have questions about this survey, please reach out to HumanResources@united-church.ca.

Worship Resources:

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

[Twenty-sixth after Pentecost - November 17, 2024](#)

[Children's Sunday - November 17, 2024](#)

[Transgender Day of Remembrance - November 20, 2024](#)

[Reign of Christ - November 24, 2024](#)

[World AIDS Day - December 1, 2024](#)

[First Sunday of Advent - December 1, 2024](#)

[UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities - December 3, 2024](#)

[National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women - December 6, 2024](#)

[Second Sunday of Advent - December 8, 2024](#)

[UN Human Rights Day - December 10, 2024](#)

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



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- [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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