



NORTHERN SPIRIT  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



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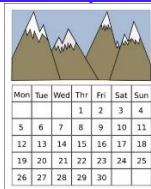
*News from the Region: November 27, 2024*

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**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**

♥ **Rosalind United Church** will be holding their final (decommissioning) service on **Sunday, December 29th at 11:00 am.** We are extending the invitation to any ministry personnel who served this community, to the region, and the general public. We would also like to ask if there are any churches that know of a need for any of the religious artifacts like our pulpit, cross, communion table, and some older communion

cup sets in a lovely wooden tray with lid. There may be other items of interest too. Please contact Rev Deanna Cox 780.385.3955. ~ *Rosalind United*

### ♥ **Congrats to Athabasca United Church on becoming Affirming!**

Our Regional Council's newest Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ affirming ministry is [Athabasca United Church](#) which held 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](mailto:northernspirit@united-church.ca) Just put "Affirming Committee" in the subject line. [Read more about their work here.](#)

### ★ **Update from your Executive:**

The Executive met in November, welcoming our new Chairperson, Rev. Leigh Sinclair. The Executive approved a budget for 2025, and dates for the 2025 in-person Regional Annual Meeting, which will be held **May 29 - June 1** in Edmonton. **Save the date!** More details to come.

### **Calling All Northern Spirit Youth! Youth Forum 2025 Applications**

Youth Forum is open to young people, ages 15 to 25, selected by regional councils. Youth Forum leaders have the ambitious and achievable goal of having 100 young people under age 30 attend General Council 45. Each region is asked to select up to six youth, with a minimum of 50% of participants being Racialized and/or Indigenous young people. Registration for Youth Forum at GC45 is free and travel arrangements are made by the General Council. Some events or activities may have associated costs. No one will be excluded due to difficulty in payment. [Find full details on the website here.](#) | [Apply at this link](#) before the application deadline of **November 30!** Tell your friends and youth groups!

### **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.](#)

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## **Wider Church News & Resources**

### ★ The Moderator's Advent Message

In her Advent message, Moderator Carmen Lansdowne reflects on how the Christ child was not born in luxury, but had loving parents and God's grace. This love is what we hope for with all of those in our care. [Watch the Moderator's message on YouTube at this link.](#)

### ★ Christmas Support

- 2024's **No Room In the Inn Campaign** is supporting *Youth Empowerment & Support Services (YESS)* to replace the roof on their Whyte Ave. facility in Edmonton. YESS's Whyte Avenue Facility houses their Youth Support Centre (YSC). The YSC is an evolution in youth care and crisis management. Materials for this campaign can be found at these links: [2024 No Room In the Inn brochure](#) / [YESS information](#) / [2024 Campaign Invitation](#).

- **Hardisty Lake United Church Camp** is also accepting sponsorship for the 2025 camping season: Make a difference in your community and impact a child's life by sponsoring a child and sending them to camp! [Access their brochure at this link.](#) For more information contact [hlucc@yahoo.com](mailto:hlucc@yahoo.com).

### ★ Honouring Advent's radical roots: Resources on Palestinian human rights

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.

### 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](#).

### 2025 Minimum Salaries and Reimbursements for Ministry Personnel

The **2025 Minimum Salaries and Reimbursements for Ministry Personnel** document is now available online. You can find it in the Downloads section at the bottom of the [Ministers' Salary Schedule and Cost of Living Groups webpage](#). ***The increases to salaries of ministry personnel are not automatically made by ADP. General Council Office staff do not update ADP with minimum salary data. Your pastoral charge ADP administrator must update the minister's***

**salary in TeamPay or inform ADP of the new salary amount for the pay period beginning January 1.**

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### **[In Case You Missed It:](#)**

#### **Reminder: Archives Requests for the Centennial**

As Communities of Faith within our Region start to plan gatherings, services, or displays in recognition of the United Church of Canada's 100th anniversary in 2025, many are thinking of ways to commemorate our history. Requests for Archives materials are expected to markedly increase as this milestone approaches. To ensure that our [Archivists & Volunteers](#) have enough time to fulfill your request for historical materials, please start planning now & reach out early!

**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.

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### **[Worship Resources:](#)**

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

[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](#)

[Third Sunday of Advent - December 15, 2024](#)

[Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 22, 2024](#)

[Christmas - December 25, 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:

*Northern Spirit Regional Council Weekly Newsletter: NEWS Edition, November 27, 2024*

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.

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Northern Spirit Regional Council Office

8510 95 Ave NW Edmonton Alberta

**1(800) 268-3781 ext. 6029**

[northernspirit@united-church.ca](mailto:northernspirit@united-church.ca)

[www.northernspiritrc.ca](http://www.northernspiritrc.ca)



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