



NORTHERN SPIRIT  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

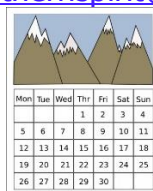


## News from the Region: December 11, 2024



### **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](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.](#)

## **Family News**

### ★ **New Staff Phone Numbers**

The United Church Staff phone system will be changing in the new year.

**Adam Hall's new phone number:** 1-587-407-0329

**Northern Spirit Office / Chloe Burns' new phone number:** 1-587-407-0330

These numbers are already set up and in service. The former 1-800 numbers will still work until **January 15, 2025**. Please spread the word and save our new phone numbers! Many of the tri-Regional and National staff numbers are changing as well: [all staff contact information is available on the website.](#)

★ **Staff Holidays & Newsletter Hiatus!**

This will be the last newsletter of 2024! The newsletter will return on January 8, 2025.

The office will be closed from **December 20, 2024 - January 2, 2025.**

Adam Hall, Pastoral Relations Minister, will be on holiday starting December 18.

While the office is closed, Adam will be on call for emergencies (at his new work number, 1-587-407-0329). If your church has an urgent issue, please phone this number and leave a message. Adam will review the messages and, if it is urgent, will reply. All other messages and emails will be replied to in the new year!

Happy holidays!

★ **New Prayer Cycle Available for 2025**

The Northern Spirit prayer cycle for 2025 is [now available at this link!](#) This prayer cycle is created to ensure every congregation in our Region is held in prayer over the course of the year. Our prayer cycles are always linked on the [Worship Resources page](#) of our website.

♥ **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*

**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.

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## Wider Church News & Resources

★ **Final call: Funding for your Centennial events- deadline December 15 for this round**

Some financial assistance is available from the United Church Foundations Centennial Granting Fund for 100th Anniversary events. Details for those applications are [available at this link](#), with a deadline of December 15, 2024 (the next deadline for remaining funds is March 15, 2025).

★ **Jewish coalition calls on us to support an arms embargo**

On December 3, the Jews Say No to Genocide coalition took over the entrance to the Confederation Building on Parliament Hill building to demand the Canadian government implement an immediate arms embargo on Israel. [You can see a brief live interview here](#)- this video doesn't include the beautiful singing the group used. The call from this coalition mirrors what the United Church and our partners are calling for: a total two way military embargo, including a halt to Canada supplying some of the [small and vital](#)

[components for the F-35 fighter plane](#) that has been used extensively to bomb Gaza. [Click here for an ongoing action from Arms Embargo Now](#), whose official signatories include our church. Please act for the sake of the children that make up half of all the dead and injured in Gaza. Let's end Canadian complicity.

★ **Upholding Sacred Obligations: Final Report of the Special Interlocutor on Missing Children and Unmarked Burial Sites**

On October 29, Kimberly Murray released her final report as the Special Interlocutor on Missing Children and Unmarked Burials. Her final report is an Indigenous-led framework for reparations and is [available to download](#). You can also watch an overview of the report's findings, and how they relate to the United Church of Canada, in this 40 Days of Anti-Racism presentation on [An Indigenous-Led Framework on Healing and Reparations](#). This session also features a review of the United Church's [Healing Programs](#) and a brief update on the [Bringing the Children Home](#) initiative. The Regional Council is planning a late February in-person or hybrid event exploring this important report and the responsibilities of our church. More details to come.

★ **Gifts with Vision: Christmas gifts of hope**

Instead of things, offer community support! Gifts with Vision lets you offer much-needed gifts of support to community initiatives at home and around the world. The current catalogue and website will continue until the end of January 2025! That means there's more time to support your favourites, especially for Christmas giving. [For the remainder of 2024 you can see all the gifts on the website here](#). Thank you for supporting our partners through Gifts with Vision. Your kindness transforms lives, creates hope, and builds brighter futures for communities in need.

★ **Mission and Service Updates:** Read a full end-of-year update from Mission and Service [on the Regional website here](#).

★ **United Church of Canada Foundation: Coffee with Jim Simpson and Sarah Charters, Thursday, December 12 at 10AM MST**

This half-hour session will feature Jim, Foundation Board Chair, and Sarah, Foundation President, as they reflect on the past year and look ahead to what's in store for the United Church of Canada Foundation in 2025. [Click here to Register!](#)

**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).

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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!

### **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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## ***Worship Resources:***

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

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

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

[Christmas - December 25, 2024](#)

[First after Christmas - December 29, 2024](#)

[Second after Christmas - January 5, 2025](#)

[Epiphany - January 6, 2025](#)

[Baptism of Jesus - January 12, 2025](#)

[Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - January 18, 2025](#)

[Second after Epiphany - January 19, 2025](#)

\* [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:

**1-587-407-0330**

Email remains the same: [NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca](mailto:NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca).

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Northern Spirit Regional Council Office

8510 95 Ave NW Edmonton Alberta

**1-587-407-0330**

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

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



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