



NORTHERN SPIRIT  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



## *Events Newsletter: September 24, 2025*



### **Upcoming events 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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## **News from the Pews and Other Ministries**

♥ The Rev. Kurt Katzmar died peacefully and surrounded by family on September 14th, at the age of 72, after a lengthy battle with Multiple Myeloma. His memorial service will

be at All Saints Anglican Cathedral on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Please hold his family in prayer. Rev. Kurt's obituary is [available at this link](#).

**100 Centennial Events Continue:** Thank you for all the local Anniversary events - send us your stories, photos, and video links! We are happy to feature your celebrations in newsletters for the rest of our Centennial year. Materials can be sent to [chburns@united-church.ca](mailto:chburns@united-church.ca).

★ **Northern Spirit Job Posting: First Third Ministry Animator**

Northern Spirit Regional Council is seeking an individual to fill the role of First Third Ministry Animator on a Permanent Part-time basis (17.5 hours per week). The First Third Ministry Animator collaborates with the other First Third Ministry Animators in Chinook Winds Regional Council and Pacific Mountain Regional Council to create opportunities for children, youth, and families to experience excellence in programs and events that engage faith and justice conversations, build safer, welcoming community, and respond to the longings of young people in this current time. [View the full job posting and apply at this link](#). Closing date for applications is **October 6**.

**Looking for SHORT-TERM, FOCUSED VOLUNTEERS for Advocacy Support**

The **Affirming committee** is deeply concerned about the impact of recent Alberta legislation and implementation. It's working on some letter/ postcard writing and storytelling focused on: the intrusive gender confirmation requirement for young female athletes; book bans; changes to disabilities funding and anti-immigrant actions. It's a lot and we need help. Can you help us edit some short personal stories about the impacts, sharpen our advocacy asks, or help us with creative content? All members of our Region are invited; you don't need to live in AB to help. Please contact chair Mickey Wilson for this short-term focused task: [revmickeywilson@gmail.com](mailto:revmickeywilson@gmail.com)

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## **New & Featured Events**

★ **Resources for inspiration: Orange Shirt/ Truth and Reconciliation Sunday 28 and Tues Sept 30**

Please have a look at our [summary post for resources and ideas](#) to support this important day of action and remembering, as we carry our continued commitment to the TRC Calls to Action forward this tenth anniversary of their release. Read on and share!

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## Upcoming Events and Learning Opportunities

### ★ United in Learning upcoming program

Here's the latest newsletter from the national church's online education, action and community program. Upcoming opportunities include a cross-country check up, and much more. Please also see the very handy latest national newsletter, E-ssentials, which goes over highlights for national work.

### ★ Final call: Lunch time Intercultural Coffee Chai series: Stories and Narratives: God-Talks from Diasporic Filipino Ministers in the United Church of Canada, Thursday, Sept 25, 2025, 12:30pm MDT and CST/1:30pm CDT (90 minutes).

Bring your lunch and join us as we resume the Western Intercultural Ministries Network 100th Anniversary series honouring ethno-cultural communities within the United Church. The Filipino Ministers Network in The United Church of Canada invites you to join them for a panel discussion about seeking God in the midst of every-day life. Please see and share all the details!

### Growth Animator Online Bible study, Every Wednesday at 1 pm (SK time)

Deep conversation - Spiritual friendships - Faith exploration. New participants always welcome!

Contact [jcantwell@united-church.ca](mailto:jcantwell@united-church.ca) for more information. [Click here to join.](#)

### Truth and Reconciliation lunch and learns, 22-26 September, 12:00 CDT, 11:00AM MDT/ CST.

The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation invites us to join daily Lunch and Learn webinars – an immersive experience to UN-learn the myths of colonial history in Canada. Lunch and Learn sessions are **aimed at an adult audience**, and **open to the public**, and will be hosted virtually over Zoom Webinar and streamed to YouTube. Expert matter speakers will present for 40-50 minutes before a Q&A between the moderator and guest(s). All sessions will have simultaneous English-French, and ASL interpretation. Please have a look at the topics and details. They include: Sept.24 - The Ongoing Legacy of the Residential School System through Child Welfare; Sept.25 - Reflecting on the TRC's Calls to Action 10 Years Later; Sept.26 - Confronting Residential School Denialism.

### Stewardship Learning Opportunities, Legacy Giving and Your Community of Faith, Thursday, September 25 – 1pm Mountain (2pm Central)

Perhaps you have heard about the United Church's Centennial Legacy Campaign and are curious how it could support the ministry and meaning-making in your community of faith. Spend 60 minutes learning more about the campaign, legacy giving, and how we can vision and plan for a future of thriving ministry. Stewardship support staff, Vicki Nelson, and Campaign Animator, Tamara Granatstien, want to support your community of faith and this webinar is a great place to start. [Register at this link.](#)

**“Francis and the Web of Creation” St. Andrew’s College contemplative gathering, October 3 at 10am Sask time, online**

St. Andrew’s College (in partnership with leaders from the Living Skies Regional Council, Northern Spirit Regional Council, and Green Spirit Chaplaincy) invites you to our next contemplative gathering, to be held on **Friday October 3, at 10am Sask time**. Come spend 40 minutes or so in quiet contemplation, centered on the ancient practice of *lectio divina*. Join us via zoom at this link. All are welcome.

**Getting Started in Stewardship, Monday, October 6 – 2pm OR 4:30pm Mountain (3pm or 5:30 Central)**

Learning why stewardship is not fundraising, why people are compelled to give, and how doing stewardship work is an essential part of discipleship building. This 90 minute session is great for people new to stewardship, or for folks who haven’t engaged in it for a while. Register here- <https://churchx.ca/local/shop/product.php?id=301>

**Rural Ministries Town Halls: Monthly, October 8**

Rural Ministry Town Halls are a chance for those in rural ministry to gather together to share joys and concerns, insights and challenges, successes and failures. We hope to create a network where folks can share ideas, ask questions, raise concerns, and build a network of support. Aware that rural can take different formats, if you define yourself or your church as rural, please join us and share your thoughts!

Upcoming meeting: **October 8, 2025, 2:00 p.m. ET – Toward 2035**

**★ World Council of Churches Webinar: AI and Our Information Society—The Good, The Bad and The Ugly, Oct 15, 6 pm MT (8 pm ET), online**

Join the World Council of Churches Faith and Science Working Group on October 15, 2025 at 8:00 p.m. ET, for a crucial discussion on the impact of artificial intelligence on communication, ministry, and advocacy. This timely webinar will explore the opportunities and challenges presented by AI, from its potential to democratize technology and boost creativity to its risks, including the spread of disinformation and the perpetuation of bias. Registration is required to attend this webinar. This event is the first in a series on AI and faith, with future sessions to be announced.

**★ World Food Day (October 16) resources from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank**

This year, CFGB invites churches, groups and individuals to mark World Food Day with a variety of thoughtful resources that can be incorporated into church services, used in small group gatherings, or personal reflection. Drawing from the story of Gladys in our new film called A Legacy Taking Root, which will be released to the public this fall, our resources invite to pray, learn, advocate, and give. Our collection of worship resources on our World Food Day website – Until All Are Fed includes calls to worship, prayers,

videos, scripture readings, group discussion guides, sermon starters, and diverse activities for children. You can also find a [postcard action for food security here](#).

★ **Messy Church Tips and Ideas Session, October 16, 12 pm noon MT, online**

As we move into fall it seems a great time to come together and discuss how to start a Messy Church, how to enrich a Messy Church, and to connect with others who are leading Messy Churches in our country! Please join Messy Church Canada as we share some ideas about Messy Church and offer some tips and ideas for starting a Messy Church. We will meet on ZOOM -- for about an hour: **Thursday, October 16, 2025**, 11:00 a.m. British Columbia / 12:00 noon for Alberta, Yukon and Northwest Territories.

★ **How did we get from the Bible to a genocide in Gaza?, with Dr. Dan Epp-Tiessen, Wednesday evenings, October 22, 29, and November 5 at 6:00 p.m. (MDT).**

This popular three-part webinar series returns on Zoom, free of charge. Oct. 22: How the Bible helped generate Israel's settler-colonialism and the dispossession of Palestinians. Oct. 29: How Christian antisemitism, inspired by the New Testament, led to the creation of the state of Israel and the oppression of Palestinians. Nov. 5: How Christian Zionist readings of the Bible have enabled the genocide in Gaza. [Register here](#). The Zoom links will be sent to registrants closer to the dates.

★ **Stewardship Best Practices Series, five weeks, starts Thursday, October 23 – 1pm Mountain (2pm Central), online**

This course is for a team or committee who are keen to see generosity grow and gratitude transform their community of faith. Five sessions on zoom, that unpack the theological and practical components of stewardship, are followed by the development of an annual plan and consistent online coaching. After almost 5 years of offering *Stewardship Best Practices* we have seen that congregations who participate in the course, and do the follow up work see higher giving and morale—teams report to us optimism about their ministry and hopes for the future. [Register on ChurchX at this link](#).

★ **Doughnuts and Timbits: Edmonton and area Affirming support day, November 1, 10:00AM-2:30 pm at Southminster-Steinhauer United Church, Edmonton.**

The Affirming Committee is trying something new! Come join them for a day of Affirming support, planning, and community (and presumably doughnuts). The entire Region is welcome; the focus is the doughnut circle around Edmonton, and the timbit that is Edmonton itself. [Please see the website listing for details](#). This event is free-sponsored by your Mission and Service givings and your community of faith's Regional assessment.

★ **Art for the Heart: A Youth Wellness Retreat, Friday November 7, 10 am - 5 pm, Kasota East Camp**

Youth (grades 8-12) are invited to a day of creative play and courageous expression on November 7 (a school free Friday in Red Deer) at Kasota East Camp on Sylvan Lake. Participants will work with professional artists in improv comedy, songwriting and painting while also exploring themes of mental and spiritual health, gratitude, honesty, courage, justice, love and generosity. Sponsored by Central Alberta Youth HQ and Spirit of Wellness (a ministry of the United Churches in Red Deer). Email [spiritofwellnessreddeer@gmail.com](mailto:spiritofwellnessreddeer@gmail.com) for more information.

★ **Save the date: Church Admins Retreat, Nov 7 & 8, Strathmore AB**

All Northern Spirit church administrators are invited to join the Chinook Winds Region's church admins retreat: November 7 & 8, in Strathmore, AB. Stay tuned for more details!

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\*[Past Newsletter issues are archived on our website.](#)



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