



News from the Region: September 3, 2025



Photos from **Ardrossan United** in Ardrossan Alberta celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada. June 14th, Ardrossan United Church entered into the Ardrossan Parade and hosted a BBQ following the Parade, and hosted tours of the Church. Throughout the Summer Ardrossan United Church also celebrated in their community 4 times by joining the Ardrossan Farmers Market days at the Church with a BBQ Concession.

If you have photos of your church's centennial celebrations, please send them to the office to be featured in our 2025 newsletters!

Short reminders of our history for this Centennial year

Throughout 2025, we'll be featuring very short stories about United Church history. Thanks to historian Gayle Simonson in Edmonton, we can also offer 100-word history vignettes for use in your own community! Here are [history short stories 1-8](#) / [vignettes 9- 17](#) / [vignettes 18-22](#) / [vignettes 23-30](#). And, brand new, [vignettes 31 to 40](#)! (Word format; when you click, the file will save automatically to your Downloads folder. For our next vignette (#15), she writes:

Though women were certainly limited in what they could do in the early churches, they could fundraise! Money for church buildings, furnishings, manses and more was primarily in most cases raised by the women. As noted by Muriel Dyer, "The miles of stitches, the hundreds of pies, the carloads of buns, salads, pickles, relishes, the tons of potatoes, vegetables and chicken which were sold or cooked for suppers and sales tell little of the vibrant story of the "Ladies Aids" or the "Woman's Associations" real life . . . Their concern was first and foremost for the better things in life in general and the works of the church they loved in particular."

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

★ Pastoral Charge Supervisors Needed

Northern Spirit is looking for people, lay or ordered, who are willing to act as Pastoral Charge Supervisors. Supervisors offer support to churches without Called or Appointed ministry personnel. Please reach out to [Adam Hall](#) if you would be willing to take on this role.

Interested but unsure of what this role requires? [Email the office](#) if you are interested in attending a training and Q&A session on the evening of **October 8**, for current and potential Pastoral Charge Supervisors.

★ Fall Sacramental Elder Training:

If your community of faith is without a minister, your board can nominate someone from your congregation to become a Sacramental Elder. We are planning a round of training for new Sacramental Elders for this Fall. This training is held in two sessions, online over Zoom, one evening per week: Wednesdays September 17 and 24, 6:30 - 8:30. If your community wishes to nominate a Sacramental Elder or would like more

information, please [contact the office](#).

Invitation: Decolonizing Ourselves: Residential School Tour and Our Future in Treaty: Saturday 6 September 10:30AM-4:30PM MDT/ CST at [University nuhelot'jine thaiyots'j nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills](#)

This is an invitation to those in the southern and eastern parts of our Regional Council, and those who happen to be in the area. Please join KAIROS Prairies North for a day that will include a tour of the former Blue Quills Indian Residential School building led by survivors/Elders, lunch, and learning about Treaty. All welcome! This **in-person only** event is within a reasonable drive of the Edmonton area to the west and the Battlefords area to the east.

This gathering is hosted by the KAIROS Prairies North Decolonization Group with gratitude to our community partners, in particular University nuhelot'jine thaiyots'j nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills and the United Church of Canada's Reconciliation and Justice Fund. This gathering is free of charge, including lunch. We do ask you to register so we know numbers and can send you material. Optional free transportation (carpooling) from Edmonton will be offered and details will follow by email. Here are [details and a shareable invitation link](#). [The registration link is here](#).

Wider Church News & Resources

★ **Orange Shirt/ Truth and Reconciliation Sunday 28 and Tuesday Sept 30**

Please read and share the [summary from the national Indigenous church](#) to help your community of faith plan for these important days in our truth-telling and listening journey through the year.

On **September 30**, wear an orange shirt to say that Every Child Matters. And on **September 28**, mark [Orange Shirt Sunday](#) in your community of faith. This year in particular we ask you to honour the children with a [gift or special offering to the Healing Fund](#), which supports initiatives for survivors of the residential school system and its ongoing intergenerational impacts.

On **September 30**, we also invite you to join in the [Remembering the Children: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation event](#) on Parliament Hill. This 90-minute program is a united effort of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, the Algonquin Nation, APTN, and CBC/Radio-Canada. It begins at 3:00 p.m. ET and all are welcome. Not near Ottawa? It will also be broadcast live on APTN and on YouTube.

★ **Looking to live out your land acknowledgement?**

A congregation in Hamilton, Ontario was inspired to learn how Indigenous ministry students at Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in Manitoba are showing the broader church a path to reconciliation. The congregation decided to celebrate UCC's 100th anniversary with a gift that supports these students and a hopeful future for our church. They challenge you to do the same! [Learn more](#).

- Here is the latest **national United Church newsletter**, including an introduction to our **new Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Kimberly Heath!**

Resource and action call for aid to Gaza, and for ending Canadian military sales to Israel

It is beyond difficult to witness the deliberate starvation taking place in Gaza, alongside continued deaths at the hands of the Israeli military, and a huge rise in extremist settler violence in the West Bank. It may feel like we have nothing to offer. But that isn't true. Even though our federal government hasn't been listening enough, and in fact has been proven to be lying about ending Canadian arms sales to Israel, we need to press on and use our voices. Our global partners are pleading with us to not forget them. Please join people around the world in holding elected leaders to account. Please see a recent letter from Canadian church and ecumenical leaders here. Please use the action posted here. In the same post, there's a link to an excellent new video with Canadian and church experts talking about the aid situation in Gaza and its deadly consequences, organized by Living Skies Regional Council's Just Peace group. We are fortunate to have such experts within our church community, and we urge all church members to learn more.

Seeds of Hope Grant Applications Now Open!

The Foundation's Fall 2025 *Seeds of Hope* granting cycle is now accepting applications! The Seeds of Hope granting program supports innovative, unique projects which enable us to live out the New Creed's call to seek justice, live with respect in Creation, and love and serve others. Deadline: Applications must be submitted by 11:55 p.m. on **October 15, 2025**. Apply today!

Rural Ministries Town Halls

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 meetings: **September 10, 2025, 2:00 p.m. ET – Check-In! | October 8, 2025, 2:00 p.m. ET – Toward 2035**

Join the conversation: Cross-Country Check-in: *September 22, 4 p.m. ET*

Mark your calendars for a special Cross Country Check-In on **September 22, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. ET!** This is your chance to meet the new Moderator, Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath, along with the new members of the General Council Executive (GCE). We will also share important details about the upcoming GCE meeting in September. This live online town hall is an opportunity for you to ask your questions, share what matters to you, and hear what's ahead. It's your chance to meet our new leaders and be heard by the church's decision-making body between General Councils. Everyone is welcome.

In Case You Missed It...

♥ *Rev. Jeff Challoner* died in August, in Red Deer, Alberta. He served at Metropolitan United, Sherwood Park United and Gaetz United in Red Deer, as well as offered supply ministry in various congregations in Central Alberta.

♥ *Dr. Nancy Kerr*, who served as secretary for Edmonton Presbytery for many years, died in July. Her obituary can be read [at this link](#).

♥ *Rev. Albert McNeil* died in July. He served many charges in Alberta, including in Fort Saskatchewan, Edmonton, and Daysland. His full obituary can be read [at this link](#).

A Call to Support Global 2S and LGBTQIA+ Rights

The United Church invites you to join a national Love, Faith, and Bold Action [letter-writing campaign](#). Urge the Canadian government to uphold and advance the rights of gender-diverse and 2S and LGBTQIA+ people around the globe—your voice truly makes a difference.

Worship Resources:

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

[Thirteenth after Pentecost - September 7, 2025](#)

[Creation Time 1 - September 14, 2025](#)

[UN International Day of Peace - September 21, 2025](#)

[World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel - September 21, 2025](#)

[Creation Time 2 - September 21, 2025](#)

[Orange Shirt Sunday - September 28, 2025](#)

[Creation Time 3 - September 28, 2025](#)

[Creation Time 4 - October 5, 2025](#)

[World Communion Sunday - October 5, 2025](#)

[Creation Time 5 - October 12, 2025](#)

[Thanksgiving Sunday - October 12, 2025](#)

* [Click here to access Northern Spirit's 2025 Prayer Cycle](#)

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



Photos from **Ardrossan United** in Ardrossan Alberta celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada. June 8th, 100th Celebration Service and Fellowship with a Cake. (See Photo of Rev. Hugh MacGregor cutting the cake).



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