



News from the Region: September 17, 2025



Photo from **St. Luke's United Church in Fort St. John B.C.**, who celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada on June 8th with a Worship Service, followed by a barbeque, celebration cake, and wagon rides. Pictured: Wagon Ride with Jim Sodergren at the reins!
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:

In 1917, Salem Bland was dismissed from the Methodist Wesley College in Winnipeg because of his political activism as part of the early twentieth century social gospel movement but, in congregational ministry in Toronto, he helped found the Ontario CCF Party. Following church union, he was prominent in the United Church of Canada, and in 1936 helped lead the campaign to allow ordination of women. He was strongly anti-war but during the Spanish Civil War, he helped raise humanitarian aid for victims. A refuge for 100 war orphans in Barcelona was named for him. A portrait by Lawren Harris is located in the Art Gallery of Ontario ([a photo can be found on his wikipedia page](#)).

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

★ 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

★ New 2025 Directory Update Posted

If you are on this newsletter list, check your email! You should have received a link last week to the new 2025 Northern Spirit Directory. There is also a new password to access the directory for 2025. If you have any questions or issues accessing the directory, please [contact the office](#).

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.

Wider Church News & Resources

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

Resources for inspiration: Orange Shirt/ Truth and Reconciliation Sunday 28 and Tuesday 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!

★ The **latest national newsletter, E-ssentials**, is out and [posted here](#). It includes some highlights from last week's General Council online meeting, which dealt with business not completed at the in-person General Council in Calgary this summer.

★ **100 Tables local projects continues!**

The United Church of Canada's 100 Tables project really took off this summer. As of August 22, there are 109 communities of faith registered as hosts of a table in their town or city. Part of our 100th anniversary celebrations, this an initiative that turns ordinary picnic tables into extraordinary places of welcome, and part of our campaign to create A Place at the Table for all to join. Rooted in justice, compassion, and radical belonging, 100 Tables invites communities to create tables that reflect local priorities, whether those are food security, care for creation, 2S and LGBTQIA+ inclusion, or reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. Consider what your community can offer!

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!

In Case You Missed It...

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.

Worship Resources:

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

[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](#)

[International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - October 17, 2025](#)

[World Food Sunday - October 19, 2025](#)

[Nineteenth after Pentecost - October 19, 2025](#)

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

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



Available:

Community United Church (in Warburg, AB) has disbanded, our building has been decommissioned and will be sold in the coming months. We have a small list of church-related items that we would like to share with our faith community, in the hopes that some of the items may find themselves re-homed with a new faith family and renewed purpose. If there is anything on the list of which you would be interested in or wish to

have more information, please reach out through email at communityunitedchurch2016@gmail.com or call/text Shauna @ 403-575-0426. Please see the attached document with pictures of a few available items.

- Worship Resources
 - Seasons of the Spirit curriculum 2006-2022 - printed version
 - Gathering magazine - printed version
 - Minister's Manual - preaching & planning books
 - Piece By Piece - children's ministry program
 - Mandate & Observer magazines
 - Congregational Stewardship resources & programs (i.e Salt & Light)
 - UCC Yearbook & Directory 2009-2020
 - Asst. Children's songbooks (WeeSing, Seasons of Spirit, Rainbow Songbook)
 - Hymn Books
 - 2 large print selected hymns
 - 2 Music Leader's Edition - Voices United
 - Hymn board with numbers/letters
 - Seasonal banners
 - Baptismal font
 - Assorted pictures (Jesus, Last Supper, etc.)
-



Northern Spirit Regional Council Office
8510 95 Ave NW Edmonton Alberta
1-587-407-0330
northernspirit@united-church.ca
www.northernspiritr.ca

Copyright © 2025 Northern Spirit Regional Council, All rights reserved.
[Click here to subscribe to receive this newsletter via email.](#)