



Events Newsletter: October 22, 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.

★ Add your local events to our Northern Spirit events calendar! ★
[Click here to view upcoming events](#). And [click here to submit your event](#).

News from the Pews and Other Ministries

★ New Northern Spirit Staff: Kevin Guenther Trautwein hired as First-Third Ministry Animator!

Northern Spirit is very excited to welcome Kevin Guenther Trautwein as our new First-Third Ministry Animator.



The First Third Ministry Animator will collaborate 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 time.

Kevin Guenther Trautwein has been in ministry in Edmonton, AB, for the past 11 years, with responsibilities for faith development among youth and young adults, community development, and outreach. He holds a Masters of Theological Studies and a Bachelor of Arts in Religion. He volunteers with local organizations that promote faith-based antiracism, multi-faith harmony, and advocacy around housing. Kevin also currently serves half-time at Robertson-Wesley United Church.

Kevin believes that every community has the resources and gifts they need to thrive, and is dedicated to gathering people and seeing what they can do together. He is passionate about helping people in the first third of life connect their spiritual practice and theological thought with regular life, following the way of Christ into social justice and peace.

Welcome, Kevin!

★ Clergy Appreciation Month

Take a moment before October ends to express appreciation for those who offer leadership in your community of faith!

★ Thanksgiving Appeal Doesn't End With Thanksgiving Weekend

Thanksgiving has come and gone but the need remains. We hope you and your community of faith now have our Thanksgiving Appeal and we are asking you to make a Thanksgiving gift now. You can give online at united-church.ca/donate/thanksgiving. Hunger is an ongoing and serious issue in Canada. The line ups at foodbanks are increasing and 8.7 million Canadians, including 2.1 million children experience food insecurity. Globally, war and natural disasters cause children and their families to become refugees, many experiencing starvation. Please remember those who are most in need and make a gift today.

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.

★ Available:

- **Geneva Gowns**, free, from a retired UC minister. Interested people can contact Gibson Glavin: gglavin@shaw.ca / (780) 464-1476.
- Westlock Pastoral Charge has **Hymn books, Bibles, a Baptismal font and hymn boards** available for anyone interested. Please contact wuchurch@telus.net / 780-349-3556

New & Featured Events

★ **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. [Register here!](#)

Upcoming Events and Learning Opportunities

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 for more information. [Click here to join](#).

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](#).

Youth Social Justice Day, November 1, 12 - 5 pm, Saint John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Edmonton

Youth ages 13-30 are invited to a Youth Social Justice Day. Puzzled by injustice in the world around you? Looking for ways to live out what you believe? Have we got a day for you!!! Learn about and advocate for Economic Justice, Environmental Justice, Racial Justice, Indigenous Justice, Queer Justice, Prison Justice, Disability Justice, and Peace in God's World. - And enjoy a pizza lunch! [Register for free at this link.](#)

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 for more information.

★ Church Admins Retreat, Nov 7 & 8, Strathmore AB

All Northern Spirit church administrators are invited to join the upcoming Office Administrators' Fall Retreat: November 7 & 8, in Strathmore, AB. Join us overnight for a time of networking, learning, and connection. Our time together will include engaging conversation, fun activities, and a phenomenal speaker and workshop! For full information and registration, please contact Chantal Winslow: cwinslow@united-church.ca. Register by November 1!

Conversations Worth Having: Forum for Spiritual Leaders, November 11 and 13, 6:30 - 9 pm EST, online

The CWH Institute is hosting a Forum for Spiritual Leaders with the vision of bringing together faith leaders, both clergy and lay, to equip them to lead a shift in how their communities of faith talk with each other. If you are a spiritual leader, or have a spiritual leader in your circle who could benefit from this training that builds trust and engagement, please pass on the invitation. There are scholarships available that cuts the cost of the workshop in half. We are holding the two-part Conversation Forum for Spiritual Leaders on November 11 and 13, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. EST. For more information and registration, [follow this link.](#)

★ Luncheon for Retired Ministry Personnel, Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025, 12:00 noon, Mill Woods United Church, 15 Grand Meadow Crescent NW, Edmonton.

All Northern Spirit retired ministers should have received an (emailed) invitation to the Fall luncheon. This gathering is an opportunity to catch up with friends that we might

not have connected with for a while. For the full details, [view the invite at this link](#). And please [RSVP to the office](#) by November 10!

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



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