



News from the Region: October 29, 2025



Kirk Centre's New Mural Brings Community Stories to Life

On October 21st, Kirk Community Centre in Edmonton held a special celebration as they unveiled a new community mural — a vibrant reflection of the people, cultures, and stories that shape northwest Edmonton, created by award-winning artist Jamelle (JD) Davis.

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](#).

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 (#17), she writes:

In 1992 the United Church elected **Reverend Stan McKay** from the Fisher River Cree Nation in Manitoba as its first Indigenous moderator. After his schooling at the Fisher River, then Birtle Indian Residential, Schools, he studied at the University of Winnipeg and was ordained following graduation from the Faculty of Theology. Throughout his career, he has sought opportunities for reconciliation. As a co-director of the Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Centre (now the Sandy-Saulteaux Centre) in Manitoba, he created opportunities for non-indigenous people to learn about Indigenous cultures. There, both Indigenous and Christian beliefs are respected and shared. In 1992, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate degree from the University of Winnipeg and in 1997, received a National Aboriginal Achievement Award.

Family News

♥ Covenanting: Fort St. John: St. Luke's Pastoral Charge and Ozioma Obijiofor, November 9

There will be a Covenanting Service on Sunday, Nov 9 at 10 a.m. between Ozioma Obijiofor, St. Luke's (Fort St John) and Northern Spirit Region with Rev. Marilyn Carroll officiating. Communion to be held. A light lunch will follow. All are welcome. If any Ministers or guests plan to attend from NSRC, [please let the church know](#). For those who can't attend in person, please hold this congregation and their new minister in your hearts & prayers!

★ 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 current 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!

★ **Christmas Comes Early: An Advent Gift to all of our Northern Spirit congregations**

Northern Spirit has purchased a license for an **Advent Small Group Study with Four Worship Services**, as a gift for all of our congregations and churches to access for free this Advent season.

We never tire of the story. Each Advent, we set out the beloved figures of the creche and are invited again into the mystery of incarnation. In this small group study and worship series, we look more closely at the figures and what they reveal about the human journey of faith, the bigger picture of Love, and the Divine Longing at the heart of Christmas.

Alongside four study sessions, you'll also receive complete Advent worship services—rich with liturgy, Advent candle-lighting, all-ages activities, Scripture, reflections, prayers, and music suggestions. Together, they invite us to approach the creche with fresh wonder, to notice who is present (and who is missing), and to be shaped by Love that is already here and still arriving.

This series is provided by *Prayer Bench* and offered as a gift to leaders and communities of faith through a **Regional License**. You can [sign up to access these Advent resources through this link](#). Merry Christmas! ❤️❤️

Northern Spirit Climate Contacts

If your church passionate about climate justice? Do you have special climate-related projects or a justice team working on climate-related issues? The Northern Spirit office & Executive is working on assembling a contact list for communicating key climate-related actions and events. Please [contact the office](#) if your church has any contacts who would appreciate being on this list!

Wider Church News & Resources

★ **No Room At the Inn Campaign 2025**

Every year the No Room in the Inn campaign raises money in support of a specific

project of an Edmonton area organization that seeks to help those experiencing housing challenges. This year's campaign will focus on raising funds for **WIN House!** Details of the project and how you and your faith communities can get involved are [available here on the Anglican Diocese website](#). Thank you for your ongoing support of this important initiative.

★ **Resource Now Available: Moderator's Advent Message**

If you missed the sendout from the GC Communications team, please [follow this link to access](#) the Moderator's Advent Message for 2025, and related instructions.

★ **40 Days of Anti-Racism continue**

[Click here to read the latest newsletter](#), with videos and upcoming events as part of the 40 Days of Anti-Racism. Or [sign up to receive their newsletters directly!](#)

The 2026 Minimum Salaries & 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.*

In Case You Missed It...

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.

Worship Resources:

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

[Twenty-first after Pentecost - November 2, 2025](#)
[Twenty-second after Pentecost - November 9, 2025](#)
[Remembrance Day - November 11, 2025](#)
[Children's Sunday - November 16, 2025](#)
[Twenty-third after Pentecost - November 16, 2025](#)
[Transgender Day of Remembrance - November 20, 2025](#)
[Reign of Christ - November 23, 2025](#)

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

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



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