

## Events Newsletter: November 19, 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 <a href="mailto:northernspirit@united-church.ca">northernspirit@united-church.ca</a>.



'Tis the season! Festive events are popping up on our <u>events calendar</u>. Check out local Christmas events, and submit your own community events to the calendar!

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

#### **★ Posture of a Porter: Mini-Devotional for Advent**

Discover what an ancient monastic rule can teach us about welcoming newcomers with this mini devotional, available as a **Word Doc** or printable **PDF booklet**. This packet also comes with an accompanying **art piece**. Use any and all of this resource in your own spiritual practice, with a group (including leadership teams) or as part of worship (this includes the right to reproduce the artwork with accompanying credit: Aaron Miechkota, 2025).

# ★ 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 <u>sign up to access these Advent resources through this link</u>. Merry Christmas! ••

# ★ Preparing for guests with joyful anticipation this Advent (a note from our Growth Animator)

Advent is fast approaching! As we start to dust off decorations, and plan Christmas activities, it is the perfect time to consider how we can be fostering a culture of invitation in our churches. Just as we wait expectantly for the arrival of two weary travelers to Bethlehem, we can also prepare our own hearts to offer welcome to the stranger.

<u>Click here</u> for some resources focused on cultivating invitation during the four weeks of Advent.

### **New & Featured Events**

**★** *Tomorrow:* Online Intercultural Workshop and WIMN AGM - Beyond the Chinese Face: Challenges Faced by Chinese in Canada, *Thursday, November 20, 2025, 11:30 AM PST, 12:30 PM MST, online* 

Join three UCC ministers from the Chinese Association of The United Church of Canada to hear their insights on aspects of Chinese culture, serving English congregations in Canada, and outreach to Hong Kong diaspora. Presenters: Rev. Dr. Alan Lai, Rev. Mini Choi, and Rev. Calin Lau. WIMN AGM follows. Full details at this link!

★ Transgender Week of Awareness online service of remembrance

During this Transgender Week of Awareness (November 13- 19), Affirm United has shared a story of an historical Transgender or Non-Binary person or event each day in podcast and written formats, posted to the Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble social media and website.

Tomorrow, **November 20 at 3 pm ET / 1 pm MT**, you are invited to a service of remembrance online (Register at this link). The service will be pre-recorded, but we will have a time after the service for anyone who wishes to talk. This November let us all remember those who have lost their lives by violence or suicide. Let us remember those from the past who never stopped being themselves. Let us remember and share their light.

### **Upcoming Events and Learning Opportunities**

# Engagement on Anti-Racism 2025 - continuing Wednesdays to November 26, 2025, 6:00 p.m. ET

Please join us for this popular annual series! Weekly Wednesday events are opportunities to delve deeply into anti-racism work: Live events each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time; Videos for each week, with faith reflections and action items and a downloadable folder of materials for leaders to run an anti-racism program.

Please sign up for the <u>Anti-Racism newsletter</u>to continue to stay up to date! To learn more about the live events schedule and to register, visit <u>CHURCHx</u>.

<sup>\*</sup>Past Newsletter issues are archived on our website.



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

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