



News from the Region: November 12, 2025



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.



'Tis the season! Festive events are popping up on [our events calendar](#).
[Check out local Christmas events](#), and [submit your own community events](#) to the calendar!

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 (#20), she writes:

For nearly 125 years, the United Church and its predecessor denominations have offered health care in remote areas of Canada's west coast. Hospitals in Bella Bella and Bella Coola B.C. have operated with support from the Mission and Service fund. Health care professionals have often been recruited through the United Church. Services have included emergency care and obstetrical services as well as physiotherapy, pharmacy and public and mental health education. The most serious cases could be transferred by air to Vancouver or Victoria, accompanied by a medical professional. These hospitals most recently have worked in conjunction with the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCHA) and United Church involvement in these hospitals is currently coming to an end.

Family News

★ 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.

[Click here](#) for some resources focused on cultivating invitation during the four weeks of Advent.

★ 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! ♥♥

★ **Joint Pastoral Letter from Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit Leadership**

A pastoral letter from Regional Alberta United Church leaders regarding the provincial government's invocation of the notwithstanding clause in their labour dispute with the Alberta Teachers Association was sent out last Friday, and is [available to read on the Northern Spirit website](#).

Preparing a records transfer for the archives this winter?

- *Contact the archivist to receive forms and guides.

- * Schedule a transfer date with the archivist.

- *Consider sending a box to Edmonton.

It's been a busy year sourcing and sharing historical information about our Communities of Faith. Before you put everything back on the shelf in the storage closet, consider what is unique and irreplaceable. What should be copied before it is hung back on the wall? The archivist, Leanne Templeton, is looking forward to speaking with communities about their record keeping. Please reach out to Leanne if you are planning an office tidy-up this winter, or if you would like to prepare a deposit to send to the archives. ****Please do not drop off records without an appointment.*** Leanne works part time at the Provincial Archives of Alberta and the best way to connect with her is via email: Ltempleton@united-church.ca.

Northern Spirit Climate Contacts

If your church is 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

🏳️ **Transgender Week of Awareness, Transgender Day of Remembrance, and an online service of remembrance** 🏳️

Transgender Week of Awareness culminates in **Transgender Day of Remembrance**. The week takes place from **November 13- 19**. Affirm United will share a story of an historical Transgender or Non-Binary person or event each day in podcast and written formats. They will be posted to the [Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble social media and website](#).

On **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.

★ **United Network for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (UNJPPI) Newsletter**

UNJPPI is a grassroots network of United Church members, adherents, and other friends, established in 2012 in response to the calls from leaders of Palestinian churches in the Kairos Palestine Document. We believe it is important to understand the complex dimensions of the path to peace in Palestine and Israel. In our newsletters you will find resources, upcoming events and advocacy campaigns. We hope you will use these resources to help in the way of peace. Find our latest newsletter [at this link](#), or visit [our website](#) for more information and 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!](#)

In Case You Missed It...

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.*

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. [Click here to read the full announcement on the NS website!](#)

Worship Resources:

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

[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](#)

[First Sunday of Advent - November 30, 2025](#)

[World AIDS Day - December 1, 2025](#)

[UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities - December 3, 2025](#)

[National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women - December 6, 2025](#)

[Second Sunday of Advent - December 7, 2025](#)

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

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



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