



## *Events Newsletter: December 3, 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](mailto: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!

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

### **★ Office Holiday Closure Notice**

The Northern Spirit office will be closed from Monday, December 22, 2025 to January 4, 2026, reopening January 5. If you have an urgent or time-sensitive matter that requires the attention of the Pastoral Relations Minister or Acting Executive Minister during that

time, please call Adam Hall at 1-587-407-0329 and leave a message. He will respond if your matter is urgent. The last Northern Spirit newsletter of 2025 will be next Wednesday, December 10, and the newsletter will resume January 7!

### ★ **Executive Minister Shannon McCarthy Sabbatical Announcement**

Shannon McCarthy will be on sabbatical from **Dec 1, 2025** to **March 2, 2026**. The Pastoral Relations Minister ([Adam Hall](#) – Northern Spirit) will be acting Executive Minister during this period. Shannon's Executive Assistant, [Chantal Winslow](#) will direct any other inquiries to where they need to go. [Full sabbatical announcement and details on our website.](#)

### ★ **Temporary Stewardship Support Contact**

While Vicki Nelson, Community of Faith Stewardship Support staff for Western Canada, is away on medical leave, **Brenna Baker**, a stewardship colleague, will be available for questions or inquiries. Brenna can be reached at [bbaker@united-church.ca](mailto:bbaker@united-church.ca).

### **Farewell and Best Wishes to Francesca Martina**

This summer, we were excited to welcome Francesca Martina to our team as our Finance Admin. In her time with us, Francesca brought energy, dedication, and a keen eye for detail to every task she took on. Her contributions have made a meaningful impact, and we are truly grateful for the professionalism and positivity she brought to the role.

While we are sad to see her go, we are also happy to share that Francesca has accepted an exciting new position that will allow her to continue growing in her career. Please join us in congratulating her on this well-deserved opportunity.

Francesca will remain with us until the end of the year. We thank her for her hard work and wish her every success in the next chapter of her journey. Thank you, Francesca, you will be missed!

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## **New & Featured Events**

### ★ **Today: December 3, International Day for Persons with Disabilities**

The Northern Spirit Affirm Committee has made a commitment to take a wide lens approach to inclusion and what it means to be an Affirming region and share that vision with our communities of faith. **December 3rd is the International Day for Persons with Disabilities.** [We invite you to read more on our website,](#) and to watch a few of the provided video resources that explore the challenges, courage and joys in the lives of persons with disabilities. We further invite you to consider how you and your communities might expand your spaces and your welcome!

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## Upcoming Events and Learning Opportunities

★ **Local events:** bazaars, Christmas markets and Christmas music - & more! [Browse our local events calendar](#) to find festive events near you, and [add your own community events](#) to our calendar. ❄️ 🎵 ❄️

★ **CCS Friday - Microaggressions; Friday December 12, online.**

A free hour-long online discussion with Samantha Miller and James Obi from the UCC's Indigenous and Racialized Youth Scholars program about their research. [Register for a meeting link.](#)

★ **Godly Play Core Training 2026, January 10 & 24, February 7, 21 & 28, March 14, 2026, online.**

Get ready to enter the stories of our faith - Godly Play Core Training 2026, via Zoom (9:00 am to 12:30 pm PT). Through an action/reflection model of learning you will learn more about creating sacred space, building and working in community, nurturing spiritual development, using silence, story and play to make meaning. All learning takes place in a prayerful and playful atmosphere with creative and experienced Godly Play trainers. \$350 CDN to register for all sessions. Space is limited to 12 people. [More information and registration at this link.](#)

★ **Spiritual Practice learning circle, January 13 to February 19, Tuesdays and Thursdays, online.**

A six-week online course from the Centre for Christian Studies for anyone who wants to explore spiritual practice in the Christian tradition and nurture the spirituality of their congregation. [More information at this link.](#)

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



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