



News from the Region: December 10, 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 have featured very short stories about United Church history. A very big thank you to historian Gayle Simonson in Edmonton, who offered these 100-word history vignettes!

Here is the complete collection of vignettes, for you to peruse and share within your own communities, so we can continue to learn and honour United Church history in our 101st year and beyond.

- 1-8. [History pieces 1-8](#)
- 9-17. [Vignettes 9- 17](#)
- 18-22. [Vignettes 18-22](#)
- 23-30. [Vignettes 23-30](#)
- 31-40. [Vignettes 31 to 40](#)
- 41-52. [Vignettes 41 to 52 !](#)

Family News

★ 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!

★ Northern Spirit Prayer Cycle for 2026 now available!

The Northern Spirit prayer cycle for 2026 is now available at this link! This prayer cycle is created to ensure every congregation in our Region is held in prayer over the course of the year. Our prayer cycles are always linked on the [Worship Resources](#) page of our website.

★ Financial administration update

As announced in November, we bid a fond farewell to Francesca Martina who will complete her time serving as the Financial Administrator on December 31. We are grateful for her passion and energy among us, and wish her the very best in her new position. Moving forward, the work will be covered in a variety of ways. From January to March, we welcome back Heather Dootoff from retirement who will be looking after year-end and the audits. In a permanent part-time position as Financial Administrator starting January 1, we welcome Rob Smith from Pinawa, who currently serves as the chair of the Prairie Candidacy Board and has functioned as the treasurer at Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. Stay tuned in January for further details regarding the

submission of expenses and ways to contact these two staff members. Welcome aboard!

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.

Ministers: Are You Missing Vocational Minister, Laura Fohse's Emails?

I promise, I'm not ghosting you! Every so often **I send out an email to all ministry personnel in your region** — little check ins, updates, reminders and invitations. I understand there may be some who are not receiving them. If this is you:

- (1) **check your junk mail**
- (2) your **ChurchHub email address** needs to be up-to-date for the magic to work

If you haven't received a message from me in a while (or ever!), just send me a quick email at lfouhse@united-church.ca and I'll make sure you're added. I'd love for you to be included — no one should be left standing outside the metaphorical church gathering space wondering where everyone went!

Wider Church News & Resources

★ Moderator's New Year Address, January 6, 2026

Mark your calendar! On January 6th, 2026, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. ET, join The Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath, Moderator, for a transformative [New Year's address](#). The theme is Epiphany. Executive Minister Jennifer Henry and the Growth team, including Rev. Cameron Fraser (Director of Growth and Ministry Development), and Emo Yango (Growth Coordinator), will offer insights into Toward 2035 and introduce new Communities of Faith.

New Prayer: 10th Anniversary of the TRC Final Report

December 15th marks the 10th Anniversary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We've written [this prayer](#) for you to use on your own or in church on Sunday, December 14th. It is consistent with the "Advent Unwrapped" liturgy for that day.

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.

In Case You Missed It...

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!

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**.*

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!

Worship Resources:

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

[UN Human Rights Day - December 10, 2025](#)
[Third Sunday of Advent - December 14, 2025](#)
[Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 21, 2025](#)
[Christmas - December 25, 2025](#)
[First after Christmas - December 28, 2025](#)
[New Year's Day - January 1, 2026](#)
[Celebrate Epiphany - January 4, 2026](#)

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

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



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