



Events Newsletter: February 26, 2026



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.

[Check out our local events calendar](#), and [submit your own community events](#)!

News from the Pews and Other Ministries

♥ We celebrate with **St. David's United in Leduc, AB**, as they celebrate their church becoming officially Affirming! 🏳️ They will be celebrating this designation on [March 15 at 10:30 a.m.](#)

★ A Joint Message from Alberta's Regional Councils

A letter was sent out by Chinook Winds Regional Council, our Alberta neighbours, from their Region's Presider and Executive Minister, co-signed by our own. *"I write to you, the members of The United Church of Canada within Alberta, to express my concern with Premier Danielle Smith's televised remarks on February 19, 2026. Concern that is shared by my leadership colleagues in Northern Spirit Regional Council who have asked*

me to write this letter on behalf of our two Regional Councils that represent the Province of Alberta.” [Read the full letter and share](#) these words of support with our diverse and beloved communities.

★ **REMINDER for all ministry personnel (and candidates) currently in (or searching for) a call or appointment: The clergy retreat registration deadline is approaching.**

Please complete the registration form by March 15. These days apart will be intentional, spacious, and restorative. If your soul has been whispering (or shouting) that you need a pause, I hope you’ll listen. *You deserve rest. You deserve care. You deserve community that holds you gently.* **Retreat details: May 5-6** (option of staying longer for personal retreat time); Held at **Star of the North Retreat Centre** in St. Albert, AB; You will find details about cost [on the registration form](#).

Welcome Rev. Sarah Giles, Stewardship Support!

Sarah has jumped in to help communities of faith with their stewardship needs while Vicki Nelson is on leave. Sarah is the navigator for all aspects of community of faith stewardship, including annual giving programs, year-round stewardship, planned giving and more. Sarah’s waiting to help steer you in the direction that is best for your community of faith, and to help you to journey through conversations about stewardship. To book a meeting with Sarah [click here](#) and choose *Book Sarah Giles for a 30 minute Stewardship conversation*. [Read Sarah's full bio on our website](#). Sarah has also shared this [Sharing Is Caring:Stewardship Thoughts poster](#), which includes links to resources and upcoming events.

★ Bonus Stewardship thoughts: [We Are Neighbours for Each Other | The United Church of Canada](#)

★ **It’s Tax-Receipt Time!** - [Sharing is Caring! graphic](#)

Write a nice personal message to include with the tax receipts you send to say, “Thank-you” to people for their 2025 gifts. Share a couple of inspiring highlights from the past year of how their gifts made a difference in people’s lives and increased discipleship. The most important phrase to use is, **“Your gifts made this possible.”** You can get sample letters by downloading the **“Stewardship Digging Deeper”** free Stewardship Resource Kit from the [Encouraging Generosity in Your Community of Faith](#) webpage. *Want to chat all things giving and generosity? Reach out to Sarah – sgiles@united-church.ca*

★ **Lent Reflection from our Growth Animator: On Compost... .**

Composting is an act of faith. It requires trust in the hidden work of bugs, microbes and the natural processes of decay to convert old food into nourishment for new life. Lent is a time of preparing ourselves for the new life God offers at Easter. We are invited to look at our lives and communities of faith and ask – What needs to be composted so that we are ready for resurrection? [Click here to read this article](#) by our Growth Animator, Jordan Cantwell.

New & Featured Events

★ **Edmonton & Area Affirming Check-In 2.0, March 21 @ 10:00 am - 2:30 pm, SSUC, Edmonton**

We are doing it again! All Affirming and curious ministries and individuals from Edmonton and the surrounding cities, town and villages are welcome. Saturday MARCH 21/26 10:00 aM -2:30 PM, at Southminster-Steinhauer United Church (SSUC), 10740 – 19 Ave, Edmonton. Hosted by the Northern Spirit Affirm Team and supported by SSUC. This is a time for learning, connecting, mutual support, and yes – sharing lunch, which is provided! [Register here](#).

★ **Register now for the Regional Connection Event, April 25 and 26, Grande Prairie**

The Regional Council is travelling to you! The weekend of April 25 and 26, all of Northern Spirit is invited to join us in Grande Prairie for a time of connection, learning, and worshipping. [More details are now available on our website](#), and you can [register to attend this event here](#). (Future connection events are also in planning, for those not neighbouring Grande Prairie or those who can't attend in April.) We look forward to gathering this Spring!

★ **Women of Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit Conference and AGM, April 9 – 11, 2026, Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton, Alberta.**

Registration is now open for the 2026 WUC Conference. Theme: Justice and Hope. Full details and registration [on our website](#).

Upcoming Events and Learning Opportunities

Black History Month: Here From the Beginning and other resources

Here From the Beginning: Unveiled last year as a Centennial project, [Here from the Beginning](#) is an in-person and [virtual exhibition](#) that showcases the contributions and experiences of Black people within the United Church, amplifying voices that have long been overshadowed. It is a celebration of faith, history, and community. [Learn more and explore the exhibition online](#).

Explore additional resources for Black History Month and anti-racism work throughout the year on the GC [website](#).

★ **CCS Friday:** Join us **Friday, February 27**, 1:00pm, for an online conversation with Paul Douglas Walfall, organizer of the “Here From the Beginning” exhibit highlighting the contribution of Black people to the history of the United Church. [Register for a zoom link at this link](#).

Lenten Prayer Meetings

Come together, let us pray. Every Sunday during Lent come let us gather to pray. Each prayer meeting starts at 4:00 p.m. Mountain Time. ALL ARE INVITED. Everyone in the Edmonton area is invited to join in-person: all prayer meeting locations are [listed on our website](#). For all our communities not in the Edmonton area, we invite you to join us in one of two ways: over Zoom ([connection info on our website](#)); or by gathering to pray in your own community at the same time, joining your prayers and spirits to ours. *The prayers of the people of God are powerful and effective.* (James 2:16, paraphrased). [Full details](#).

Congregational Leadership Webinars: February and March 2026, online

A series of webinars on topics including Spiritual Discipline, Conflict, Consensus, and Congregational Meetings. Leaders and laypeople are welcome to sign up for one or many. [Full information about webinars on offer and registration links](#).

★ A Pause for Peace and Justice, every weekday in March, online

In these troubling times at home and in our world, let's come together to hear words of hope, justice and empowerment, to be grounded in compassion and radical kindness. Join us at 8 pm (SK time) each weekday Monday to Friday through March 2026. [Zoom link here](#). Rest and Receive.... Everyone Welcome.

A community initiative of Grace-Westminster United Church in collaboration with the Oliver & Gruchy Learning Centre, St. Andrew's College (Saskatoon). For More Info: Jan Clarke jlclarke@sasktel.net / Brenda Curtis c.b.curtis@sasktel.net / Bernon Lee bernon.lee@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca.

★ Buds and Shoots: Groaning towards New Creation: A Contemplative Gathering on March 20, 2026, 10 to 11 AM (Saskatchewan time), online

Please join us [with this Zoom link](#). An Offering of the Oliver & Gruchy Learning Centre (of St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon) in Collaboration with GreenSpirit Chaplaincy, and the Living Skies, Prairie to Pine, and Northern Spirit Regions of the United Church of Canada.

Imagine children's retreat, April 17-19, Sylvan Lake, AB, Kasota East Camp.

Mark your calendars! The *Imagine* children's retreat (ages 8-11) will be **April 17-19** in Sylvan Lake, AB, at Kasota East Camp. Children and their leaders are invited to come to this springtime sleep over for games and crafts, singing, worship, and campfire. Bursaries are available. To learn more, visit [First Third Ministry](#) or contact [Kevin GT](#).

★ Shared Way, Shared Witness: A Gathering on Ministry for a Collaborative Church, May 19–22, 2026, Montreal

This three day gathering for lay and ordained leaders in the Anglican and United Churches of Canada focuses on developing the skills, relationships, and theological

imagination needed for collaborative ministry in a rapidly changing church. Together, we will explore two central questions: What is the church for, now? and What ministry do we need to sustain a vital Christian presence in communities across Canada? Through keynote presentations, workshops, and structured conversations, participants will engage emerging models of church and ministry that move beyond the colonial, Christendom patterns we have inherited. More information is available at www.sharedway.ca. The early registration deadline is **March 20**.

★ **Learning on Purpose leadership development, June 15-26, Paris Ontario**

The Centre for Christian Studies' transformative two-week leadership development course is coming to the Five Oaks Retreat Centre in Paris, ON, June 15-26, 2026. Whether you are discerning a call to ministry, starting a program of diaconal formation, building your skills for lay leadership, connecting your community engagement and your faith, or just trying to figure out what your purpose is, Learning on Purpose is for you. For more information, [visit our website](#).

★ **Naramata Summer Sessions 2026 : Overview**

Summer Sessions are hosted weeks where community life is part of the experience. Days have a beautiful rhythm, shared meals, space to rest, time at the lake, and daily offerings that support learning and spiritual grounding. Each week has its own theme and its own mix of people. Explore themes, details, and how to register here: naramatacentresociety.org/2026-summersessions.

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



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