



Events Newsletter: March 25, 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

♥ You are warmly invited to celebrate a sacred and joyful milestone: **The Ordination of Kimberly Roy**. Date: April 19, 2026 / Time: 1:30pm / Location: Goodfish United Church Whitefish Lake Reserve. Please join us in witness, prayer, and celebration as we mark this important step in ministry and community service. A light lunch will follow the service. **Please RSVP** to kimberlyroy@hotmail.com so we have lunch numbers 🍽️ For those with accommodation needs, we will be staying at the [Lodge at Metis Crossing](#).

★ **Easter: A Place at the Table for New Life** (*a message from your Growth Animator*)

Easter is God's great *yes* to life—spoken into places of fear, grief, uncertainty, and waiting. The stone is rolled away not so the story can end, but so new life can begin. What might that look like in your community of faith? [Read the full reflection here.](#)

★ **Reflect and pray each day this Easter: devotional resource**

As a gift to the United Church community, Growth Animator Sharon Ballantyne (Atlantic Regions), has written a 50-day Eastertide devotional. These seven weeks of prompts focus on sharing the story of Resurrection, ministry as a community, and living a life of discipleship. Explore it personally or as part of a group.

📖 Access the [booklet formatted PDF](#) (Printing instructions: select double-sided, print on long-edge)

📄 Access the [simple Word Doc version](#)

For questions about formatting or printing contact tmullin@united-church.ca.

★ **Share an Inspiring Easter Appeal**

Easter is fast approaching, as is an annual time of generosity for our communities. *Inspire* and *Invite* gifts to Mission and Service this year with these helpful resources:

🗨️ Use the [pre-made Script and Slideshow](#) to make an Easter Appeal as part of your worship services this Easter.

📺 Share the [2026 Mission and Service Easter Video](#) in your newsletter or on social media.

🙏 Include the new [God of the Wild Wilderness prayer](#) from Mission and Service in your worship.

And, as always, don't forget to *Thank* the amazing donors who make the work of Mission and Service possible.

New & Featured Events

★ **TODAY: Faithful Footprints Grant Info Webinar, March 25, 2026, 2:30 - 3:30 EST, online**

The Faithful Footprints team invites United Church communities of faith for an informational webinar about The United Church of Canada's dedicated Faithful Footprints Grant. The 2026 Faithful Footprints Funding Cycle is still open, with Expressions of Interest being accepted until *April 30, 2026*. Join them to learn about eligibility criteria, the grant application process, and how your United Church communities can access up to \$20,000 in funding to support carbon-reduction building upgrades. [Learn more and register here.](#)

★ **Calling all Retired Ministry Personnel! Retirees Luncheon, Thursday, April 23, 12:00 noon, Mill Woods United Church, 15 Grand Meadow Crescent NW, Edmonton.**

All Northern Spirit retired ministers are invited to the Spring luncheon! This gathering is an opportunity to catch up with friends that we might not have connected with for a while. A donation would be appreciated to help cover the costs of the lunch. All UC "Pensioners" are welcome! Please RSVP to the office with any dietary restrictions by **April 19!**

★ **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.) Registration closes **April 5!** *THIS GATHERING MIGHT BE FOR YOU* if you: a) live in the area of Grande Prairie and want to get together with your neighbours; b) miss having in-person annual meetings every year; or c) love talking and learning about church! Or all of the above!

Upcoming Events and Learning Opportunities

Final Lenten Prayer Meeting this Sunday, April 29

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](#).

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](#).

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](#).

★ **Get ready to enter the stories of our faith - Godly Play Core Training Intensive 2026, May 7-10, 2026, in person, Burnaby BC**

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 18 people. [More information and registration](#).

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.

★ **Whitehorse Worship Arts Festival & Contemplative Retreat, July 2-5, 2026, Whitehorse, Yukon**

Join us in the Yukon for a four-day immersive gathering designed to heal and inspire. A partnership of the Anglican, Lutheran, and United Church traditions, this practice-

forward retreat offers a restorative balance of **deep contemplation and vibrant, embodied worship.**

Click [here](#) for more information and registration.

Naramata Offering: The Queer Family Retreat, July 6–10, 2026

A week at Naramata with lake days, chosen family energy, and space for queer families of all shapes and stories to rest, play, and connect. Dates **Monday, July 6 – Friday, July 10, 2026.** All ages welcome. On-site arrival **Sunday, July 5** if staying on-site. [Full details on the Naramata website.](#)

**[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.northernspiritr.ca

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