



News from the Region: April 1, 2026



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.

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

Family News

♥ Passing of two respected United Church elders: Rev John Snow jr, and Simogyet James Angus

Our Regional Council sends its condolences to the loved ones and communities of [Rev John Snow jr](#) (Îyarhe Sa Wahachâga, Stoney Nakoda Nation), and [James Angus](#) (Simogyet Wii Eelast, Gitxsan First Nation). These elders and leaders in the United Church will be deeply missed across the church and the

country. Please take a moment to pray, and to remember them. Please see the links above for their memorials and their funeral information. Thank you to Indigenous Ministries and Justice and Pacific Mountain Regional Council for working with the families and communities so that this news could be shared in a good way with all of us.

♥ 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](#) (**link corrected*) 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.

★ **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. [Details are available on our website](#), and you can [register to attend this event here](#). 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! [A draft schedule of the weekend is also available at this link](#).

★ **Job Opportunity: United Church Foundation, Grants and Projects Coordinator**

The United Church Foundation is accepting applications for its Grants and Projects Coordinator position until **April 10**. [View the full job description and how to apply](#).

Wider Church News & Resources

★ **Earth Week video from the Moderator**

Join the Moderator for Earth Week (April 19–26) as we partner with [For the Love of Creation](#) to move from prayer into action, advocating for climate justice and repairing our relationship with the land through education and direct engagement with our Members of Parliament. The video is posted to YouTube; the [English version is here](#) and the [French, here](#). Click 'download' in the video description to receive an offline version for in-person events. For more 2026 Earth week resources, [visit the national website](#).

★ **Choose the Next General Secretary!**

The United Church of Canada is starting a search process for its next General Secretary. A Selection Committee supported by an executive search professional will recommend the next General Secretary to be appointed by the General Council Executive. Vacancies on the selection committee: 2–3 vacancies (members-at-large). Key skills: Deep understanding of the United Church or experience and understanding of the role of the senior executive in other large complex organizations. *Could this be you??* [Full details and expression of interest / nomination](#).

Resource now available: Moderator's Easter Message

The Moderator's Easter Message is now available for pre-viewing and pre-planning. Access it along with use guidelines in [this letter from the United Church](#).

In Case You Missed It...

Resource: Description of Lay Representative Role

As many churches prepare to hold annual meetings and elect Lay Representatives to the Council, the Executive has prepared a document outlining the purpose and responsibilities of this role. [Click here to view this document \(pdf\)](#), and share with anyone in your community considering or taking on this important role.

Update on United Church refugee sponsorship

The ongoing crisis in the Middle East has intensified pressure on our refugee program, driving a sharp rise in inquiries and sponsorships from churches. Our 2026 United Church submission quota has dropped to 50 regular spaces, while the LGBTQIA program remains stable at 75 annual spaces under the current agreement. Federal cuts have also affected Settlement Providing Organizations, reducing access to key newcomer services such as language, literacy, and employment programs. Drastically longer processing times that now average 24–54 months are also a reality. We give thanks for national staff, for the many caring experts in our networks, all communities of faith carrying sponsorships forward, and for all our many community partners who are deeply dedicated to offering safe haven. Above all, we offer prayers and action for the millions who cannot go home. If you are interested in sponsoring or have questions, the General Council is the best place to get answers, but the Regional office and experts can also help you out. Please email Julie at jgraham@united-church.ca and she can put you in touch.

Aid for the Middle East: a call from United Church partner the Canadian Foodgrains Bank

The headlines say it all, and have for over two years. If you are moved to [offer food aid for the millions in need across the Middle East, see details here](#). The Canadian FoodGrains Bank is a longtime and respected partner of the United Church who also works through a wider Canadian aid coalition. Together, we have trusted partners on the ground, working with communities deeply impacted by war and displacement.

Worship Resources:

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

[Maundy Thursday - April 2, 2026](#)

[Good Friday - April 3, 2026](#)

[Holy Saturday - April 4, 2026](#)

[Easter Sunday - April 5, 2026](#)

[Second Sunday of Easter - April 12, 2026](#)

[Third Sunday of Easter - April 19, 2026](#)

[Earth Sunday - April 19, 2026](#)

[Fourth Sunday of Easter - April 26, 2026](#)
[Camping Sunday - April 26, 2026](#)

* [Click here to access Northern Spirit's 2026 Prayer Cycle](#)

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



Northern Spirit Regional Council Office
8510 95 Ave NW Edmonton Alberta
1-587-407-0330
northernspirit@united-church.ca
www.northernspiritrc.ca

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