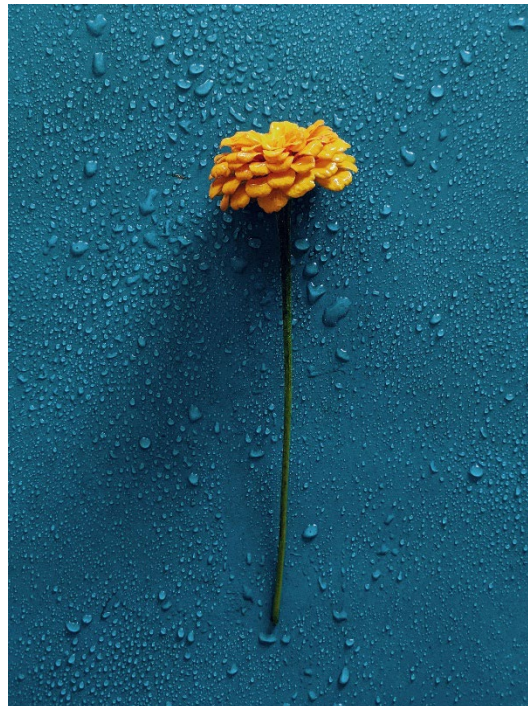




## *News from the Region: April 15, 2026*



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### **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](mailto:northernspirit@united-church.ca).*

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

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## **Family News**

### **♥ Death of former General Secretary Rev Ginny Coleman**

The United Church of Canada grieves the death of Rev. Kathryn Virginia “Ginny” Coleman, who faithfully served as the eighth General Secretary of the church from 1994–2002. Rev. Coleman died on April 3, 2026. She is predeceased by her beloved spouse, Suzanne Morris (2014), and survived by her sister, Barb (Gary), stepson Chris Emond (Lisa), and two grandchildren, Kye and Michelle. [Please see the church’s memorial here.](#)

♥ You are warmly invited to celebrate a sacred and joyful milestone: **The Ordination of Kimberly Roy**. Date: April 19, 2026 / Time: 1:30pm / Location: *\*Metis Crossing - please note change of venue*. 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](mailto:kimberlyroy@hotmail.com) so we have lunch numbers ☺ For those with accommodation needs, we will be staying at the [Lodge at Metis Crossing](#).

★ **Staffing update: Farewell and best wishes to Charlene Burns**

Indigenous Ministries and Justice, General Council, regret to announce that Charlene Burns' employment has come to an end. Charlene connected with our Regional Council as part of her wider work as a Community Capacity Development coordinator with the Indigenous church, and as an educator and connector in many shared spaces. Many of us in the Regional Councils have met Charlene at right relations events, gatherings with the Indigenous church, and at Regional Council, Conference, and presbytery meetings. Over the past fifteen years, Charlene has brought laughter and deep prayer to Indigenous Ministries and Justice, and a commitment to nurturing community with all people, and we thank her for this presence and her many gifts.

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## **Wider Church News & Resources**

★ **Ecumenical Earth Week resources, April 19-26**

Together with ecumenical partners we join our communities in love for the Earth, and deep concern about the immense strain it is under. We pray to connect with God and God's Creation. We learn about the realities and solutions to climate change. And we act— showing leadership for climate justice in our communities, and bringing a clear call for leadership to our Members of Parliament. From wildfires across the West and North to floods and devastating hurricanes, creation is groaning. Our efforts may seem small, but they are seeds to plant. We hope these resources will help you do that. Resources include a video from the Moderator, prayers, a nationwide map of events for you to add to, a leadership guide and more. Please [scroll down through this national page for all resources](#), including the downloads at the bottom of the page.

★ **Graduate of Emmanuel College? Please help update your contact info for their upcoming Centenary**

As Emmanuel College in Toronto prepares for its 100th birthday in 2028, they are working to update Emmanuel College alumni contact lists. They write, "Over the years, we have lost touch with many EC alumni, often due to the itinerant nature of their work. We would like to be able to reach as many of them as possible in the UCC Community, ask them to self-identify and provide us with a current email address so that we can keep them updated on the Centenary plans. Can you please share this [brief questionnaire](#) with your congregations, networks, or colleagues? It asks individuals for their name, email address, and graduating year."

**★ Discover the power of PAR month this May!**

Wouldn't it be great to even out the yearly cash-flow of your Community of Faith? Not be so reliant on year-end giving in December? Have more money to do more ministry? Taking part in PAR month this MAY could be your answer! All the resources you need, including a full sermon, two sample letters, and announcements are ready for you to download and use, on the [Giving Monthly through PAR](#) page. For more information about PAR or other Stewardship Resources, contact Sarah Giles, Stewardship Support for Western Regions [sgiles@united-church.ca](mailto:sgiles@united-church.ca)

**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](#).

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***Worship Resources:***

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

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

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

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

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

[Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 3, 2026](#)

[Mental Health Sunday - May 3, 2026](#)

[Asian Heritage Month 1 - May 3, 2026](#)

[Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 10, 2026](#)

[Rural Life Sunday - May 10, 2026](#)

[Asian Heritage Month 2 - May 10, 2026](#)

[Christian Family Sunday - May 10, 2026](#)

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

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

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Northern Spirit Regional Council Office  
8510 95 Ave NW Edmonton Alberta  
**1-587-407-0330**  
[northernspirit@united-church.ca](mailto:northernspirit@united-church.ca)  
[www.northernspiritrc.ca](http://www.northernspiritrc.ca)

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