



Events Newsletter: May 6, 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](#)!



♥ **Congratulations to St. Paul's United, Peace River**, who held their inaugural service in their new location last Sunday! They thank all who came to worship and the folks who helped with the transition. Their new location is the "Upper Room" of 10032 - 99 Street. Blessings to St. Paul's and their many gifted lay leaders.

News from the Pews and Other Ministries

★ **Summer Worship Planning: *Inventions of Summer* available through Region**

Inventions of Summer: A simple, creative, theologically rich companion for a Summer

Sabbath or Worship Series. *Inventions of Summer* is a four-week, ready-to-use Summer Sabbath booklet and worship series inviting you to enrich your summer through simple reflections on sunflowers, string beans, mosquitoes, and fireflies. [More details and an overview of this worship series can be reviewed here](#). This series is available as a **gift** from the Region, who purchased a license from Prayer Bench, to support Leaders and Communities of Faith. [Sign up to receive this series at this link](#). When you sign up via the short form, you will receive access to the booklet, the worship notes and additional resources.

★ Call for articles for The Alberta United Church of Canada Historical Journal 2026

The Alberta United Church Historical Committee, previously known as the Historical Society, is looking for any articles for their yearly newsletter on the history of the United Church - histories of congregations, milestones, or any personal reminiscences that you feel would be of general interest are welcome. If you have a story to share please sent it to Chair [Willie Korendyk](#), and it will be reviewed for the forthcoming Journal issue!

★ PrePARE to PAR-ticipate in PAR month!

It's a-PAR-ent that PAR month works. In May of 2025, 392 Communities of Faith had on average a 6.3% increase in giving for their local ministry. How PAR-fait is that? Don't miss the op-PAR-tunity to do your PAR-t. Together our generosity is un-PAR-alleled! Learn more [here](#). Contact Sarah Giles, Stewardship Support at sgiles@united-church.ca or 249-480-0393.

New & Featured Events

★ Preparing for Pride- Affirming open forum, Tuesday May 12, 7:00- 8:30 MDT/ CST, 8:00-9:30PM Central Daylight

June is Pride Month and Indigenous Peoples' Month. Join us for a community conversation on Pride festivals, and church plans for being Public, Intentional and Explicit supporters of Pride. Come with your ideas and questions. All people of goodwill, and all Affirming/ Affirming-curious ministries welcome. Thank you to Prairie to Pine's Equity and Diversity Committee for hosting this space for everyone!

<https://united-church.zoom.us/j/84351884794?pwd=Ks94rXZSnDjvwFZAUriDfai1hcRyF1.1> / Meeting ID: 843 5188 4794 / Password: 474411 / 1- 855 703 8985 Canada Toll-free

Upcoming Events and Learning Opportunities

Invitation: National Moosehide Campaign against violence, 14 May

Canada is in the midst of an ongoing national crisis of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2S-LGBTQIA+ people. The Moosehide Campaign is a call to all people in Canada to take a stand against racism and for justice. This year we are hoping for a record United Church turn-out at the virtual events, local walks to end violence, and fasts to end violence. [See all information about the national campaign here.](#)

National events include a sunrise ceremony, educational plenary, and workshops (all available via livestream). You can register [here](#) for virtual events (including livestream links to all the national campaign day events). Local marches are being organized across the country. Find your local march on the map located [here](#), or register [here](#) to become a community steward and organize your own events.

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.

Treaty Land Sharing Network (TLSN) Spring Feast, May 23, 11:00AM-1:00PM, Davidson Farm near Alliance AB

We know this gathering isn't accessible to many in our Region, but we want you to also know about this network, which is seeking landholders who want to share in the spirit of Treaty. If you can attend, please do, and let Julie Graham know (jgraham@united-church.ca) [Full details are on the TLSN site](#). And let her know if you'd like to connect with the TLSN.

Affirming Circle Check In, in person only at St Paul's United Church, Grande Prairie AB, Saturday 30 May, 10:00AM- 2:30PM.

All 2SLGBTQIA+ Affirming and Affirming- curious ministries and individuals from Grand Prairie and all the surrounding towns and villages are welcome to this time of sharing and community. Yes, there will be a free lunch, and a lot of community and story-sharing. Hosted by the Northern Spirit Affirm Team. For more details, please contact nsaffirm@gmail.com

REGISTER HERE: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/nw-affirming-circle-gathering> Shareable link and

information: <https://northernspiritrc.ca/event/affirming-circle-gathering/>

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](#).

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.

Prairie Pilgrimage 2026: "Seeking the Extra in Ordinary" with St. Andrew's College, July 27 – 31 in and around Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Treaty Six Territory

Join pilgrimage guides Carolyn & Blaine Woodall and GreenSpirit Chaplain Shawn Sanford Beck, in partnership with the Oliver & Gruchy Learning Centre at St. Andrew's College, for a five-day spiritual exploration of Saskatoon. Together we will travel from St. Andrew's College, through urban greenspace, along the South Saskatchewan River, sojourning in church-space and cemetery, exploring the beauty of Wanuskewin, Ancient Spirals, and Beaver Creek. As we journey, we will be joined by wise guests and guides who will help us engage creation and creativity, Indigenous spirituality, Celtic Christianity, Labyrinth mysteries, and more. Space is limited to nine pilgrims, who are also eligible to earn a Certificate in Spiritual Exploration through St. Andrew's College if so desired. The cost of the pilgrimage is \$1000 which includes food, lodging, program, and internal transportation when needed. Registration deadline is **June 1**, so sign up soon! For more information, or to register, please contact Rev. Carolyn Woodall at carolynsparlingwoodall@gmail.com or 780-385-5124 (text is a great way to connect).

★ Save the date: UCC Office Admin Conference! October 5 - 9, 2026, Saskatoon SK

The next Office Administrators Conference, open to all United Church of Canada Office Administrators, will take place at St. Martin's United Church in Saskatoon from **Monday, October 5 to Friday, October 9, 2026**. Thanks to the generous support of several Regional Councils, the cost of attending has been partially subsidized. **Costs** (per person) are: \$325 (no accommodation); \$525 (shared accommodation) and \$750 (private accommodation). **Registration deadline is August 1, 2026**. A [basic agenda](#) and [a letter of invitation](#) contain more details. For further information, contact Chantal Winslow at cwinslow@united-church.ca or Brandy Emmerich at office@stmartinsuc.com.

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



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Image: Photo from St. Paul's, Peace River.

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