



## *News from the Region: May 13, 2026*



### ♥ *Community News and Celebration:*

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Region-Connect event in Grande Prairie over the weekend of April 25 & 26! We had over 50 attendees, 6 Regional and Tri-Regional staff members facilitating, and many fantastic volunteers from the hosting church, St. Paul's United in Grande Prairie. A huge thank you to the St. Paul's community of faith for welcoming us into their beautiful space. We look forward to future Regional Connection events - stay tuned for the Fall gathering date!

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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

♥ We are saddened to share the news of the passing of **Phyllis Greenslade**, on April 19, 2026. Phyllis was a Designated Lay Minister and contribute much to our United Church communities. As her obituary says: *Phyllis had a gift for connection and lived a life rich in service and community, especially in the United Church.* [You can read her full obituary and share memories of Phyllis at this link.](#)

### ★ Affirming news and events update is out and about

The latest [tri-Region Affirming newsletter is out](#), focused on events and resources by, for, and with 2SLGBTQIA+ people and allies. Pride month is coming up and a lot is happening! If you didn't receive it and want to, get thee hence to the mailing list by contacting staff support Julie Graham, [jgraham@united-church.ca](mailto:jgraham@united-church.ca)

### ★ Youth Council of Northern Spirit

Do you know a high school student who's interested in faith, community, and justice? Applications for the Youth Council of Northern Spirit are now open to **youth age 14-17** (or, **entering grades 10-12 in September**). The Youth Council of Northern Spirit partners with youth from other regions to build community and grow in leadership. Members meet online during the year and in person at Uncharted – the annual senior youth retreat. Youth Council Members will also attend the Northern Spirit Regional Gathering (November 10 & 12, 2026). For more information, contact [KGuentherTrautwein@united-church.ca](mailto:KGuentherTrautwein@united-church.ca) or visit [firstthirdministry.ca/youth-council](http://firstthirdministry.ca/youth-council).

APPLY HERE: <https://form.jotform.com/242146880537057>

### 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.

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## Wider Church News & Resources

### ★ Take action for Guaranteed Livable Income

Everyone deserves to live with dignity. Across the country, people are struggling to afford basic necessities. That's why the United Church is calling on the federal

government to create a **Guaranteed Livable Income program**. It's a practical, compassionate solution that would help ensure no one is left behind. By providing a consistent income floor, it can reduce poverty, improve health outcomes, and give people the stability they need to thrive. You can help make this change happen. We've made it easy to contact the Senate Committee who is reviewing Bill S-206 for the creation of a Guaranteed Livable Income. **Add your voice today** with just a few clicks: <https://united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/create-guaranteed-livable-income-program>. Together, our voices can help build a more just and compassionate Canada.

### ★ **Supporting the Northern Indigenous Ministers Retreat**

Across Northern Canada, Indigenous ministers walk closely with their communities through grief and loss. It is sacred work, but it can also be deeply isolating. The Northern Indigenous Ministers Retreat offers something essential: time away to rest, share, and receive care among peers who understand the weight of this calling. Supported through Mission and Service, this gathering creates space for healing, connection, and renewal. The United Church of Canada Foundation is inviting you and your community to take part in supporting this gathering. Please make a life-changing gift today in support of the Northern Indigenous Ministers Retreat: <http://uccf-northern-ministers-retreat.plenty.com>

### ★ **Resource available for advance planning: Moderator's Pride Message**

[Please access the video resource and guidelines around its use at this link.](#)

### ★ **Canadian Foodgrains Bank appeal for Sudan**

The United Church is a founding member of the CFGB and many in our Region are involved in its ministry. Executive Director Andy Harrington writes, "Last month, I travelled to Sudan and South Sudan and met people living through the world's largest humanitarian crisis. I saw firsthand what it means to survive without reliable access to food, shelter, healthcare, or safety. The suffering is overwhelming. After 3 years of conflict, millions of families are unable to access food or basic necessities needed to survive. The United Nations (UN) is reporting 33.7 million people in Sudan – around three-quarters of Canada's population – need humanitarian assistance right now. The situation is grim. And yet, even in the midst of such devastation, I continued to see signs of hope and humanity. Communities sharing what little they have. Neighbours looking out for one another. Humanitarian workers doing everything they can to bring relief, often at great risk to their own safety. From now until Sunday, May 31, your donation will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$250,000 to help fund emergency food assistance, thanks to a generous private donor who cares deeply about the people living through this crisis." To give, [please visit the CFGB website](#).

### ★ **2026 Federal Census Reminder**

The 2026 Census has begun! Check your mail for your 2026 Census invitation letter, which includes instructions on how to complete your questionnaire. Census information

is important and can help communities plan services such as child care, schools, and health care. Census data paint a portrait of Canadians and their stories – from small communities to entire provinces and territories. Complete your census today at [census.gc.ca](https://census.gc.ca).

### **Tomorrow: 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.

### **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!

### **Minute for Reconciliation from Regina Native Outreach Ministry**

Regina Native Outreach Ministry (RNOM) has prepared material to help bring awareness to *Red Dress Day (May 5)*, and *Bear Witness Day (May 10)* and *Moose Hide Campaign (May 14)*. All material can be [found here](#).

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### ***Worship Resources:***

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

[Asian Heritage Month 3 - May 17, 2026](#)

[Seventh Sunday of Easter - May 17, 2026](#)

[Pentecost Sunday - May 24, 2026](#)

[Asian Heritage Month 4 - May 24, 2026](#)

[Trinity Sunday - May 31, 2026](#)

[Asian Heritage Month 5 - May 31, 2026](#)

[Union Sunday - June 7, 2026](#)

[Pride Sunday - June 7, 2026](#)

[Second after Pentecost - June 7, 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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**FREE  
TO A GOOD  
HOME!**

**Also available:**

- table top chrome cross
- silver table top bible holder with bible
- white large bible never out of the box

Ottewell United, in Edmonton, is closing and would like to offer these items to a good home.

- Communion set
- Table frontal and antependium, made by members of our congregation
- Candelabra set
- Table top chrome cross
- Silver table top bible holder with bible
- White large bible never out of the box.

Please help us find homes for these beautiful church items.

**Contact Delores at 780 466 3761.**



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