



## *News from the Region: May 27, 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**

♥ 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.](#)

### **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**

### **★ Happy Pride: A Message of Apology, Healing & Radical Belonging video from the Moderator- early launch to help your worship planning**

In 2025, The United Church of Canada offered an apology to 2S and LGBTQIA+ people and communities—naming the real harm caused through words, actions, silence, and systems that failed to protect and affirm God’s beloved people. This message reflects on that apology—not as an ending, but as a beginning. A threshold into deeper healing, accountability, and transformation. [Please use this link to see how to use the video, and when](#).

### **★ 100 Tables Returns Nationwide**

As spring blooms and our centennial year draws to a close, we are excited to once again invite all United Church communities of faith to take part in 100 Tables! New ideas for projects and favourites from last year are welcome, and we highly encourage both communities who participated in 2025 and those who couldn’t make it to join in the fun. Communities who haven’t yet received a \$225 RONA gift card to purchase their picnic table are still eligible to do so. Participants from last year will receive more information in the coming weeks. [Please read more here!](#)

### **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>

### **2026 Federal Census Reminder \*Religion Question**

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. **A question on religion has been included in the Census of Population since 1871 and was last asked in 2021. Normally asked every ten years, the question has been included again in the 2026 Census because a wide range of multicultural and religious organizations expressed an interest in having more current information.** Encourage your community to complete the census! Complete your census today at [census.gc.ca](https://census.gc.ca).

### **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 send it to Chair [Willie Korendyk](#), and it will be reviewed for the forthcoming Journal issue!

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### *Worship Resources:*

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

[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](#)  
[Indigenous Day of Prayer - June 14, 2026](#)  
[Third after Pentecost - June 14, 2026](#)  
[UN World Refugee Day - June 20, 2026](#)  
[Fourth after Pentecost - June 21, 2026](#)  
[Canadian Multiculturalism Day - June 27, 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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