



Events Newsletter: June 3, 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](#)!

News from the Pews and Other Ministries


♥ **Yellowknife United Church** is holding a special **Covenanting Service** celebrating the ministry partnership between **Rev. Alison Mock** and Yellowknife United Church and Northern Spirit Regional Council. Date: Service will be on **Sunday, June 7,**


2026, Time: 10:00 a.m., Location: Northern United Place, Yellowknife, NT. This meaningful service will mark the formal covenant between Rev. Mock and the congregation, affirming a shared commitment to ministry, community, and spiritual growth. All are welcome to attend and share in this important and joyful occasion. Come celebrate, support, and be part of this milestone in the life of Yellowknife United Church.


♥ We are sad to share the news of the passing of *Rev. Don Mayne*, who served in the United Church in Saskatchewan and Alberta for many years. [You can read his full obituary here](#). A Celebration of Don's Life will be held at Glenwood Funeral Home, 52356 Range Road 232, Sherwood Park on Monday June 8, at 2:00 pm.

Welcome to new Affirming ministries!

Pride Month is a busy season for welcoming new ministries to the family officially- in practice, these fine communities have been Affirming for a long time. Let's celebrate these ministries in our Prairies and North regions:

 [Grace-Westminster United Church](#) in Saskatoon celebrates on Sunday, June 7 at 10:30am. Celebratory coffee and treats will be provided by the Affirm Team after the service!

 [Charleswood United Church](#) in Winnipeg celebrates Sunday, June 14 at 10:00AM, followed by a BBQ. Everyone is invited!

 [Paul's United Church](#) in Oxbow, southern SK is celebrating June 14 with details to come.

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 or visit 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.

★ **Job Opportunity: Campus United Community Connector**

Campus United is seeking individuals to fill the role of Community Connector for a one-year contract on a full/part-time basis (30 hours/week July-August, 6-8 hours/week September-May). This position pays \$21 per hour. Successful candidates need to be willing to lead in an affirming (meaning LGBTQIA2S+ inclusive) religious community whose values include bold discipleship, daring social justice, and deep spirituality. For more information and to apply, visit <https://ca.indeed.com/viewjob?jk=3c8c05f64b55cacc>. Alternatively, you can also fill out the application here: <https://form.jotform.com/260787078867275>

New & Featured Events

★ *As the church and the communities we serve prepare for National Indigenous History Month and Pride Month, in June, here are some events to help us think through how we can connect with these communities.*

From Words to Practice: Living Into the United Church's 2S and LGBTQIA+ Apology, June 9, 2026, 1:00 – 2:30 pm CDT, 12:00-1:30 pm MDT/ CST, online

In this national **United in Learning online session**, participants will reflect on the 2S and LGBTQIA+ apology the United Church offered last year at General Council, learn from communities already living into it, and explore **practical ways to embody the apology** in worship, community life, and public witness. You will hear from members of the Interim Working Group on the apology animation, share ideas with others across the church, and leave with **concrete, context-appropriate next steps** for your own ministry or community. [Details are here](#) and the webinar will be offered via Church X, which requires a free account to join.

Upcoming Events and Learning Opportunities

Rejoice in Hope gathering, June 7, 11 a.m., Hazel Bluff

Come rejoice and celebrate with the congregations, choirs and musicians of Athabasca, Barrhead, Fort McMurray, Westlock/Hazel Bluff, Whitecourt & Jarvie United Churches. Sunday, June 7th 2026, 11:00am - 12:30pm, Hazel Bluff Hall: (27329 HWY-18, Westlock, right next to Hazel Bluff United Church). Free-will luncheon to follow. **RSVP by May 22 to 780-674-2412 or buchurch2021@gmail.com.**

Living into Radical Welcome: Rainbow Refugee Sponsorship, June 18th 2026, 1:00 – 2:30 pm CDT, 12:00-1:30 pm MDT/ CST, online

In recognition of the annual World Refugee Day, this interactive webinar invites communities of faith, refugee sponsorship groups, and justice-seeking individuals to explore how sponsorship can become a meaningful expression of radical welcome, solidarity, and faithful discipleship.

Around the world, many LGBTQIA+ individuals continue to face persecution, criminalization, displacement, and violence because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Faith communities across Canada have a unique opportunity to respond with compassion, accompaniment, and concrete action through **rainbow refugee sponsorship**.

Whether your congregation is already sponsoring refugees, offering support programs, or just exploring how to get started, this webinar will provide practical guidance, real-life insights, and opportunities to connect. [Please see all details here.](#)

St. Albert United Vacation Bible School, July 27 - 31, St. Albert

St. Albert United is already thinking about SUMMER...and, in particular, Vacation Bible School! Our VBS this year is called *Changing the Game: Learning to Live in God's Love*, and it will be a board-game-themed week of FUN! As usual, we plan to sing, worship, pray, create, play and connect - we can't wait to spend a week together! *VBS 2026: Changing the Game* runs from July 27 - 31, 2026, from 9:00 - 12:00 each day. The cost per participant is \$30 for students from Kindergarten - Grade 5. We welcome children from our congregation AND community to join us, so EVERYONE is free to attend! We also welcome older students to join us as volunteers - many hands make light work, and we love watching these connections made during this week together. Registration is open NOW! Registering soon helps us to make the best plan for our busy week, so don't delay! Full details at: stalbertunited.com/vbs.

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).

Collective 2026: (em)brace for impact, August 12-15, Ontario

Youth, young adults, and their leaders from across Canada are invited to **Collective**, a gathering for faith, fun, friendship, and food! In August, we will be travelling to Brock University in St. Catharines, ON. It's a chance for us to connect with each other, explore faith, and grow in leadership. Cost is \$450 and *registration has been extended to June 30*. Financial assistance may be available. For more information, contact KGuentherTrautwein@united-church.ca or visit collective-gathering.ca. **REGISTER HERE**.

Emberwood Edmonton Forest School, August 22-23, Narrow Lake, AB

If you've got little ones in your life (kids, nibblings, little cousins) this one is for you. We're delighted to be partnering with **Edmonton Forest School** again this summer to offer our family program! Family Trip: August 22-23, 2026. Accommodation for 1 night on the family trip (1 Cabin per family), all meals included, Transportation to and from the trip location (Narrow Lake, AB) available, children's programming and adults programming, and Pre-Session Playdates: **June 14** from 1:30pm - 4:00pm. This year, the program is offered on a sliding scale - \$375 - 550 for the whole trip + all pre-trip gatherings. For full information, email howdy@emberwood.ca or go to emberwood.ca.

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.

★ Mark your calendars! YouthTREK, October 23-25, Whitehorse & Camrose

Calling Jr. Youth (13-15) from across the Pacific Mountain, Chinook Winds & Northern Spirit regions: Gather together for a weekend of church sleepovers, faith conversations and fun! Join us **October 23-25 at YouthTREK**, in Whitehorse or Camrose. The cost is 350\$, with a variety of bursaries available, including special discounts for Whitehorse locals and folks driving their own youth to Camrose, where you can attend for 100\$. Be in touch about bursaries, as we have a variety available — don't let money be the barrier to attendance. Registration is limited, so get registered now! We have 20 spots available for Whitehorse, and 28 for Camrose. Learn more at this link <https://www.firstthirdministry.ca/yt2026.html> and reach out to firstthirdministry@united-church.ca with any questions.

Advance notice for your continuing education planning: *Joyful Resistance: Intercultural Worship Arts for Bold Discipleship, Nov 19-21 2026* at the Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton AB

Join the Western Intercultural Ministries Network in an immersive, intercultural worship-arts conference. This will be hosted by the five Western Regional Councils, and is open to everyone anywhere in the country. We'll explore **joy as a form of resistance** that sustains bold discipleship and justice-oriented ministry. Join in plenary, rotating stations, theological reflection with hands-on musical and arts. We'll combine theological reflection with hands-on musical and artistic practice. **HOLD THE DATE-** more details to come, including cost and full program. [All details will be posted here.](#)

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



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