



News from the Region: June 24, 2026



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.

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

Family News

♥ We are sad to share the news of the death of **The Reverend Wm. Dale Irving** on Tuesday June 9, 2026. Dale turned 83 on May 12. He served The United Church for 41 years. He was in congregational ministries in Alberta and Nova Scotia and also served 12 years as Conference Personnel Minister for Alberta Northwest Conference. A memorial service was held on Saturday June 20, at Southminster-Steinhauer United Church.

★ Weekly News Summer Schedule

This is the last regular issue of the Northern Spirit Weekly Newsletter before the summer break. Regular newsletters will resume at the end of August. Until that time, we will only publish the newsletter if there is urgent news to share!

★ **Need Hymn Books?**

★ *from Partridge Hill*: approximately **40 Voices United** hymn books to give away! Contact Dupretrudy@gmail.com if interested.

★ *Ottewell United* also has hymn books to offer: a mix of **Voices United, More Voices, and Songs for a Gospel People**. Contact deloreshan@telus.net if interested!

★ **Request for bibles (*St. Paul's United, Edmonton*)**

Does your church community have extra bibles? St. Paul's United in Edmonton is seeking bibles to provide to newcomers. We are specifically looking for **NRSV, NIV or Good News Bibles**. Please contact the office at 780-436-1555 or office@stpaulsunited.org if you have extras that could go to a new home. Thank you!

★ **Save the Date: Region Connect Gathering**

The next Region Connect Gathering will be held in Camrose, AB, on **October 24 & 25, 2026**. More details will come soon, but for now save the date for this gathering!

★ **Forget where's Waldo... Where's your church!?** 🗺️

If you have ever wondered if it is worth ensuring your community of faith's information is on Google Maps, this story might inspire you. In 2025, Bill Gillard updated the listing for St. Peter's on Google Maps, as it was incorrectly named. Since then, 5,000 visitors have viewed the updated profile, even though St. Peter's is in a small town. Recently, a colleague of mine was asked to visit a local community of faith to preach. When they got the email, they immediately went to Google to see how long the drive would be. But guess what? They couldn't find the church on Google! It took a couple of phone calls to track down their physical address because not even their ChurchHub account was up to date (they had accidentally entered their mailing address under physical address). If it's hard for a United Church staff person to find you, how much harder is it for new people seeking community!?! So, if you do one additional task this week, perhaps it should be this: **Google your community of faith and make sure what's listed is correct (or that there is a listing at all!)** [How to Edit your Google Listing](#) | [Claim your Google Listing](#).

Email Jordan Cantwell for more ideas on how to strengthen your invitation jcantwell@united-church.ca.

★ **Job Opportunity: Stony Plain United Office Administrator**

Stony Plain United is hiring a Church Office Administrator: in-office at Stony Plain United Church; 24 hours per week; Previous office administrative experience preferred; Position start date August 1, 2026. [Full position description is available on the Stony Plain United website](#). For further information contact the Church by email at job@stonyplainunitedchurch.com.

Wider Church News & Resources

★ **How to be Prophetic, Pastoral and Non-Partisan during the Alberta Referendum Campaign, Town Hall TODAY *June 24, 2026, 2:00 pm MT***

★ An Executive letter was sent out yesterday, as well as posted to our website, addressing the Alberta referendum planned for Fall 2026. If you missed it, [you can read and/or share this letter at this link](#).

Northern Spirit is invited to join today's Chinook Winds Regional Town Hall, where we will discuss the October Alberta referendum. Chris Mah Poy, Chinook Winds First Third and Justice Networks Coordinator, will share information and best practices on how you can engage in a prophetic, pastoral and non-partisan response with your communities of faith and wider networks during the referendum campaign and how the region will be engaging the referendum. Please join us for this vital conversation. Register for this to receive the Zoom link: [Chinook Winds Regional Town Hall](#).

★ **We Say “NO” to U.S. Threats of War on Cuba. Why Doesn't the Canadian Government?**

The United Church of Canada, Canadian churches, labour organizations, and civil society groups are calling on the Government of Canada to publicly reject escalating U.S. actions against Cuba and to support humanitarian assistance for the Cuban people. The statement comes as partners in Cuba continue to report severe shortages of fuel, food, water, and medical supplies. We hold in prayer all the Cuban peoples affected by the ongoing crisis and call for peace, justice, and humanitarian support. [Read the full news story](#) and learn more.

August 10-14 - Indigenous and Racialized Youth Retreat

Applications are still open for the Indigenous and Racialized Youth Retreat this summer at the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in Manitoba. At this retreat, young people will come together to learn on the land, form friendships, and deepen their intercultural understanding. To apply, visit <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/n2Jb0ep7Vw> or **contact Inzwi Munikwa** (Lead for emerging Indigenous-Racialized Interfaith Community) at IMunikwa@united-church.ca for more information.

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.

In Case You Missed It:

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.

Happy Pride: A Message of Apology, Healing & Radical Belonging video from the Moderator

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](#).

Worship Resources:

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

[Canadian Multiculturalism Day - June 27, 2026](#)

[Fifth after Pentecost - June 28, 2026](#)

[Sixth after Pentecost - July 5, 2026](#)

[Seventh after Pentecost - July 12, 2026](#)

[Eighth after Pentecost - July 19, 2026](#)

[Ninth after Pentecost - July 26, 2026](#)
[Tenth after Pentecost - August 2, 2026](#)
[Emancipation Sunday - August 2, 2026](#)

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

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



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