



Events Newsletter: September 23, 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

♥ **Congratulations** to both *Mill Woods United, Edmonton AB* (Rev. William Brook), and *Barrhead United, Barrhead AB* (Danny Fontaine) on their Covenanting services this past weekend. ♥

★ Alberta Referendum work continues: events and resources

Your task group has been hard at work! [All resources can be found here](#), and a number are in a shared public folder, so we can update as we go. This includes a new library of

images for social media and church use, inviting us to express how faith calls us to vote for the common good. Please use widely; they are copyright free and prepared by the task group and Affirming Committee members, not by AI!

Our family in Chinook Winds also invites us to [their next event on getting the vote out, Sept 23](#).

★ **Thanksgiving with The United Church of Canada Foundation**

"Come in, come in and sit down." Community is one of God's greatest gifts: gathering around a table, sharing what we have, and making room for each other.

This Thanksgiving, The United Church of Canada Foundation is inviting us to celebrate that gift by supporting Mission and Service. Our generosity helps uplift community meals, breakfast clubs, Out of the Cold programs, and other initiatives that bring people together and offer welcome, care, and connection throughout the year. Please consider making a Thanksgiving gift today and helping share the abundance of community: unitedchurchfoundation.ca/thanksgiving.

★ **Cultivating Gratitude in the Season of Creation** ~ *A message from Growth and Stewardship Animator Jordan*

Creation teaches us about resilience. Trees bend in the wind. Seeds wait beneath the soil. Rivers find their way around obstacles. Through changing seasons, God remains present. When we pay attention to the gifts around us, we begin to see abundance differently. What are you noticing? Where have you seen God at work? What gifts are growing in your community of faith? How can you make gratitude visible in your community of faith? As you celebrate the Season of Creation, World Communion, Thanksgiving, and the generosity within your community of faith, keep wondering: What is God growing among us? [Read the full reflection here](#).

2027 Mission and Service Grants - Deadline to Apply October 5

The Regional Council Executive and the Mission and Ministry Grants Committee are looking ahead to considering applications for Grants to support the mission and ministry of Communities of Faith in 2027. To apply for Mission and Service Grants (**formerly called Mission Support Grants*) fill out the Application Form with all required information and supporting documents. **Submit the Application by October 5, 2026** by email to northernspirit@united-church.ca. To help you in organizing the required information, there is a checklist posted to our website as well. [All documents are available at this link on our website, under the "Regional Council" dropdown](#). Please contact NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca with any questions or concerns.

New & Featured Events

★ **LAST CALL FOR REAL LeaderShift's Rural Ministry Conference returns this fall, October 2-4, 2026** hosted by Knox United Church, Three Hills and St. Paul's United, Trochu, AB!

Our Theme Speaker is **Rev. Dr. Catherine Smith**, initiator and host of the Maritimes' [Rural Routes through the Holy](#). Come experience rural hospitality, inspiring theme sessions and practical workshops tuned to today's rural ministry contexts! Choose from eight different workshops, including *Discipleship in a Rural Context* with Northern Spirit Regional Council's president, **Rev. Leigh Sinclair** and *Reaching Generation Alpha* with First Third Ministry Animator **Kevin Guenther-Trautwein**. You'll find conference and accommodation information and can register on the [LeaderShift website](#).

★ **Regional Connection Event: Camrose, October 24-25, 2026**

The next Region Connect Gathering will be held in Camrose, AB, on October 24 & 25, 2026. All are invited to this space of connection and discussion, with a special Celebration of Ministry worship service on Sunday the 25th. [Registration is now open for this event](#), with a registration deadline of **October 1st**. [Full details on our website](#). *(Please note that these connection events are planned to be ongoing and moving around the different parts of our Region. If this time or place doesn't work for you, stay tuned! Our next connection gathering is being planned for Spring 2027).*

★ *Happening at the same time:* **YouthTREK in Camrose (Oct 23-25) *Last chance to register!**

Calling all youth in grade 7-9: YouthTREK is coming to Camrose, and you're invited! YouthTREK is a chance for teens from around the province to have fun, build new friendships, and grow in faith. Curious? Check out these highlights from last year's YouthTREK: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DQa5vEbESHB/>.

Regular registration is \$350 (\$100 if you are driving yourself there), and subsidies are available because we don't want anyone to miss it. [Registration is now open here](#). *Please share with the youth in your life!*

★ *Stay up-to-date with news and resources for First Third Ministry! [Click here to sign up for the F3 newsletter](#).*

Upcoming Events and Learning Opportunities

★ The latest learning spaces from [United in Learning are outlined here](#). There is a wide range of practical and Spirit-ed content on offer for very affordable fees or for free.

Weekly Wednesday online bible study resumes September, online

Wondering how the bible speaks to your own life situation? Looking for hope and courage in these frightening times? Needing inspiration for your upcoming sermon? Longing for deep connection and meaningful conversation with others? Every

Wednesday at 1 pm SK time a group of seekers, lay people, clergy and others from across the prairies and beyond gather to read, wonder and wrestle with scripture. It's a time for fellowship and deep reflection; an opportunity to bring our lives and the realities we are facing into conversation with sacred texts. It's a place to deepen your faith and build meaningful and lasting relationships. Isn't it time you checked this out?

Wednesdays at 1 pm SK & MDT / 2 pm CDT / 3 pm EDT Use this link to join:

<https://bit.ly/41Vh93V>. For more information, contact Jordan Cantwell:

jcantwell@united-church.ca

Strengthening Invitation | United in Prayer, Thursdays, 10 a.m. MT, online

Every **Thursday at 11am Central / 10am Mountain** the Growth and Stewardship team hosts a short online time of prayer for our church. Join with others across the country in giving thanks for all that God is doing among us and asking for strength and guidance for our communities of faith and the neighbours we serve. Use this [new zoom link](#) to join the weekly prayer time. *Let us know how we can pray for your community of faith.* Send your prayer request to growth@united-church.ca.

★ **Orange Shirt Day/ National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Wednesday 30 September; Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People, Sunday October 4.** These two very significant days for committing to action for right relations are coming up soon. We will have resources for all ages posted next week. Your local planning and partnerships for and with all ages are the most important contribution. [Click here for an overview and supports.](#)

★ The **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation is offering dedicated and free educational programming: [Lunch and Learn series Sept. 21-25](#)** 2026 as part of Truth and Reconciliation Week.

Setting the table for peace: World Food Day resource for October 16

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank World Food Day resource highlights how conflict drives hunger – and how peace can help build food security. In this worship guide, you will find resources to PRAY, LEARN, ADVOCATE, and GIVE. The full resource can be downloaded [here](#).

Mark Your Calendars for the Next National Church Cross Country Check-In

Join the General Secretary, members of the General Council Executive, and the Moderator for a live conversation with people across the United Church. Listen, ask questions, put faces to names, and share perspectives that can help inform the church's leadership and decision-making.

[Upcoming sessions](#) (French sessions to be announced soon!): **October 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. ET; November 25, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. ET.** [Learn more on ChurchX.](#)

★ **PEACE TRAIN CANADA, Fourth Trip - October 23 - 31, 2026, Kamloops, Jasper, Edmonton, Saskatoon, and more**

Peace Train Canada is inviting you to gather with those on the Peace Train from Vancouver to Ottawa this fall. Peace Train Canada is a citizen-led effort to reclaim and renew our solidarity and Canadian identity as a culture of peace. At each train stop the Peace Train tries to raise awareness of this initiative and call people to remember Canada's role in Peace Keeping. Meet the train for a peace vigil in **Kamloops (October 24, 12:15 am); Jasper (October 24, 11 am); Edmonton (October 24, 6:30 pm); Saskatoon (October 25, 6:00 am);** or in further stops across Canada. Track the Train at <https://tsimobile.viarail.ca/>. *Train is a verb. If you want Peace, Train for Peace. Full details at www.peacetraincanada.com.*

★ **The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Sermon on the Mount, online workshop series 5 Nov- Nov 26**

Join Rev Mitchell Anderson and Rev Don Schweitzer for an exploration of the Sermon on the Mount's meaning in relation to the history of colonial relationships in Canada and Indigenous resistance to this; the origin, nature and teachings of the *Declaration*; where things are at in terms of implementing the *Declaration* in Canada, and how the Sermon on the Mount speaks to this. [Full details and registration here.](#)

★ **Make the Most of Your Worship Planning! Webinar with *Gathering magazine*, Wednesday 28 Oct, 9:00AM MDT/ CST, 10:00AM CDT, online**

Discover more of what GatheringWorship.ca has to offer! [Join this practical webinar](#) to explore the platform and learn how to make the most of your subscription and its worship-planning resources. Find out about all the features on GatheringWorship.ca; learn about navigating the site; ask questions and let us know what works well and what could be improved.

★ **Affirming Leaders Day 2026, Saturday, November 7, 9:30am-3:30pm MT; online**

Affirming Connections is an important ally in our Affirming work as a Region, and we regularly recommend their excellent events. Coming up is their annual professional development day for the people doing **the work**: clergy, organizers, volunteers, allies, and queer folks. This year is built around what you've been asking for - practical tools for hard times. We'll dig into engaging vulnerable people with real skill, unpacking what it actually takes to be Public, Intentional and Explicit about affirmation, not just welcoming in theory. And we'll get into tactical frivolity and how joy gets organized! More details coming soon. [See details and register here.](#)

★ **Registration open! Being Good Relations: Learning gathering on residential school denialism, Friday November 6 at noon to Saturday Nov 7 at 3:00PM Sunnybrook United Church, Red Deer**

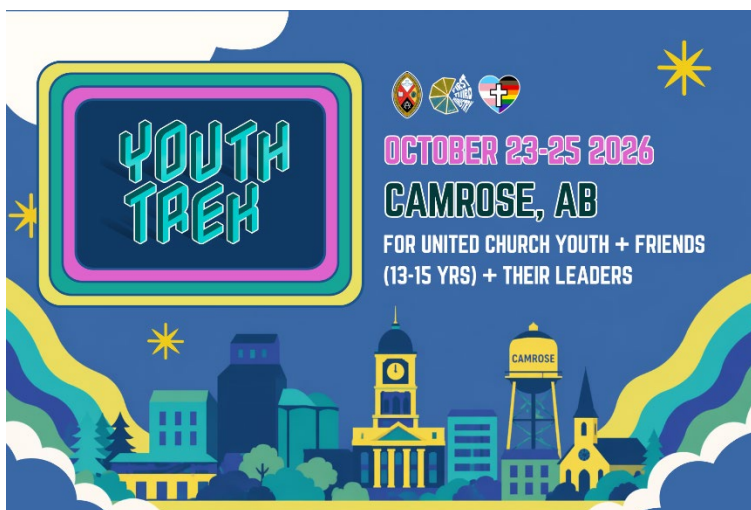
The Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit Inter-regional Being Good Relations Network would like to invite you to our speaker and network event this fall. Dr. Crystal Fraser will offer her reflections and guidance on combatting Residential School Denialism. The network is inviting its members, communities of faith and allies to participate in discussions, workshops and deep listening as we join in the struggle to combat denialism and live out Reconciliation. [Registration is free of charge and required.](#)

Re:UniteYoung Adult Retreat

November 12-15. Calling all young adults (ages 18-30ish)! United Church folks & friends: come travel to the largest island in Howe Sound, BC, surrounded by trees and water for a long weekend of rest, community and fun. We'll have good food, meaningful conversations, late night board games, great music and campfires (weather permitting!) It's a weekend you'll want to show up for. [Click here to register.](#)

★ ***POSTPONED - Joyful Resistance: Intercultural Worship Arts for Bold Discipleship, at the Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton AB.*** Friends, the Western Intercultural Ministries Network Executive has reluctantly decided to postpone this event until 2027. The theme will remain the same and we look forward to offering you timely updates on the program and resource people. This will happen! We will have in 2027, an immersive, intercultural worship-arts conference. We'll explore joy as a form of resistance that sustains bold discipleship and justice-oriented ministry. We'll engage the United Church's intercultural vision through art, song, liturgical arts, and more.

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



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