



News from the Region: September 29, 2026



Prayer for Orange Shirt Day/ the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, by Rev Tony Snow, Stoney Nakoda Nation.
[Please see the full service here.](#)

Creator and Sustainer of Life

Grant us Grace and Mercy for the difficult journey ahead

We seek to repair our past, going forward on a shared road of blessing and goodwill.

Lord Hear Our Prayer

Grant us Peace and Knowledge to know your ways

We seek a new path that supports those in need and those who struggle in these times.

Lord Hear Our Prayer

Grant us Purpose and Commitment to make collective choices

We seek to act for the care of our neighbours, and for the wellbeing of our communities.

Lord Hear Our Prayer

*May we contend with our history in healing ways
May we seek a new unity and the promise of a new beginning.*

Lord Hear Our Prayer



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

♥ **Orange Shirt Day: Office Closure**

This newsletter is coming out a day early (Tuesday) because **the office will be closed tomorrow, Wednesday September 30**, in honour of National Day of Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day.

♥ **National Day of Truth and Reconciliation/ Orange Shirt Day supports**

September 30 is the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, and Sunday October 4 is the national day in support of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit people. [We've prepared some resources and reminders](#); your presence and good words in the community are important. Please do what you can in your context to honour these days, survivors, and all our relations.

★ **A Call to Recommit to the 1986 Apology to First Nations Peoples on Sunday October 4**

On Sunday October 4, 2026, all communities of faith are invited to read together the 1986 Apology to Indigenous peoples. October 4 is the also the day to remember missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two Spirit people, and to commit to taking action to end this continuing epidemic of violence. It is also Worldwide Communion Sunday, uniting Christians around the world in an act of common thanksgiving, remembering, and commitment. Maybe the Spirit is moving through these three sacred moments, uniting them and calling us into recommitment to truth, reconciliation, and new life. [Click here to read the full invitation, with links to the apologies](#).

♥ **Covenanting Service:** In honor of **Rev. Dr. Lloyd Nyarota with Vermilion River Pastoral Charge** (congregations of First United Church in Vermilion, McQueen Memorial United Church in Mannville, and Wesley United Church in Kitscoty). Together we will worship **Sunday, October 18, 3 p.m.**, First United Church, 4918-52 Ave.

Vermilion, Alberta. We would love to have you share this special occasion with us& welcome Rev. Dr. Lloyd Nyarota as we begin this journey together. Please join us for refreshments & fellowship following the Service.

★ **Alberta Referendum work continues: be sure to tell us about your good work**

The countdown continues, and in this tense time, thank you to the many ministries who are offering spaces for learning and reflection. If your community of faith is offering space for this, or for getting the vote out- we want to hear about it! We welcome website articles, and if you're offering a public event or service, [please post it here](#). [All referendum 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!

***Last chance: 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.

Wider Church News & Resources

★ **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.](#)

CiRCLe M Seed Money for Community Projects

The Centre for Rural Community Leadership and Ministry (CiRCLe M) (www.circle-m.ca) is offering communities of faith seed money of up to \$4,000 for a project that connects you to your community. If interested, a grant description and an application form are available from Chairperson, Catherine Christie, christiecatherine4@gmail.com.

In Case You Missed It...

General Council Nominations open

New opportunities to serve on national United Church committees and bodies will be posted on September 2. The upcoming opportunities include: The Manual Committee; Academic Awards and Scholarships Sub-Committee; General Council 46 Equity Support Team; Indigenous Justice Advisory Group; Interfaith Committee on Chaplaincy; Roman Catholic–United Church Dialogue; Candidacy Boards; Response Committee; Remedial Committee. All details are on the national [Opportunities page](#). The deadline to submit nominations or expressions of interest is Wednesday, October 14, 2026. Please share!

Journey with the UCC's future leaders!

The Prairie Candidacy Board is seeking **two new members** for a term beginning in November 2026. Candidacy Board members accompany and assess people who are discerning a call to paid, accountable ministry. This work calls for people who listen deeply, ask thoughtful questions, work well with others, and care about faithful, well-equipped ministry leadership. Both lay people and ministry personnel from Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils are welcome to express interest. The board is especially hoping to hear from **lay people, women or non-binary people**. People who bring other diverse identities, experiences, and perspectives are also strongly encouraged. Could this be one way your gifts might serve the wider church - or is there someone you could encourage to consider it? **Deadline: Wednesday, October 14, 2026.** Learn more about this opportunity by clicking on the link below or contact Laura Fohse, Vocational Minister, at lfouhse@united-church.ca or call 639-396-0197. / <https://united-church.ca/opportunities/candidacy-boards>.

To nominate someone (check with them first) or express your own interest, follow this link: <https://unitedchurch.formstack.com/forms/servegc>.

Worship Resources:

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

[Creation Time 4 - October 4, 2026](#)

[World Communion Sunday - October 4, 2026](#)

[Creation Time 5 - October 11, 2026](#)

[Thanksgiving Sunday - October 11, 2026](#)

[International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - October 17, 2026](#)

[Twenty-first after Pentecost- October 18, 2026](#)

[World Food Sunday - October 18, 2026](#)

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

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



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Past newsletter issues are archived on our website; [catch up here](#). If someone forwarded you this newsletter and you want to subscribe to the Northern Spirit newsletter yourself, [join our mailing list here](#). If you'd like to know more about Northern Spirit staff and ministries, visit our website: <https://NorthernSpiritRC.ca/>.

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