NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Events Newsletter: November 4, 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

♥ We invite your prayers and support for this weekend's **Being Good Relations Network gathering** in Red Deer, focused on understanding and challenging residential school denialism. This shared Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit gathering of 70 people from all backgrounds aims to sustain supportive community for challenging anti-Indigenous racism and supporting survivors and their communities. Read more about the gathering and keynote resource Dr Crystal Fraser here.

♥ Transgender Day of Remembrance, 20 November
This day began in 1999 and has continued every year. Reading aloud the names of trans people killed around the world in the past year is an important and difficult part of this day. Please honour it as you can, including through your support of any local vigils, and by posting on social media. The national church offers resources here. This American resource has helpful links and a liturgy, plus ideas for integrating this day into worship. It reminds us that trans, non-binary, and Two Spirit people are part of our communities and ministries.
It's important to remember that some in your community of faith may be following social media that spreads fear-based lies about transgender people. This has become more and more common, often goes unchallenged, and has a terrible impact. Possible responses to these claims in the moment include, "why are you choosing to believe this? Can you explain that to me?" and "Why are you choosing to spread misinformation? Is that in keeping with the life Jesus calls us to?". Put the onus back on the person making the claims, and expect them to explain themselves, rather than countering with factual information as your first response. Remind them that the United Church believes gender-diverse people are God's children, and a gift exactly as they are. The church does not support transphobic beliefs, theology, or legislation.

★ Climate Motivators positions for young adults! Eight-week paid placement for people aged 18-25. Deadline for expressions of interest: 20 November.
Do your church members take an interest in climate justice? Consider employing a Climate Motivator this summer, paid by a government grant and topped up by UCC national funds. Dream up a climate project they could work on with/for you. Look here for details, including stories of what youth did last year, and the requirements of the community of faith. To express interest, please use this form. Submit your idea by Nov 20th, even if your plans are in the very beginning stages. If you have questions, please email lneale@united-church.ca This is a great opportunity to begin, consolidate, and grow your climate work across generations.

★ Youth Forum Planning Team
Applications are open until November 12 for the Youth Forum Planning Team (General Council 46). Young people (age 15-25) are especially encouraged to apply. Visit https://united-church.ca/opportunities/youth-forum-planning-team for more details.

★ Join the First Third Ministry Team
Pacific Mountain Regional Council is hiring a First Third Ministry Animator for Indigenous, Racialized, and Diaspora, working from the regional office in Burnaby, BC. Please share this opportunity with anyone who may be interested. For more details, visit https://unitedchurch.elevate-ats.com/job/1070893/first-3rd-ministry-animator-indigenous-racialised-diaspora-comm

From your Regional Council: *The Turning of the Seasons* — Resources for 2027

Clergy and lay worship leaders are invited to sign up for *The Turning of the Seasons*, a year-long collection of contemplative resources delivered by email throughout 2027. Created by Janice Maclean at Prayer Bench, to support worship, small groups and personal reflection, these ready-to-use resources will invite us to keep watch, notice, give thanks, discover the sacred in the world around us, and honour the mysterious spaces between the realms. **Your Regional Council purchased a license so that you receive these resources freely. Sign up through the Prayer Bench website** and receive a seasonal collection of reflections, prayers, practices, worship resources and small-group materials throughout the year.
Visit the Prayer Bench website to learn more and to sign up.

Upcoming Events and Learning Opportunities

★ **Stop. Breath. Pray. Repeat…every Thursday. - Weekly Growth Prayer Gathering,** *online*

Take 30 minutes this week to give thanks to God for all the Spirit is doing among us; join other community members in praying for strength and guidance for the United Church of Canada; offer up prayers for the neighbours we serve from coast to coast to coast. Every Thursday at 12 PM Central, 11 AM Saskatchewan & Mountain, United Church staff host a weekly prayer time on Zoom. Come and join us for United in Prayer. 🙏 Join the weekly prayer time: https://united-church.zoom.us/j/82414939808?pwd=JtfKcgaVcHFD3nNTWp6krwRzvQbIYF.1 🕯 Let us know how we can pray for your community of faith. Send your prayer requests to growth@united-church.ca

★ **Weekly Wednesday online bible study,** *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

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.

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.

★ **Ecumenical Peace Presence on November 11,** *Edmonton*
On Wednesday, November 11 at 2pm, all are invited to gather at 1 Sir Winston Churchill Square in Edmonton, AB, for a Peace Presence focused on the theme: "Seeking a Just Peace Together." There will be an opportunity to sing, pray, hear Scripture read, and reflect on various aspects of seeking peace. Remember to dress for the weather!

★ **Upcoming Church Property Network Session:** *Tuesday November 17, 2026 at 7pm ET, online*
Topic: **Anchor Tenants & Sustainable Ministry: Building Strong Long-Term Leases that Protect your Community of Faith.**
Many Communities of Faith rely on long-term tenants to generate revenue, support ministry, and strengthen community impact. Yet many existing leases are outdated, incomplete, or missing key protections that can expose churches to financial, operational, and legal risk. Join us for a practical discussion on how to build and maintain strong, mutually beneficial tenant relationships through well-structured lease agreements. We will explore: The essential lease terms every Community of faith should include when entering into a long-term tenant relationship; How to protect the church through clear provisions related to rent increases, operating costs, insurance, maintenance, and tenant obligations; A United Church-focused lease template and lease review checklist that participants can use to assess and strengthen their current agreements; and more! Find the link and full information on United In Learning.

Monthly Godly Play Online Gathering Drop-In *(upcoming: November 18)*
Focused on your questions. Godly Play Trainers Mary Nichol (BC), Ruth Lumax (AB) and Anne Clark (BC) will host once a month, one hour sessions to gather people, share experiences and best practices to help you in your Godly Play work. We've set different dates and times in hopes that people can find a session that suits them. Come join the conversation.
To register: https://www.godlyplay.ca/event-details/godly-play-online-gatherings-drop-in-2026-09-19-08-00

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*Past Newsletter issues are archived on our website.

Northern Spirit Regional Council Office
8510 95 Ave NW Edmonton Alberta
1-587-407-0330
northernspirit@united-church.ca
www.northernspiritrc.ca

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