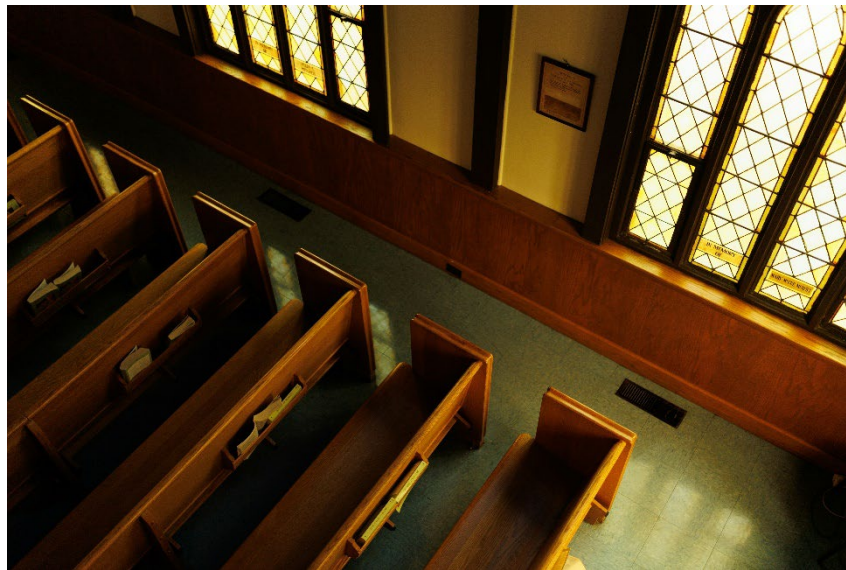




Events Newsletter: March 26, 2025



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.

★ Add your local events to our Northern Spirit events calendar! ★
[Click here to view upcoming events.](#) And [click here to submit your event.](#)

News from the Pews and Other Ministries

★ Celebrate 100 Years with Colour!!!

Are you looking for quality children's content for use during your worship services, as part of Sunday school, or to send home with families? To celebrate the United Church's centennial year, a series of children's activity pages have been created. As of February 2025, 6 pages are available featuring a history of a United Church leader with accompanying colouring page. Start off a series focused on the Centennial with the Happy Birthday United Church activity page. Once children have created their works of art, parents can use the QR code on each activity page to submit photos of finished artwork to share with the wider church! The activity pages and more great content are available in the Centennial Toolkit.

[Get the Toolkit!](#) / [Aussi disponible en français](#)

Artwork by Alexander (age 5, Ontario) and Arebelle (age 10, Saskatchewan).

★ **Mission and Service is looking for volunteers!**

Why be a Mission and Service volunteer? You might be a **Super Sleuth**: You know there are more people out there who want to support Mission and Service, and you've been looking for a way to find them. As a volunteer, you can share social media messaging about Mission and Service with your personal and/or your community of faith's social media networks (if you're already on Facebook or Instagram, it's just a couple of clicks!) Contact us today and learn more about how you can help! Mission and Service Volunteer Program, The United Church of Canada: ms@united-church.ca / 1-800-465-3771.

★ **2025 AGM: Save the date!** for the 2025 in-person Regional Annual Meeting, which will be held **May 29 - June 1**, at Riverbend United Church, Edmonton. Registration will open soon!

New & Featured Events

★ **Flourishing day of imagination and work with Moderator Carmen**

Lansdowne, May 3 all day, Southminster-Steinhauer United Church, Edmonton, and by Zoom

All in Northern Spirit Regional Council are invited to spend a day with the Moderator, engaging in reflection and energizing activities toward dream-oriented actions for our churches and communities. You're invited to create a team from your ministry whether in person or online so that your ministry can create plans grounded in a belief that, despite all the challenges of church life in this day and age, we can move from despair to transformation – from languishing to flourishing. [Click here for details and registration.](#)

Upcoming Events and Learning Opportunities

★ **Upcoming online [events for United in Learning](#) are listed [here](#).** There are a lot of great opportunities coming up, from a cross-country check in to a Rural Town Halls series on theology, a focus on the federal election and another on global LGBTQIA rights, and series on stewardship, church property, church tech support, and more!

★ **Federal election campaign, now through April 27**

Resources are coming from the national church as this important moment for discerning our collective response to pressing social issues begins. Here are some principles recently discussed at a shared national and regional meeting:

- * As the church, we don't choose one party; we address all of them, and expect accountability of all of them.
- * Speak up for what you believe in, not only what you oppose.
- * Name your values, including what your faith calls you to. Try to ask others, especially those you disagree with, to name their values. Respond rather than react, working with communal and individual spiritual and faith resources.
- * Encourage people to engage the whole process, and vote.
- * Watch out for dis/misinformation. We are all vulnerable to it, because it's tailored to spark an emotional reaction and to reinforce what we already believe. Always check your sources and think before you post or share. Ask others for their sources where needed.

Here's a recommended resource from the Mennonite Central Committee, a respected resource for many in our Regional Council: [Every Action Counts](#).

Updates on the United Church's 100th: grants, newsletter, and event reminders

- Another round of grants for Centennial events is available! [Please click here for details](#).
- The latest 100th anniversary newsletter is out, with a focus on "Her Story, Our History: Celebrating the Women Who Shaped The United Church of Canada". [Click here to read it](#).
- Have a look at the [national listing of all local Anniversary events here](#).
- And another reminder that we continue to update [our Regional Anniversary page and news feed here](#). We've included a Word document of the centennial stories generously written by Edmonton author and researcher Gayle Simonson.
- We want your events too! [Click here to post your own event](#). Have a story from your community of faith you want to share? Send it to Chloe at chburns@united-church.ca or Julie at jgraham@united-church.ca.
- Anniversaries: *Hope, Faith and Vision: 75 Years of St. Paul's United Church (Edmonton)*

As part of the 75th Anniversary Celebrations of St. Paul's United Church we researched and produced a history book of our Church, including the first meetings in 1948 to the building of the Church in Belgravia, the mission and activities up to 2023. It is 93 pages and includes over 150 photographs. For more information please contact St. Paul's at 780.436.1555, or office@stpaulsunited.org.

★ Upcoming Foundation Webinar – Coffee With: Rob Fennell

Save the date for Coffee With: Rob Fennell, on March 27, 2025, at 12 PM EST! The Foundation is thrilled to welcome Rev. Dr. Rob Fennell as the featured speaker for this upcoming webinar. An ordained minister of The United Church of Canada and Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology at Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax, Rev. Dr. Fennell will discuss the Holy Spirit and its role in the Christian life. Don't miss this opportunity to hear from him! [Register here](#).

GC Cross-Country Check-In: April 2, 6 pm EST, online

All are invited to an informal, thoughtful national town hall on April 2 at 6:00 p.m. with Rev. Michael Blair, and guests from the General Council Executive – live online. Everyone is welcome. [Register here on CHURCHx](#). Facilitated by: Treena Duncan, Regional Executive Minister, Pacific Mountain Regional Council.

★ From the Edges to the Centre: Black Voices Shaping the Church, Thursday April 10 Noon Mountain Daylight/Central Standard, 1:00pm Central Daylight. (Ninety minutes.)

People of African descent and other ethnocultural groups have long contributed to the life and mission of the church, yet their voices have often been overlooked or sidelined. From the Edges to the Centre challenges us to recognize, amplify, and embrace Black leadership in shaping the future of the church. Here at the 100th anniversary of the United Church, where do the vision and practice of intercultural ministry challenge the church from local to global? Join the Western Intercultural Ministries Network for an interactive presentation and community conversation with Rev Franklyn James, co-chair of the Black Clergy Network. [Click here for all details](#).

★ Earth Week, April 20-27, 2025

Communities of faith, networks, and regions are invited to initiate and participate in climate justice events during the week of April 20–27 to pray, learn, and act for the love of Creation. This is a tremendous opportunity for the church to lift up and strengthen the ways that we are putting our house in order by reducing our carbon footprint; raising our spirited voices through advocacy efforts; connecting with the earth; responding to climate impacts; and challenging ourselves to be deep, bold, and daring. [Click here for a video from the Moderator and for more resources](#).

★ Affirming Donut Meeting, May 10, in person at Southminster-Steinhauer United Church, with possible hybrid option

All Affirming and affirming-curious / supportive ministries and all affirming people welcome. Your ministry can send as many people as you like! We're focusing on the rural and smaller town circle all around Edmonton this time- imagine a big circle around 90 minutes drive wide all around Edmonton. Rural, small town, and bigger town, come join us. (Edmonton, your timbit time will come, we promise!) Come for support, visiting, planning together, and lunch. Hosted by the Northern Spirit Affirm Committee. [Click here for details and updates](#).

Deep Memories, Daring Visions: national gathering of United Church people of Korean descent, May 13th to 15th, 2025, at Willowdale-Emmanuel United Church in Toronto.

This bilingual in-person gathering celebrate the 60th anniversary of Korean ministry in the UCC, and the UCC's 100th anniversary. It will bring together ministry personnel and lay leaders to honour the church's history and envision its future. Featuring worship, fellowship, panel discussions, and theological reflection, the event will foster renewals,

growths, and connections. Please invite people of Korean descent in your Region!
Please contact Rev SunDo Hyun for more information:
hyunsundo@hotmail.com. [Please click here for registration](#) (Korean).

★ **Save the date / Advance notice: Anniversary event at Fort Edmonton June 8**

[Click here to view a video invitation](#) to a special Centennial event!

***United Church 100th anniversary event map:** Is your church community planning something special to commemorate this milestone? [Submit your event details](#) on the [National Centennial event map](#)!

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



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Photo: Photo by [Grace Galligan](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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