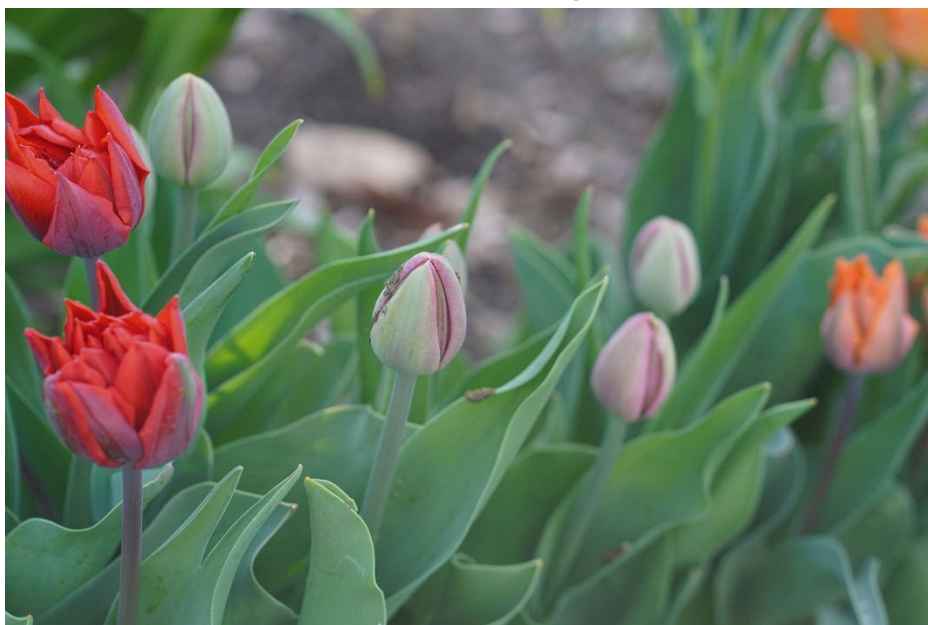




Events Newsletter: April 23, 2025



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

♥ We join with the church worldwide to mourn the passing of Pope Francis, the leader since 2013 of the world's nearly 1.4 billion Catholics. Details about the funeral of Pope Francis are as yet unavailable. Read more about Pope Francis and his legacy on the [World Council of Churches website](#)

♥ *Living Spirit United Church* is very pleased to be celebrating both the United Church's centennial and their official Affirming designation! Join them for their Centennial High Tea on Saturday, June 7, from 1 - 3 pm, at the Clean Energy Technology Center in Drayton Valley (5400 22nd Avenue). RSVP by June 2 to:

livingspirituniteddv@gmail.com. Cards and congratulations can be sent to: 5141 54th Street, PO Box 6822, Drayton Valley, AB, T7A 1S2.

 Athabasca United will be celebrating a special 100th Anniversary Celebration Service with our Moderator [The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne](#) on May 4th 10am – 11:30 am.

 *Goodfish United Church* welcomes you to commemorate our centennial together, **May 25, 2pm**. If you feel moved to do so, please bring a food item to share. [Find us with this google maps pin](#). Several people will be staying May 24th and or the 25th at Metis Crossing - please contact Rev Kimberly Roy for directions or with any questions: 780-728-7455.

★ **Reminder:** Proposals to the Regional Council's in person/ online meeting May 29-31 are due May 1. [All details are on our website](#).

★ **Updates on the United Church's 100th**

We continue to update our **Regional Anniversary page and news feed here**.

We've added [a new set of stories to the centennial collection](#) generously written by Edmonton author and researcher Gayle Simonson. These are perfect for your bulletin, announcement, or PowerPoint.

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.

★ **Northern Spirit regional meeting, 29 May -June 1, Edmonton and online - REGISTER NOW!**

All welcome, both delegates and visitors, to our regional meeting. The agenda begins at 2:00PM Thursday May 29, runs through the evening, all day and evening May 30, including a public event, and concludes with day long sessions Saturday May 31, and a banquet Saturday evening.

A letter was sent to all in the Region with more details, [available here if you missed it!](#) More details will be posted to our meeting page as they are finalized. **Registration is now open - register before May 10.**

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. [All details are here](#). Register now!

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

This is an important moment for discerning our collective response to pressing social issues, including widespread polarization and disinformation. We as a church have positive ideas, principles, and concerns to share with all candidates. A [shared regional and national United Church resource](#) is now posted, so please have a look.

“Enlarge our Pot; Enrich our Soil”, May 2, 10 am Sask time, online

St. Andrew's College (in partnership with leaders from the Living Skies Regional Council, Northern Spirit Regional Council, and Green Spirit Chaplaincy) invites you to our next **contemplative gathering, on Friday May 2, at 10 am Sask time**. Come spend 40 minutes or so in quiet contemplation, centered on the ancient practice of *lectio divina*. [Join us via zoom](#). All are welcome ... and invite a friend!

St. Stephen's College Centennial Events: Exploring a Century with the Moderator, May 5, in-person at Southminster-Steinhauer United, Edmonton

St. Stephen's College invites you to a day of reflection to mark two centennials that fall near one another: the 100th anniversary of The United Church of Canada (in Summer 2025) and the 100th convocation of St. Stephen's College (held in Fall 2024). Come join us on **May 5** for a Day of Reflection at Southminster-Steinhauer United Church, Edmonton, and/or for An Evening with the Moderator: a free public talk and discussion with the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne. [Full details and RSVP here](#).

Lunch & Learn: Getting your church on the map!, May 6, 10 am MDT

Join us on May 6th at 12:00PM EDT (11:00AM CDT / 10:00AM SK & MDT) for a 45-minute webinar that will walk you through setting-up your church's Google Business Listing. In this webinar we will be exploring ways you can create a welcoming "digital doormat" for your community of faith. From ensuring you're easy to find on search results, to highlighting what seekers really want to know, we will explore how to create a strong invitational first impression online. This webinar will be provided in English, but content is available in French by emailing tmullin@united-church.ca. | [Register here](#).

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).

From the Heart: understanding the impacts of AB's anti-transgender laws, 30 May, 7:00-9:00PM, Riverbend United Church and online

Join us for personal stories of the impacts of Bills 26, 28, and 29 on Albertan athletes, teachers, parents, children, and church members. Learn together how we can take action in support of gender-diverse people. Behind the headlines and debates, what is happening for transgender people in Alberta? This isn't only a legal and legislative matter; it has lived impacts on people's bodies, minds, hearts, and spirit. We thank our speakers, who are joining us to describe the impact on their lives. We invite you to come with an open mind and heart, and hear their stories, no matter your opinion on this legislation. [Please see all details here.](#) Updates will be posted to this link as we go.

Celebration of Ministries and 100th Anniversary service, 1 June, 10:30-12:30

Join us in person at Riverbend United Church, and online, as we honour past and future with prayer, worship, and song. General Secretary Rev Michael Blair will offer the sermon. We anticipate that we will welcome people into the order of ministry in the United Church via admission from other denominations. For those attending in person: a community choir will be part of our service. All welcome! **The order of service will be available to all in the Regional Council in advance.** [More details will be shared here as they are finalized.](#)

Save the date / Advance notice: Anniversary event at Fort Edmonton June 8
[Click here to view a video invitation](#) to a special Centennial event!

KAIROS: G7 Jubilee People's Forum, June 12-15 Calgary

You are all warmly invited to come to Calgary for the [G7 Jubilee People's Forum](#) and/or to send one or two representatives from your local group/congregation/community/region. Subsidies are available for students and low-income people. This forum includes: sessions with Global South partners, Indigenous partners, and network leaders covering the breadth and depth of the Jubilee campaign, connections to land, ecology, migration, gender and more. With incorporation of the arts! A trip to Stoney Nakoda land to gather around the Medicine Wheel outside for a prayer session with Stoney Nakoda elders about the G7 proceedings. On the final day: a public demonstration in downtown Calgary, bringing the Jubilee message to the G7, presenting the petitions. [Registration is here.](#)

★ 2025 Our Whole Society Conference, June 15-17, Winnipeg

The [2025 Our Whole Society Conference](#), held in Winnipeg from June 15-17, is hosted by the [Canadian Interfaith Conversation](#) under the theme: **Fostering Hope in a Divided World**. Bringing together public figures, social activists, academics, religious leaders, and members of the general public, we will examine the sources of hope in relation to major themes of importance to Canadian society such as reconciliation, climate change, polarization, human rights, and international affairs. Please visit [this page for full details](#). | [Register at this link](#).

***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 [Kolby Milton](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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