



News from the Region: April 30, 2025



(Photo: The choir of Union United Church, Montreal, 1944; Union United Church archives)

Short reminders of our history for this Centennial year

Throughout 2025, we'll be featuring very short stories about United Church history. Thanks to historian Gayle Simonson in Edmonton, we can also offer 100-word history vignettes for use in your own community! [Here are vignettes 1-8](#). And brand new, [here are vignettes 9-17](#). (Word format; when you click, the file will save automatically to your Downloads folder.) For our next vignette, she writes:

Early in the 20th century, racial prejudice was pronounced in Canada. In 1907, Union Congregational Church in Montreal was known as Porters' Church because men in its Black congregation were often away, working primarily as train porters. Women took on leadership roles. In 1925, Union became part of the United Church of Canada. It still encourages lay leadership and now offers a prison ministry as part of its outreach program.


Always activists, members pressured the federal government before World War II to change military policy and allow Black people to enlist. Guests over the years have included Nelson Mandela, Bishop Desmond Tutu and others from South Africa and the USA. Famed jazz pianists Oscar Peterson and Oliver Jones played piano there as youngsters as, early on, it became a centre for performing arts.

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.

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

Family News

 *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.



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](#).

★ **Northern Spirit regional meeting and more, 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](#) - **registration deadline is May 10!**

★ **A Heartfelt Thank You to the Incredible United Church Volunteers!**

In celebration of National Volunteer Week (April 27 to May 3), Moderator Carmen Lansdowne shares [a message of profound gratitude](#) for the incredible dedication of United Church volunteers. Join us in recognizing the countless individuals who share their gifts for the good of all. Thank you for your heart, your joy, and your unwavering support!

Wider Church News & Resources

★ **May: Take Action to Support Indigenous Peoples**

This May, continue to raise your voices and speak out against colonization, racism, and the injustice of Murdered and Missing Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S). **Monday, May 5** is Red Dress Day, the National Day of Awareness for MMIWG2S. **Thursday, May 15** is Moosehide Campaign Day—a time to take action. *What can you do?* Take time in worship to pray for action to end this epidemic of violence; Hang a red dress outside your church and home as an act of public witness; Participate in Red Dress activities in your community; Wear a [moosehide pin](#), and participate in [this year's activities](#); Support the [Healing Fund](#).

In Case You Missed It:

An Easter message from our Growth Animator, Jordan Cantwell

How is Christ inviting us to set a wider table this Easter?

Who needs to hear God's invitation that they are welcome at this table?

How will you share the hope you have found in Christ with those who need more hope?

[Read and download Jordan's Easter message here](#) (pdf).

May is PAR Month!

Communities of faith all over Canada will be promoting consistent monthly giving through PAR all month long. Your community of faith should get involved!

PAR makes both giving and receiving simple for donors and communities of faith. If you haven't promoted your PAR program recently, or are not currently accepting automatic monthly donations, May is your month to grow generosity in your congregation.

There are resources—like letter templates, flyers and even a sermon—in the Downloads section of [this website](#). You can also reach out to your stewardship support person Vicki Nelson via [email](#).

Reminder to Communities of Faith: In 2019 with the change in structure to Regions, the wider United Church also changed the assessments process. Assessments shifted at that time from being based on *total membership* to **total revenue**.

Update to Minimum Telephone/Communications Allowance Policy

An [updated Minimum Telephone/Communications Allowance for Ministry Personnel policy](#) has been approved and [posted to the website](#). Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Worship Resources:

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

[Third Sunday of Easter - May 4, 2025](#)

[Mental Health Sunday - May 4, 2025](#)

[Asian Heritage Month 1 - May 4, 2025](#)

[Fourth Sunday of Easter - May 11, 2025](#)

[Asian Heritage Month 2 - May 11, 2025](#)

[Christian Family Sunday - May 11, 2025](#)

[International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia - May 17, 2025](#)

[Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 18, 2025](#)

[Asian Heritage Month 3 - May 18, 2025](#)

[Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 25, 2025](#)

[Asian Heritage Month 4 - May 25, 2025](#)

[Rural Life Sunday - May 25, 2025](#)

[Pride Sunday - June 1, 2025](#)

* [Click here to access Northern Spirit's 2025 Prayer Cycle](#)

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