



Events Newsletter: May 7, 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

♥ Join *Living Spirit United Church* 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.

♥ *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.

♥ We invite you to join Westlock and Rainbow Pastoral charges as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada. **June 15th, 2025** beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Hazel Bluff United Church Highway 18, Westlock County. Old fashioned picnic lunch to follow (outside if weather permitting). Bring a lawn chair if possible. Ride share may be available. **RSVP by June 6th** to wuchurch@telus.net / 780-349-3556.

★ **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](#) - REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS THIS SATURDAY, MAY 10th.**

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.

New & Featured Events

★ **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.](#)

Upcoming Events and Learning Opportunities

★ All the latest national church news is [out in the latest E-ssentials newsletter](#).

★ **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](#).

★ **Tri-Region Preparing for Pride Month, 13 May, 6:30PM CST/ Mountain Daylight, 7:30PM Central Daylight**

Co-hosted by the Northern Spirit Affirming Team. An online multi-Region space to check in and share plans for Pride Month. Come out for community and creativity as we get ready for some good Affirming work in June! If you see this note, and you're affirming, you're welcome to join. Zoom info (please do not post on public social media profiles or groups) <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/86242595936?pwd=DxcnDS47pW6QhC9H6jCMMVV7CVb400.1>
Meeting ID: 862 4259 5936 Password: 028941 855 703 8985 Canada Toll-free

★ **Renew Refugee Sponsorship and Rejuvenate Our Community! Tuesday May 13th, Noon-3:00PM Central Daylight; 11:00AM-2:00PM Central Standard and Mountain Daylight.**

This is an engaging event in partnership with the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP). Explore the United Church of Canada's history of refugee sponsorship, hear insights from UNHCR on the global refugee crisis, and gain practical sponsorship training and support from RSTP. Connect with local settlement workers and community partners to build strong support for newcomers. Whether you're new to sponsorship,

already involved, or simply curious, this is your chance to get inspired, ask questions, and gain the tools to make a difference. [Register today!](#)

★ Jubilee campaign for debt cancellation- and hope / Calgary event

Jubilee 2025 is a global ecumenical initiative that builds on the transformative success of Jubilee 2000, which canceled \$100 billion of debt for 36 low-income countries. The Global South and Indigenous communities face a devastating debt crisis, with many nations spending more on debt repayments than on healthcare, education or climate action. There's also an exciting in person event in Calgary to further this important work; [the details are here](#). With other groups, [KAIROS is mobilizing communities of faith and conscience](#) to demand:

- Debt cancellation for unjust and unsustainable debts.
- Global financial reform to prevent future crises.
- A debt resolution framework within the United Nations that is transparent, binding and fair.

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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