



Spirit of Hope United Church

THE SPARK

APRIL 12, 2026



WELCOME TO ALL!

Our Sunday morning worship services are conducted in person, following the protocols listed on page 4.
We broadcast our services on our YouTube Channel, live-streamed beginning at 10:30 a.m.
and recorded and posted for later viewing.

The recordings of the services can be found on our YouTube page:
<https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791>

Our office hours: Tuesday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Spirit of Hope is an Affirming Ministry within The United Church of Canada
striving to be fully inclusive of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

GOD BLESS YOU. WE ARE NOT ALONE!

TODAY 1:00 P.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

Hosted by the Promotions Project Team:



IMAGINE OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



building hope & connections

Sunday, April 12
1-3 pm

7909 - 82 Ave NW



Youth, young adults and young families are invited to share food, have fun and dream together about what you'd like in your community.

Contact Judy at community.spiritofhope@shaw.ca for more information

Spirit of Hope is located on Treaty 6 Territory & the traditional homelands of the Métis. As an Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada, all events & services are fully inclusive of people of all sexual orientations & gender identities.

NEW ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER?

If you are moving or changing your phone number or e-mail address, please let Catherine in the office know.

Some greeting cards have been returned "moved – no forwarding address" and we would like to stay connected!



JAZZ & REFLECTIONS



A Sunday afternoon of jazz and spiritual reflection

MAR 29 - PJ PERRY QUARTET	Sundays from 3:30 to 5 pm
APR 12 - ALLEN JACOBSON TRIO	
APR 19 - SHELLEY JONES TRIO	
APR 26 - DOUG BERNER TRIO	
MAY 3 - JACOB DO TRIO	

Admission by donation at the door.
Refreshments will be served.

Spirit of Hope United Church 7909 82 Ave NW

LAST CHANCE!

Then Let Us Sing (TLUS) is a new music resource developed by The United Church of Canada. It includes new hymns that bring us fresh language for God as well as accessible musical styles.



The songs are intended to lift up and prioritize racialized, Indigenous, Francophone, and 2SLGBTQIA+ voices, people with disabilities, and people of diverse linguistic communities. Spirit of Hope has begun to include some of the TLUS hymns in worship service.

The words are projected and some copies of the hymns with full music are included in the bulletin. In the near future, a limited number of books will be available at the sanctuary entrance for use during the service.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy for personal use, or to be donated to Spirit of Hope, please sign up during coffee time by **Sunday, April 12, 2026**, or contact Catherine at officeadmin.spiritofhope@shaw.ca to arrange payment — \$30 for the Full Music Edition and \$50 for the Accompanists' Edition.

Cupcake Baking!



Hosted by Youth Empowered Together

April 13 | 4-6pm | 7909 82 Ave NW

This is a queer workshop for ages 13-29 of all identities and abilities.
Allies are welcome and encouraged!

Ingredients and snacks provided.



ONLINE BIBLE STUDY
AMOS – A PROPHET
OF RESISTANCE

Our four-week online Bible study has begun! Join us for the remaining three on Wednesday evenings:
April 15, 22 and 29 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Zoom:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83179198975?pwd=3YTNiW2Y189HpbmSJzklEXyPgNjPiE.1>

Meeting ID: 831 7919 8975 Passcode: 744941



IMAGINE CHILDREN'S RETREAT 2026

Imagine Children's Retreat (ages 8–12) by First Third Ministry offer a fun, welcoming United Church of Canada experience for children and leaders of all backgrounds and family types.

Children explore faith through stories, worship, music, drama, play, and community in a safe, inclusive setting.

Learn more & register:
<https://www.firstthirdministry.ca/imaginechildrensretreat.html>

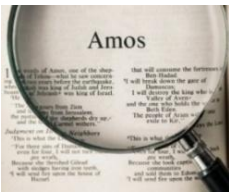
COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND
UPCOMING EVENTS

The Northern Spirit Regional Council is dedicated to fostering community and faith through various events and activities. To learn more about the upcoming events open to the public, please visit the Community of Faith Events Calendar.

Stay connected and get involved by exploring the diverse offerings across the region. You can find the calendar here:

<https://northernspiritr.ca/community-of-faith-events-calendar/>

We hope to see you at one of these events soon!



SPIRIT OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH

GARAGE & BAKE SALE

OFFERS YOU CAN'T RESIST, RIGHT IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

A cartoon character with a large nose, wearing a white shirt and blue pants, holding a pair of binoculars. The character is standing on a blue background with white stars.

jewelry • housewares • gardening • puzzles • tools • sports equipment • tools • toys • small furniture • home decor, etc.

SAT APRIL 18
10:30 AM – 3:00 PM
7909 82 AVE NW

YOU ARE INVITED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE
GARAGE & BAKE SALE!

Donations of any of the items listed (new or gently used) — AND BAKING — are welcome!

The deadline for dropping of the items and baking is **NOON on Friday, April 17.**

We are also looking for a few more volunteers for setting up and taking down.

Please talk with Helen Newsham after worship or contact the office to arrange to drop off the items.

Everyone welcome

COMMUNITY OPEN MIC

HOSTED BY MARIE FONTAINE

Free

Poetry, humour, stories, dance, snacks & more

Sat, Apr 18
6:30 - 8:30 pm
(Doors - 6:00)

Come early to sign up.

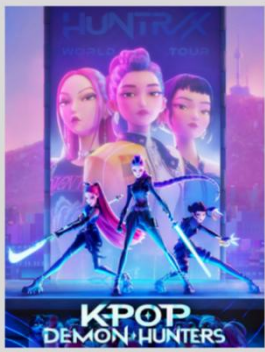
Spirit of Hope United Church
7909 Whyte (82) Ave

Illustrations of people performing: a person in a wheelchair playing a guitar, a person playing a guitar, a person in a purple dress dancing, and a person in a rainbow shirt playing a guitar.

STAY UP TO DATE AND
SHARE THE NEWS!



Find us at www.spiritofhope.ca or follow us on Facebook and Instagram – share our posts with your family and friends.
If you have an announcement to place in The Spark, please call Catherine in the office at **780-468-1418** or email to officeadmin.spiritofhope@shaw.ca



April Movie Afternoon

Everyone welcome!
Sing along
Dance
Eat snacks
No charge

Sunday, April 19 at 12:30 pm
Spirit of Hope United Church
7909 82 Ave NW



K-POP DEMON HUNTERS SING-ALONG (PG, 2025)

This popular computer animated, action musical is about a group of K-pop superstars who also protect their fans from danger as demon hunters. It recently received Academy Awards for Best Animated Feature and Best Original Song ('Golden').

IT'S BREAKFAST TIME AGAIN

The next BLT! Breakfast will be held
at 8:45 a.m. on Saturday, April 25.

"Overture! Curtain! Lights!"



This production was supposed to open in November, but due to unforeseen circumstances it had to be postponed.

On April 25th, the curtain will rise and you are invited to attend the tale of Blaine Gregg's BLT! debut. He will not be throwing away his shot to talk about the wonders of the awakening spring with all the good and crazy people, his friends of Spirit of Hope. From Blaine's formative years driving through the mountains with his dad to being the dad confident that any dream will do for his kids, Blaine will share notes from the things that merrily roll around in his head day by day.

Tickets will be on sale in the Lower Hall after the service.

A Night with the Knygts!

May 30th
Adults \$30
Youth \$20

Take a
step back
in time

Doors at 4pm with interactive displays
Dinner at 5:30pm with entertainment to follow

7909 Whyte Ave NW

MEMORIAL UPDATE

Jean Fitzsimmons passed away on
March 12, 2026, at the age of 95.

She was an active member of Avonmore
United Church before it became
part of Spirit of Hope.



Please note a change of date: the memorial service
will now be held on **Tuesday, June 16 at 1:00 p.m.**,
followed by a reception.

Jean's obituary can be found on the Serenity Funeral
Home website:

<https://www.serenity.ca/obituaries/Jean-Gwendoline-Fitzsimmons?obId=47799162>

THANK YOU

To everyone who coloured
grocery bags and donated to the
Lenten focus to support the
Garneau Strathcona Food Security
Program (GSFS).



As of April 5th, \$2,795 was raised.
This provides approximately eight
weeks of tuna and eggs for guests
who participate in the program. In addition, we were
able to provide guests with some extra protein for
their Easter week. The decorated grocery bags were a
big hit with the guests.

The GSFS Program relies on donations to supply
protein to guests on a weekly basis. Your ongoing
support through donations of food, dollars and time is
greatly appreciated and is essential for the continuity
of the GSFS.

Blessings be. Thank you

PRE-AUTHORIZED REMITTANCES (PAR)

One option for financial givings to the church is to sign
up for PAR. This is an automatic monthly payment
system, and your offering can be set up to be split
between local givings, Mission and Service, and givings
to others.

Choosing this option provides valuable stability to the
church and helps us all to plan for the future.

It's also very easy! 34 households currently use PAR,
and our goal is to spread the word and increase this
number every year.

If you'd like to sign up for PAR, please ask for the
simple application form at the Welcome Desk in the
foyer, or contact Catherine in the Church Office.

For consideration when signing up - the church
budgets for 10% of all offerings on average to be
designated to Mission and Service, with the remainder
covering our local expenses.

Thank you for considering PAR and its benefits!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Check out the great volunteer
opportunities during coffeetime
today.



Your assistance helps your Spirit of Hope family in
working towards its vision.

If you, or anyone you know needs volunteer hours for
school or your resume, we can provide
documentation.

TAKING CARE OF OURSELVES AND OTHERS

Infectious conditions such as the common cold, influenza, Covid-19, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) are affecting some of us. If you are feeling ill, have recently been exposed to an infection or have significant health issues, you are encouraged to stay home and attend online services and meetings. When food is served in the church, groups are encouraged to take precautions to prevent or slow down the spread of germs by, for example, having servers or setting out food in individual portions.

Spirit of Hope has masks available at the Welcome Desk and hand sanitizer as you enter the Lobby, Sanctuary and Lower Hall. Portable HEPA filters are in the Sanctuary, Church School Room, and Youth Room. They can be moved to other spaces as needed.

The current communion practice on bi-monthly first Sundays is to have individual portions of bread and juice available.

The Leadership Team will continue to review church practices in response to changing circumstances.

MARCH 2026

Tracking of Givings				
Categories	Budget	3/12 Budget	Year to Date	Variance from Budget
Local Envelope Offering	\$ 179,500	\$ 44,875	\$ 43,724	\$ (1,152)
Other Receipts for Local	\$ 22,900	\$ 5,725	\$ 1,880	\$ (3,845)
Givings to M&S	\$ 20,240	\$ 5,060	\$ 6,304	\$ 1,244

Save These Dates!

APRIL TO MAY 2026

- Sun. April 12 - Neighbourhood Dreams - Building Hope and Connections - 1:00 p.m.
- Sun. April 12 - Jazz and Reflections - Allen Jacobson Trio - 3:30 p.m.
- Mon. April 13 - YET Hangout For Youth and Young Adults - 4:00 p.m.
- Wed. April 15 - Online Book Study (Book of Amos) Part 2 of 4 - 6:30 p.m.
- Sat. April 18 - Spirit of Hope United Church Garage Sale - 10:30 a.m.
- Sat. April 18 - Community Open Mic - 6:30 p.m.
- Sun. April 19 - Afternoon Movie *K-Pop Demon Hunters* Sing-Along - 12:30 p.m.
- Sun. April 19 - Jazz and Reflections - Shelley Jones Trio - 3:30 p.m.
- Mon. April 20 - YET Hangout For Youth and Young Adults - 4:00 p.m.
- Sat. April 25 - BLT! Breakfast - 8:45 a.m.
- Sun. April 26 - Jazz and Reflections - Doug Berner Trio - 3:30 p.m.
- Mon. April 27 - YET Hangout For Youth and Young Adults - 4:00 p.m.
- Sun. May 3 - Jazz and Reflections - Jacob Do Trio - 3:30 p.m.
- Mon. May 4 - YET Hangout For Youth and Young Adults - 4:00 p.m.
- Sun. May 10 - Mother's Day

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE:
APRIL 12TH TO APRIL 19TH, 2026

Sun. April 12	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary and YouTube) https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791
	1:00 p.m.	Community Engagement Event (Lower Hall and Kitchen)
	3:30 p.m.	Jazz and Reflections – Allen Jacobson Trio (Sanctuary)
Mon. April 13	4:00 p.m.	YET (Youth Empowered Together) Monday Hangouts (Lower Hall, Kitchen, and Gym)
	6:00 p.m.	ESSC (Dodgeball) (Gym)
	6:30 p.m.	Chancel Ringers (Sanctuary)
Tue. April 14	9:30 a.m.	Stretch and Flex (Lower Hall)
	6:00 p.m.	The Edmonton Needlecraft Guild (Lower Hall)
Wed. April 15	1:30 p.m.	Creative Connections (Lobby)
	6:00 p.m.	Pursuers Toastmasters (Lower Hall)
	6:00 p.m.	ESSC (Dodgeball) (Gym)
	6:30 p.m.	Online Bible Study – Amos (Zoom)
Thu. April 16	7:30 p.m.	Choir (Sanctuary)
Fri. April 17	9:00 a.m.	Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program Set up (Lobby, Gym, Lower Hall, Kitchen)
	9:00 a.m.	Spirit of Hope United Church Garage and Bake Sale Set Up (Gym)
Sat. April 18	8:00 a.m.	Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program (Lobby, Gym, Lower Hall, Kitchen)
	10:30 a.m.	Spirit of Hope United Church Garage and Bake Sale (Gym)
	6:30 p.m.	Community Open Mic (Lower Hall)
Sun. April 19	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary and YouTube) https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791
	12:30 p.m.	Afternoon Movie <i>K Pop Demon Hunters Sing - Along</i> (Lower Hall and Kitchen)
	3:30 p.m.	Jazz and Reflections – Shelley Jones Trio (Sanctuary)

NOTES

- Anne's Kinder Kastle Daycare has use of the kitchen as needed during the day on Mondays to Fridays (for breakfast and lunch preparation and cleanup). They also have access to the gym for a one-hour period on some days. The gym is not available for active or noisy games from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please contact our administrator, Catherine, so arrangements for use of these spaces can be coordinated with the Daycare.
- With others interested in renting space in our newly renovated building, it is important to ensure that the room or space needed for Spirit of Hope group activities and special events has been booked through our office. These are posted on our Google calendar posted on our website and in THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE. **Please contact our office administrator Catherine to find out what space is available and to book the space you need.**
- There is a simple form on our "Contact Us" page at: <https://www.spiritofhope.ca/contact> you are welcome to use.

SPIRIT OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH

7909-82 Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta, T6C 0Y1

Telephone: 780-468-1418

Email: officeadmin.spiritofhope@shaw.ca

Rev. Blaine Gregg: minister.spiritofhope@shaw.ca

Catherine Evoy, Office Administrator

Leo, Custodian

Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.

Our office hours are Tuesday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Spirit of Hope is an Affirming Ministry within The United Church of Canada
striving to be fully inclusive of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

WIFI ACCESS WHILE AT CHURCH

Network: Spirit of Hope Guest

Password: SOHGuest