



Spirit of Hope United Church

THE SPARK

AUGUST 23, 2026



WELCOME TO ALL!

Our Sunday morning worship services are conducted in person, following the protocols listed on page 3.
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!

Building hope and connection together

**ALL ARE WELCOME!
COME AS YOU ARE**

Tuesday 9:30 - 10:30 am
Stretch and Flex

Wednesday 10:30 - 11:30 AM
Ukulele Sing-Along

Wednesday 1:30 - 3 pm
Creative Connections

Spirit of Hope United Church
7909 82 Ave NW

BACK-TO-SCHOOL FOOD DRIVE: SUPPORTING 100 LOCAL FAMILIES

Back to school time is an expensive endeavour for families with school age children.

The Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program is hoping to ease a bit of this burden by providing peanut butter, cereal and fruit cups to supplement the food generally provided. We are hoping to provide 100 families with these extra items at the beginning of September.

If you are able to provide any of these items, please drop them in the "toy chest" over the next 2 weeks. We know these contributions will be greatly appreciated by the guests who benefit from the food security program.

Thank you!

YOUTH EMPOWERED TOGETHER
FALL KICKOFF
FOR QUEER + ALLIED YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS



THURSDAY, SEPT 10 4-6PM
SPIRIT OF HOPE

CREATE CRAFTS, LEARN NEW SKILLS,
AND MEET NEW FRIENDS!

   @YETEDMONTON

SPIRIT OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Spirit of Hope United Church
office will be closed on
Friday, August 28th, 2026.

Office hours resume on **Tuesday, September 1st, 2026.**

For pastoral emergencies, please call Rev. Blaine Gregg
at **(780) 468-1418 (2).**



**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



SEPTEMBER 12, 2026 | 2-7PM

LEARN ABOUT FOOD SAFETY,
NUTRITION, AND BUDGETING WHILE
COOKING & EATING
(AND TAKE HOME YOUR LEFTOVERS!)



REGISTER
FOR FREE



LIMITED
SPOTS!

SAVE THE DATE

All queer and allied youth are invited to learn, cook, and eat together at these two fun sessions led by Chris Thomson. Stay tuned for registration details.

CURRENT ISSUES CONVERSATIONS

Is there something in the news that you would love to discuss with others? Would you be willing to explore that news through a lens of faith?



Rev. Gregg invites you to join him in conversation around a table after church some Sundays this fall for about 30-45 minutes on **September 13, October 18, November 1 and 15, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. (noon).**



JAZZ

& REFLECTIONS



Sunday afternoons 3:30 to 5 pm

SEPT 13 -ARETHA TILLOTSON QUARTET

SEPT 20 - DON BERNER QUARTET

OCT 4 -PJ PERRY QUINTET

OCT 18 - ALEX MOXON QUARTET

OCT 25- SHELLEY JONES QUARTET

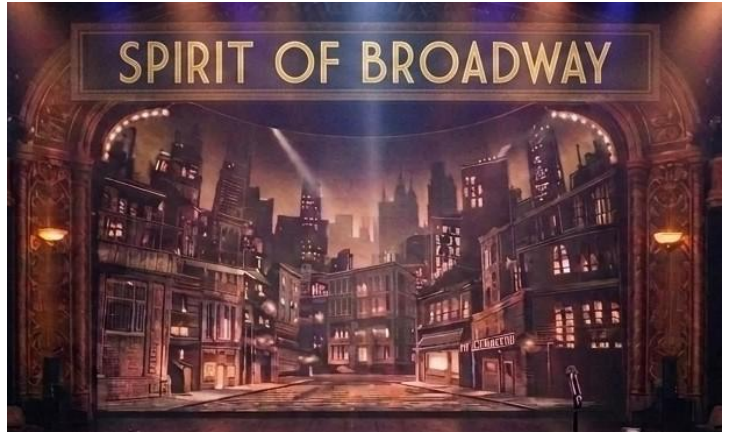
Admission by donation at the door.
Refreshments served.

Spirit of Hope United Church 7909 82 Ave NW

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!



A CABARET: SPIRIT OF BROADWAY

September 18, 2026 - 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

In late May, the cast of the 2026 Fringe production of Ghost Quartet lost their rehearsal space. On a request from Matthew Gregg, the Spirit of Hope Leadership Team stepped up and allowed GQ to practice rent free in the vacant sanctuary three times per week from June until early August. In appreciation for this generosity, the Ghost Quartet cast (and friends) invite the people of Spirit of Hope to a free evening of song and music in a Cabaret-style setting. Church people do not need to purchase tickets, just come and enjoy

SAVE THE DATE

**COMMUNITY
OPEN MIC
NIGHT**

Hosted by Commonwealthgirrl aka Marie Fontaine

Sept 19 at 6:30pm
Spirit of Hope United Church



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Check out the great volunteer opportunities on the yellow bulletin board in the Lobby.



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

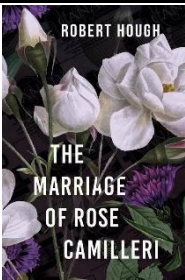
If you, or anyone you know needs volunteer hours for school or your resume, we can provide documentation.

AUTUMN BOOK STUDY

If you are the kind of person who would write a love letter to a favourite character in a summer novel, then I would invite you to consider Rose in The Marriage of Rose Camilleri, or maybe Scotty, or mildly eccentric, letter-writing, justice-seeking Aunt Lorenza. These are people who make choices and live lives that celebrate common humanity pieced together from diverse pieces and slightly unusual “situations.” And, mostly, they don’t even know they are doing it

The Marriage of Rose Camilleri is written by Canadian novelist Robert Hough, and I am part way through my second reading of it because I hope to lead a group study of it in September or October here at Spirit of Hope. Please let me know if you are interested (780-686-5433). More details, such as the number and time of sessions, will be available later in the summer.

Minister Emeritus, Rev. Lloyd Lovatt



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://northernspiritrc.ca/community-of-faith-events-calendar/>

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

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!

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.

Everyone is welcome!

**COMMUNITY
BBQ & SHOWCASE**

Food and Drinks!

Discover community programs,
resources and services!

Meet your neighbours!

Free!

Sunday, September 27
11:45 am to 1 pm

Spirit of Hope
7909 82 Ave NW





Your generosity makes a difference.

Scan this QR code to donate to Spirit of Hope United Church through CanadaHelps.org.



Save These Dates!

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2026

- All Wednesdays during the summer - Ukulele Sing-Along and Crafternoon
- Mon. September 7 - Labour Day
- Thu. September 10 - YET (Youth Empowered Together) Kickoff - 4:00 p.m.
- Sat. September 12 - YET (Youth Empowered Together) - Cooking Crash Course - 2:00 p.m.
- Sun. September 12 - Current Issues Conversations - 12:00 p.m.
- Sun. September 13 - Jazz and Reflections - 3:30 p.m.
- Fri. September 18 - A Cabaret: Spirit of Broadway - 7:00 p.m.
- Sat. September 19 - Family Fun Fest - 3:00 p.m.
- Sat. September 19 - Community Open Mic - 6:30 p.m.
- Sun. September 20 -Jazz and Reflections - 3:30 p.m.
- Sat. September 26 - BLT! Breakfast - 8:45 a.m.
- Sun. September 27 - Community BBQ and Showcase - 11:45 a.m.
- Wed. September 30 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE: AUGUST 23RD TO AUGUST 30TH, 2026

Sun. Aug. 23	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary and YouTube) https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791
Mon. Aug. 24	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	ESSC (Dodgeball) (Gym) Property and Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom)
Tue. Aug. 25	9:30 a.m.	Stretch and Flex (Sanctuary)
Wed. Aug. 26	10:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m..	Ukelele Sing-Along (Lobby) Creative Connections (Lobby)
Thu. Aug. 27		
Fri. Aug. 28	9:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	SPIRIT OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program Set up (Lobby, Gym, Lower Hall, Kitchen) pflag (Lower Hall)
Sat. Aug. 29	8:00 a.m.	Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program (Lobby, Lower Hall, Kitchen)
Sun. Aug. 30	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary and YouTube) https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791

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
780-468-1418
officeadmin.spiritofhope@shaw.ca

CHURCH STAFF
Minister: Rev. Blaine Gregg minister.spiritofhope@shaw.ca
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Lloyd Lovatt
Music Director: Warren Mack
Office Administrator: Catherine Evoy
Custodian: Leo Otayde

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