



Spirit of Hope United Church

THE SPARK

FEBRUARY 22, 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!



LLOYD GERALD BROWN

Lloyd Gerald Brown, who died at age 102 on February 5, 2026, was previously an Avonmore United Church adherent.

His wife, Mary, and a grandson predeceased him.

Lloyd is survived by his children Cathy and Allan, and grandchildren.

Link to his obituary: <https://www.connelly-mckinley.com/obituaries/Lloyd-Gerald-Brown?obId=47258284>

SPIRIT OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH – 2025 CHARITABLE TAX RECEIPTS

The 2025 charitable tax receipts are now available for pick-up in the church Lobby for the next two Sundays.

Any remaining receipts will be mailed out on Monday, February 23, 2026.

Thank you very much for your generous contributions and continued support!

SUNDAY MOVIE AFTERNOON ZOOTOPIA TODAY AT 12:30 P.M.

Join us today for a Sunday movie afternoon featuring *Zootopia*. The movie will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the Lower Hall.



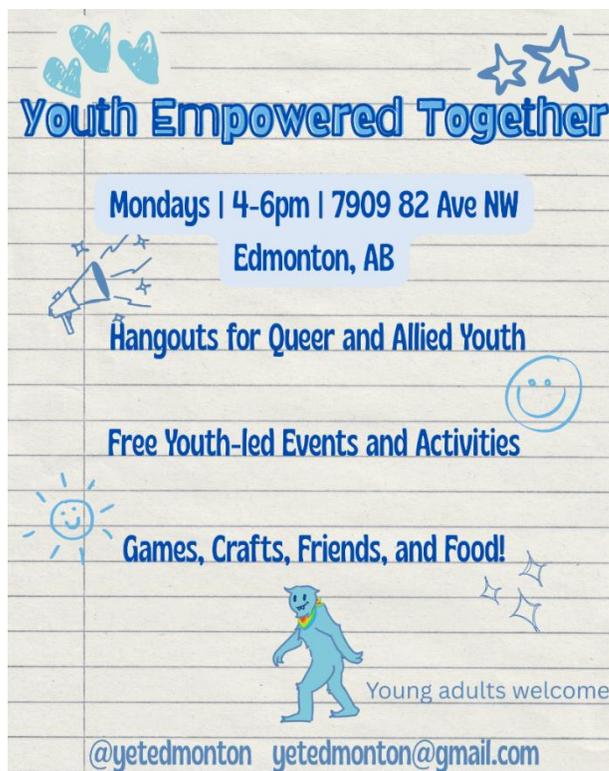
Zootopia is an animated adventure that follows a determined rabbit police officer and a sly fox as they work together to solve a mysterious case in a city where predators and prey live side by side.

After enjoying the film, you are invited to join a Zoom discussion later that evening at 7:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91937034300?pwd=rZ18hVJhjaqbzyMBtkAHgZlW4kaMbB.1>

Meeting ID: 919 3703 4300
Passcode: 623451

Everyone is welcome to come, watch, and share their thoughts.



NARRATIVE BUDGET DISCUSSION

In preparation for the Annual Meeting, after church on **Sunday, March 8th** (about 11:30 a.m.), there will be an opportunity to understand and discuss the 2025 financial statements and the proposed 2026 budget. You can also join by Zoom:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86294123712?pwd=HynLIeruA4gaiBVBbE8RGI0RK8IKgH.1>.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AND PANCAKES

On Tuesday, February 17 about 60 people braved the blizzard and came together at Spirit of Hope to enjoy a pancake dinner, followed by an Ash Wednesday service led by Reverend Blaine.

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped with setting tables, preparing and cooking the dinner, serving food, clearing tables and kitchen cleanup. It was truly a community evening. Thank you very much to Reverend Blaine for a wonderful and meaningful Ash Wednesday service. It was a good start to the season of Lent.

Special appreciation to the amazing mop-wielding skills of Roslyn Thomson and Bob Griffith.

DOLLARS & DECORATIONS FOR A DIFFERENCE

During the season of Lent, people are invited to help out the Garneau-Strathcona Food Security Program (which operates out of Spirit of Hope United on Saturday mornings) by decorating 100 paper bags that will be used for the food hampers to be given out on Easter Weekend.



People are also invited to make financial donations to help fill those bags with good protein items. The goal is to raise \$2000 between now and Palm Sunday (March 29th) - \$20 per bag. Mark your donations (envelope or e-transfer) with "food security"

PRAYER SERVICES IN LENT

United Churches are coming together for special prayer services on **Sunday**



afternoons at 4:00 p.m. during the season of Lent to pray for the renewal of the church, discernment of congregations for future witness and ministry, the work of the regional council, the plans of the National Church for Vision 2035, strength and equipping of leadership for the present time, current concerns for the community, nation, and world.

- February 22: Pilgrim United (9008 135 Ave NW, Edmonton)
- March 1: Spirit of Hope United (7909 82 Ave NW, Edmonton)
- March 8: First United (5115 51 Ave, Wetaskiwin)
- March 15: Highlands United (11305 64 St NW, Edmonton)
- March 22: St. David's United (4614 48 St, Leduc)
- March 29: Grace United (6215 104 Ave NW, Edmonton)

People can also join in by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86475167860?pwd=HKXBqMbin1oADzFCfbapYgKa9bLz0c.1>

Meeting ID: 864 7516 7860; Passcode: 803578

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.



STAY UP TO DATE AND SHARE THE NEWS!

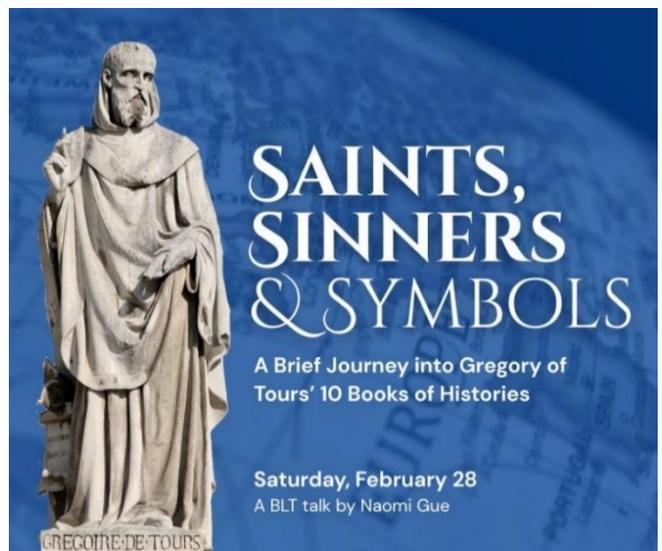


Find us at www.spiritofhope.ca or like us on Facebook and Instagram – share our posts with your family and friends. If you have an announcement to place in The Spark, please call Catherine in the office at **780-468-1418** or email to officeadmin.spiritofhope@shaw.ca

MUSIC IS A BIG PART OF THE LIFE OF SPIRIT OF HOPE



Our worship service on Sunday, February 15 included a beautiful anthem "Oh Splendour of God's Glory Bright" by Claudio Monteverdi — with members of our choir (Heather, Laura, Jim, Helen, Kevin and Roberta), accompanied by Music Director Warren Mack on Portatif organ (left), Ted on trumpet and Karen on clarinet. We appreciate the many talents our members bring to worship. Thank you!



IT'S BREAKFAST TIME AGAIN!

The next BLT! Breakfast will be held at **8:45 a.m. on Saturday, February 28.**

Our guest speaker will be Naomi Gue who will talk about "Saints, Sinners, and Symbols: A Brief Journey into Gregory of Tours' 10 Books of Histories".

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

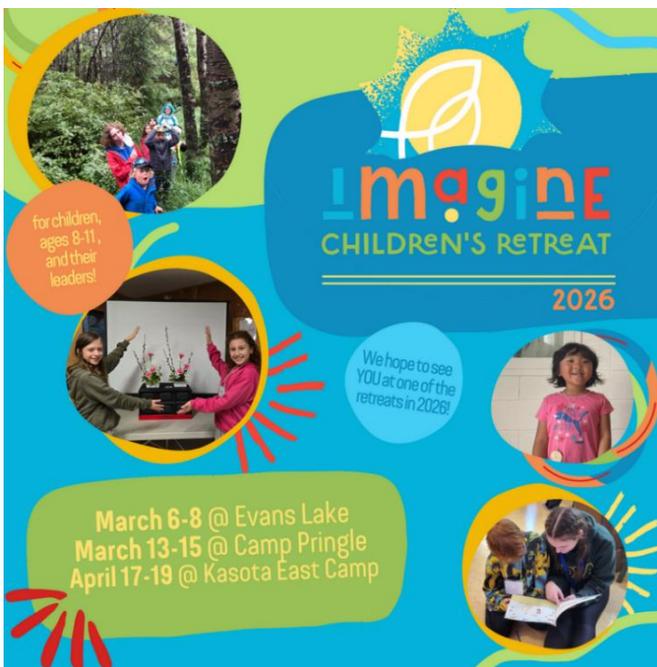
COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND UPCOMING EVENTS

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!



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>



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Everyone interested in the life of Spirit of Hope United Church is invited to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting after church on **Sunday, March 15th** (about 12:00 p.m. (noon)). You can also join by Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86294123712?pwd=HynLlEruA4gaiBVBbE8RGIORk8lKgH.1>.

The 2025 Annual Reports should be available to read and explore by March 1st.



SPIRIT OF HOPE LEADERSHIP TEAM

OFFICERS

- Chair (two year term, non-renewable)
- Vice Chair (one year term, non-renewable) or
- Past Chair (one year term, non-renewable)
- Secretary (one year term, renewable)
- Treasurer (one year, renewable)
- Minister (ex officio)

FAITH IN ACTION TEAM LEADS (alternating two year terms, renewable)

- Just & Caring Community (2 positions)
- Learning & Growth (2 positions)
- Worship (2 positions)

CHAIRS & REPRESENTATIVES (appointed by committee annually)

- Board of Trustees
- Communications Committee
- Ministry & Personnel Committee
- Property, Finance & Stewardship Committee
- Northern Spirit Regional Rep

Six positions will need to be filled on the Leadership Team (church board) at the **Annual Congregational Meeting on March 15th, 2026.**

- Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- One Just and Caring Community FIAT Co-lead
- One Learning and Growth FIAT Co-lead
- One Worship FIAT Co-lead

Except for the Vice Chair, current position holders are eligible to be re-nominated.

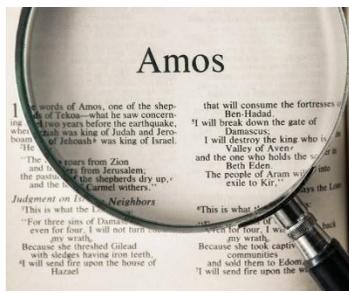
The Nominations Committee has found people willing to take on each of these positions, but additional nominations are welcome. To express interest or for more information, please contact the church office.

**ONLINE BIBLE STUDY
AMOS – A PROPHET
OF RESISTANCE**

Gather to discuss the Book of Amos over four **Wednesday evenings: April 8, 15, 22, 29** beginning at **6:30 p.m.**

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86048937851?pwd=dppoit3Y0xobhLke1FM4pxpMJzclbp.1>

Meeting ID: 860 4893 7851 Passcode: 976154



THIS IS WHAT WE SAY ABOUT SPIRIT OF HOPE

Last month more than 40 of us stayed after church for a great discussion about why we attend Spirit of Hope, what we do to “promote” our community of faith and how we create a sense of welcome. This is part of our 2026 Promotions Grant Project where we will be refining and expanding our efforts to tell our story.



We gathered a wonderful variety of responses! Judy Meintzer has created three colourful summaries. These are posted on a poster that will be at the Welcome Desk and downstairs after worship for you to peruse. Thanks to those who have submitted their ideas on the orange feedback sheets located on the donation table at the back of the sanctuary and the Welcome Desk. We will be updating these summaries with your input.

Our next steps is to use these responses — as well as input from a community engagement event at the end of March — to craft our messages and information materials about Spirit of Hope.

If you are interested in being involved in this project, please talk with Susan Bramm, Judy Meintzer or Cathy Martin.

JAZZ & REFLECTIONS

A Sunday afternoon of jazz and spiritual reflection

MAR 29 - PJ PERRY QUARTET
APR 12 - ALLEN JACOBSON TRIO
APR 19 - SHELLEY JONES TRIO
APR 26 - DOUG BERNER TRIO
MAY 3 - JACOB DO TRIO

Sundays from 3:30 to 5 pm

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

Spirit of Hope United Church 7909 82 Ave NW

SPIRIT OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH

GARAGE SALE

OFFERS YOU CAN'T RESIST, RIGHT IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

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

SAT APRIL 18
 10:30 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.
 7909 82 AVE NW

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

Save These Dates!

FEBRUARY TO MARCH 2026

- Sun. February 22 - Movie Afternoon *Zootopia* - 12:30 p.m.
- Mon. February 23 - YET Hangout For Youth and Young Adults - 4:00 p.m.
- Sat. February 28 - BLT! Breakfast - 8:45 a.m.

- Sun. March 1 - Lenten Prayer Service - 4:00 p.m.
- Mon. March 2 - YET Hangout For Youth and Young Adults - 4:00 p.m.
- Sun. March 8 - Spirit of Hope United Church Narrative Budget - 11:30 a.m.
- Mon. March 9 - YET Hangout For Youth and Young Adults - 4:00 p.m.
- Sat. March 14 - SE Edmonton Community Resource Fair - 1:00 p.m.
- Sun. March 15 - Spirit of Hope Annual Congregational Meeting and PIE Day - 12:30 p.m.
- Mon. March 16 - YET Hangout For Youth and Young Adults - 4:00 p.m.
- Sat. March 21 - YET Queer Talent Showcase and Resource Fair - 2:00 p.m.
- Mon. March 23 - YET Hangout For Youth and Young Adults - 4:00 p.m.
- Sun. March 29 - Palm Sunday
- Sun. March 29 - Jazz and Reflections - 3:30 p.m.
- Mon. March 30 - YET Hangout For Youth and Young Adults - 4:00 p.m.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE: FEBRUARY 22ND TO MARCH 1ST, 2026

Sun. February 22	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary and YouTube) https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791
	12:30 p.m.	Afternoon Movie <i>Zootopia</i> (Lower Hall)
	7:00 p.m.	Movie Discussion <i>Zootopia</i> (Zoom)
Mon. February 23	4:00 p.m.	YET (Youth Empowered Together) Monday Hangout (Lower Hall, Kitchen and Gym)
	6:00 p.m.	ESSC (Dodgeball) (Gym)
	6:30 p.m.	Chancel Ringers (Sanctuary)
	6:30 p.m.	pflag (Multipurpose Room 2)
	7:00 p.m.	Property and Finance (Zoom)
Tue. February 24	9:30 a.m.	Stretch and Flex (Lower Hall)
	7:00 p.m.	ESSC (Dodgeball) (Gym)
Wed. February 25	1:30 p.m.	Creative Connections (Lobby)
	6:00 p.m.	ESSC (Dodgeball) (Gym)
	7:00 p.m.	FIAT Committee Meeting (Zoom)
Thu. February 26	7:00 p.m.	ESSC (Dodgeball) (Gym)
	7:30 p.m.	Choir (Sanctuary)
Fri. February 27	9:00 a.m.	Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program Set up (Lobby, Gym, Lower Hall, Kitchen)
	7:00 p.m.	321 Fun! (Lower Hall)
Sat. February 28	8:00 a.m.	Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program (Lobby, Gym, Lower Hall, Kitchen)
	8:45 a.m.	BLT! Breakfast (Lower Hall and Kitchen)
	1:00 p.m.	Private Booking (Lower Hall)
Sun. March 1	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary and YouTube) https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791
	4:00 p.m.	Lenten Prayer Service (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

INTRODUCTION TO S.E.E.D.S. 2025 REPORT

The Spirit of Hope community of faith has an historical and ongoing support relationship with the Sustainable East African Education and Development Society (S.E.E.D.S.), forged when S.E.E.D.S. was co-founded in 1997 by one of our members, Meheret Worku. With the belief that education is the key to bringing families out of poverty and to developing communities, over the years S.E.E.D.S. has partnered with schools in Ethiopia to support hundreds of students who would otherwise be unable to attend school regularly because of family limitations.

More information is found below in the S.E.E.D.S. 2025 Report and on their website at: <https://www.seedseastafrica.com>

Through Spirit of Hope, members and adherents are able to direct donations to S.E.E.D.S. We are most grateful to Meheret who, with S.E.E.D.S. and Spirit of Hope volunteers, prepared and served a delicious Christmas lunch on December 21, 2025.



S.E.E.D.S. 2025 Report

Our Ongoing Commitment: Supporting 130 Students

As always, S.E.E.D.S. has continued its mission of supporting our **130 students**, including 72 Grade 8 students and 58 high school students in Addis Ababa. Raising the necessary funds is a constant challenge, and we simply could not have done it without your

unwavering support. We appreciate each and every one of you, Spirit of Hope members, for standing by us and helping these students make their dreams a reality.



To change a child's life for a full year, our goal is to raise **\$296.00 per student**...Provides a stable foundation for their education. **Full Support:** Includes school essentials (shoes and clothes), academic tutorials, nutritious snacks, and summer readiness camps and eath

A Breath of Fresh Air: The Power of a New Environment: This year, your support allowed us to provide something truly transformative for our students: a journey to Unity Park in Addis Ababa. For children living in crowded or difficult circumstances, simply being taken out of their daily environment and placed in a clean, expansive, and inspiring space is incredibly refreshing.

It was a joy to see them having an absolute blast, laughing, exploring the historic grounds, and breathing in the fresh air. This trip was a reminder that education isn't just about what happens in the classroom; it is about opening a student's eyes to the beauty and

heritage of their own country and showing them that they belong in these grand spaces.

Christmas Joy: Shoes, Smiles, and Hope: That feeling of refreshment continued on December 25th, 2025, when S.E.E.D.S. delivered new shoes and clothing to our high school students. The students truly loved these gifts! Stepping into a clean new pair of shoes and a fresh shirt gives these young people the dignity and confidence they need to stand tall in their community. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for enabling us to provide these gifts that help our students step into their future with pride.

Ways to Donate & Make an Impact:

- **E-transfer:** infoseedseastafrica@gmail.com
- **Online:** www.seedseastafrica.com
- **Mail:** S.E.E.D.S., 1919 - 108 St., T6J-5V4, Edmonton, Alberta

Together, we are sowing the seeds of a brighter future!

With gratitude, The S.E.E.D.S. Team