



Spirit of Hope United Church

THE SPARK

JANUARY 11, 2026



WELCOME TO ALL!

Our Sunday morning worship services are conducted in person, following the protocols listed on page 2.

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!

IT'S ANNUAL REPORT TIME AGAIN!

Work has begun on compiling the story of our community of faith in 2025.

What a lot of things there are to tell and celebrate! From weekly worship services to open community funfests and mic sessions; music concerts and plays to committee work and building maintenance; tracking finances to encouraging new building users; food security to community collaborations, the variety and effort is amazing.

To those responsible for chronicling the past year, please submit your reports (including photos if you have any you haven't sent in yet) to the respective Faith in Action team leads and Susan Bramm, coordinator, by **Friday, January 16, 2026**. This will give us time to compile the report and have it reviewed by the Leadership Team before it is printed at the end of February.

A big thank you to all those who participate to make this a vibrant, welcoming, and caring community of faith.

Come as you are!
You're welcome here.

Monday Hangouts
for Queer & Allied
Youth & Young Adults

Mondays from 4-6 pm
7909 Whyte (82) Ave

crafts • free! • food
WiFi • fun! • friends
sensory friendly • games

youth empowered together Y.E.T.

@yetedmonton yetedmonton@gmail.com

This is a non-religious community program planned by youth and hosted by Spirit of Hope United Church

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

We will have a special congregational meeting following worship on **Sunday, January 18, 2026**

The purpose of this brief meeting will be to fill member vacancies on the Spirit of Hope Ministry and Personnel Committee and the Board of Trustees.

Your attendance would be most appreciated as we celebrate and support those who have agreed to serve in these important roles.

SUNDAY
MOVIE AFTERNOON

JANUARY 18
12:30 PM

Everyone welcome!
No admission charge
Popcorn & drinks by donation

BLINDED BY THE LIGHT

BLINDED BY THE LIGHT SATURDAY, JANUARY 18 AT 12:30 P.M. LOWER HALL

Blinded by the Light (2019) is an uplifting coming-of-age film inspired by the music of Bruce Springsteen. It follows a British-Pakistani teenager who finds his voice, confidence, and sense of belonging through music.

A discussion about the movie will take place later that evening on January 18 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91937034300?pwd=rZ1hVJhjaqbzyMBtkAHgZIW4kaMbB.1>

Meeting ID: 919 3703 4300

Passcode: 623451



Promotion Project 2026 Celebration & Kickoff

January 25 at
11:45

Stay for a light lunch
after the service.

Learn about the Spirit
of Hope Promotions
Project 2026.



LET'S TELL OUR STORY!

We are grateful and excited to have been selected for a one-time grant from The Promotion Project Fund at The United Church of Canada Foundation to attract members, promote our ministry and programming, and retain/establish a strong presence in our community.

In our proposal, we specifically identified ways that will improve how we communicate to youth, young adults and families with young children so more are engaged and participate in the Spirit of Hope community of faith.

We aim to tell our story in several different ways, using a variety of media and means.

Please join us on Sunday, January 25 to find out more!

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

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!

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!

Mon. January 12 - YET Hangout For Youth and Young Adults - 4:00 p.m.
 Sun. January 18 - Special Congregational Meeting - 11:30 a.m.
 Sun. January 18 - Afternoon Movie *Blinded by the Light* - 12:30 p.m.
 Mon. January 19 - YET Hangout For Youth and Young Adults - 4:00 p.m.
 Sat. January 24 - Leadership Team Retreat - 10:00 a.m.
 Sun. January 25 - Promotion Fund Celebration Kick-Off - 11:45 a.m.
 Mon. January 26 - YET Hangout For Youth and Young Adults - 4:00 p.m.

Mon. February 2 - YET Hangout For Youth and Young Adults - 4:00 p.m.
 Mon. February 9 - YET Hangout For Youth and Young Adults - 4:00 p.m.
 Mon. February 16 - Family Day
 Tue. February 17 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Services of Ashes - 5:30 p.m.
 Sat. February 21 - Family Open Mic - 7:00 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.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE: JANUARY 11TH TO JANUARY 18TH, 2026

Sun. January 11	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary and YouTube) https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791
Mon. January 12	4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Youth Empowered Together Monday Hang Outs (Lower Hall, Kitchen, and Gym) Chancel Ringers (Lower Hall and Kitchen)
Tue. January 13	9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Stretch and Flex (Lower Hall) The Edmonton Needlecraft Guild (Lower Hall)
Wed. January 14	1:30 p.m.	Creative Connections (Lobby)
Thu. January 15	7:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	Private Booking (Gym) Choir (Sanctuary)
Fri. January 16	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.	Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program Set up (Lobby, Gym, Lower Hall, Kitchen) South East Edmonton Community Collaborative Workshop (Lower Hall, Multipurpose Room 1 and 2)
Sat. January 17	8:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program (Lobby, Gym, Lower Hall, Kitchen) Private Event (Lower Hall)
Sun. January 18	10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary and YouTube) https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791 Special Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary) Afternoon Movie <i>Blinded by the Light</i> (Lower Hall and Kitchen) Movie Discussion <i>Blinded by the Light</i> (Zoom)

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.

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WIFI ACCESS WHILE AT CHURCH
 Network: Spirit of Hope Guest
 Password: SOHGuest