



# Spirit of Hope United Church

# THE SPARK

## JANUARY 18, 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!**

### TODAY – SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

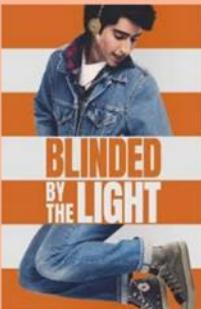
We will have a special congregational meeting  
following worship on **Sunday, January 18, 2026**.

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** **TODAY 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=rZ18hVJhjaqbzyMBtkAHgZlW4kaMbB.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.

## **COMMUNITY OPEN MIC NIGHT – SO MUCH FUN!**

Last Saturday, more than twenty people from the community and church took part in a fun-filled evening that featured a wide range of performances. From singing to poetry readings, duet ukulele pieces to dancing, we had it all!

A big thank you to Marie Fontaine for hosting the evening, Rosalyn, and Roslyn for providing snacks, and several other volunteers who helped set up and clean up.

These events are becoming a real neighbourhood hit!

Dust off your favourite musical piece, poem, or act to share at the next one on February 21 at 6:30 p.m. Or just come out for an entertaining time.



Dancing, poetry reading, ukulele duets were part of the latest Community Open Mic event.



## **YET – A HANGOUT FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS**

All youth and young adults are welcome to participate in a special planned activity and/or to hang out relax, eat, craft, and play games every Monday from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Spirit of Hope.

Feel free to bring a friend or family member.



**STAY UP TO DATE AND SHARE THE NEWS!**



Find us at [www.spiritofhope.ca](http://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](mailto:officeadmin.spiritofhope@shaw.ca)

## **CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS**

The Spirit of Hope United Church Community enjoyed so many special blessings during the Advent and Christmas Season. Gifts of joy, peace, love and hope were shared together - from the special Advent services to the Shortest Day Service to remember our loved ones; from the Community Fun Fest and Frozen Sing Along to the SEEDS Christmas Lunch; and from the Christmas Organ Recital to the Evening of Carols and Treats. Thanks to the staff, the Choir, the Chancel Ringers, SEEDS, the Communications Team, and everyone who volunteered and participated to make the magic possible!

During the Advent Season, the Spirit of Hope United Church sanctuary was transformed with the beauty of the nativity, candles, and festive decorations. Many of the decorations were brought together from our four founding churches, including the beautiful advent wreath from Avonmore. Warren's many creations include the banners that displayed the messages of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and Rejoice. The Nativity figures that gradually entered the stable as the Christmas story emerged were a kind donation from Eleanor Giffiths. Thanks to everyone who helped to set the scene - and to tuck it away for next year.

## **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!

**Sun. January 18 - Special Congregational Meeting - 11:30 a.m.**

**Sun. January 18 - Afternoon Movie - 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 - Promotions Fund Celebration Kick-Off - 12:30 p.m.**

**Mon. January 26 - YET Hangout For Youth and Young Adults - 4:00 p.m.**

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**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 18<sup>TH</sup> TO JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

Sun. January 18	10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<b>Worship Service</b> (Sanctuary and YouTube) <a href="https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791">https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791</a> <b>Special Congregational Meeting</b> (Sanctuary) <b>Afternoon Movie <i>Blinded by the Light</i></b> (Lower Hall and Kitchen) <b>Movie Discussion <i>Blinded by the Light</i></b> (Zoom)
Mon. January 19	4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	<b>Youth Empowered Together Monday Hang Outs</b> (Lower Hall, Kitchen, and Gym) <b>ESSC (Dodgeball)</b> (Gym) <b>Chancel Ringers</b> (Sanctuary)
Tue. January 20	9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<b>Stretch and Flex</b> (Lower Hall) <b>Private Booking</b> (Arts and Crafts Room) <b>Spirit of Hope United Church Ladies' Group</b> (Lower Hall and Kitchen) <b>Communications Committee Meeting</b> (Zoom) <b>ESSC (Dodgeball)</b> (Gym) <b>Tuesday Hymn Sing</b> (Zoom) <a href="https://zoom.us/j/95014510572?pwd=cWw1QTZiMXhDbWFwYmhoa0drTIBDQT09">https://zoom.us/j/95014510572?pwd=cWw1QTZiMXhDbWFwYmhoa0drTIBDQT09</a>
Wed. January 21	1:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<b>Creative Connections</b> (Lobby) <b>ESSC (Dodgeball)</b> (Gym) <b>Pursuers Toastmasters</b> (Multipurpose Room 2) <b>Stewardship Team</b> (Zoom)
Thu. January 22	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<b>Choir</b> (Lower Hall and Kitchen) <b>ESSC (Dodgeball)</b> (Gym)
Fri. January 23	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	<b>Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program Set up</b> (Lobby, Gym, Lower Hall, Kitchen) <b>South East Edmonton Community Collaborative Round Table</b> (Lower Hall) <b>3-2-1 Fun!</b> (Lower Hall)
Sat. January 24	8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	<b>Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program</b> (Lobby, Gym, Lower Hall, Kitchen) <b>Leadership Team Retreat</b> (Lower Hall and Multipurpose Room 1 and 2) <b>YET (Youth Empower Together) Family Party</b> (Lower Hall, Kitchen, and Gym)
Sun. January 25	10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	<b>Worship Service</b> (Sanctuary and YouTube) <a href="https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791">https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791</a> <b>Promotions Fund Celebration Kick-Off</b> (Lower Hall and Kitchen)

**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**

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Email: [officeadmin.spiritofhope@shaw.ca](mailto:officeadmin.spiritofhope@shaw.ca)

Rev. Blaine Gregg: [minister.spiritofhope@shaw.ca](mailto: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