



Spirit of Hope United Church

THE SPARK

JANUARY 4, 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!



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.

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.

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.

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

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



**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

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.

S a v e T h e s e D a t e s !

JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 2026

Mon. January 5 - YET Hangout For Youth and Young Adults - 4:00 p.m.

Sat. January 10 - Family Open Mic - 7:00 p.m.

Mon. January 12 - YET Hangout For Youth and Young Adults - 4:00 p.m.

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

Sat. January 24 - Leadership Team Retreat - 10:00 a.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.

Sat. February 28 - BLT! Breakfast - 8:45 a.m.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE:
JANUARY 4TH TO JANUARY 11TH, 2026

Sun. January 4	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary and YouTube) https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791
Mon. January 5	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 6	9:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Stretch and Flex (Lower Hall) Tuesday Hymn Sing (Zoom) https://zoom.us/j/95014510572?pwd=cWw1QTZiMXhDbWFwYmhoa0drTIBDQT09
Wed. January 7	1:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Creative Connections (Lobby) Pursuers Toastmasters (Multipurpose Room 2) Leadership Team Meeting (Zoom)
Thu. January 8	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	pflag (Lower Hall) Private Booking (Gym) Choir (Sanctuary)
Fri. January 9	9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program Set up (Lobby, Gym, Lower Hall, Kitchen) 3 2 1 Fun! (Lower Hall)
Sat. January 10	8:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program (Lobby, Gym, Lower Hall, Kitchen) Family Open Mic (Lower Hall and Kitchen)
Sun. January 11	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
 Telephone: 780-468-1418
 Email: officeadmin.spiritofhope@shaw.ca
 Rev. Blaine Gregg: minister.spiritofhope@shaw.ca
 Catherine Evoy, Office Administrator
 Leo, Custodian

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