



Spirit of Hope United Church

THE SPARK

JULY 12, 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.

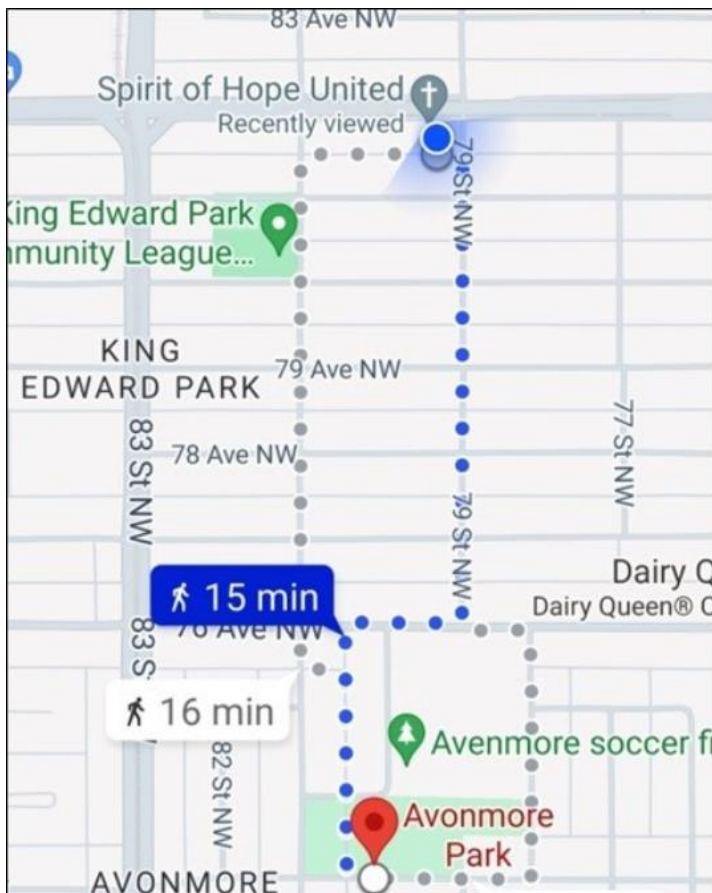
Spirit of Hope is an Affirming Ministry within The United Church of Canada striving to be fully inclusive of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

GOD BLESS YOU. WE ARE NOT ALONE

OUTDOOR SERVICES

This **Sunday, July 12, 2026**, we will be having an outdoor service at Avonmore Park, 7902 73rd Avenue NW.

Please join us rain or shine and dress for the weather. If you are able, please bring along your own lawn chair. Many of us will be sticking around to socialize. Feel free to pack your own lunch and join the picnic! See you there!



BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

Breakfast Fellowship is held at a restaurant on the third Saturday of every second month. The next one will be on **Saturday, July 18, 2026**, at 9:30 a.m. at Albert's Restaurant at 5107 - 99 Street.

If you are interested in joining us, RSVP by email to bev8582@telus.net or by calling Bev Moore at 780-439-8582.



THANK YOU TO OUR OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

A big thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help in the office while Catherine is away on holidays from Tuesday, July 14, to Tuesday, July 21.

We really appreciate your time and willingness to pitch in. Your help will keep things running smoothly while Catherine is away.

Thank you!



MASS FOR SHUT-OUTS

A poetic take on Sunday service by Tanya Davis

July 10-12, 2026 at Robertson-Wesley United Church

[Click here for tickets and information!](#)



Mass for Shut-Outs is a multidisciplinary performance that plays with the shape of a Catholic mass to ask new questions, challenge old stories, and dismantle the gatekeepers' fortress. Written and performed by [Tanya Davis](#), with musical support from [Carlie Howell](#). *Mass for Shut-Outs* is a rousing and poetic take on Sunday service, with orature, music, and opportunities for play and communion. It is designed for those of us on the spiritual fringes, who also seek meaning and connection, even while being historically shut out of—or disinterested in—traditional communities of faith, their liturgy, and their institutions.

[Click here to watch a trailer!](#)

Presented as part of [Found Festival 2026](#), Edmonton's celebration of art in unexpected places!

Show Information

Jul 10, 6:30 PM – 7:50 PM (ASL Interpreted)
Jul 12, 5:30 PM – 6:50 PM
Venue: [Robertson-Wesley United Church](#) - 10209 123 St NW
Access notes: Audiences will be prompted to stand, kneel, sit, and sing along, but there is no pressure to participate which is communicated during the show. *Mass for Shut-Outs* will take place downtown (102 Avenue and 123 Street). The venue is wheelchair accessible with accessible washrooms. ASL interpretation will be available Friday, July 10.



For more information

<https://commongroundarts.ca/event/mass-for-shut-outs/>

MINISTER'S HOLIDAYS

Rev. Blaine Gregg will be on holidays from **July 20th through August 9th, 2026**. If you need the services of a minister during that time, call the church office for a referral: 780-468-1418 (ext. 1 during office hours; ext. 2 outside of office hours).

COMMUNITY REQUEST

I met with someone in my office recently who is looking for a place to store some personal items while their apartment building is being renovated.

If anyone has some space (to rent) for a while, contact Reverend Blaine Gegg for more details.

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

SANCTUARY OF PEACE LUNCH

It's summer, and that means Spirit of Hope's turn for providing lunch after a downtown church service led by the Sanctuary of Peace is just around the corner!

We are asked to provide 200 lunches. Last year, we did... and we still had people in line. The cost of a lunch is about \$6. If you would like to donate to pay for a lunch, thank you!

Please place your donation in an envelope marked "Sanctuary of Peace Lunch".

Volunteers will be needed in the afternoon, **Saturday, August 1, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.** to put the lunches together (the more the merrier), and then on **Sunday, August 2, 2026**, to take the lunches downtown and then serve them after the service (3-4 people).

If you are available to assist, please contact the church office.

Your generosity makes a difference.

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



SUMMERTIME WORSHIP IN THE PARK



Last Sunday, July 5 the first of two Spirit of Hope outdoor worship services was held in Avonmore Park. It began with some rain but the 22 people who attended kept dry under the gazebo. During the service, the sun came out. A few people stayed for a sunny lunch after the service.



Join us again this coming Sunday, July 12 for another outdoor service. Communion will be served. All are welcome.



Thank you to Carol-Ann Lewis and Roslyn Thomson who took these photos.

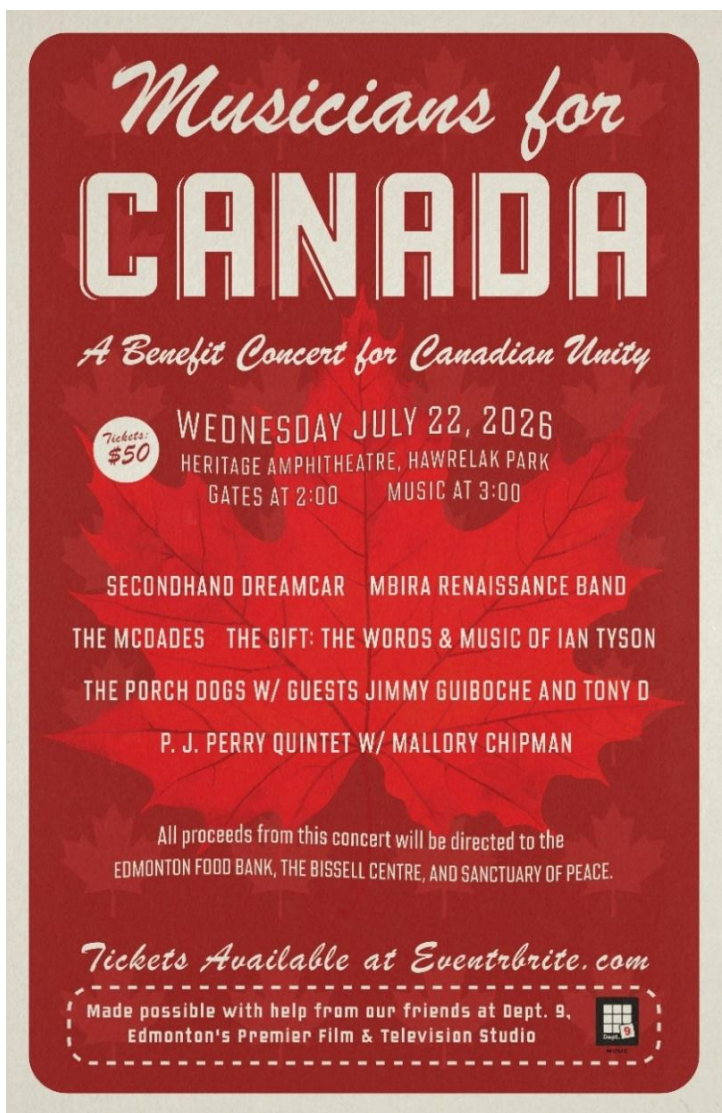
HOW CAN YOU HELP?

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.



Musicians for
CANADA

A Benefit Concert for Canadian Unity

WEDNESDAY JULY 22, 2026
HERITAGE AMPHITHEATRE, HAWRELAK PARK
GATES AT 2:00 MUSIC AT 3:00

Tickets: \$50

SECONDHAND DREAMCAR MBIRA RENAISSANCE BAND
THE MCDADES THE GIFT: THE WORDS & MUSIC OF IAN TYSON
THE PORCH DOGS W/ GUESTS JIMMY GUIBOCHE AND TONY D
P. J. PERRY QUINTET W/ MALLORY CHIPMAN

All proceeds from this concert will be directed to the
EDMONTON FOOD BANK, THE BISSELL CENTRE, AND SANCTUARY OF PEACE.

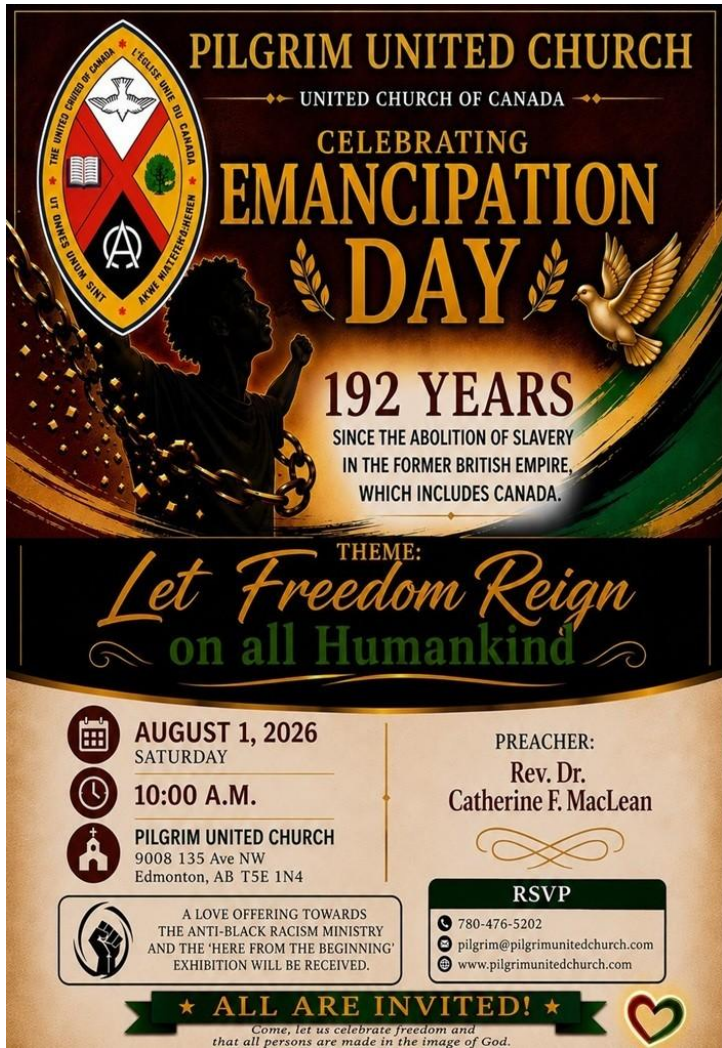
Tickets Available at Eventbrite.com

Made possible with help from our friends at Dept. 9,
Edmonton's Premier Film & Television Studio

EMANCIPATION DAY SPECIAL OFFERING

On **Sunday, August 2, 2026**, people are encouraged to designate a special offering in support of the anti-Black racism ministries within The United Church of Canada, and the “Here from the Beginning” exhibition, which highlights the history of The United Church of Canada through the lens of Black people.

Mark the offering with “Emancipation”.



PILGRIM UNITED CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

CELEBRATING
EMANCIPATION DAY

192 YEARS
SINCE THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY
IN THE FORMER BRITISH EMPIRE,
WHICH INCLUDES CANADA.

THEME:
Let Freedom Reign
on all Humankind

AUGUST 1, 2026
SATURDAY
10:00 A.M.
PILGRIM UNITED CHURCH
9008 135 Ave NW
Edmonton, AB T5E 1N4

PREACHER:
Rev. Dr.
Catherine F. MacLean

RSVP
780-476-5202
pilgrim@pilgrimunitedchurch.com
www.pilgrimunitedchurch.com

A LOVE OFFERING TOWARDS
THE ANTI-BLACK RACISM MINISTRY
AND THE 'HERE FROM THE BEGINNING'
EXHIBITION WILL BE RECEIVED.

★ ALL ARE INVITED! ★
Come, let us celebrate freedom and
that all persons are made in the image of God.

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!

YOUTH COUNCIL OF NORTHERN SPIRIT

Do you know a high school student who’s interested in faith, community, and justice?

Applications for the Youth Council of Northern Spirit are now open to youth age 14-17 (or, entering grades 10-12 in September 2026). The Youth Council of Northern Spirit partners with youth from other regions to build community and grow in leadership. Members meet online during the year and in person at Uncharted – the annual senior youth retreat.

Youth Council Members will also attend the Northern Spirit Regional Gathering (November 10 and 12, 2026).

For more information, contact
KGuentherTrautwein@united-church.ca or
visit firstthirdministry.ca/youth-council

APPLY HERE:

<https://form.jotform.com/242146880537057>

SUMMER LEARNING AND FUN

**St. Albert United Church Vacation Bible School,
July 27 – 31, 2026 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon)**

Changing the Game: Learning to Live in God’s Love, will be a board-game-themed week of FUN with singing, worship, prayer, and connection for children from kindergarten to Grade 5. Older students are also invited to join us as volunteers. Registration is now open - cost is \$30 per participant. Check out full details at: www.stalbertunited.com/vbs

Family Trip Program, Narrow Lake, AB

Emberwood is partnering with Edmonton Forest School to offer a family trip program with accommodation for one night (one cabin per family) from August 22-23, 2026. The program is offered on a sliding scale - \$375-\$550, including all meals, programming for children and adults and pre-session playdates (April 19, May 31, June 14, 2026, from 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Transportation to and from Narrow Lake is also available. For full information, email howdy@emberwood.ca



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

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

Tracking of Givings

Categories	Budget	6/12 Budget	Year to Date	Variance from Budget
Local Envelope Offering	\$ 179,500	\$ 89,750	\$ 83,197	\$ (6,554)
Other Receipts for Local	\$ 22,900	\$ 11,450	\$ 12,728	\$ 1,278
Givings to M&S	\$ 20,240	\$ 10,120	\$ 11,759	\$ 1,639

Save These Dates!

SUMEMR 2026

- Sun. July 12 - Worship in Avonmore Park, including Communion
- All Wednesdays during the summer - Ukulele Sing-Along and Crafternoon
- Mon. August 3 - Heritage Day
- Mon. September 7 - Labour Day

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE:
JULY 12TH TO JULY 19TH, 2026

Sun. July 12	10:30 a.m.	Outdoor Worship Service (Avonmore Park, 7902 73 rd Avenue NW) https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791
Mon. July 13	7:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Adaptabilities Summer Camp (Lower Hall) Private Booking (Sanctuary) ESSC (Dodgeball) (Gym)
Tue. July 14	7:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Adaptabilities Summer Camp (Lower Hall) Stretch and Flex (Sanctuary)
Wed. July 15	7:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Adaptabilities Summer Camp (Lower Hall) Private Booking (Sanctuary) Ukelele Sing-Along (Lobby) Creative Connections (Lobby) Stewardship Team Meeting (Zoom)
Thu. July 16	7:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Adaptabilities Summer Camp (Lower Hall) Private Booking (Gym)
Fri. July 17	7:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.	Adaptabilities Summer Camp (Lower Hall) Private Booking (Sanctuary) Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program Set up (Lobby, Gym, Lower Hall, Kitchen)
Sat. July 18	8:00 a.m.	Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program (Lobby, Lower Hall, Kitchen)
Sun. July 19	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