



Spirit of Hope United Church

THE SPARK

JULY 26, 2026



WELCOME TO ALL!

Our Sunday morning worship services are conducted in person, following the protocols listed on page 3. 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 ALON

THANK YOU!

A heartfelt thank you to Cathy Martin and Sara Van Halderen for their help in running the church office while Catherine, our Office Administrator, was away.

A special thank you to Laura Manchul for sharing her beautiful music during our Sunday worship services.

We are grateful for your time, support, and dedication to Spirit of Hope United Church.

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).



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!

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.



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!

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.

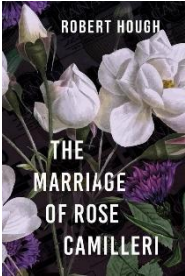
★ ALL ARE INVITED! ★
*Come, let us celebrate freedom and
that all persons are made in the image of God.*

AUTUMN BOOK STUDY

If you are the kind of person who would write a love letter to a favourite character in a summer novel, then I would invite you to consider Rose in The Marriage of Rose Camilleri, or maybe Scotty, or mildly eccentric, letter-writing, justice-seeking Aunt Lorenza. These are people who make choices and live lives that celebrate common humanity pieced together from diverse pieces and slightly unusual “situations.” And, mostly, they don’t even know they are doing it

The *Marriage of Rose Camilleri* is written by Canadian novelist Robert Hough, and I am part way through my second reading of it because I hope to lead a group study of it in September or October here at Spirit of Hope. Please let me know if you are interested (780-686-5433). More details, such as the number and time of sessions, available later in the summer.

Minister Emeritus, Rev. Lloyd Lovatt



SUMMER LEARNING AND FUN

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

CURRENT ISSUES CONVERSATIONS

Is there something in the news that you would love to discuss with others? Would you be willing to explore that news through a lens of faith?



Rev. Gregg invites you to join him in conversation around a table after church some Sundays this fall for about 30-45 minutes on **September 13, October 18, November 1 and 15, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. (noon).**

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.



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

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.

SUMEMR 2026

Save These Dates!

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 26TH TO AUGUST 2ND, 2026

Sun. July 26	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary and YouTube) https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791
Mon. July 27	7:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Adaptabilities Summer Camp (Lower Hall) Private Booking (Sanctuary) ESSC (Dodgeball) (Gym) pflag (Multipurpose Room 2) Property, Finance and Stewardship Committee Meeting (Zoom)
Tue. July 28	7:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Adaptabilities Summer Camp (Lower Hall) Stretch and Flex (Sanctuary)
Wed. July 29	7:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m.	Adaptabilities Summer Camp (Lower Hall) Private Booking (Sanctuary) Ukelele Sing-Along (Lobby) Creative Connections (Lobby)
Thu. July 30	7:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Adaptabilities Summer Camp (Lower Hall) Private Booking (Gym)
Fri. July 31	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. Aug. 1	8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 11:45 a.m.	Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program (Lobby, Lower Hall, Kitchen) Private Booking (Multipurpose Room 2) Private Booking (Kitchen) Private Booking (Sanctuary)
Sun. Aug. 2	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