



Spirit of Hope United Church

THE SPARK

JULY 5, 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.

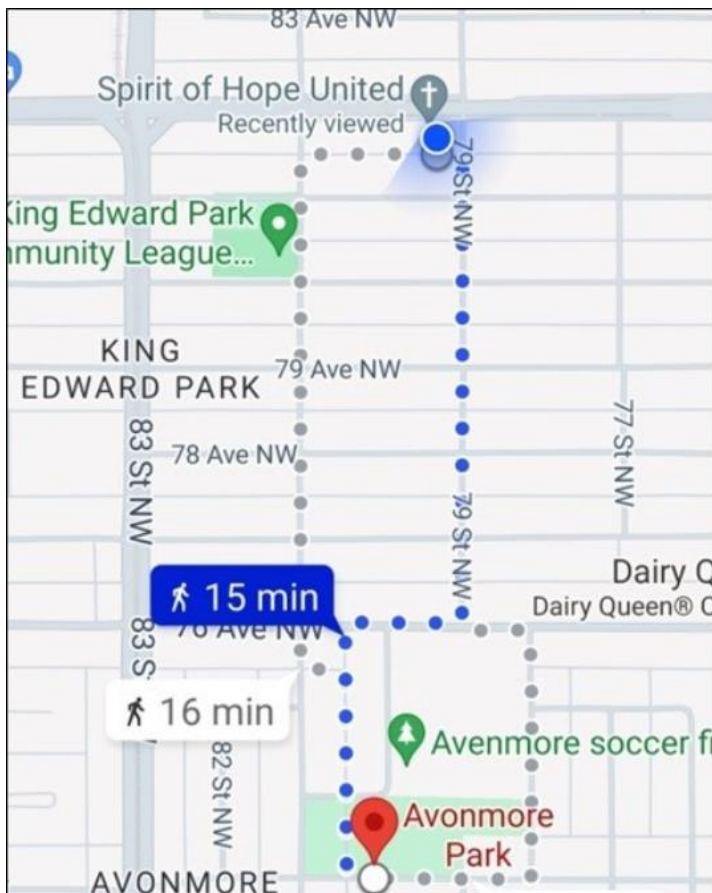
Spirit of Hope is an Affirming Ministry within The United Church of Canada
striving to be fully inclusive of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

GOD BLESS YOU. WE ARE NOT ALONE

OUTDOOR SERVICES

On both **Sunday, July 5 and 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.



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 (perhaps to rent) for a while,
contact Reverend Blaine Gegg for more details.



A MELON BRIGADE!

On Friday, June 26, Spirit of Hope volunteers lined up the west stairs into the gym to move watermelons, honey dew melons and pineapples up the stairs into the gym. This precious fresh fruit, along with potatoes, squash and eggs had been picked up from the Food Bank’s bulk surplus supplies for distribution at the Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program that operates out of Spirit of Hope every Saturday morning from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.



Team lead Heather Buckie was joined by (from top to bottom) by Joyce, Kelly, Claire, Lisa, Cathy, Lucia, Rick and Willy to move the many watermelons to the gym.



Inside other fresh produce, such as honeydew melons, a few pineapples, cut up squash and rutabaga and six large crates of baker potatoes were sorted and divided for the 100 bags set out for families to pick up.



Each week, volunteers also retrieve bread and other baked goods from local stores. Here is Clare with what was set out for Saturday, June 26.

Spirit of Hope has two teams that each participate once a month to collect and assemble the food on Friday morning and then to distribute it to about 100 people who drop by on Saturday morning, representing more than 350 in need.

If you would like to be involved in this vital service, please contact the office. You are also welcome to make a financial donation to keep the program going as we add tuna or eggs to each bag for a bit of protein.



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

THANK YOU TO THE LADIES GROUP!

On June 23,2026, the Spirit of Hope Ladies group had their summer potluck to celebrate another year of supporting the important value of hospitality in our community of faith (especially featuring food!) and helping to raise funds for church operations.

The group, consisting of 12-15 individuals, meets monthly with a break for July and August. As members age and/or move away, they have been focusing more on organizing and recruiting volunteers for events from the wider congregation.

In addition to coordinating coffee and refreshments for Sundays (including Celebration Sunday at the end of each month), they are involved in supporting annual events such the Community BBQ and Showcase in September and Christmas lunch in December, as well as playing a key role in major fundraising events that in the past year included the Christmas Artisan and Bake Sale and the Garage Sale held in April. The fundraising in 2025 allowed the group to transfer \$4,000 to the church account which to be used towards the life and work of our community of faith!

The Ladies Group also acts as a community for current and past members. Meetings can include short educational/interest presentations by members, devotionals that encourage us in our faith and its expression and coffee and snacks (of course). We invite any women in Spirit of Hope to join us for regular meetings which take place the third Tuesday of each month at 10:45 a.m. in the Lower Hall, and/or join us in volunteering for congregational, community and fundraising events which are planned throughout the year and announced in The Spark. For more information, please talk with Helen Newsham or contact the office.



Garage Sale, April 2026: Helen showing a great find, Irene, Melanie and Sara at the reception desk.



Bev, Arlene and Fay in the Kitchen, catering for a memorial service. Bev, Helen, Heather, Carol-Ann and Susan together at Sunday coffee. Photos by Carol-Ann Lewis and Susan Bramm.



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.*

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 make a donation 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.

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!

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

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.

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).**



Your generosity makes a difference.

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



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

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!

Save These Dates!

SUMEMR 2026

- Sun. July 5 - Worship in Avonmore Park
- Sun. July 12 - Worship in Avonmore Park, including Communion
- Mon. August 3 - Heritage Day
- Mon. September 7 - Labour Day

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE: JULY 5TH TO JULY 12TH, 2026

Sun. July 5	10:30 a.m.	Outdoor Worship Service (Avonmore Park, 7902 73 rd Avenue NW) https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791
Mon. July 6	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 7	7:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Adaptabilities Summer Camp (Lower Hall) Stretch and Flex (Sanctuary) Tuesday Hymn Sing (Zoom) https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89719672129?pwd=2cbuy2Rjc9r7rFPC0NID8bd5uKKN0V.1
Wed. July 8	7:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Adaptabilities Summer Camp (Lower Hall) Private Booking (Sanctuary) Creative Connections (Lobby) Leadership Team Meeting (Multipurpose Room 2)
Thu. July 9	7:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Adaptabilities Summer Camp (Lower Hall) pflag (Lower Hall) Private Booking (Gym)
Fri. July 10	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 11	8:00 a.m.	Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program (Lobby, Lower Hall, Kitchen)
Sun. July 12	10:30 a.m.	Outdoor Worship Service (Avonmore Park, 7902 73 rd Avenue NW) 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