



Spirit of Hope United Church

THE SPARK

MARCH 15, 2026



WELCOME TO ALL!

Our Sunday morning worship services are conducted in person, following the protocols listed on page 6. 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!



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Everyone interested in the life of Spirit of Hope United Church is invited to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting after church on **Sunday, March 15th** (about 11:45 a.m.) Pizza will be provided!

You can also join by Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86294123712?pwd=HynLlIeruA4gaiBVBbE8RGIORk8IKgH.1>

The 2025 Annual Reports are now available to read and explore.

PRAYER SERVICES IN LENT



United Churches are coming together for special prayer services on **Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m.** during the season of Lent to pray for the renewal of the church, discernment of congregations for future witness and ministry, the work of the regional council, the plans of the National Church for Vision 2035, strength and equipping of leadership for the present time, current concerns for the community, nation, and world.

- March 15: Highlands United (11305 64 St NW, Edmonton)
- March 22: St. David's United (4614 48 St, Leduc)
- March 29: Grace United (6215 104 Ave NW, Edmonton)

People can also join in by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86475167860?pwd=HKXBqMbin1oADzFCfbapYgKa9bLz0c.1>

Meeting ID: 864 7516 7860; Passcode: 803578



SPIRIT OF HOPE LEADERSHIP TEAM

OFFICERS

- Chair (two year term, non-renewable)
- Vice Chair (one year term, non-renewable) or
- Past Chair (one year term, non-renewable)
- Secretary (one year term, renewable)
- Treasurer (one year, renewable)
- Minister (ex officio)

FAITH IN ACTION TEAM LEADS (alternating two year terms, renewable)

- Just & Caring Community (2 positions)
- Learning & Growth (2 positions)
- Worship (2 positions)

CHAIRS & REPRESENTATIVES (appointed by committee annually)

- Board of Trustees
- Communications Committee
- Ministry & Personnel Committee
- Property, Finance & Stewardship Committee
- Northern Spirit Regional Rep

Six positions will need to be filled on the Leadership Team (church board) at the **Annual Congregational Meeting on March 15th, 2026.**

- Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- One Just and Caring Community FIAT Co-lead
- One Learning and Growth FIAT Co-lead
- One Worship FIAT Co-lead

Except for the Vice Chair, current position holders are eligible to be re-nominated.

The Nominations Committee has found people willing to take on each of these positions, but additional nominations are welcome. To express interest or for more information, please contact the church office.



HOLY WEEK 2026

March 29 (10:30 a.m.) Palm Sunday Service

April 2 (5:30 p.m.) Maundy Thursday Potluck Supper –
please bring food items heated and ready to serve

April 3 (10:30 a.m.) Good Friday Service –
led by the choir

April 5 (7:00 a.m.) Sunrise Easter Service –
Emily Murphy Park

April 5 (10:30 a.m.) Easter Communion Service –
in the church



DOLLARS & DECORATIONS FOR A DIFFERENCE- UPDATE

During the season of Lent, we have been invited to help out the Garneau-Strathcona Food Security Program (which operates out of Spirit of Hope United on Saturday mornings) by decorating 100 paper bags that will be used for the food hampers to be given out on Easter Weekend. We already have 54 completed and there are just two Sundays left!

People are also invited to make financial donations to help fill those bags with good protein items. The goal is to raise \$2,000 between now and Palm Sunday (March 29) - \$20 per bag. Mark your donations (envelope or e-transfer) with “food security.”

Thank you to those who have already made donations.

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!



NARRATIVE BUDGET DISCUSSION 2026

Sandra Hawes was on hand last week to lead the Narrative Budget discussion after worship. She was joined by Faith in Action Team (FIAT) leads Vici Wynn (Worship), Heather Green and Chris Meintzer (Learning and Growth), Judy Meintzer, and Sara van Halderen (Just and Caring Community) and Treasurer Kevin Gue. A big thank you to those who presented, Catherine Evoy our office administrator and Susan Bramm and others involved in producing the 2025 Annual Report — and more than 45 people who attended!



Join us today (Sunday, March 15) after worship for the Annual Congregation Meeting as well as celebrating PIE Day with pizza pie and a variety of baked pies.

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!

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.

LAST SUNDAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Thank you to Phyllis Verhaar, who coordinated and led Spirit of Hope's worship service last week with hymns, prayers and a reflection based on British minister and writer J. John's "Toe, Tooth, and the Theology of Perspective" — and to Bev Moore who read the two scriptures and Moment for Mission.



Thank you to photo by Carol-Ann Lewis

The service was graced and enriched by P.J. Perry's beautiful saxophone playing, accompanied by Music Director Warren Mack on organ. The introit was the timeless "Abide with Me" (written by poet Henry Frances Lyte, with the tune "Eventide" by William Henry Monk). The postlude was "The Old Castle" from Pictures at an Exhibition by Modest Mussorgsky. We are immensely grateful for the many different ways our members contribute to worship and the hope and vitality of our community.

If you missed this service — or wish to view it again — check it out on our YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQjtHaUrQltTzkzMqUoV1ug>

On Sunday, March 29, the P.J Perry Quartet will be playing the first of this Spring's five Jazz & Reflections concerts. More information is found in this issue of *The Spark*.

Youth Empowered Together

Mondays | 4-6pm | 7909 82 Ave NW
Edmonton, AB

Hangouts for Queer and Allied Youth

Free Youth-led Events and Activities

Games, Crafts, Friends, and Food!

Young adults welcome

@yetedmonton yetedmonton@gmail.com



APPLY TO
PERFORM!

HOSTED BY
YOUTH
EMPOWERED
TOGETHER



CELEBRATE QUEER JOY

QUEER TALENT SHOWCASE AND RESOURCE FAIR
MARCH 21 | 2-5PM
7909 82 AVE NW
EDMONTON

| FREE EVENT | FOOD AND BEVERAGES PROVIDED |
FOR QUEER AND ALLIED FAMILY AND FRIENDS

BRING CASH IF YOU'D LIKE TO TIP PERFORMERS!

MARCH 21 - CELEBRATE QUEER JOY

Please show your support to our YET (Youth Empowered Together) group by promoting and attending this exciting and entertaining Queer Talent Showcase and Resource Fair.

Let Judy know at coffee time today or at community.spiritofhope@shaw.ca if you're able to assist with hosting this event.

Posters and handbills are available on the Welcome Desk for you to share with friends, family, businesses, or neighbours.



Emi and Judy represented YET at the University of Alberta Pride Week celebration on Monday.

BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

is held at a restaurant on the third Saturday of every second month.



The next one will be on

Saturday, March 21, 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 so we can confirm our reservation number.

SUNDAY MOVIE AFTERNOON MARCH 22 AT 12:30 P.M.

The Shack (2017) PG-13
Sam Worthington, Octavia Spencer, and Tim McGraw star in this inspirational drama fantasy about a grieving man who receives a mysterious invitation to meet with God.



Popcorn will be provided.

Everyone is welcome to join an online discussion of the movie at 7:00 p.m. that evening at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91937034300?pwd=rZ18hVJhjaqbzyMBtkAHgZlW4kaMbB.1>

Meeting ID: 919 3703 4300 Passcode: 623451



JAZZ & REFLECTIONS

A Sunday afternoon of jazz and spiritual reflection

MAR 29 - PJ PERRY QUARTET
APR 12 - ALLEN JACOBSON TRIO
APR 19 - SHELLEY JONES TRIO
APR 26 - DOUG BERNER TRIO
MAY 3 - JACOB DO TRIO

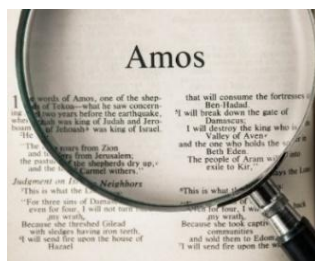
Sundays from 3:30 to 5 pm

Admission by donation at the door.
Refreshments will be served.

Spirit of Hope United Church 7909 82 Ave NW

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY AMOS – A PROPHET OF RESISTANCE

Gather to discuss the Book of Amos over four **Wednesday evenings: April 8, 15, 22, 29** beginning at 6:30 p.m.



Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86048937851?pwd=dppoit3Y0xobhLke1FM4pxpMJzclLbp.1>

Meeting ID: 860 4893 7851 Passcode: 976154



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

A REMINDER FROM THE TREASURER

Our updated Sustainability Strategy was established by the congregation in 2025 to ensure we can maintain our mission of being a sustainable and relevant United Church presence in this part of town - fulfilling our vision in alignment with our shared values.

The objective of the strategy is to be able to balance our budget by 2030 and maintain that balanced budget into the future by taking the following collective action.

Each year, our goal is for the average giving household to increase their financial givings to the church by \$10/month for local.

Half of this (\$5) is to offset the impacts of inflation on our budget. And the other half (\$5) is to close the gap between our income and expenses year over year until we are in balance.

It is understood that not everyone is in a position every year to increase their financial givings - the church budgets are based on an average that doesn't reflect the situation or choices of any specific individual or family.

But, each year, please do consider the \$10 average monthly increase when making decisions about your financial offering to the church.

Remember that our Spirit of Hope is a registered charity and a charitable tax receipt is provided for all financial givings, which may be of benefit to individuals.

Also, if you are on PAR, please remember at this time of year to make a quick call or email to Catherine in the office if you choose to increase your offering.

Imagine CHILDREN'S RETREAT 2026

For children, ages 8-12 and their leaders!

We hope to see YOU at one of the retreats in 2026!

March 6-8 @ Evans Lake
March 13-15 @ Camp Pringle
April 17-19 @ Kasota East Camp

IMAGINE CHILDREN'S RETREAT 2026

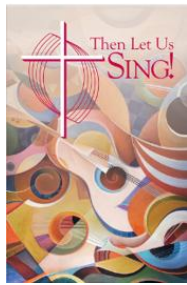
Imagine Children's Retreat (ages 8-12) by First Third Ministry offer a fun, welcoming United Church of Canada experience for children and leaders of all backgrounds and family types.

Children explore faith through stories, worship, music, drama, play, and community in a safe, inclusive setting.

Learn more & register:

<https://www.firstthirdministry.ca/imaginechildrensretreat.html>

Then Let Us Sing (TLUS) is a new music resource developed by The United Church of Canada. It includes new hymns that bring us fresh language for God as well as accessible musical styles.



The songs are intended to lift up and prioritize racialized, Indigenous, Francophone, and 2SLGBTQIA+ voices, people with disabilities, and people of diverse linguistic communities. Spirit of Hope has begun to include some of the TLUS hymns in worship service.

The words are projected and come copies of the hymns with full music are included in the bulletin. In the near future, a limited number of books will be available at the sanctuary entrance for use during the service.

An order will be place for additional copies of TLUS on April 10, 2026. If you are interested in purchasing a copy for personal use, or to be donated to Spirit of Hope, please sign up during coffee time by April 9, 2026, or contact Catherine at officeadmin.spiritofhope@shaw.ca to arrange payment of - \$30 for the Full Music Edition and \$50 for the Accompanists' Edition.

jewelry • housewares • gardening • puzzles
 • sports equipment • tools • toys
 • small furniture • home decor, etc.

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!

BROADVIEW MAGAZINE

Spirit of Hope maintains a subscription to *Broadview* for every household in our faith community. This award-winning magazine was founded in 1829 and is an important way to stay connected with the national church, and to explore how faith relates to the issues of the day in our nation and for our world. *Broadview* also produces high-quality digital content and engagement.

If you are able, please consider a special donation to the church of \$30 to cover the cost of your annual subscription.

Indicate "*Broadview*" in a note on the donation.

If you do not currently receive the *Broadview* in the mail but would like to, contact Catherine in the office to ensure your contact info is up to date and ask to be added to the subscription list.

Happy Reading!

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!

MARCH TO APRIL 2026

Sun. March 15 - Spirit of Hope Annual Congregational Meeting and PIE Day - 11:45 a.m.

Mon. March 16 - YET Hangout For Youth and Young Adults - 4:00 p.m.

Sat. March 21 - YET Queer Talent Showcase and Resource Fair - 2:00 p.m.

Sun. March 22 - Afternoon Movie *The Shack* - 12:30 p.m.

Mon. March 23 - YET Hangout For Youth and Young Adults - 4:00 p.m.

Sun. March 29 - Palm Sunday

Sun. March 29 - Jazz and Reflections - P.J Perry Quartet - 3:30 p.m.

Mon. March 30 - YET Hangout For Youth and Young Adults - 4:00 p.m.

Thu. April 2 - Maundy Thursday Potluck Service and Communion - 5:30 p.m.

Fri. April 3 - Good Friday Choral Service - 10:30 a.m.

Sun. April 5 - Easter Sunrise Service (Emily Murphy Park) - 7:00 a.m.

Sun. April 5 - Easter Sunday Worship and Communion - 10:30 a.m.

Mon. April 6 - Easter Monday

Wed. April 8 - Online Book Study (Book of Amos) Part 1 of 4 - 6:30 p.m.

Sat. April 11 - Community Engagement Event - 2:00 p.m.

Sun. April 12 - Jazz and Reflections - Allen Jacobson Trio - 3:30 p.m.

Mon. April 13 - YET Hangout For Youth and Young Adults - 4:00 p.m.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE:
MARCH 15TH TO MARCH 22ND, 2026

Sun. March 15	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary and YouTube) https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791
	11:30 a.m.	Spirit of Hope United Church Congregational Meeting (Lower Hall))
Mon. March 16	4:00 p.m.	YET (Youth Empowered Together) Monday Hangout (Lower Hall, Kitchen, and Gym)
	7:00 p.m.	ESSC (Dodgeball) (Gym)
	6:30 p.m.	Chancel Ringers (Sanctuary)
Tue. March 17	9:30 a.m.	Stretch and Flex (Lower Hall)
	10:30 a.m.	Spirit of Hope United Church Ladies' Group (Lower Hall and Kitchen)
	6:00 p.m.	ESSC (Dodgeball) (Gym)
	7:00 p.m.	Tuesday Hymn Sing (Zoom) https://zoom.us/j/95014510572?pwd=cWw1QTZiMXhDbWFwYmhoa0drTIBDQT09
Wed. March 18	1:30 p.m.	Creative Connections (Lobby)
	6:00 p.m.	ESSC (Dodgeball) (Gym)
	6:30 p.m.	Pursuers Toastmasters (Multipurpose Room 2)
Thu. March 19	7:00 p.m.	ESSC (Dodgeball) (Gym)
	7:30 p.m.	Choir (Sanctuary)
Fri. March 20	9:00 a.m.	Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program Set up (Lobby, Gym, Lower Hall, Kitchen)
	6:30 p.m.	pflag (Lower Hall)
Sat. March 21	8:00 a.m.	Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program (Lobby, Gym, Lower Hall, Kitchen)
	2:00 p.m.	YET Queer Talent Showcase and Resource Fair (Lower Hall, Kitchen, Lobby, Gym)
Sun. March 22	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary and YouTube) https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791
	12:30 p.m.	Movie Afternoon <i>The Shack</i> (Lower Hall))
	7:00 p.m.	Movie Discussion <i>The Shack</i> (Zoom)

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

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