



Spirit of Hope United Church

THE SPARK

MARCH 29, 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!

SAD NEWS

Jean Fitzsimmons passed away on
March 12th at the age of 95 years.

She was an active member of Avonmore
United Church before it became part of
Spirit of Hope.

A memorial service will
be held in the church on **June 10th, 2026.**

Jean's obituary can be found on the Serenity Funeral
Home website:

<https://www.serenity.ca/obituaries/Jean-Gwendoline-Fitzsimmons?obId=47799162>



SPRING STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN – “DOLLARS AND DECORATIONS FOR A DIFFERENCE”

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 have now decorated 105 food bags. Thank you to
everyone who has assisted in accomplishing this.**

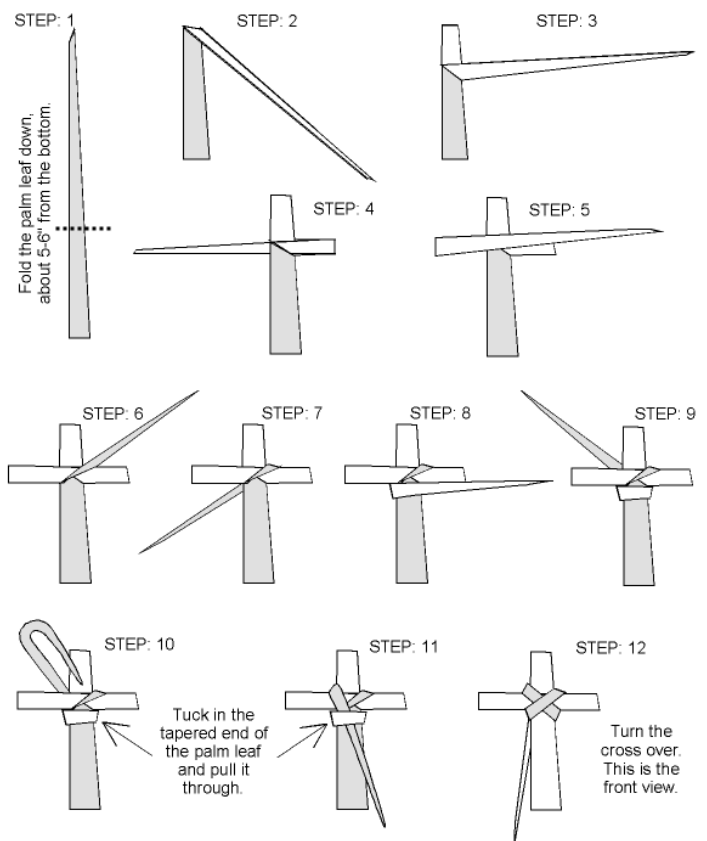
The second part of this project has a goal of raising
\$2000.00 before Easter for the Garneau Strathcona
Food Security Program. This works out to \$20.00 per
bag and provides funds to include protein items.

Please mark your donations (envelopes or Interac E-
transfer) with “Food Security.”

Your support of this program is greatly appreciated!

Palm Leaf Cross Directions

Supplies: One palm leaf strip about 24-26" in length, 1/2" in width, tapering to the end.



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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

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 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 UNITED CHURCH
OFFICE CLOSED FOR EASTER!

The Spirit of Hope United Church office will be closed on
Good Friday, April 3rd, 2026.

Office hours resume on **Tuesday, April 7th, 2026.**

For pastoral emergencies, please call Rev. Blaine Gregg at **(780) 468-1418 (2).**





JAZZ & REFLECTIONS

A Sunday afternoon of jazz and spiritual reflection

MAR 29 - PJ PERRY QUARTET	Sundays from 3:30 to 5 pm
APR 12 - ALLEN JACOBSON TRIO	
APR 19 - SHELLEY JONES TRIO	
APR 26 - DOUG BERNER TRIO	
MAY 3 - JACOB DO TRIO	

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

Spirit of Hope United Church 7909 82 Ave NW

Come as you are!
You're welcome here.

crafts free! food friends games gym sensory friendly fun WiFi

Monday Hangouts for Queer & Allied Youth and Young Adults

Mondays 4-6 pm
7909 Whyte (82) Ave



youth empowered together

@yctcdmonton yctcdmonton@gmail.com

This is a non-religious community program planned by queer youth and hosted by Spirit of Hope United Church



CELEBRATING QUEER JOY

Last Saturday afternoon the Lower Hall and Lobby were transformed with colour and excitement. Several local youths shared their many talents with an enthusiastic crowd. Everyone enjoyed the displays, entertainment, and food. Special thanks to Emi and Benji who organized the many details and to Chris and Roslyn Thomson for running the kitchen.

MOVIE GROUP VIEWING OF THE SHACK

About 16 people enjoyed a viewing of *The Shack* after coffee on Sunday, March 22, 2026. The movie was a fictional presentation of a man's experience of God at a very low point in his life. The movie is based on a book of the same name by William P. Young. William was born and grew up in Alberta. He originally wrote the book as a Christmas gift to his children. It became so popular that it ended up on the New York Times Best Seller List. Five members gathered by Zoom that evening to discuss the movie. Our next movie viewing will be on **Sunday, April 19, 2026**, when we will watch the family friendly movie *K-pop Demon Hunters*.

NEW ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER?

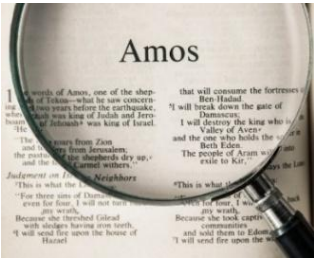
If you are moving or changing your phone number or e-mail address, please let Catherine in the office know. Some greeting cards have been returned "moved – no forwarding address" and we would like to stay connected!

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=dppoit3Y0xobhLke1FM4pxpMJzclbp.1>

Meeting ID: 860 4893 7851 Passcode: 976154



**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!



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>

**SAVE THE DATE:
SUNDAY, APRIL 12 FROM 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.**

**IMAGINE OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD-
BUILDING HOPE AND CONNECTIONS**

Youth, young adults, and young families are invited to connect with others to share food and fun and to explore ways to build hope and connections in their community.



**STAY UP TO DATE AND
SHARE THE NEWS!**



Find us at www.spiritofhope.ca or follow us on Facebook and Instagram –

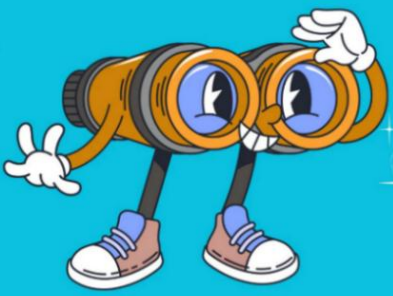
share our posts with your family and friends.

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

SPIRIT OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH

GARAGE SALE

OFFERS YOU CAN'T RESIST, RIGHT IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD



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



SAT APRIL 18
10:30 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.
7909 82 AVE NW

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

A Night with the Knygts!



Join us on May 30th for a night with the Knygts! Step back in time to England in the 14th century. See what daily life was like from how cloth was made, to the arms and armour. Before eating like royalty with a dinner from the Master Cooks of King Richard II. Then see how a knight should be armed, listen to the Canterbury tales and watch two knights dual for glory.

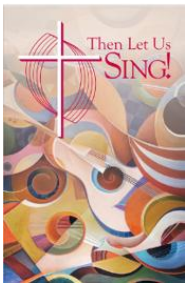
Doors at 4pm with interactive displays
Dinner at 5:30pm with entertainment to follow

Tickets \$30 / Youth \$20
Tickets on sale April 1st



Spirit of Hope United Church
7909 Whyte Ave NW
Phone (780) 468-1418

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 some 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.

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 *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!

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.

Save These Dates!

MARCH TO APRIL 2026

- 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.
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- 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.
- Sun. April 12 - Neighbourhood Dreams- Building Hipe and Connections - 1:00 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.
- Sun. April 15 - Online Book Study (Book of Amos) Part 2 of 4 - 6:30 p.m.
- Sat. April 18 - Spirit of Hope United Church Garage Sale - 10:30 a.m.
- Sun. April 19 - Jazz and Reflections - Shelley Jones Trio - 3:30 p.m.
- Mon. April 20 - YET Hangout For Youth and Young Adults - 4:00 p.m.
- Sat. April 25 - BLT! Breakfast - 8:45 a.m.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE: MARCH 29TH TO APRIL 5TH, 2026

PALM SUNDAY Sun. March 29	10:30 a.m.	Palm Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary and YouTube) https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791
	3:30 p.m.	Jazz and Reflections – PJ Perry Quartet (Sanctuary)
Mon. March 30	4:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	YET (Youth Empowered Together) Monday Hangout (Lower Hall, Kitchen, and Gym) pflag (Multipurpose Room 2)
Tue. March 31	9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Stretch and Flex (Lower Hall) ESSC (Dodgeball) (Gym)
Wed. April 1	1:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Creative Connections (Lobby) Pursuers Toastmasters (Lower Hall) Leadership Team Meeting (Multipurpose Room 2)
MAUNDY THURSDAY Thu. April 2	9:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program Set up (Lobby, Gym, Lower Hall, Kitchen) Maundy Thursday Service and Potluck (Lower Hall and Kitchen) Choir (Sanctuary)
GOOD FRIDAY Fri. April 3	10:30 a.m.	SPIRIT OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH CLOSED Good Friday Worship Service (Sanctuary) https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791
Sat. April 4	8:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program (Lobby, Gym, Lower Hall, Kitchen) Private Booking (Lower Hall)
EASTER SUNDAY Sun. April 5	7:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Easter Sunrise Service (Emily Murphy Park - 11904 Emily Murphy Park Rd NW) Easter Sunday 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

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