



Spirit of Hope United Church

THE SPARK

MAY 17, 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!

MINISTER EMERITUS

The church's Leadership Team is happy to announce
that it has named the Reverend Lloyd Lovatt as a
Minister Emeritus with Spirit of Hope United Church.

Minister Emeritus is an unpaid, honorary ministry
staff position often given to a retired minister who is
active with a particular congregation. As Minister
Emeritus, Lloyd will not have any specific duties or
responsibilities but may offer some study group
opportunities from time to time and will always
welcome conversations after church.

Lloyd describes his biography as a few decades on a
Manitoba family farm, a few decades as a pilot in the
Canadian Forces/RCAF, and a few decades in the Order
of Ministry in The United Church of Canada, with a
decade of retirement tacked onto the end.

Lloyd studied for a Master of Divinity at St Andrew's
College in Saskatoon, graduating in 1995. Following
five years in rural ministry between Melfort and Prince
Albert, SK, he moved to Edmonton in 2000, where he
served eight years with Knox-Metropolitan United
Church and eight years with Pleasantview United
Church. His last few years in ministry included many
memories of brave, compelling, and Spirit-filled
conversation between the people of the Avonmore,
Knox-Metropolitan, Pleasantview, and Ritchie United
Churches that led, in time, to the creation of Spirit of
Hope United Church.

Linda and Lloyd are thankful for the welcome they
have been feeling, returning to this congregation more
and more in the past half year or so. They have two
daughters: Heather (and Jason) and Holly (and Wedi)
and three grandchildren: Trinity, Catelyn, and Oliver.

Please welcome Rev. Lovatt into this special
relationship with Spirit of Hope United Church.

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!

SPIRIT OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Spirit of Hope United Church
office will be closed on
Friday, May 22nd, 2026.

Office hours resume on **Tuesday, May 26th, 2026.**

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



Come as you are!
You're welcome here.

crafts free! food friends games sym

Monday Hangouts
for Queer & Allied Youth
and Young Adults

Mondays 4-6 pm
7909 Whyte (82) Ave

youth empowered together

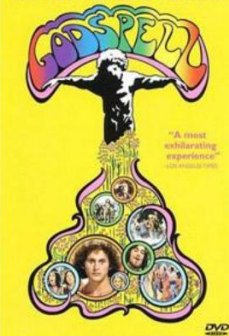
@yctcdmonton yctcdmonton@gmail.com

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

Your generosity makes a difference.

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





Sunday Movie Afternoon
May 24 at 12:30
Godspell (1973 - G)
 Spirit of Hope United Church
 7909 82 (Whyte) Ave NW
 All are welcome. No charge.
 Popcorn provided.

NONNA’S – A MOTHER’S DAY MOVIE

About 11 persons enjoyed watching the Netflix movie, *Nonna’s* on the afternoon of Mother’s Day.

It was based on the true story of the restaurant “Enoteca Maria” on Staten Island, New York. The chefs at the restaurant are all nonnas (grandmothers).

A small group gathered that evening by Zoom to discuss the movie.

Our next movie will be *Godspell* on Sunday, on May 24, and we will be watching *Paddington in Peru* on June 28, 2026.



A Night with the Knygts!
May 30th
Adults \$30
Youth \$20

Take a
 step back
 in time

Doors at 4pm with interactive displays
 Dinner at 5:30pm with entertainment to follow
 7909 Whyte Ave NW

Join us on May 30th for an entertaining 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.

Tickets on sale now! Get them in person on Sunday after the service or contact 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!



IT'S OUR AFFIRMIVERSARIY!
SUNDAY, JUNE 7
10:30 AM SPECIAL SERVICE
11:30 AM POTLUCK TEA PARTY

AFFIRMIVERSARY

On June 7th, we will celebrate our 5th Affirmiversariy. The Affirm team will lead the service, followed by a potluck tea party.

Join us!

If you are able, please bring a cold finger food item to share, such as sandwiches, cheese and crackers, fruit, or vegetables. The Affirm team will provide a cake to mark the occasion.

Show your Pride, wear rainbow colors, and join the celebration!



Community Pride
Saturday, June 20
 3:30 - Crafts & Games
 5:00 - Potluck Supper
 6:30 - Open Mic with Marie Fontaine
 Spirit of Hope United Church
 7909 Whyte (82) Ave

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.



Spring is finally here and the seeds have been planted! Now let's watch the garden grow.

Thanks to Kids United and their leaders for raking, digging, planting, and watering the front garden.



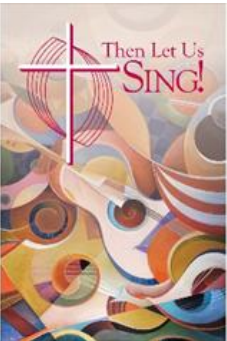
THE TRUSTEES – DID YOU KNOW?

The Trustees of Spirit of Hope United Church are responsible for the care and stewardship of the church's physical and financial assets. We safeguard, maintain, and oversee the church building, land, and contents, and hold legal title to the property in trust for the congregation.

Our work includes ensuring adequate insurance, overseeing endowments and invested funds, and making sure all property-related decisions comply with the United Church's Model Deed, Northern Spirit Regional Council's requirements, and provincial law.

We report regularly to the Leadership Team and the congregation to ensure transparency, accountability, and faithful stewardship of the resources entrusted to Spirit of Hope.

We are Sandra Hawes (Chair), Reverend Blaine Gregg, Katharine Moore, (Secretary), Ted Aistrophe, Lucia Dhliwayo, Kevin Gue, Carol-Ann Lewis, Murray Lindberg, Stewart O'Brien, and Phyllis Verhaar.



THEN LET US SING (TLUS)

Thanks so much to those who donated twenty-seven copies of TLUS to Spirit of Hope. These books will soon be available for people to use during the service. Please let Catherine know if you would like a memorial bookplate place in a book donated by you.

THANK YOU, CHANCEL RINGERS!

Our May 10th service was enriched by the beautiful sounds of the Whitechapel Bells, played by the Chancel Ringers.

The anthem was the well-known hymn "*All Things Bright and Beautiful*," arranged for handbells by Barbara B. Kinyo, and the postlude was "*Meditation*" by Michael Joy.

Thank you to Vici Wynn who has filled in for Lois Lund to lead the bells since January and to Vici and Heather Buckie who shared that responsibility from September to December.



Members of the Chancel Ringers who played on Sunday, May 10: Vici, Suzy, Laura, Dawn, Carol, Justine, Frances, Gaelyn, Meegan and Susan.

Chancel Ringers will break from weekly practices for the summer and return in September. A big thank you to all involved this year, working hard on sight reading, bell switching, dynamics and keeping the tempo.

ALL ABOUT THE SPIRIT OF HOPE COMMUNITY

The Promotions Team needs your assistance. They have developed a short survey to collect information about your perspectives and experiences as part of the Spirit of Hope community.

Thanks to those of you who completed the survey last Sunday. Your responses will help the team in developing messaging to share who we are on the church website and in other promotions.

Copies of the survey are available at the Welcome Desk, or you can complete it at this link: <https://forms.gle/MVRcRjvujP5haqBYA>

EMAIL SCAM

If you receive an email from someone claiming to be from the church, staff, or a member of the congregation, asking for money, gift cards, or a deposit for a potential purchase, it is **NOT** legitimate.



These scams may say the person cannot be contacted directly, and the email address may appear legitimate.

Please do not respond or send anything. When in doubt, contact the church office directly.

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.



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!

APRIL 2026

Tracking of Givings				
Categories	Budget	4/12 Budget	Year to Date	Variance from Budget
Local Envelope Offering	\$ 179,500	\$ 59,833	\$ 55,550	\$ (4,284)
Other Receipts for Local	\$ 22,900	\$ 7,633	\$ 4,751	\$ (2,883)
Givings to M&S	\$ 20,240	\$ 6,747	\$ 8,027	\$ 1,280

Save These Dates!

MAY TO JULY 2026

- Mon. May 18 - Victoria Day
- Sun. May 24 - Afternoon Movie - *Godspell* - 12:30 p.m.
- Sat. May 30 - Night with the Knygts - Medieval Feast - 4:00 p.m.
- Wed. June 3 - Leadership Team Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- Sun. June 7 - Affirmiversary Service - 10:30 a.m.
- Sat. June 20 - Family Open Mic - 6:30 p.m.
- Sun. June 28 - Afternoon Movie - *Paddington in Peru* - 12:30 p.m.
- Wed. July 1 - Canada Day

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE:
MAY 17TH TO MAY 24TH, 2026

Sun. May 17	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary and YouTube) https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791
Mon. May 18		VICTORIA DAY (SPIRIT OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH CLOSED)
Tue. May 19	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Stretch and Flex (Lower Hall) Spirit of Hope United Church Ladies' Group (Lower Hall and Kitchen) Tuesday Hymn Sing (Zoom) https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87850083785?pwd=4EwQxk4TP3nGaKh3MSrB7brp288WWt.1
Wed. May 20	1:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Creative Connections (Lobby) Private Booking (Kitchen) ESSC (Dodgeball) (Gym) Pursuers Toastmasters (Multipurpose Room 2)
Thu. May 21	6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	pflag (Lower Hall) Choir (Sanctuary)
Fri. May 22	9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	SPIRIT OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program Set up (Lobby, Gym, Lower Hall, Kitchen) 3-2-1 Fun! (Lower Hall)
Sat. May 23	8:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program (Lobby, Lower Hall, Kitchen) Jane Austen Society (Lower Hall))
Sun. May 24	10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary and YouTube) https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791 Afternoon Movie <i>Godspell</i> (Lower Hall and Kitchen) Movie Discussion <i>Godspell</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
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
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WIFI ACCESS WHILE AT CHURCH
Network: Spirit of Hope Guest