



Spirit of Hope United Church

THE SPARK

November 16, 2025



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 ALONE!



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!



PADDINGTON 2 MOVIE GROUP VIEWING AND DISCUSSION

Today at 12:30 p.m., after coffee time
in the Lower Hall, we will be watching
the delightful family film
Paddington 2.

This heartwarming movie stars Hugh Bonneville, Sally Hawkins, and Ben Whishaw as the voice of Paddington.

It follows Paddington as he sets out to buy the perfect gift for his Aunt Lucy's 100th birthday, only to have it stolen, leading to an unforgettable adventure filled with humour, kindness, and marmalade.

We will also gather that evening at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom
for a discussion of this charming film.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91937034300?pwd=rZ18hVJhjaqbzyMBtkAHgZlW4kaMbB.1>

Meeting ID: 919 3703 4300 Passcode: 623451



November Schedule

YET for youth and young adults
Mondays 4pm to 6pm

3 rd	Paint Night	
10 th	Closed for Remembrance Day	
17 th	Open Craft or Bring Your Own Craft	
24 th	Board Game Night	

**7909 Whyte (82) Ave NW
Edmonton AB**
Snacks & Drinks Provided



**JOIN IN THE COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS
AT SPIRIT OF HOPE!**

Having enjoyed the fun and success of our Community Halloween Party, we are now turning our attention to our annual **Christmas Bake Sale and Artisan Market on Saturday, November 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Hosted by the Ladies Group, Handbell Choir, Santa, and his helpers and more than 15 vendors selling their creations, this event is not to be missed! Not only does it immerse us in the sights and smells of Christmas, but it is also one of our major fund-raising events of the year.



This year’s vendors include at least four of our members, several community artisans who are returning from last year and some who will be here for the first time. There will be jams, preserves, relishes, pickles, chutneys, salsas and more. In addition, photo cards, placemats, decorated baskets, crochet art, wood bowls and other woodworking wonders, earrings, bookmarks and decorated rocks, Christmas ornaments, botanicals, and handmade journals will be featured! This is a photo of some of the beautiful items Eva Cooper will be selling. Your support and encouragement will be much appreciated!

An amazing array of baked goods that will be on sale in the upstairs lobby as well as puzzles in the gym (hosted by members of the Chancel Ringers Handbell Choir). There will be a gift-wrapping table, and Santa will be on hand for you to visit and have your photo taken with him. And last, but certainly not least, the legendary beef on a bun with refreshments and homemade pie will be served in the Lower Hall.

We are still looking for **HELPERS** for this year’s event, particularly in taking down tables and putting chairs away after the doors close at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 22. Also, a few folks who are happy to pitch in and help during the day wherever they might be needed. That could be YOU!

If you are interested and able to participate, please talk with Heather Baker, one of the Ladies Group coordinators. Heather has the master volunteer list and will be downstairs at one of the tables during coffee time on November 2 and 9 — to answer your questions and sign you up!



Christmas Giving Tree

HELP BRING JOY TO FAMILIES IN NEED!



We are collecting new, unwrapped gifts for the Bissell Holiday Toy Drive

INFANTS (0-2): musical toys, rattles, shape stackers, board books

CHILDREN (3-11): picture books, graphic novels, sporting goods, craft & science sets, puzzles, art supplies, dolls, building toys, vehicle toys, animal toys

YOUTH (12+): gift cards, sporting goods, sealed cosmetics, board games, puzzles, art supplies

*Please, no used items, food or candy.

Drop off donations at Spirit of Hope United Church
7909 82 Ave NW

Sunday, Nov 30 or Dec 7 OR
Tues, Wed, Thurs between 10 am - 2 pm

**SHORT REMINDERS
OF OUR HISTORY**

The 1988 General Council decision that “all people regardless of sexual orientation are welcome as full members of the United Church” and that “all members of the United Church are eligible to be considered for ministry” made national headlines.

It was still a very hot topic at the 1990 General Council meeting as a group known as the Community of Concern tried to stir up opposition. Presently there are 44 Affirming congregations in Alberta, the latest being Living Spirit in Drayton Valley. Nationally there are over 300 Affirming ministries openly welcoming all people.

Short Stories by Gayle Simonson of Edmonton





Community

FUN FEST

Experience the joy of the season with a delightful array of games, treats, and crafts for all ages!

SAT, DEC 6

3 TO 7 PM

3 pm - Games, gym activities, snacks, crafts
5 pm - Potluck supper



Spirit of Hope United Church

7909 82 Ave NW

780-468-1418

www.spiritofhope.ca



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.



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

Find us at www.spiritofhope.ca or like us on Facebook – 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



An Evening of Carols & Treats



Tuesday, December 16 at 7 pm

Celebrate this special season with friends, family and neighbours.
Sing your favourite Christmas carols.
Then enjoy visiting while you enjoy hot cider and seasonal treats.
No charge. Donations appreciated to cover costs.
All are welcome!!

Spirit of Hope United Church 7909 82 Ave. NW

BEING KIND AND CARING FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS!

Since Covid-19, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), Influenza and other infectious conditions will always be with us, those who are feeling ill, have recently been exposed to an infection or have significant health issues are encouraged to attend online services and meetings. When food is served in the church, groups are encouraged to use servers or set out food in individual portions.

Masks are available at the Welcome Desk and hand sanitizer is in the Lobby and the 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 practice on Sunday is:

- Bread and juice for communion will be served in individual portions.

The Leadership Team will continue to review church practices in response to changing circumstances.

Tracking of Givings				
Categories	Budget	10/12 Budget	Year to Date	Variance from Budget
Local Envelope Offering	\$ 170,000	\$ 141,667	\$ 128,192	\$ (13,475)
Other Receipts for Local	\$ 24,476	\$ 20,396	\$ 16,423	\$ (3,974)
Givings to M&S	\$ 19,448	\$ 16,206	\$ 18,364	\$ 2,158

Save These Dates!

- Sun. November 16 - Movie Afternoon *Paddington 2* - 12:30 p.m.
Mon. November 17 - Youth Empowered Together Monday Hangouts - 4:00 p.m.
Sat. November 22 - Christmas Bake Sale and Artisan Market - 10:00 a.m.
Mon. November 24 - Youth Empowered Together Monday Hangouts - 4:00 p.m.
Sun. November 30 - First Sunday of Advent - Christmas Giving Tree - 10:30 a.m.
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- Mon. December 1 - Youth Empowered Together Monday Hangouts - 4:00 p.m.
Sat. December 6 - Community Fun Fest - 3:00 p.m.
Sun. December 7 - Second Sunday of Advent - 10:30 a.m.
Mon. December 8 - Youth Empowered Together Monday Hangouts - 4:00 p.m.
Sun. December 14 - Third Sunday of Advent - 10:30 a.m.
Mon. December 15 - Youth Empowered Together Monday Hangouts - 4:00 p.m.
Tue. December 16 - Carols and Treats - 7:00 p.m.
Sun. December 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent - 10:30 a.m.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE:
NOVEMBER 16TH TO NOVEMBER 23RD, 2025

Sun. November 16	10:30 a.m. 12:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary and YouTube) https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791 Movie Afternoon <i>Paddington 2</i> (Lower Hall and Kitchen) Movie Discussion <i>Paddington 2</i> (Zoom) https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91937034300?pwd=rZ18hVJhjaqbzyMBtkAHgZIW4kaMbB.1
Mon. November 17	4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Youth Empowered Together Monday Hang Outs (Lower Hall, Kitchen, and Gym) ESSC (Dodgeball) (Gym) Chancel Ringers (Sanctuary)
Tue. November 18	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Stretch and Flex (Lower Hall) Spirit of Hope United Church Ladies' Group (Lower Hall and Kitchen) ESSC (Dodgeball) (Gym) Tuesday Hymn Sing (Zoom) https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87850083785?pwd=4EwQxk4TP3nGaKh3MSrB7brp288WWt.1
Wed. November 19	1:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Creative Connections (Lobby) Pursuers Toastmasters (Multipurpose Room 2) Stewardship Team Meeting (Zoom)
Thu. November 20	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	pflag (Lower Hall) Private Booking (Gym) Choir (Sanctuary)
Fri. November 21	7:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.	Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program Set Up (Lobby, Gym, and Kitchen) Christmas Bake Sale and Artisan Market Set Up (Lower Hall, Kitchen, and Gym)
Sat. November 22	8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program (Lobby, Gym, and Kitchen) Christmas Bake Sale and Artisan Market (Lower Hall, Gym, and Kitchen)
Sun. November 23	10:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary and YouTube) https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791 Private Booking (Gym)

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
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WIFI ACCESS WHILE AT CHURCH
Network: Spirit of Hope Guest
Password: SOHGuest