



Spirit of Hope United Church

THE SPARK

November 30, 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 FUN FEST - THIS SATURDAY

This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome people from the community and to get to know each other better.

You will definitely get into the spirit of the season when you come along and choose from the many options available. You might want to invite a special friend or relative to come with you; play a game of cards or a board game; have fun in the gym; decorate cupcakes; enjoy refreshments, visit with others, relax or watch the fun.

At 5:00 p.m. you can enjoy sharing a yummy chili potluck supper. Bring your favourite salad, dessert, buns, or pickles.

Judy Meintzer will be at the Welcome Desk after the service if you have questions or want to help with set-up, activities, or clean-up.



ADVENT 1 - HOPE
Nov 30

Advent Services
Sundays at 10:30 am

ADVENT 2 - PEACE
Dec 7
Giving Tree -
Toy donations for Bissell

ADVENT 3 - JOY
Dec 14
Chancel Ringers

ADVENT 4 - LOVE
Dec 21
Lessons & Carols Service
Christmas Lunch
Donations to SEEDS




STAY UP TO DATE AND SHARE THE NEWS!



Find us at www.spiritofhope.ca or like 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



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



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

KEEP A LOOKOUT! – DECEMBER ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

This December, Edmonton will be the focus of a new United Church of Canada advertising campaign which aims to spark curiosity and spiritual reflection during the Christmas season through digital billboards in high-traffic areas near United Church communities. The advertisements will use the *A Place at the Table* image, a reimagining of Da Vinci's *Last Supper* as a representation of our faith community: one committed to welcoming people of all backgrounds, identities, and experiences.



The billboards will include the United Church crest and name, as well as a URL with information about the image and a map with a listing of local congregations. Keep an eye out for the ads and an ear to the ground to listen to what people are saying about the campaign!

Let's be prepared to welcome new people who may come through our doors this season looking for a place to belong.



SHORT REMINDERS OF OUR HISTORY



“Here from the Beginning” is an exhibit “celebrating the history of the United Church of Canada through the lens of black people.”

The planning committee considers it a step in the church’s journey to be an intercultural and anti-racist church. Several display panels describe some of the early experiences, both positive and negative, of black people in Canada and in the church.

Others focus on individuals, both professionals and laity, who have contributed over the years to the church of today.

In August this year, the display began a year-long cross-country tour. It is expected to be in the four western provinces June-August 2026 and is an excellent display of history.

Short Stories by Gayle Simonson of Edmonton

Sunday Movie Afternoon

Frozen Sing-Along

**DECEMBER 14
12:30 PM**

Spirit of Hope United Church
7909 Whyte (82) Ave NW

SPIRITOFHOPE.CA 780 468 1418 OFFICEADMIN.SPIRITOFHOPE@SHAW.CA

SHARING WARMTH IN OUR COMMUNITY

On November 23, 25 beanie toques were given to ICPM and 72 were placed in the Giving Box for the Bissell Centre.

Special thank you to the yarn donors making this possible.

Scarves have also been knit and sent directly, again thank you for those amazing contributions.

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.

CITY CHURCH CURLING CLUB: SPRING SEASON STARTS SOON

City Church Curling Club is looking forward to another great spring season of curling at the Shamrock Curling Club, 9330 - 80 Avenue NW.

The season will begin January 5 to March 16 at 9:30 a.m., Monday morning.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact president, Larry at 780 462 6167 or Carol at 780 435 6832.



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

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!

Shortest Day Service

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES

Sunday, Dec 21 at 2:30 pm



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.

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2025

Save These Dates!

- Sun. November 30 - First Sunday of Advent - Christmas Giving Tree - 10:30 a.m.
- 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.
- Sun. December 7 - A Christmas Organ Recital "*I Dulci Jublio*" - 12:45 p.m.
- Mon. December 8 - Youth Empowered Together Monday Hangouts - 4:00 p.m.
- Sun. December 14 - Third Sunday of Advent - 10:30 a.m.
- Sun. December 14 - Afternoon Movie "*Frozen - Sing-Along*" - 12:30 p.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.
- Sun. December 21 - Christmas Dinner- Donations to SEEDS - 12:00 p.m.
- Sun. December 21 - Shortest Day Service To Remember Our Loved Ones - 2:30 p.m.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE: NOVEMBER 30TH TO DECEMBER 7TH, 2025

Sun. November 30	10:30 a.m.	First Sunday of Advent Worship Service – Giving Tree (Sanctuary and YouTube) https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791
Mon. December 1	4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Youth Empowered Together Monday Hang Outs (Lower Hall, Kitchen, and Gym) ESSC (Dodgeball) (Gym) pflag (Lower Hall) Chancel Ringers (Sanctuary)
Tue. December 2	9:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Stretch and Flex (Lower Hall) Communications Committee Meeting (Zoom) Tuesday Hymn Sing (Zoom) https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89719672129?pwd=2cbuy2Rjc9r7rFPC0NID8bd5uKKN0V.1
Wed. December 3	1:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Creative Connections (Lobby) Pursuers Toastmasters (Multipurpose Room 2) Leadership Team Meeting (Zoom)
Thu. December 4	9:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	Southeast Edmonton Community Collaborative Networking Session (Lower Hall) Private Booking (Gym) Choir (Sanctuary)
Fri. December 5	7:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program Set Up (Lobby, Gym, and Kitchen) 321 Fun! (Lower Hall and Kitchen)
Sat. December 6	8:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program (Lobby, Gym, and Kitchen) Winter Community Fun Fest (Lower Hall, Kitchen, and Gym)
Sun. December 7	10:30 a.m. 12:45 p.m. 1:30 p.m.	Second Sunday of Advent Worship Service (Sanctuary and YouTube) https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791 A Christmas Organ Recital "<i>I Dulci Jublio</i>" (Sanctuary) 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.

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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

LEADERSHIP TEAM NEWS IN BRIEF

Meeting: November 5, 2025

WE DECIDED:

- To plan and hold a Leadership Team Retreat on Saturday, January 24, 2026. A planning team was struck to prepare for this meeting.
- To renew our movie license so that we can continue to promote and show a variety of films at the church.
- To accept a donation of a backpack snowblower for Leo's use.
- To provide space for a rental group to store equipment in a storage container in the back parking lot for a weekly fee.
- To prepare and send out a letter to promote events of the Advent season, share gratitude for the generosity of the Spirit of Hope community and invite all to consider an increase in their givings in December and the new year.

WE DISCUSSED:

- The invitation from General Council to participate in an Advent campaign continuing the "A place at the Table" project. Rev. Blaine, Cathy and Judy will attend an online meeting to find out more about this opportunity.
- How best to use our time at the monthly Leadership Team meetings to focus on mission and future strategies, not past business. We will have an agenda item of "Growing Edge" issues to discuss at the LT Meetings.
- The need to fill the upcoming vacancies in the Leadership Team, Trustees and Ministry and Personnel Committee, and ways to support the Nominating Committee to identify and approach people interested in serving the SOH community in leadership positions.
- Ways we can effectively inform the congregation of and implement the "Creating Safe and Respectful Environments Policy" from the United Church of Canada.
- Our concern regarding the lack of communication from Northern Spirit Regional Council when it comes to the dissemination of funds

from the sale of church properties. A letter outlining these concerns will be sent to the Regional Council.

- The cards of thanks we received from a rental group and an event organizer.

LOOKING FORWARD TO:

- The many events of the coming Advent Season
 - Christmas Vendor Market, Bake Sale and Beef on a Bun
 - Family Fun Fest and Pot Luck Supper
 - Organ Recital
 - Christmas Carol and Treats
 - Movie – Frozen Sing a Long
 - Lessons and Carols Service
 - SEEDS Fundraising Lunch
 - Two Christmas Eve Services
 - And other events that are new and ongoing.
- The completion of the installation of the solar panels, and their connection to our electrical system.

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Leadership Team Members:

Chair: Jim Lewis

Past Chair: Carol Loewen

Secretary: Phyllis Verhaar

Treasurer: Kevin Gue

Ministry and Personnel: Eva Cooper

Trustees: Sandra Hawes

Property, Finance and Stewardship: Cathy Martin

Worship Faith in Action Team (FIAT): Vici Wynn and Roslyn Thomson

Learning and Growth FIAT: Heather Green and Chris Meintzer

Just and Caring Community FIAT: Judy Meintzer and Sara van Halderen

Communications: Susan Bramm

Minister: Reverend Blaine Gregg