



Spirit of Hope United Church

THE SPARK

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025



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!



COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY BBQ AND SHOWCASE TODAY!

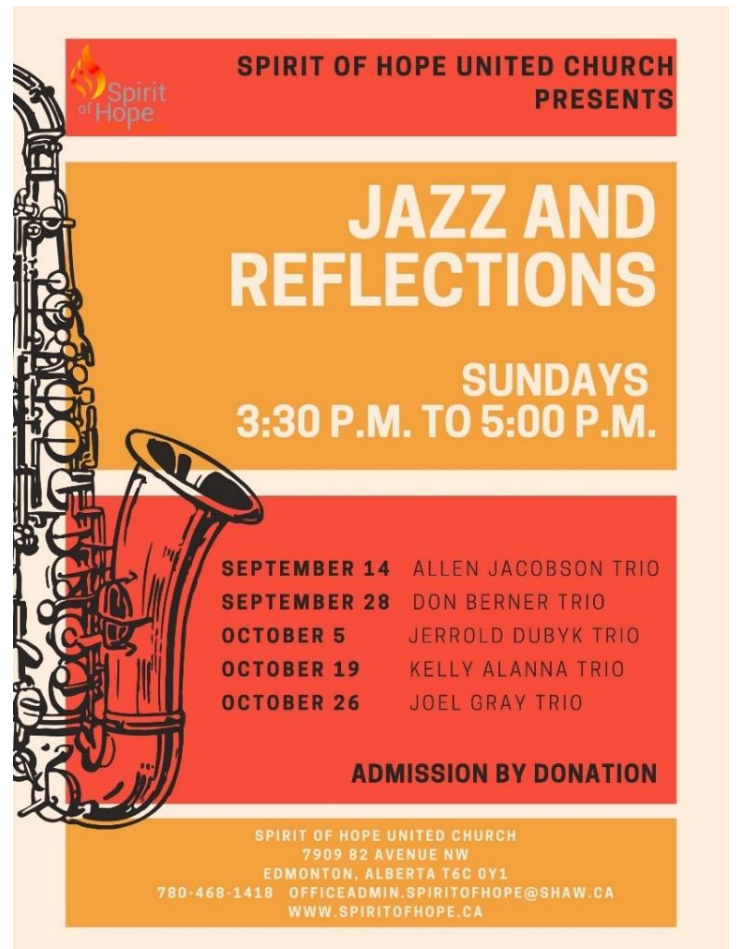
Today Spirit of Hope is hosting its annual Community BBQ and Showcase in the Gym - from 11:45 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. (see poster, above).

Members of our church and neighbouring community are invited to learn about the variety of services and support provided by community-based agencies and Spirit of Hope to people who live in Southeast Edmonton.

Join with others in our community to enjoy coffee, tea and other refreshments as well as a BBQed hotdog with all the trimmings!

Thank you to those who have offered to help with this special event.

We look forward to rolling out the welcome carpet at Spirit of Hope with warmth and smiles.



BLT! BREAKFAST IS BACK

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, September 27, 2025.**

Our first speaker of the year will be Kelly Erickson at 8:45 a.m. that morning in the Lower Hall.

Kelly is a Master of Counselling practicum student with Square Peg Psychology.

The title of Kelly's talk is "**Being a Good Ally to our LGBTQIA2S+ Friends and Family**".

This breakfast is co-sponsored by the Affirm Team.

Tickets will be on sale at coffee time on Sundays.

See you then!



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

SUNDAY MOVIE GROUP VIEWING

Our next movie will be *Conclave* after coffee on **Sunday, September 28** in the Lower Hall.



This movie released in 2024 and based on the 2016 book by Robert Harris dramatizes the process the cardinals follow to select a new Pope for the Roman Catholic Church.

The movie is rated PG, but the content will not likely be interesting to young children.

We will meet that evening at 7:00 p.m. by Zoom to have a discussion and consider future movie options.

Zoom link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91937034300?pwd=OU5rODVFN0F3eUZFZjNPUUdyV1FtUT09&fbclid=IwZXh0bG9hZWOCMTAAAR3-2p61i_E4HfddoWq7M7hF5hrb9fc8nXeU-7fS6oaFA83VPCuFywd-fKk_aem_rh9e6t60Zeaqar7-bGI6A

Meeting ID: 919 3703 4300 Passcode: 623451

SPIRIT OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Spirit of Hope United Church office will be closed on **Friday, September 26th, 2025.**

Office hours resume on **Wednesday, October 1st, 2025.**

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



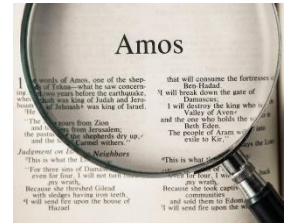
PLANNED GIVING & ESTATE PLANNING SESSION – OCTOBER 5, 2025

The Stewardship Team is delighted to offer a session on Planned Giving and Estate Planning after church service in the Lower Hall on **Sunday, October 5**, presented by Jacklynn Pivovar, from Miller Thompson LLP.

Many thanks to Sandra Hawes for connecting with Jacklynn to provide this valuable information on October 5, 2025.

A light lunch will be provided.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY AMOS – A PROPHET OF RESISTANCE



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

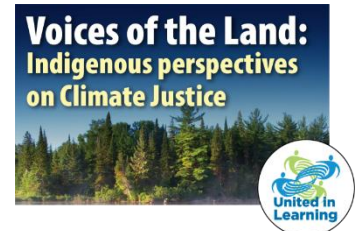
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86048937851?pwd=dppoi t3Y0xobhLke1FM4pxpMJzcLbp.1>

Meeting ID: 860 4893 7851

Passcode: 976154

LEARNING ABOUT RECONCILIATION

Tuesday, September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.



This coming **October 23, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (MDT)** the United Church of Canada will be airing a webinar titled, “Voices of the Land: Indigenous Perspectives on Climate Justice”.

The link below will take you to information on the webinar and how to join on October 23, 2025.

The Learning and Growth FIAT is bringing this to your attention as we are committed to Learning, Changing and Growing Together.

https://united-church.ca/events/voices-land-indigenous-perspectives-climate-justice?utm_source=E-Newsletters&utm_campaign=7c950cd6b0-ES_250311_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-3c3b6f8241-190243836&goal=0_53a49c9e28-7c950cd6b0-190243836&mc_cid=7c950cd6b0&mc_eid=04ed6a61d

HYMN SELECTIONS

The last Sunday of every month is Celebration Sunday at Spirit of Hope. What would you like to sing during the hymn sing that day, or during an upcoming worship service?



Please put your suggestions in the Favourite Hymn box on the Welcome Desk.

YET (Youth Empowered Together)
Invites All Queer & Allied Youth to
Monday Hangouts for Youth

Join the fun on Mondays from 4-6 pm
Spirit of Hope - 7909 Whyte (82nd) Avenue NW
Connect with us @ yetedmonton@gmail.com

games food open gym
new skills friends
crafts Grades 7 to 12 fun
WiFi it's free! sensory friendly safe
YET

Led by youth 4 youth - this is not a religious event

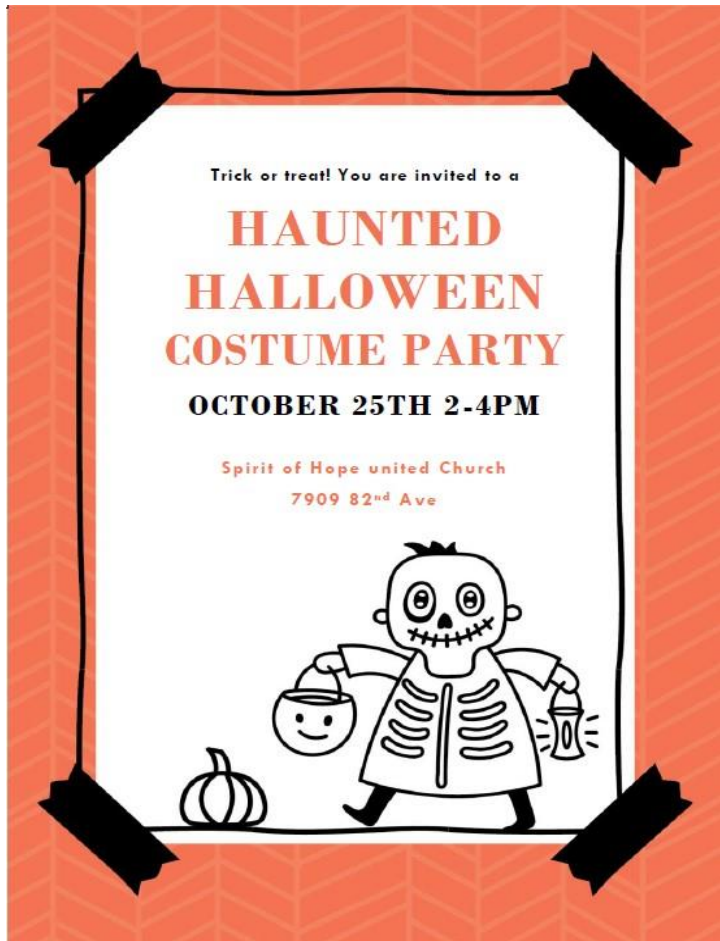


JAZZ AND REFLECTIONS

The new season of Jazz and Reflections opened last Sunday with the Allen Jacobson Trio.

Their music, which included a few standards and some original compositions, was well received by the audience.

A huge thank you to the volunteers (bakers, servers, set-up, welcomers) who make this series possible!



IT'S TIME TO ORDER YOUR 2026 UNITED CHURCH CALENDAR

This year, the calendar features our Spirit of Hope with Rick Bramm's great photograph of our sanctuary. We are the only Albertan church chosen this year. **The cost of the calendar is \$10** (which includes the shipping), with any profit going to Spirit of Hope. You can view the calendar here:

https://ucrdstore.ca/products/2026-canadian-church-calendar?srsId=AfmBOoq_epul9s4jMaT7QNfqJRRUp-MXA4uGnWAsCv4WN2TakzBQ8OQR

Please see Vici Wynn if you wish to order a calendar (or more). Christmas is coming! Thank you.

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.



THANKFUL FOR FOOD!

Over the summer, about 90 families per week benefited from the Garneau Strathcona Food Security program because of your generous donations of eggs, tuna and a great variety of other items; surplus items from the Food Bank; and bread from Safeway, Sobeyes, and once a month, from Cobs.

The Garneau Strathcona Food Security program would like to offer the guests of the program a little something extra in their bags on October 11, just in time for Thanksgiving.

We are seeking your help to collect boxes of stove top stuffing, mashed potatoes, cans of cranberry sauce, and packets of gravy mix.

So from now until October 5, if you (and perhaps your family and friends) are able to contribute any of these Thanksgiving items, please bring them to the church and put them in the Food Donation box in the Foyer.

The items will be gathered together for distribution on **October 11, 2025**.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Food Security program.



SHORT REMINDERS OF OUR HISTORY

Early in the 20th century, racial prejudice was pronounced in Canada. In 1907, Union Congregational Church in Montreal was known as Porters' Church because men in its black congregation were often away, working primarily as train porters. Women took on leadership roles. In 1925, Union became part of the United Church of Canada. It still encourages lay leadership and now offers a prison ministry as part of its outreach program.

While his father and brother worked as train porters, in 1941, Wilbur Howard became the first black to be ordained by the United Church. While others during college received student mission placements, Howard worked at the Fred Victor Mission in Toronto and in summer camps. He was also not settled in a congregation upon graduation as others were, instead working in other church positions. As associate editor of Sunday School publications, he helped shape the New Curriculum of the 1960s. Finally in 1965, he received a call to Dominion-Chalmers United Church in Ottawa, then in 1970 to Emmanuel United, Ottawa. He subsequently became president of Montreal-Ottawa Conference and the 1974 meeting of General Council elected him the first black Moderator of the national church.

Short Stories by Gayle Simonson of Edmonton

CITY CHURCH CURLING CLUB

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

Curling from October 20 to December 15, Monday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon).

For more information, contact Larry, president, 780 462-6167 or Carol, 780 435-6832.



PROMOTING EVENTS

There are many simple ways that you can support Spirit of Hope by promoting the many community events and fundraisers.



Even if you aren't able to attend an event you can:

- Share upcoming events with friends and family.
- Take posters or handbills to neighbourhood businesses. Many stores and coffee shops have bulletin boards.
- Follow the Spirit of Hope Facebook page. 'Like' and share upcoming events on your page.
- Request electronic versions of posters from Catherine to share by email.

Posters and handbills for most events are available on the Welcome Desk.

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!

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	8/12 Budget	Year to Date	Variance from Budget
Local Envelope Offering	\$ 170,000	\$ 113,333	\$ 97,738	\$ (15,596)
Other Receipts for Local	\$ 24,476	\$ 16,317	\$ 14,784	\$ (1,533)
Givings to M&S	\$ 19,448	\$ 12,965	\$ 14,634	\$ 1,669

SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER 2025

Save These Dates!

- Sun. September 21 - Community BBQ and Showcase - 11:45 a.m.
 - Mon. September 22- Youth Empowered Together Monday Hangouts - 4:00 p.m.
 - Sat. September 27 - BLT! Breakfast - 8:45 a.m.
 - Sun. September 28 - Movie Afternoon - *Conclave* - 12:30 p.m.
 - Sun. September 28 - Jazz and Reflections - 3:30 p.m.
 - Mon. September 29 - Youth Empowered Together Monday Hangouts - 4:00 p.m.
 - Tue. September 30 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
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- Sun. October 5 - Jazz and Reflections - 3:30 p.m.
 - Mon. October 6 - Youth Empowered Together Monday Hangouts - 4:00 p.m.
 - Wed. October 8 - Online Bible Study (Week 1 of 4) - 6:30 p.m.
 - Sun. October 12 - Thanksgiving Sunday
 - Wed. October 15 - Online Bible Study (Week 2 of 4) - 6:30 p.m.
 - Sun. October 19 - 9th Street Players Annual Meeting - 12:00 p.m.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE: SEPTEMBER 21ST TO SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2025

Sun. September 21	10:30 a.m. 11:45 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary and YouTube) https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791 Community BBQ and Showcase (Lower Hall, Kitchen and Lobby) Ecumenical Prayer Services in the style of Taizé (Sanctuary)
Mon. September 22	4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Youth Empowered Together Monday Hangout (Lower Hall and Kitchen) ESSC (Dodgeball) (Gym) Chancel Ringers (Sanctuary) Property and Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom)
Tue. September 23	9:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Stretch and Flex (Lower Hall) Communication Committee Meeting (Zoom) ESSC (Dodgeball) (Gym)
Wed. September 24	1:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Creative Connections (Lobby) ESSC (Dodgeball) (Gym)
Thu. September 25	6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	ESSC (Dodgeball) (Gym) Private Booking (Lower Hall) Choir (Sanctuary)
Fri. September 26	7:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	SPIRIT OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program Set Up (Lobby, Gym and Kitchen) pflag (Lower Hall)
Sat. September 27	8:00 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	Garneau Strathcona Food Security Program (Lobby, Gym, and Kitchen) BLT! Breakfast (Lower Hall and Kitchen)
Sun. September 28	10:30 a.m. 11:45 a.m. 3:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary and YouTube) https://youtube.com/@spiritofhopeunitedchurch791 Afternoon Movie <i>Conclave</i> (Lower Hall and Kitchen) Jazz and Reflections – Don Berner Trio (Sanctuary) Movie Discussion <i>Conclave</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