Salisbury United Church

"Connecting hearts, minds, and lives in community with God"

"Be compassionate as your God in heaven is compassionate."

Luke 6:36-38

August 2026 E-News

SOMETHING TO PONDER BY REV BRITT

Water is very much on our minds these days. We know that 71% of the world is covered in water but we have good grounds to suspect that most of it this summer seems to be right here in Strathcona County. "Overland flooding" is a term many of us have heard often this summer and now are quite familiar with. With the ground saturated and the water pressure pushing the flow somewhere, our basements and indoor spaces have been attracting a lot of liquid attention.

If your home or business or land and fields have been affected by overland flooding or water damage I hope you are managing as best you can to get done what can be done, done. Some things are however bigger than our immediate capacity to solve them.

The actuarial term for these extreme weather events is to refer to them as "Acts of God." I suppose it is because they seem to us ordinary folks to come out of nowhere. They are hard to predict and are not something we have control over. Most insurance policies have traditionally made provision for so-called acts of God, although that is changing as we live through many more frequent extreme weather events.

The idea that extreme acts of destructive weather fall under God's control and not ours is as old as the Bible and older. God the Creator *is* the God of the storm, the waves, the earthquake and fire as much as God is the God of the still small voice and wings of a dove. While we like the idea of a softer, gentler God, we also have a tradition that recognizes that our God is not a tame God who fits the size of our own need for comfort. As we look around us and see the weather effects we are experiencing, the shape of the God we lean on matters to how we live with and alongside each other in the midst of the turbulence.

One way to deal with our understanding of God in the face of catastrophe is to say, "Well, it's just how things are. God will do what God does and the world will run the way the world runs. It's always been like this and it's just a phase we have to put up with. The problem I see with this response is that it is both passive regarding our capacity as human beings to do things that matter in the face of disturbance and trouble. It also distances us from God. God becomes an entity out there who will do whatever God does from wherever God is. This is a God more like the old Greek and Roman Gods—capricious and uncaring—than the compassionate God of Christ we meet in the Bible.

Another way to deal with our understanding of God in the face of catastrophe is to get angry and ask why God does not do anything about our particular troubles, especially when they occur on a massive scale. Wouldn't a caring God want to spare people from pain? Pain is real and should not be dismissed. Asking this question is important because it shows we are engaged with God directly and are not unmoved by what is happening in the world. Being moved by suffering is in fact the beginning of compassion. But our questioning of God often does not go far enough because we stop at questioning ourselves. We still remain passive about understanding the role human beings play in contributing to or repairing the damage from current trouble.

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There is a crucial question which we as people of faith must go on to ask at some point in the midst of trouble. "What part do I or my community play in what is happening? How can I or we be part of making it at least a little better?"All clear definitions of compassion include this second part. You may be moved by another's trouble and or suffering, but if you remain passive about helping to lighten or alleviate the load on others you have not yet entered into full compassion. Full compassion leads you to ask how you you might be part of the repair or change the household, neighborhood or world needs.

What is happening to our weather systems and patterns is bigger than any one of us. This turmoil is not a passing matter of a bad season or two. That sounds ominous and we don't want to think about it that way. But, we have been told for decades to anticipate long-term climate instability as a consequence of our industrial and personal reliance on fossil fuels. I have heard this since I was a child and I am now in my sixties. The only way to navigate what is more than a passing season is, I suggest, to find our way into a disposition of compassion. Jesus told his followers to "be compassionate as your Father in heaven is compassionate." (Luke 6:36-38)
He taught us that compassion is the defining characteristic of God's very being, and so God is not out there and distant, nor is God harmful and cruel and controlling.

There is no better time than today to begin dwelling in compassion with God, so that the presence we bring to the world is one which is generous in forgiveness and at the same time stalwart in seeking paths which contribute to the wellbeing of the place where we live, including the land and the water, which are out of balance with each other and also are suffering.

UPCOMING DATES:

- August 6th – Worship Committee Meeting, 2pm
- August 7th – MCT Meeting, 10am
- August 10th-30th – Rev. Britt away
- September 6th – Coffee Fellowship Resumes
- September 16th - Board Meeting, 3pm
- October 4th-7th – Ecumenical Mission of Strathcona County
- October 5th – Ecumenical Mission Evening Service @ Salisbury, 7pm
- October 21st - Board Meeting, 3pm
- November 11th – Remembrance Day, Church Office Closed
- November 22nd – Congregational Budget Meeting, *after worship*

REV BRITT AWAY FROM AUGUST 10TH-31ST

Rev. Britt will be away beginning August 10th. Sunday service leaders while she is on holidays will be:

August 16: Jackie St. Goddard
August 23: Ron French, Marvin Trimble, Nina Hoffman
August 30: Stuart Jackson

Rev. Britt will return on Wednesday, September 2nd.
If you have any urgent matters during this time, please contact the church office.

CHURCH BASEMENT FLOODING

NEW

Please note that, due to the influx of rain on Monday, July 27th, there was extensive flooding in the church basement where Mr. Cakes Daycare operates. Steps are already underway to remediate the flooded areas. Further work to address exterior drainage will be required, as to be identified in the days ahead.

Further updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

CHURCH OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR RETURNS & SPECIAL THANK YOU

NEW

I am pleased to announce my return to the office as your church office administrator following a five-week absence due to a brief medical leave followed by summer holidays. I look forward to reconnecting with everyone and resuming my support for our church community.

But first, I wish to offer a special thank you to all who warmly welcomed me back, prayed for me during surgery and recovery, filled my role wonderfully well in my absence, and for the beautiful bouquet and card left in the office for me upon my return, thank you ever so much! I am blessed to be surrounded by such love and appreciation.

With gratitude, Brittany.

MEDITATION CIRCLE – WEDNESDAYS @ 10am

Join Rev. Britt in-person each Wednesday at 10am for Mediation Circle in the Church's Meditation Room and ***also now online!*** Details and updates on meditation circle will be posted on our website under the "Weekly Meditation Circle" section on the main page.

FINANCE CORNER – Update as of June 2026

NEW

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Offerings for Church Operations:	$47,335.90	$44,166.00	$3,169.90
M&S Offerings:	$8,630.00	$8,014.02	$615.98

We have some incredibly good news to share as we look back at the first half of 2026. Thanks to your deeply faithful and consistent support, our church is entering the second half of the year well ahead of our financial plan!

What makes this milestone truly remarkable is that we achieved it during what is traditionally the church's summer "down time"—a season when attendance and giving often experience a natural dip. Instead, your generosity defied the historical slump and provided strong momentum for our ministries.

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Here is a quick snapshot of where we stand from January through June 2026:

- **Our Offerings for Church Operations reached $47,335.90**, which is $3,169.90 ahead of our budgeted goal of $44,166.00.
- **Our Mission & Service Offerings reached $8,630.00**, placing us $615.98 ahead of our budgeted target of $8,014.02.

Every dollar represents lives touched, community supported, and faith put into action both locally and globally. Thank you for your continued dedication to the life and work of Salisbury United Church.

If you need any help with giving envelopes – new supply, pick-up, etc. – or other giving options (monthly giving through PAR, e-transfer or donating online through Canada Helps on the Salisbury Website), please contact: Brittany at the Church Office. Phone: 780-467-7310 E-Mail: salisburyuc@telus.net

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Thank you for your support of Salisbury United Church and congratulations for helping your church to meet ongoing ministry obligations.

Click Here **TO DONATE ON-LINE WITH CANADA HELPS**

We are now set up to accept Interac ETransfers. If you are familiar with Etransfers, just use our email address salisburyuc@telus.net to send your donation.

LOCAL UNITED CHURCH & OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

SHERWOOD PARK UNITED CHURCH: NEW

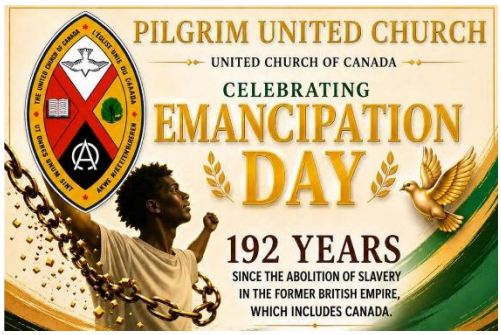
WALKING GROUP – Thursdays @ 9:25am

The Thursday walking group will be meeting at the Kinsmen pool parking lot at 9:25 to walk around Festival Place. Get your bug spray on and come for a little exercise and great company. For more info please contact: Barb Goulden at 780-467-4626

DINNER OF THE MONTH – August 19th at 5:30pm

Join us for dinner of the month on Wednesday, August 19th at 5:30pm at Crooked Mouth Pub. One of Sherwood Park's longest standing restaurant pubs. Address is 221 Chippewa Rd. Please RSVP to Corinne Wiseman by Monday, August 17th at 780-940-4577 or email at Corwall@shaw.ca. *(September's Dinner of the Month will be at Broadmoor Golf Course).*

For Additional Events and Connections with Sherwood Park United Church, please access their most recent Newsletter HERE.



PILGRIM UNITED CHURCH – EMANCIPATION DAY

NEW

Saturday, August 1st @ 10:00am

Pilgrim United Church, located at 9008 135 Ave. NW, Edmonton, would like to invite all to their Emancipation Day Celebration on Saturday, August 1st at 10:00am. Come, let us celebrate freedom and that all persons are made in the image of God.
Please RSVP at 780-467-5202 or pilgrim@pilgrimunitedchurch.com

ST. PETER'S ECUMENICAL CHURCH – 50TH ANNIVERSARY

NEW

Slave Lake, October 3-4, 2026

St. Peter's Ecumenical Church in Slave Lake is celebrating their 50th Anniversary and warmly invite all to celebrate! Events are as follows:

Saturday, October 3rd at 5pm:
Fellowship, slide show, entertainment & food trucks
Sunday, October 4th at 10am:
Special service & potluck

For more information call Amy @ 780-849-0340

SEEKING SALISBURY COMPOSITE HIGH SCHOOL GRADS

NEW

Plans are underway for a 50th reunion celebration on September 10 & 11, 2027.

If you are, or know of, a 1977 Salisbury Composite grad, we would love to hear from you! Please contact salcompgrad1977@gmail.com to be added to the info distribution list.

ARDROSSAN UNITED CHURCH – BBQ CONCESSIONS

NEW

Select Tuesdays in August

Ardrossan United Church would like to invite you to their BBQ Concessions from 4:30-7pm at 22 Main Street, Ardrossan on the following dates:

- August 11th
- August 25th

Enjoy Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and Pie, all for a reasonable price!

STRATHCONA COUNTY NEWS

COUNCIL SUPPORTS SENIOR CENTRE RENOVATION AND EXPANSION

NEW

(Source: Strathcona·ca)

Strathcona County Council has voted in favour of renovating and expanding the current site of the Sherwood Park 55+ Club and Log Cabin. The concept design selected will enhance the facility's functionality, accessibility and long-term sustainability.

With the addition of new space and the renovation of the facility's basement, usable space will expand from 8,220 square feet to 14,940 square feet. This expansion will create more opportunities for events and programs, while supporting future growth. The estimated construction cost for this option is between $9 million and $10 million.

This project will move forward as part of Strathcona County's 2027-30 Capital Plan. The final budget and project timeline will be determined this fall. To learn more and sign up for project updates, residents can visit Strathcona Seniors Project.

Click HERE for the full news story.

FIELDHOUSE PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITIES NOW OPEN TO ARTISTS

NEW

(Source: Strathcona·ca)

Strathcona County is inviting Canadian artists and artist teams to submit portfolios for multiple public art opportunities at the new Strathcona County Fieldhouse.

The Fieldhouse will be a major regional recreation destination for athletes, families, visitors, community groups and residents. Public art will help create a welcoming, vibrant and memorable environment that reflects movement, play, wellness, gathering, sport, landscape and community connection.

For more information, visit strathcona.ca/PublicArt. Click HERE for the full news story.

STRATHCONA COUNTY HOUSING RIGHTS ACTION GROUP

Strathcona County Housing Rights Action Group is a collective of Strathcona County residents coming together in solidarity with those experiencing housing insecurity or in need of temporary shelter. Interested in joining?
Contact SChousingrighsactiongroup@gmail.com for more information or to join this grassroots group.

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA NATIONAL COUNCIL NEWS

EMANCIPATION DAY: REMEMBERING, HONOURING, AND COMMITTING JUSTICE

NEW

As Canada marks Emancipation Day on August 1, we are invited to remember the painful history and enduring legacy of enslavement, while also celebrating the strength, faith, and contributions of Black communities.

[Video still credit: The United Church of Canada]

This year, The United Church of Canada reflects on its ongoing commitment to truth-telling, confronting anti-Black racism, and pursuing justice and repair, including recent steps toward discerning a formal apology for the church's historic connections to enslavement.

On this Emancipation Day, may we recommit ourselves to confronting anti-Black racism, addressing historic injustices, and building a church where all people experience belonging, dignity, and hope.

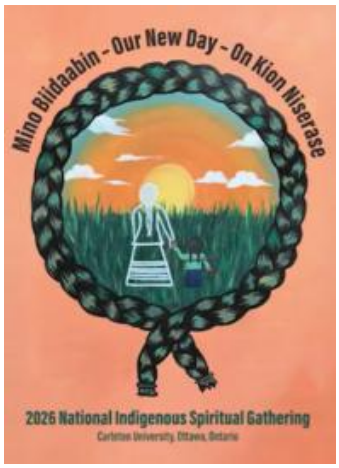
Read on to learn more about the significance of Emancipation Day and our shared call to build a more just and inclusive church.

Watch the Moderator's Emancipation Day Message

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS SPIRITUAL GATHERING CONCLUDES WITH HOPE

NEW

Held July 15–19 at Carleton University in Ottawa, the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering brought together Indigenous leaders, Elders, youth, ministers, and community members for worship, ceremony, learning, and relationship-building.



[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]

The gathering marked important steps toward a self-determining Indigenous Church, including the affirmation of the National Indigenous Council and the ordination of the Rev. Brian George.

Watch and share this video of the gathering, and read the full news story.

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWS & EVENTS

A LETTER FROM NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL NEW

Dear siblings in Christ,

As the summer months begin to warm our part of the world, I give thanks to God that we are not alone. We are in and a part of God's great Creation and family and we do not need to journey alone. At this time in the province of Alberta, many questions are arising. Some are being formalized into referendum questions and others are being decided on without any consultation with those impacted the most directly.

I ask that Communities of Faith outside Alberta but within Northern Spirit Regional Council raise in prayer our communities undergoing the stress of polarization and conflicts arising from the coming Alberta referendum and its questions.

I pray that Communities of Faith here in Alberta, and your neighbours, can find ways to get together in the coming months to share information about the consequences of each referendum question, and that we can provide quiet and calm spaces for one another to process all that is arising. We are gathering resources and will get them to you soon.

Position adopted by the Executive

The Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive is calling us to uphold our Treaty responsibilities and our belief in loving all neighbours, not just some. On June 10 the Executive decided that we believe a vote for the common good means voting no on questions 1 through 9, so that all Albertans can partake equitably in the public resources and responsibilities of our common life.

The Executive of the Regional Council cannot decide what communities of faith and other local ministries do, nor speak for them. However, it can make recommendations based on United Church policies, history, and beliefs, and speak to these.

Through the summer, we will post to our website, social media, and newsletter a range of resources to support your work in engaging both the referendum questions and the continued legislation targeting specific communities in Alberta. We also encourage you, and will support you in, addressing the anxiety and divisions that are being raised by the referendum questions and process. We invite you to find partners, host conversations, open up space for prayer, and do what fits best for your context to address the current context. …

I write to you in peace and hope, during these times, seeking God in prayer and in relationships and I hope you too can find sources of peace and hope in your faith lives.

Rev Leigh Sinclair, convener, on behalf of the Northern Spirit Executive.

EDMONTON PRIDE PARADE – AUGUST 22ND @ 1-3 PM (RSVP REQUIRED) NEW

Excitement is in the air! Get ready to be part of something extraordinary as the Northern Spirit Region of The United Church Of Canada invites Affirming congregations and individuals to join us in the **2026 Edmonton Pride Parade**! It's an event like no other, and we want you to be there!

Our participation sends the message that God loves everyone, no exceptions. Our commitment as Affirming congregations is that there is a place at the table for everyone! Perhaps this message is more important than ever!

This is a walking parade entry and EVERY PERSON must be registered. There are lots of folks to help those who need mobility assistance. Everyone is welcome. SEE YOU AT PRIDE! **Register today!**

YOUTH COUNCIL OF NORTHERN SPIRIT NEW

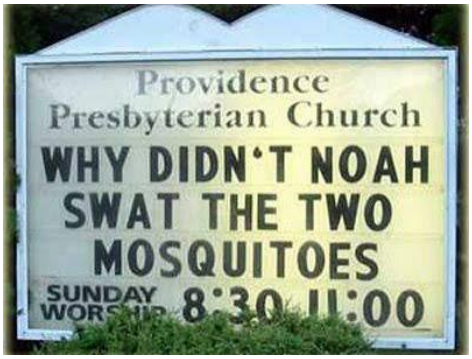
Do you know a high school student who's interested in faith, community, and justice? Applications for the Youth Council of Northern Spirit are now open to **youth age 14-17** (or, **entering grades 10-12 in September**). The Youth Council of Northern Spirit partners with youth from other regions to build community and grow in leadership. Members meet online during the year and in person at Uncharted – the annual senior youth retreat. Youth Council Members will also attend the Northern Spirit Regional Gathering (November 10 & 12, 2026). For more information, contact KGuentherTrautwein@united-church.ca or visit firstthirdministry.ca/youth-council.
APPLY HERE: https://form.jotform.com/242146880537057

[Image credit: firstthirdministry.ca]

NORTHERN SPIRIT WEBSITE

Northern Spirit has a website! Go to www.northernspiritrc.ca for more information.

TODAY'S FUNNIES



RECOGNITION OF LAND

We worship with respect on land where people have lived, prayed, and held ceremonies since long before Canada was a nation. This is Treaty Six Territory, and we affirm the traditional relationship of the Cree, Blackfoot, Déne, Assiniboine, Nakota and later the Métis people with this land, along with our ongoing treaty relationship with each other.

RECOGNITION OF MEMBERSHIP

NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

***Salisbury United Church is a member of the Northern Spirit Regional Council and the United Church of Canada.**

WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN QR CODE

We have posted a QR code on the door of the sanctuary. When you arrive for worship, you can scan the QR code on your cell phone and it will appear in your downloads for you to use. We also e-mail our bulletin each week for those who prefer to print one at home and bring it with them.

SCAN ME!

WELCOMING VISITORS TO SALISBURY UNITED CHURCH

If you notice an unfamiliar face or have invited a visitor to Salisbury United Church during one of our worship services, would you kindly direct them to our "Welcome" information brochure (at left) or the Worship Service "Program Flow" insert (at right)? Both are available on the table in the Narthex.

Doing so will help all guests feel welcomed and included. Not only do these informative guides provide important information about the Church and our Worship Services, but it also gives us an opportunity to extend a heartfelt *Welcome* to all guests of Salisbury United Church. Thank you for your hospitality!

Also, be sure to check out some of our other brochures, which have recently been updated. These include: "Wedding Ceremonies", "Funeral & Memorial Services", "Facility Rentals", "Baptisms" and more to come… Keep your eye out for them in the Narthex!

Salisbury United Church E-mail Addresses

Church Office Administrator:
salisburyuc@telus.net

Rev. Dr. Britt's email:
revvedtoo@gmail.com

Contact Us:
2 Mission Street,
Sherwood Park, T8A 0V3
Church Office: 780-467-7310

Church Office Hours:
Tuesday-Friday
9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Minister:
Rev. Dr. Britt Aerhart

Music Coordinator:
Lucienne Holzman

Church Office Administrator:
Brittany Pelletier