

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



September 15, 2021

*The **Regional Rambler** is our primary resource for sharing information across the Regional Council. To be added to the receiving list, please email Bev Diebert (bdiebert@united-church.ca).*

1. Living Skies Regional Council News:

Leaders Q & A on COVID guidelines - updated

The provincial government has not provided any further direction regarding the prevention of COVID-19 in our communities of faith; each local context must discern what is best. As cases continue to rise in Saskatchewan, we would strongly recommend the use of masks and enhanced cleaning protocol for any in-person gatherings. If you have questions or concerns, contact Tricia Gerhard at lsrcexecutive@gmail.com or Tracy Murton at tmurton@united-church.ca. We will also be hosting a Zoom gathering for anyone wishing to ask questions or consult with other communities of faith on **tonight at 7:00pm**. Connection information will be in the [calendar](#).

Advice re United Church Communities of Faith and vaccination policies

Some communities of faith and church leadership have been asking whether communities of faith may set rules around COVID vaccinations for members and others who participate in church activities on site. Cynthia Gunn, Legal Counsel for The United Church of Canada, has prepared a Q&A resource to help communities of faith discern how they will deal with this issue. [Click here to have a look](#).

New Statutory Holiday: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission call to action number 80, the Government of Canada recently passed legislation making September 30 a federal statutory holiday commemorating the [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#). The new holiday only applies to federally regulated employers. The United Church of Canada and its communities of faith are governed by provincial employment statutes. However, the General and Regional Council offices will be closed on **September 30** this year, while conversations with the National Indigenous Council and the National Indigenous Elders Council determine future practice. *Communities of faith may offer September 30th as a designated paid holiday for their ministry personnel and employees at the discretion of their governing body and the guidance of their regional council.* This day provides an opportunity for Canadians to recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools. This may present itself as a day of quiet reflection or participation in a community event.

Celebrations galore - updated

As communities of faith begin to worship together in person, many postponed covenanting services and retirement celebrations are being planned. We ask you to hold in prayer (or take a lovely fall road trip) the following events:

- **September 19** – service of release for Laura Sundburg, at 10am
- **September 26** – ordination of Jonathan Worrall, and the admission of Emily Carr at Melfort United Church. Also covenanting with Melfort United Church and Jonathan Worrall, at 3pm
- **September 29** – Covenanting with Saskatoon: St. Paul's United Church and Mitchell Anderson, at 7pm.
- **Postponed to November** – covenanting with Rosetown United Church and Allan Gairns

Ministry Personnel Gatherings

Join your ministry colleagues every Tuesday over Zoom for conversation, support and information sharing. Facilitated conversation begins at 1pm; connection information is found in the [calendar](#).

Updating the Regional Council Directory

The Regional Council Directory is created from information gathered during registration at Annual Gatherings of the Regional Council, including permission to include. If you registered for the Regional Council annual meeting in 2020 or 2021, and answered “yes” to inclusion, your contact information has been included in the directory. **If you have *not* registered for an annual meeting in the last 2 years** and wish your contact information to remain included in the directory, please send Bev Diebert an email (bdiebert@united-church.ca) with your current contact information (name, address, phone number(s) and / or email) and permission to include it in the directory **by Sept. 26/21**. Any questions, contact Bev.

YAYAC is back!

The Youth And Young Adult Community has returned and is ready to plan some fun activities for youth! We are sending out an email newsletter that anyone can subscribe to here: <https://livingskiesrc.ca/programs/yayac/>. If you know any youth who might be interested, let them know! We also have an Instagram now @Lsyayac! We will be posting new information there and on our Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2314532113/?ref=bookmarks>.

2. Wider Church Information:

Our world seems smaller and more confined since COVID began. May these stories help widen it, and help us see where our prayers and actions from home can support those we may never meet in person, but with whom we are part of the Body of Christ. Most of the ministry and resources you see here is supported by our Mission and Service givings.

Orange Shirt Day - new

As we prepare for **Orange Shirt Day/ Truth and Reconciliation Day September 30/ Sunday September 26**, please see the [previous edition of the Rambler](#) for links to resources. And we highlight these events:

Indigenous Children Then, Now, and Tomorrow: Online Panel, 29 September: Indigenous Ministries and Justice is hosting an Orange Shirt Day panel on September 29, 2021 at 3:30 – 5:00p.m. SK time. Panelists Allison Forsberg, Jocelyn Formsmas, Leeann Shimoda, and the Rev. Murray Pruden will explore how Indigenous children and families were and continue to be impacted by colonialism. They will touch on a range of topics including Indigenous Children in Residential Schools, Sixties Scoop, Millennial Scoop, and bringing our children home. For more information or to sign up please [visit the United in Learning website](#).

Orange Shirt Day vigil, September 30, 3:00PM in SK: Executive Minister Murray Pruden will be hosting a candle light vigil to honour the children who never made it home from Residential Schools and survivors. Please join us for an evening of remembering and please bring a candle or a light. This gathering will be live broadcast on the Indigenous Ministries and Justice Facebook page, which is accessible to all: <https://www.facebook.com/IndigenousMinistries/events>

All Saints Day service remembering those who died of COVID: names needed

Please assist the national church with this important work. [Please use this link](#) to submit the names of people to be remembered during the service. Names can be submitted up to October 1st, (please note that every effort will be made to include names shared past this date).

3. Upcoming Learning Opportunities

Community of Faith Calendar

Reminder: our [Community of Faith events calendar](#) is open 24/7 for online events! As long as the public is invited, you can post it. From workshops to worship, go for it. [Here's the handy form](#) .

United in Learning - a quick look at fall events - [click here!](#)

Season for Creation: homegrown Living Skies resources and event - new

In 2021, faith communities across Canada are invited to work together for climate justice through the ecumenical initiative, [For the Love of Creation](#). Lots of resources and opportunities [are outlined here](#). We invite you to amplify that work by recognizing Creation Time in worship and congregational life.

This Living Skies document series builds on existing Creation Time resources, and connects them with Creation as experienced in the landscapes and creatures of the Living Skies Region. We invite comments, contributions, and feedback as you work with these resources, and look forward in hope, to see what grows from this small seed. **Here's the Google Drive link:** [Creation Time 2021 in Living Skies Region](#) or [use this link to the Regional Council website](#).

As well, please join our ecumenical partners for **Listening to the Land: A conversation on the stewardship of creation, Thursday, September 16 at 3:00pm**. Our three panellists, including Rev Mitchell Anderson from Living Skies, will reflect on what listening to the land means from their perspective, tradition, and experience; what they hear the land saying and how we might respond. Free registration required at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlcuuopjosGtQNGqLMEtMf77EeV7MZFc6F>

The Season of Creation is observed in many Christian churches from September 1 to October 4 each year. More information on the Season of Creation is available at <https://seasonofcreation.org/>.

Practically Prophetic: "Church Websites...Maybe It's Time To Ditch The Fax Line?"

When: Tuesday, September 28th, 7pm **Where:** Zoom online webinar

Registration: info will be posted on Region website & Facebook by the end of the week.

What else: The idea of making a church website can be intimidating. Our prophetic goal this month is to de-mystify the scary stuff and introduce a basic website template & process to get congregations set up easily. It's always good to have goals!

Remember: *Practically Prophetic* is a webinar series collaboration with Living Skies Faith Formation, St. Andrew's College, and the Centre for Christian Studies. Everyone is welcome to take part!

4. Reminders:

Regional Online Bible Study Wednesdays from 1-2pm beginning Sept 15.

This study is open to everyone interested in chatting with others from across the region (and even beyond) about the upcoming lectionary passages each week. No previous Bible knowledge necessary. All are truly welcome.

You must register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpcOmsqzorGtbNopaMhsmCZ8bjZU0LxA1M>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting and a link that is good for every week. If you have questions, please contact Laura Fohse: Email is laura@mcclosureunitedchurch.org and phone number is 306-291-5838.