

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



February 1, 2023 – Events

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).

In this **EVENTS** edition of the Rambler, events are listed in order of occurrence or registration deadline. **Dates of the event or registration deadline** are highlighted in green for easy identification. Events included for the first time will have **NEW:** beside the title of the event. And, it's hoped the [Into the Future](#) will help facilitate your long term planning.

Our local events calendar for United Church ministries is coming back to life! [Click here to view it](#). And [click here to submit your event](#). Have a street address and a nice landscape-oriented photo ready.

United in Learning, the church's main online events service, has moved to an exciting new platform! [Have a look here](#). The United Church's Edge Network also offers online courses related to Change and innovation. [See their courses here](#).

NEW: SAVE THE DATES – Regional Meeting - May 25 to May 28, 2023

Friends, Communities of Faith, United Church Folk - We are gathering in person for a REGIONAL MEETING in Prince Albert, SK. **Please ensure you have elected a Regional Representative** for your Community of Faith who will be able to attend. As well, **booking a hotel room** should be an early priority for everyone, as there is **another large event being held** in the community during that weekend. Please see [the list on the Regional Gathering page](#) for **recommended accommodations**. **There will not be billets available**. A wonderful time together is in the planning. Many more details will follow at the beginning of March.

1. This month:

“Lighten Up: A Candlemas Contemplation”

... a [Contemplative Gathering](#) co-sponsored by St. Andrew's College and the Living Skies Regional Council. Join us at either **10am OR 2pm on Friday February 3 (Sask Time)** for this hour-long contemplative pause as the light slowly returns. [Registration is here](#). For more information, please be in touch with Dr. Bernon Lee at bernon.lee@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca

Anti racism and the United Church workshops, February 7 and March 7, 2023

Part 1 with [Selam Debs](#) **February 7, 2023, 9:00 Central, (Sask Time)**

Part 2 with [Rev. Alcris Limongi](#) **March 7, 2023, 9:00 AM Central (Sask Time)**

[Click here for full details](#). Brought to you by Antler River Watershed, Horseshoe Falls and Western Ontario Waterways Regional Councils, and they have covered all costs. If you have any questions about this workshop or your readiness to participate in it, contact Thérèse Samuel at tsamuel@united-church.ca.

NEW: CCS Fridays

The next CCS Friday presentation will be on **Friday, February 10**, Glenn Morison will lead an online discussion on personal stewardship and tithing for the next CCS Friday. The event is free but you must register. [For more information, see here](#).

United Against Hate: faithfully responding to anti-2SLGBTQ+ actions, Wed., February 15, 7:00pm Central

Join Affirm United/ S'affirmer Ensemble and Affirming Connections to learn about the malicious misinformation campaign and threats that have been launched against the drag and 2SLGBTQ+ communities across Canada - and what you and your faith community can do. [Registration and details are here.](#) [Please share the Facebook event.](#)

NEW: Pension Information Seminar February 2023 February 16, 2023 NOON CST

The United Church of Canada provides a Defined Benefit Pension Plan for all employees who work more than 14 hours a week. Join us for this 90-minute program to learn about how the plan works, what it costs, what it provides, and how to apply for your pension when you're ready.

[See here for more information.](#)

Getting Started in Stewardship - Tuesday, February 21 - noon CST Presented on Zoom

Join United Church people from across the country to learn some stewardship first principles.

Start with an on-line 2-hour course that answers questions like: What is stewardship all about anyway? Isn't stewardship just a churchy word for fundraising? Why do people give, and why would they give to our church? What can we do to encourage greater generosity?

The practical assignments that follow will help you reflect on giving and generosity as part of your faith, gather and interpret some of the giving data from your community of faith, and build a stewardship team in order to start making stewardship a priority in your community of faith.

Completion of this course is a great first step before participating in Stewardship Best Practices, which will be offered next in **March 2023**. Registration link - <https://forms.office.com/r/idCxNLcBeg>. Any questions, please contact Vicki at vnelson@united-church.ca

NEW: National Rural Ministry Town Halls, Monday, February 27, 2:30-3:30pm Central.

Calling all those in rural ministry! Join your colleagues on the last Monday of each month on Zoom for an energizing discussion of the joys and challenges of being in rural ministry, thoughtful consideration of current needs, and exploration of how to meet them most effectively. Register once to get the Zoom link to attend each of them. [Click here to register.](#)

NEW: Good Courage national Lent study, every Tuesday, from February 28–April 4, 12:00-1:00PM Central

Join us on Tuesdays in Lent to explore your heart and examine your gut. Ponder the kind of courage that God calls out of ordinary people, who would never consider themselves to be heroic. Contemplate on their stories, reflect on how they connect to your own, and consider how God calls us, in these post-pandemic times, to reach out to those all who have lost hope during the past few years with gentle courage, grounded hope, and a re-invigorated sense of how our lives can contribute to God's healing of the world. [Click here for registration and details.](#)

Queen's House Retreat and Renewal Centre

Welcome! Our programming combines in-person and online events using Zoom. Please visit [Our Programs page](#) for a list of all upcoming programs and to register for all programs.

2. Next Month:**NEW: Being Good Relations Network Lent book and learning circle, focused on [Indigenous Writes](#), by [Chelsea Vowel](#), âpihtawikosisân. **March 1st to 29th, 2023 on Wednesdays, 8:00-9:30pm Central** via Zoom.**

Facilitated by Grace Hussey, this circle is open to all, in the church and beyond. Bring your open spirit, good heart, and desire to learn about common myths, misunderstandings, and stereotypes that target Indigenous people and peoples, and how we go about changing that. Contact Grace for information:

b.grace.hussey@gmail.com

NEW: Liberating Liturgy

Featuring Dr. Becca Whitla, Professor of Practical Ministry and Lydia E. Gruchy Chair in Pastoral Theology. **Wednesday, March 1 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm** with a Wine and Cheese Reception to Follow. This event will also be livestreamed.

Dr. Whitla explores what it means to liberate liturgy in today's contexts. Drawing from the experience of several communities, she proposes that churches that want to fully embrace the multilingual, multiethnic, multicultural realities of the Canadian context need to examine and transform what goes on at church on a Sunday morning. Using a couple of case studies – singing and territorial acknowledgements – she proposes some initial principles for liberating and decolonizing how we worship. There will even be a couple of changes to sing and dance. Please join us for some min-winter warmth and conversation!!! Please register **by February 22** for in-person and livestream options by emailing standrews.college@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca.

NEW: Living Skies Confirmation Retreat for Grades 7 – 12

Friday, March 3 (7:00pm) to Sunday, March 5 (Noon), 2023 at St. Paul's United Church, Saskatoon **Cost: \$50.00** For more info and to register: <https://livingskiesrc.ca/event/confirmation-2023/>

Registration Deadline: Monday February 20, 2023. Confirmation of Faith officially is a relationship with your home congregation or community of faith. The Youth Confirmation Weekend can be one part of that journey with a group of other youth who share similar questions, doubts, jokes, and life experiences. It's gonna be awesome! A great weekend to share, learn, laugh, and grow in our faith together. Support funding is always available so everyone is able to take part, thanks to some generous sponsors! Can't wait to see you there! **Questions?** Contact Josie at lsyayac.josie@gmail.com or Lindsay at livingskiesyaya@united-church.ca or 306-291-5943.

***Remember to bring your sleeping bag, pillow, sleeping pad/mattress & some warm clothes!

NEW: Affirming PIE Day: official launch for the Year of Intention, March 7 at 7:00pm Central.

This year, we're challenging you to think about the meaning behind the I in PIE. How intentional are you in the welcome you extend to 2SLGBTQ+ and other marginalized folks? And more importantly, are your intentions pointing you in the direction of action? [Click here for full details and registration.](#)

NEW: Save the date!

Regina: St. James United Church will be covenanting with Rev. Dexter van Dyke and Living Skies Regional Council on **Sunday, March 12**. Watch for further details. All are welcome.

Affirming PIE Day is coming up - new resources are posted!

Celebrate National Affirming/PIE Day on **Tuesday March 14, 2023!** Why PIE? PIE = Public. Intentional. Explicit. Those are the standards we hold ourselves and our welcome to when we seek to live into being 2SLGBTQIA+ Affirming, Welcoming, or Inclusive people and communities. This year, a number of PIE Day events are on offer, reflecting the 2023 theme, Year of Intention. And everyone is invited to contribute their own event, featuring PIE, pie, and pi: irrational and infinite love! [Have a look at the PIE Day site](#) to access resources and post your event or worship. [Check out the liturgies and other resources](#) already posted.

Is it time for your professional boundary refresher?

All ministry personnel, candidates, and licensed lay worship leaders are required to refresh every 5 years. If you have not taken a boundaries training since 2018, now is your time! Here is the schedule for upcoming trainings:

Online: Intro to Boundaries: **March 18th** from **11am-3:30pm**

Social Media Boundaries Refresher: **February 25** from **11am-2:30pm**

Finances & Gifts Boundaries Refresher: **March 1** from **11am-2:30pm**

Retiring with Grace Boundaries Refresher: **March 24** from **11am-2:30pm**

To register for the online workshops visit: <https://catalog.churchx.ca/catalog?pagename=Boundaries>

Vocational Minister, Laura Fohse, will also be offering **two in person opportunities** – one in **Saskatoon** and one in **Regina**. These will both be held on a **Saturday in March**. Confirmation of dates and registration information will be shared soon.