

# Regional Rambler

## Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



### September 13, 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 at [bdiebert@united-church.ca](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca)*

In this **EVENTS** edition of the Rambler, events are listed in order of occurrence. **Date/s of the event** are highlighted in green for easy identification. **Registration deadlines** are highlighted in dark orange. 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.

**Check out the Community of Faith Calendar** (on the Living Skies Regional Council website - 3<sup>rd</sup> option down under News & Events). [Click here to view it](#). Don't miss the many fun and interesting events that will happen this fall. **Communities of Faith, be sure to [submit your events](#)** to the calendar (use the form, 4<sup>th</sup> option down under News & Events), so folks don't miss events that are in their own 'backyard'.

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

### [1. This month:](#)

#### **NEW: World Week of Peace in Palestine Israel from September 16-23, 2023**

The United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI) would like to draw churches' attention to the *World Week of Peace in Palestine Israel* from **September 16-23, 2023**. Resources for this and much more are included [in our September Network News](#).

#### **Save the dates!**

New ministry beginnings often include covenanting services! So, please mark your calendars and join us in celebrating:

- Rev. David Mugadzi and Preeceville-Sturgis community of faith – **September 17, 2:30 pm**  
You can join them through their Facebook page where they will be streaming the service.
- Rev. Brenda Curtis and Grace-Westminster community of faith – **October 1, 7:00 pm**

#### **Ministry Personnel Gatherings**

Facilitated gatherings for all ministry personnel (active or retired) will continue every **Tuesday at 1pm** on Zoom. Please check the website calendar for [connection information](#) to join colleagues for conversation and support.

**Ministry & Personnel Committees – everything you wanted to know but were too afraid to ask**

Let's start the fall with a refresher on the role and responsibilities of this important committee. Tracy Murton, Pastoral Relations Minister, will be offering an online training session on **Wednesday, September 20 at 7pm** for new folks that will also be a reminder for returning members. Please email Bev Diebert at [bdiebert@united-church.ca](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca) to register.

**Confronted by Grace: Finding Balance in God**

An online contemplative gathering, with lectio divina and space for quiet shared reflection around a theme gifted by the fall equinox on **Friday September 22, at 10am and 2pm**. Please pre-register by emailing [bernou.lee@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:bernou.lee@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca) and indicating whether you would like to attend the **10am or 2pm** session time.

**NEW: Covenanting Service with Kyle Feader**, Saskatoon and Area Youth Minister on **September 24<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm** at McClure United Church (4025 Taylor St E). Please join us in person or online as we celebrate the covenant relationship between Kyle Feader, the Saskatoon and Area Youth Ministry, and United Church communities of faith in and around Saskatoon. (Check the Regional Events calendar for livestream link).

**So you want to be a Pastoral Charge Supervisor?**

We are exceedingly grateful for the folks who offer their time and wisdom to serve as Pastoral Charge Supervisors throughout our Regional Council. If you are new to this role, need a refresher, or are wondering whether this might be a place for your skills and gifts, join Tracy Murton, Pastoral Relations Minister for a training session on **Wednesday, September 27 at 7pm**. This Zoom learning opportunity will clarify the responsibilities of the role, including accountability to the Regional Council, and will provide space for all of your questions to be answered. Contact Bev Diebert at [bdiebert@united-church.ca](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca) to register.

**NEW: New Horizons for Seniors Program funding deadline extended to September 28, 2023.**

For more information, [see here](#). The Toronto United Church Council has put up a webinar on how to apply, Find it on CHURCHx at <https://churchx.ca/local/shop/product.php?id=42>

**Rural Ministry Conference 2023: September 29 - October 1, 2023, High River Alberta**

A weekend gathering, for today's rural ministry context: come experience rural hospitality, inspiring theme sessions and practical workshops tuned to today's rural ministry contexts! [Click here for tickets & more information.](#)

**NEW: Orange Shirt Day/ National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Saturday September 30, and Sunday Sept 24 or Oct 1** **Orange Shirt Day/** the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is an important public space for truth telling, and for commitments to challenging ongoing colonization. As part of our church's [living into the Apologies](#), let's join with others to help ensure the ongoing history and impacts of the residential schools system are never forgotten - and that together, we bring about real change. Please make plans for Sunday worship on **September 24; Sunday October 1** is also an important space for naming the ongoing violence facing Indigenous women, girls, and Two Spirit people in preparation for **October 4**, National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). [Please click here for ideas and resources](#). Thank you for any prayerful space and public commitments you and your ministry can offer.

**An invitation to active Ministry Personnel from The Right Reverend Dr. Carmen Landsdowne....**

The program is for ministry personnel, is **3 weeks per year in 2024 & 2025**, with prescribed weeks (avoiding church busy seasons and regional meeting season, based on what we knew when we chose the weeks). **Cost: Up to \$1,500/year, for a total of \$3,000 over two years.**

**Deadline for all applications is September 30<sup>th</sup>.** See [here](#) for more information and to access the application form.

### **Updated: Sask UCC Women Gathering**

The Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women are gathering in Esterhazy on **Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 9:30 to 3 p.m.** All women of the United Church, not just UCW members, are invited to join us. Our Guest Speaker will be Dawn Weber (from around Esterhazy). The registration form is here: [Women's Gathering Registration 2023](#). Communities of faith in Living Skies are asked to send the names of any woman of the United Church who has passed away in the last year and a little bio. We will be doing a memorial service for these women. Please send these to Barb Bradley at [greenview@sasktel.net](mailto:greenview@sasktel.net).

### **NEW: Queen's House Retreat and Renewal Centre** shared some sad news this week:

It is with a great deal of regret and sorrow that we are announcing the closure of Queen's House, which we are anticipating taking effect in mid to late **July, 2024**. This date will be confirmed in the near future. This decision has been made by the religious community who owns this centre, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. [The full letter can be found here](#).

In the meantime: they offer a variety of topics in their programming that 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.

Bookings Coordinator, Angela Brockmeyer, looks forward to connecting with you if you are considering an event at Queen's House. Angela can be reached at 306-242-1916 x230; [bookings@queenshouse.org](mailto:bookings@queenshouse.org).

### **Introduction to Godly Play: One Day Learning Experience: ongoing opportunity**

*Online or onsite*, this experience is designed for leaders in congregational ministry, parents, caregivers or volunteers who would like to know more about Godly Play. Originally developed with children, Godly Play is both spiritual practice and a process applicable to all ages and many settings. [Click here for more information](#), or email [firstunitedwetaskiwin@gmail.com](mailto:firstunitedwetaskiwin@gmail.com).

## **2. Next Month**

### **NEW: 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism: October 10-December 1 2023**

There's brand-new content coming for this year's [40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism](#). In addition to the daily written content that will be posted online, a dynamic set of speakers will be sharing their insights on Tuesdays. The speakers will explore these diverse themes: race shifting; anti-racist and decolonial theologies; raising anti-racist children; environmental racism; countering antisemitism; intergenerational Asian voices; and copyright justice and musical misappropriation. There's no cost for the online events! You can register for all of the [live events on ChurchX](#). Consider [signing up for the 40 Days newsletter](#) to stay up-to-date on all of the developments related to the 40 Days for this year!

### **St. Andrew's College "Year of Intention" – save the dates!**

Over the course of the upcoming academic year, St. Andrew's (along with our Saskatoon Theological Union partners) will be hosting a series of evening online sessions, **from 7:30-9pm Sask time, on Wednesday, October 11; Monday, November 27; Thursday, February 8; and Tuesday, March 9** culminating in an Affirming Re-Commitment Service (date tba) to mark 15 years as an Affirming Ministry ... Huzzah!!! Our first session (**Wed, Oct 11**) will be focussed on the history of Affirm (and the Lutheran "Reconciling in Christ" program), and what it has meant for our College. For more details, contact [shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca)

### Equipping the saints

Do you feel called to walk with others when they are facing difficult circumstances? Do you have a gift for listening and practicing compassion? Join Emily Carr, chaplain with the North Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy, Lorna King, chaplain with the South Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy, and Tracy Murton, Pastoral Relations Minister for Living Skies, for an afternoon of learning and sharing wisdom for the task of lay pastoral visiting. You will learn practical tips for visiting both within and outside health care facilities, understanding your boundaries, and navigating the SHA system. This learning opportunity will be on **Thursday, October 12, 1-4pm** over Zoom. To register, contact Bev Diebert at [bdiebert@united-church.ca](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca).

### Evolving Faith Conference: **October 13-15, 2023, Minneapolis, USA**

A group experience for ministry personnel to be encouraged, inspired and renewed. Both digital & in-person attendance options. [Click here for more information about the Evolving Faith Conference](#). And [click here for details about a travel group being organized by Leadershift](#).

**Updated:** Daring justice: Western Intercultural Ministries Network Conference, **19-21 October**, at Star of the North Retreat Centre, **St Albert AB, Treaty Six**. Registration is now open! [Please click here](#). All are welcome to our first in-person gathering since 2019! Theme: ***Daring Justice: intercultural and decolonizing lenses on truth and reconciliation***. Song and worship, speakers, workshops, and lots of time for visiting and telling stories are all in the plans. **October 21** we will join Northern Spirit Regional Council at their Celebration of Ministries service and Affirming celebration. [Check here for all information and ongoing updates](#).

**44th General Council Annual Meeting.** On **Saturday, October 21**, the 44th General Council Annual Meeting will take place from **11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EDT** on the CHURCHx platform. Commissioners will receive an email inviting them to register and receive regular updates. The meeting will be live-streamed, with more information available closer to the event. Find out more on [GeneralCouncil44.ca](http://GeneralCouncil44.ca). For minutes and summaries from the 44th GCE meetings, please go to [United Church Commons>Shared-Publicly>Governance>General Council Executive>GC44 Executive \(2022-2025\)/](#).

**Registration is Now Open** for the **2023 Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship**, which will take place at Yorkminster Park Church in Toronto from **October 22-24**.

**KAIROS Prairies North annual gathering Saturday Oct 28 from 11am – 4pm** in Lloydminster (and online). Come and explore the timely theme of “Energy for Change”, and find out ways you can get involved! More details and registration links here: [You’re invited! Oct 28 KAIROS Annual Gathering “Energy for Change” \(kairoscanada.org\)](#)

## 3. Into the Future:

### Who Do You Say That I Am? **Wednesdays, 2-4:00 pm CST, Nov. 8, 15, 22, 29, and Dec. 6**

A five-part course by Don Schweitzer, offered in person (\$95) or on Zoom (\$75), tracing how Christians and some others have understood who Jesus is and the reasons for this, moving through the New Testament, early church debates and then to the present, looking at gains and losses that have occurred along the way. **For more information:** [click here](#). **For in-person registration:** [click here](#). **For zoom registration:** [click here](#).

### "Save The Date" ~ United Church Office Administrators Conference.

The retreat is planned for **October 1 - 4, 2024**, and it will take place at Queen’s House in Saskatoon, SK. All church office administrators are welcome to attend! Further information and details will be coming soon.