

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



October 11, 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*

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 - 3rd option down under News & Events). [Click here to view it](#). Don't miss the many fun and interesting events that will happen this fall – 'dining/eating' opportunities, family friendly events and more. **Communities of Faith**, be sure to **submit your events** to the calendar (use the form, 4th 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:

40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism: October 10-December 1 2023 – Began yesterday

There's brand-new content 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" - tonight

Throughout this coming academic year, we will be hosting a series of four online events celebrating St. Andrew's commitment to being an Affirming Ministry, and [Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon](#)'s commitment to being "Reconciling in Christ". We'll be educating ourselves about sexual orientation and gender identity, and exploring new ways to be in solidarity and celebration with LGBTQIA2S communities in the church and beyond.

Wednesday Oct 11 from 7:30 – 9pm ... Histories and Trajectories of our Schools' Journeys

Please join us on **zoom**: (Meeting ID: 816 4899 4435 Passcode: 992776)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81648994435?pwd=SW9NZFVkaHdvc1RxTWNKTXhOS2hyQT09>

Last Chance Equipping the saints – Thursday, October 12 from 1 – 4pm

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.

Ministry Personnel Gatherings - Tuesday at 1pm

Facilitated gatherings for all ministry personnel (active or retired) will continue every on Zoom. Please check the website calendar for [connection information](#).

I love You and It Hurts – Wednesday, October 18th at 7:30pm

A presentation brought to Regina (Sunset United Church – 177 Sunset Dr.) by [Circles of Support and Accountability \(CoSA\)](#), Theatre of the Beat has developed three short plays that reflect lived experience of elder abuse, healthy masculinity, and intimate partner violence in your relationships, with a focus on how to recognize the subtle early signs of abuse. For more information about them, see: www.theatreofthebeat.ca. Admission is by donation.

Registration Open!! Daring Justice: Western Intercultural Ministries Network Conference, 19-21 October, at Star of the North Retreat Centre, **St Albert AB, Treaty Six**. 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](#). 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**.

Canadian Centre for Christian Charities' Webinar October 25th at 2:00 pm-3:00 pm EST

Join CCCC on Zoom for their next webinar: [Three Ways a Small Church Can Be an Effective Church](#) on Small churches can be strong, healthy, and effective! In this CCCC webinar, [Karl Vaters](#), author of [The Grasshopper Myth](#) will share the three main principles behind effective small churches: **1.)** Realize you can be effective; **2.)** Discover how small churches function differently from big churches and **3.)** Understand and use the unique DNA of your small church for God's glory. This webinar is perfect for ministers and elders at small churches; denominational officials; family members of small church pastors; or anyone with a desire to deepen their understanding of small churches and how to participate in their flourishing. Registration is free but you have to enter your CRA Charity number. [Register Here](#)

NEW: You are invited to join a CCS Friday on Diakonia During Climate Change

Join in on **Friday, October 27, 2023 at noon** Central Time for an online discussion of climate change and how to respond as faith-filled individuals and as ministers.

This past summer has delivered unprecedented and extreme weather phenomena to many parts of Canada and around the world. What are the implications of climate change to your community and context? Who are we within the community of creation, and what is our responsibility to all life on Earth? What does climate change mean for the collective ministry of diakonia?

Our special guests will be **Eric Tusz-King** and **Katrina March**. Eric is a “mostly-retired” Diaconal Minister in the United Church, with experience in housing and energy issues, who has served on the UCC’s Climate Advisory Committee and is still on the Climate Advisory Committee for the town of Tantramar, NB, where he currently lives. Katrina is a deaconess and environmental engineer who is a member of the Lutheran Diaconal Association. She is a writer, speaker, preacher, teacher, and advocate for a better way of living together within creation. She recently moved to Spokane, Washington.

CCS Fridays events are **free**. Please [register](#) to receive a link.

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” \(kairoscanada.org\)](#)

Rural Ministry Town Hall, Monday October 30 (and the last Monday of every month), afternoon. All are welcome to this ongoing series of open space and focused conversation on topics near and dear to rural and remote ministries. Please note that you need a free account to sign for the whole series, and then you’ll get reminders sent to your own email. [Register here.](#)

‘Healing and Hope’ Retreat for clergy women, October 30-November 2, 2023,

At Five Oaks Centre, 1 Bethel Road, Paris, Ontario United Church Moderator Right Rev. Dr.

Carmen Lansdowne will speak on the afternoon of Nov. 1. We are hoping to ensure lots of time for small groups, and relaxation on the lovely grounds of Five Oaks. [More details are available on the LSRC calendar.](#) For more information, contact us at sistersandministers@gmail.com.

NEW: Treasurers - CEBA and UCC COVID Loan Repayments (due at the end of the year)

If you weren’t able to attend the *Webinar for Church Treasurers* on Sept 27, it’s recommended you watch the recording. Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cD548k69oDs>. It’s also available on ChurchX. CEBA and UCC COVID loans repayments are due by **December 31, 2023**. If you don’t pay in full by that date, **you will not receive the benefit of the forgivable portion**. If your Community of Faith is in danger of not being able to pay off the CEBA loan, General Council will consider loans for the purpose of paying the CEBA loan in time so you receive the benefit of the forgivable portion. Please send your request to the hdootoff@united-church.ca by **October 31, 2023**. General Council is recommending paying your CEBA loan by end of November. Interest on loans start **January 1, 2024**.

Other items covered in the webinar: *Information now available for 2024 budgeting; *UCC Protect insurance December renewals coming soon; *Changes coming for T4 reporting effective Jan 1, 2024 - best option to run all payroll through ADP; *Possible increased CRA reporting requirements related to trust and restricted funds; *CRA putting pressure on charities who are behind in T3010 and other reports. Fines and/or revocation penalties may apply.

2. Next Month

NEW: YAYAC Fall Youth Retreat – Friday, November 3 – Sunday, Nov. 5 at Melfort United Church

Gather with other amazing youth from around our province to explore your faith, play games, connect about issues you care about, and eat a lot of great snacks. Registration and more information available at <https://livingskiesrc.ca/event/fall-youth-retreat-2023-gr-7-12/>

For youth Grades 7-12. **Cost:** \$50 (support funding available)

If you'd like to help plan or have questions about the event, please be in touch! We can be reached at livingskiesyaya@united-church.ca or lsyayac.meghan@gmail.com

Can't wait to see you there!

Celebration of Covenant!!

Please join us as we celebrate **the covenant relationship between Rev. Joan Kessler and Watrous-Young community of faith on Sunday, November 5 at 4:00 pm.**

Queen's House Retreat and Renewal Centre offers 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. Among upcoming programs are: a book study on a workshop on a wide range of losses - *Transitions: Your Journey of Transformation through Grief and Loss*, and guest facilitator, Dr. David Maginley, bringing *Near Death Experiences: Hope, Hypoxia and Hypotheses, Treaty Learning Journey* led by a team from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner as well as the workshop *Who Do You Say That I Am?* (below).

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.

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) at Queen's House of Retreats, 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](#).

St. Andrew's College "Year of Intention" – *future dates*

Throughout this coming academic year, we will be hosting a series of four online events celebrating St. Andrew's commitment to being an Affirming Ministry, and [Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon](#)'s commitment to being "Reconciling in Christ". We'll be educating ourselves about sexual orientation and gender identity, and exploring new ways to be in solidarity and celebration with LGBTQIA2S communities in the church and beyond.

Please mark your calendars now for the next "Year of Intention" events! Specific information will follow, closer to the date. All events are online at 7:30-9pm SK time

- Wed Nov 27 – Queer Christology (a public lecture by Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein)
- Thurs Feb 8 - Liturgical Resources for LGBTQIA2S Christians (panel discussion)
- Tues Mar 19 Transgender and Non-Binary Realities (panel discussion)

And our "Year of Intention" will culminate in a splendid worship service of recommitment, celebrating 15+ years of [Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble](#) Affirming Ministry and 4+ years of [ReconcilingWorks](#) Reconciling in Christ ... the date for this service is still to be decided.

For more information, please contact shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca