

# Regional Rambler

## Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



### October 25, 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 – 'dining/eating' opportunities, family friendly events and more. **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:

#### Canadian Centre for Christian Charities' Webinar **Today 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: Registration is free but you have to enter your CRA Charity number. [Register Here](#)

#### **40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism: going to 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!

#### **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](#).

### **You are invited to join a CCS Friday on Diakonia During Climate Change**

Join Centre for Christian Studies 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.](#)

### **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, 2023, it is recommend watching the recording on ChurchX. Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cD548k69oDs>. 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 [hdootoff@united-church.ca](mailto:hdootoff@united-church.ca) by October 31.** General Council is recommending paying your CEBA loan by end of November. Interest on loans start January 1, 2024.

Other items covered: \*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**

### **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) **Can't wait to see you there!** 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](mailto:livingskiesyaya@united-church.ca) or [lsyayac.meghan@gmail.com](mailto:lsyayac.meghan@gmail.com)

## Celebration of Covenant!!

Please join us as we celebrate **the covenant relationships 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: *Near Death Experiences: Hope, Hypoxia and Hypotheses* brought by guest facilitator, Dr. David Maginley; *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](mailto: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](#).

## **NEW: Join a CCS Friday on "Coping with Loneliness and Isolation" Friday, Nov 10/23 at Noon**

Do you ever feel isolated in your ministry or leadership? Well, ironically, you are not alone! Join Centre for Christian Studies on **Friday, November 10 at Noon Central** for an online discussion of coping strategies for feelings of loneliness and isolation. Join Tracy Fairfield (CCS Alumnus 2008) as she shares some learnings and insights, through engaging talks and activities, based on her experience at a clergy wellness retreat put on by BC LeaderShift, at Naramata Centre.

Loneliness and isolation are definitely very different things, but regardless which you feel, as a layperson, clergy, theology student, deacon or deaconess, your vocation impacts your mental health and well-being. In this brave and safe space, you can share and be with one another in confidence and trust.

If you want to peruse a book in advance that sheds more light on this topic, check out: *A Path to Belonging: Overcoming Clergy Loneliness* by Mary Kay DuChene and Mark Sundby.

CCS Fridays events are free. To register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpf-murzsuHddaIDRcY3AN9TbKKtxb3VQm#/registration>

## **NEW: Advent of Generosity: Inviting giving and participation during Advent and Christmas Tuesday, November 14 at 11am Central (Sask) - On Zoom**

December tends to be a very busy month in the life of the church. It is also a busy month for individuals—there is extra baking, shopping for family and friends, Christmas parties, and more. Most charities save their biggest appeals for this "giving season". Does your community of faith talk about generosity during Advent? Many people want an invitation to give. This can be a time to invite generosity or deeper participation. And it's an opportunity to tell visitors about your ministry, and invite their support.

This 60-minute session will talk about different ways that church leaders can bring conversations of stewardship into Advent, Christmas Eve, and beyond. Let's help make this Advent the beginning of a church year full of deeper generosity.

This session will be on Zoom. Please register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/LL97pf7Fxm>

**Discerning a Call to Ministry - November 17 – 19, 2023** at Calgary, AB

Is God Calling You To Ministry? This retreat is an opportunity explore a Call to Ministry in The United Church of Canada. This discernment retreat is offered jointly between the Office of Vocation and LeaderSHIFT of the Pacific Mount and Chinook Winds Regional Councils and is open to all Discerners. If financial support for travel is needed, check with Laura Fohse, Office of Vacation Minister. For more information, <https://leadershiftuccan.org/discernment-retreat-2023>

**NEW: Angels from Heaven to Earth: Engaging the Mystery Together** A Zoom-Based Retreat Series **Mondays, Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11 and 18, 2023 from 1:30-5:00 CST** Stories abound of people from every culture sharing experiences of angels coming as thoughts, visions, dreams, animals, light on the water or in the clouds, and as people too. During this Advent retreat we will take time to share the mysteries, of Heavenly Angels to Earthly Angels, as we explore and respond to the qualities that are believed to be part of the essence of Angels. For full details visit: <https://www.freeflowwellness.ca/retreats>

**3. Into the Future:****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](mailto:shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca)

**NEW: Rural Church Network (US and Canada) Spring Meeting - June 18-21, 2024 at Cochrane, AB**

The Rural Church Network of the USA and Canada (RCN) is coming to Mount St. Francis in Cochrane (near Calgary) and CiRCLe M (Centre for Rural Community Leadership and Ministry) out of Saskatoon Theological Union will host them. Planned events include: meeting time, a field trip to a local farm, a trip to Morley, a Stoney Nakota community to hear about the development of Indigenous Day of Prayer (June 21<sup>st</sup>) which began in Morley through the initiative of Chief Rev. John Snow; a trip to Banff to enjoy the scenery and hear the story of rural Church life in a tourist region. The conference ends on the 21<sup>st</sup> and people can return home, or arrange to stay in Calgary for National Indigenous Peoples Day. The cost of accommodation for 3 nights is \$360 Canadian. Watch for more details.

Those interested in registering for this event, please contact Catherine Christie, [christiecatherine4@gmail.com](mailto:christiecatherine4@gmail.com)