

# Regional Rambler

## Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



### November 8, 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:

#### **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>

#### **Ministry Personnel Gatherings - Tuesday at 1pm**

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

**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: Regional Council learning time on the Remit, November 23 at 7:30 Central, on Zoom.**

Please join Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils online for a learning time on the Remit on an autonomous Indigenous organization within the United Church. We are grateful that elders and knowledge keepers Charlene and Russel Burns will be joining Executive Minister Shannon McCarthy for the conversation. All welcome; content will be designed for pastoral charge council or board members, pastoral charge supervisors, and ministry personnel. [Please register here](#); this will send you the link automatically.

**NEW: St. Andrew’s College “Year of Intention” Monday, November 27**

Join us for the second 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.

**Monday Nov 27 from 7 – 8pm (Sk time) ... “Queer Christology” A public lecture by the Rev. Dr.**

**Kayko Driedger Hesslein**, William Hordern Professor of Systematic Theology at Lutheran Theological Seminary Please join us on zoom: (Meeting ID: 875 9466 6578 / Passcode: 329367) <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87594666578?pwd=SKV3FkuRKdSKhUgtfkBJbvruCYrkmg.1>

**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>

## 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!

## 2. Next Month

**NEW: St. Andrew's College Contemplative Gathering: The Gift of a Pause Dec 1 @ 10-11am (Sk)**  
**December 1** is between seasons; a time to pause and.... Each of us will pause in ways unique to our lives. Join us for an hour of prayer, scripture, quiet meditation, and conversation.

Please register here:

[https://form.jotform.com/232975380744263?fbclid=IwAR1uSNJyULTv0TdERN1uGlxRHSjdA7XLse5eQQ6z8F5rlekn\\_Aj46KQmGc](https://form.jotform.com/232975380744263?fbclid=IwAR1uSNJyULTv0TdERN1uGlxRHSjdA7XLse5eQQ6z8F5rlekn_Aj46KQmGc)

**NEW: Faithful Footprints energy carbon reduction for faith buildings webinar, December 15th at 1:00pm CST.** Join other Prairies and North people to learn more about strategies to reduce the carbon footprint of your faith spaces, and how to access the Faithful Footprints grant program to support energy efficiency upgrades and investment in renewables. Free! Register today at: <https://forms.gle/WsPbu6tEvuzx89JP8>

**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.

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).

## 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 online events celebrating St. Andrew's commitment to being an Affirming Ministry, and [Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon](#)'s commitment to being "Reconciling in Christ".

***Please mark your calendars now for the next "Year of Intention" events!*** Specific information will follow, closer to the date.

- **Thurs Feb 8** - Liturgical Resources for LGBTQIA2S Christians (panel discussion)
- **Tues Mar 19** Transgender and Non-Binary Realities (panel discussion)

Our "Year of Intention" will culminate in a splendid worship service, the date is still to be decided. For more information, please contact [shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca)

**Rural Church Network of the US and Canada (RCN) Spring Meeting - June 18-21, 2024**

The RCN is coming to Mount St. Francis in Cochrane (near Calgary). Planned events include: meeting time, a field trip to a local farm, a trip to Morley, a Stoney Nakota community; and a trip to Banff. 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).