

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



December 6, 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 upcoming seasonal events. **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 the festivities.

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: National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (**today**)

God of hope and love,

Today we stand somewhere between peace and joy,
unsure where to find them

in a world where women continue to be subject to violence
because they are women, because they are Indigenous.

Today it is hard for us to imagine the lamb and the lion together,
to know that our hearts will rejoice at the arrival of justice.

And yet we persevere.

We remember, and we persevere.

—an Advent prayer by Sara Stratton, written for the [National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women](#).

Equipping the Saints: **Tomorrow, December 7, 1:00-2:30pm**

Are you engaged in visiting folks on behalf of your community of faith, either in a health care setting or in their home? Then this gathering is for you! As a follow-up to our training session in October, join our chaplains Lorna King and Emily Carr on **Thursday, December 7, 1:00-2:30pm** on Zoom for a time of check-in and learning. The topic this month will be led by Michele Rowe: "The 4 C's of pastoral visitation: Cause. Control. Care. Connection." Contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca to register.

Join a Centre for Christian Studies (CCS) Friday for an online discussion about engaging youth in climate justice. Friday, December 8 at 12:00 CT This summer, 15 youth from across the church participated in The United Church of Canada's first ever Climate Motivators program. Each student was sponsored by, and in partnership with, a local community of faith where they worked together on local climate justice or environmental needs. The motivators connected online and in-person to learn how to be leaders, worship, be in nature, act for change, and influence church policy.

Our special guest will be Amy Crawford, team leader for Faith Formation and Mission with the General Council of The United Church of Canada. Amy has just returned from a short sabbatical where she was reviewing and evaluating what happened to the youth and the people they interacted with. She will share some of her insights about getting youth involved in educating about climate change.

CCS Fridays are free. Please register to receive a zoom link, here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclduiqqTMqHdzVZnAl2bcp5TI2oUuC5d7z#/registration>

CCS Fridays are online conversations to help us respond faithfully to emerging issues in local contexts. These workshops are open to anyone who might be interested. There will be a presentation that will be recorded for future viewing, plus opportunities to engage with the ideas in small groups.

NEW: Invitation to simple local vigils: Candles for COP28, December 8-10, 2023

For the Love of Creation is inviting groups across Canada to host candlelight vigils in their own communities on the weekend of **December 8-10, 2023**. This will be a time to reflect and share our love for our planet, our concern for ourselves, humanity and all our non-human relations at risk from climate change. Please consider hosting a vigil in your community. A gathering of any size is welcome - anything from a small gathering of 3 people in your church to larger public events will help us unite and share hope across the country. [See the FLC website for more information](#) to help you get started, including instructions, prayers, and more. [Add your vigil to the For the Love of Creation Map](#)! For vigils in your community, [stay tuned to the map](#) as events are added.

Climate vigils December 8-10: lots of resources available to help

From November 30 – December 12, 2023, the [United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties \(COP28\)](#) will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. This global conference can serve as an important catalyst for leaders and communities of faith to pray, learn and act for climate justice. Please see [For the Love of Creation](#), an ecumenical site for climate justice advocates, for lots of ideas. The theme of COP 28 is Unite. Act. Deliver. Let's help this be so.

Faithful Footprints energy carbon reduction for faith buildings webinar, Friday, 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 here](#).

NEW: Video from three-Region Remit learning circle 23 November

Many thanks to the 140 people from our Prairies and North Regional Councils and beyond, who came out to learn and discuss with knowledge keepers Charlene and Russel Burns and Executive Minister Shannon McCarthy. A recording of the session is now available on our Regional YouTube channels: [click here to access it](#). In the new year we will host one or two more such circles.

Ministry Personnel Gatherings - Tuesdays at 1pm

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

Queen's House Retreat and Renewal Centre welcomes you! Their ecumenical programming combines in-person and online events using Zoom. Please visit their webpage for a list of all upcoming programs and to register for all programs: <https://www.queenshouse.org/programs/> ***Nourish Your Mind and Nurture Your Spirit at Queen's House!*** For inquiries/additional information contact Sarah Donnelly, Programming Director: 306-242-1916 x226. If you are considering an event at Queen's House, please connect with Bookings Coordinator, Angela Brockmeyer. Angela can be reached at 306-242-1916 x230; bookings@queenshouse.org.

2. Next Month**NEW: Multifaith Saskatchewan AGM – January 7, 2023 at 3pm**

The Multifaith Saskatchewan (MSF) AGM will be on **Sunday, January 7, 2024 at 3pm**. This meeting is held online to facilitate participation from across the province. **Please put it in your calendars now.** Please register for the Zoom meeting at

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZMldO2oqD8rE9LjZqz5RedfelKFci_dmKg

In addition, the MFS has some vacancies on the Board: *President (2023-2025); *Communications (2023-2025); * 1 Southern representative (2023-2025); and * 2 Northern representatives (2022-2024 & 2023-2025). Board positions are normally two-year terms. Nominations for any of these positions may be sent to the Nomination Committee, c/o Nicholas Jesson (njesson@archregina.sk.ca). We welcome self-nominations! No experience is necessary. These positions are described in the MFS Constitution at <https://multifaithsask.org/constitution>. If you have questions about the Board and its responsibilities, please contact the Nomination Committee at the same address. **Download** the [AGM Jan. 7 2024 Agenda](#), the [2022 AGM MFS Minutes](#), and the [2022-2023 Financial Statements](#).

NEW: Advance notice: January 9 and 31 prep for Affirming PIE Day (Thursday March 14).

The Affirming movements in our three Regional Councils will host an open house online to talk about our local plans for celebrating Affirming PIE Day: Public, Intentional, and Explicit support for 2SLGBTQIA+ people and allies. It's also a great excuse to share in whatever desserts are a sign of celebration in your culture and area. More information to come but for now: *Living Skies* will host a conversation on **Tuesday 9 January at 7:00PM CST** and *Prairie to Pine's* Equity and Diversity committee will host another on **Wednesday January 31 at 7:00PM CST**.

Virtual Learning Opportunity - receive a certificate in Ministry of Supervision in January.

The Certificate in Ministry of Supervision provides participants with the information and skills to mentor individuals preparing for ministry by equipping them for supervision including pastoral practices, leadership, reflection, feedback and spiritual guidance. It is designed for **clergy and lay individuals** who are interested in supporting students and communities for supervised ministry education (SME), internships and field education. **PREREQUISITES:** A minimum of five years of post-ordination or commissioning, experience in congregational ministry leadership OR equivalent lay leadership.

Mark your Calendar Now! The course will take place as a once a week intensive with three-hour synchronous class time on zoom each week. Here is the schedule: **Thursdays: Jan 11, Jan 18, Jan 25, Feb 1, Feb 8, each time from 12:00 – 3:00 pm ET**

You can register at United in Learning (<https://churchx.ca/local/shop/catalog.php?id=2>)

For more information please contact Andrew Richardson (ARichardson@united-church.ca)

NEW: St. Thomas More De Margerie Ecumenical Lectures - January 24 and 25, 2024

St. Andrew's College and the Saskatoon Theological Union are proud to be sponsors of the 2024 annual St. Thomas More **De Margerie Ecumenical Lectures** on Christian Reconciliation and Unity, on the evenings of **January 24 (Wednesday) and 25 (Thursday)**. This year, the theme is "Grassroots Ecumenism", presented by the Rev. Dr. Karen Petersen Finch. There will be two public lectures, one entitled "Re-imagining Lay People as Stewards of Doctrine" and the second "Doctrine as the Fuel of Renewal". For more information, head over here:

<https://stmcollege.ca/events/2024/01/annual-de-margerie-ecumenical-lecture.php>

NEW: Next Contemplative Gathering: The Gift of Pause – January 30, 2024

St. Andrew's College, in partnership with Living Skies Regional Council, invites you to our next **contemplative gathering**, to be held with the Saskatoon Theological Union Chapel community on **Tuesday January 30, at 11:40am Sask time**. Come spend 40 minutes or so in quiet contemplation, centered on the ancient practice of *lectio divina*. Join us via zoom, and be welcome! <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5845127421>

3. Into the Future:**NEW: St. Andrew's College "Year of Intention" - Thursday, February 8**

St. Andrew's College and the Saskatoon Theological Union **"Year of Intention"** next webinar will be on **Thursday February 8, from 7:30 – 9pm (Sask. Time)**. Our panel discussion will include LTS' Dr. Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero and SAC's Dr. Becca Whitla, among others. Together, we'll be investigating liturgical resources which center LGBTQIA2S+ people and communities. To attend, jump on the zoomlink here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89505566528?pwd=aBYtIAN462xYyqzljFFT96pP2yHMgL.1>

The last event will be **Tuesday, March 19** - Transgender and Non-Binary Realities (panel discussion). Specific information will follow, closer to the date. 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

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 21st) 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 21st 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