

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



January 17, 2024 – 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 - 3 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, 4 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! [Click here for the latest national education and training opportunities](#) through **United in Learning**. The United Church's Edge Network also offers online courses related to Change and innovation. [See their courses here](#).

1. This month:

NEW: Updates on Remit voting; accessing your M&S or Community of Faith ID

A letter was sent to all pastoral charges from General Secretary Rev. Michael Blair last week. The Regional Council has also sent a letter this week. Both have important reminders and resources on the Remit on creating an autonomous Indigenous organization within the United Church. The Regional letter also has an invitation to another learning time (see page 3). You are urged to set a date for a vote if you have not done so already. Next, the Regional Council will move into beginning to call pastoral charges who have not voted.

In order to vote, you will need your Mission and Service number or your Community of Faith ID. Your Mission and Service number can be found in your ChurchHub account or in your PAR info, if you use PAR. When you sign into your ChurchHub.ca, your Community of Faith ID number should be in the upper right-hand corner of your screen. If either of these aren't set up for you or just don't work, don't hesitate to call the office and we'll help.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – January 18 – 25, 2024

The 2024 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is on the theme "You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbour as yourself" based on Luke 10:25-37. This year's theme was prepared by an ecumenical team in Burkina Faso.

Resources include an Order of Service, a Bible study, and various reflections on the theme. There are also hymn suggestions and resources for children, high schools, and university campuses.

Download these free materials at <https://www.weekofprayer.ca/2024-wpcu-resources>

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](#).

Communicating Impact: Narrative Budgets and Storytelling at your AGM - Tuesday, January 23 at 3pm Central. This 60-minute session for church leaders--both clergy and lay--will talk about how communities of faith can better communicate their amazing impact during their annual meeting and through annual reports. We will do a special look at narrative budgets and how this tool can transform how ministry is spoken about in connection to finances. [To register click here](#).

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>

Centre for Christian Studies invites you to CCS Friday - "Artificial Intelligence in Pastoral Care:

Who cares?" on January 26, at 12:00 CT on Zoom Artificial Intelligence technologies are being introduced into nearly every area of human life and work including fields most people imagined to be the sole jurisdiction of humans. **So**, who cares if social robots or intelligent software applications provide pastoral and spiritual care?

Join David Lappano (former CCS program educator) as he shares and engages us in exploring research he has been doing for his MDiv studies in the UK. **CCS Fridays events are free.**

Please [register](#) to receive a link. **In case the "register" hyperlink doesn't work the hyperlink for registration is: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvcOmpjMsG9F-](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvcOmpjMsG9F-0VtBHZquXQBVXPoX5jsm)

[0VtBHZquXQBVXPoX5jsm](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvcOmpjMsG9F-0VtBHZquXQBVXPoX5jsm) CCS Fridays are online conversations offered by the Centre for Christian Studies that 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.

To All Women of the United Church in Saskatchewan – AGM meeting

We are changing the AGM meeting from 3 p.m. on Saturday, 27th January, 2024 to **7 p.m., Friday, 26th January, 2024**. Please register with Barb Bradley at greenview@sasktel.net or (306) 370-0136. We are looking to fill the position of secretary.

A [Wellness Weekend](#) at Shekinah Retreat Centre from January 27-29, 2024!

This weekend experience is meant to nourish your mind, body, and soul by providing opportunities to immerse yourself in nature, enjoy good company, engage in physical activity and savor nutritious meals. Everything is a choice, and you can choose to relax or embark on adventures at your own pace. Treat yourself to a winter getaway only 40 minutes from Saskatoon! For more information, visit <https://www.shekinahretreatcentre.org/winter-refresh> or call us at 306-945-4929.

Stewardship Best Practices – January 29 – April 18, 2024

This 9-session deep dive into the spiritual practice of stewardship. This course that begins in January, and wraps up in April, will help your team create a full year stewardship plan, and transform how you talk about money and generosity in your congregation. [Find out more and register here click here](#).

Grasped by the Holy: God's Call can be unrelenting! How do we listen to the Spirit?

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 45 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> If you would like, you can also pre-register here:

[Contemplative Gathering: Tues, Jan 30, 11:40am \(jotform.com\)](https://www.jotform.com)

NEW: Indigenous Church Remit learning time 2, Tuesday January 30, 7:30 PM Central

We will again have an open learning conversation on the remit on creating an autonomous Indigenous organization within the United Church. This time we are honoured to work with Gloria Cook, Fisher River Cree Nation and member of the National Indigenous Council; Rev Murray Pruden, Saddle Lake Cree Nation and Executive Minister, Indigenous Ministries and Justice; Rev. Shannon McCarthy, Regional Council Executive Minister. [Please click here to register](#). Be sure to check your email spam folder if you do not get the automated reply from Zoom in your inbox.

All welcome, from any Regional Council you live in, whether your pastoral charge has voted or not! If you'd like to share this invitation, [you can also use this link](#). We strongly encourage everyone to read, prior to the gathering, the [latest letter from the General Secretary](#) and to watch two short videos first: [Perspectives on the Remit from the National Indigenous Gathering](#), and a new video on [questions addressed by members of the non-Indigenous church](#).

NEW: Affirming PIE Day Prep Part 2, Wednesday January 31, 7:00-8:30PM Central

The Affirming movements in our three Regional Councils are hosting open houses online to talk about our local plans for celebrating [Affirming PIE Day](#): Public, Intentional, and Explicit support for 2SLGBTQIA+ people and allies. Come with your plans, hopes, and questions on **January 31** and join Prairie to Pine's Equity and Diversity Committee for some good discussion and planning. Bring dessert or pizza pie if you like. All welcome, from all Regional Councils and from ecumenical extended family, and wherever you are, or are not, on the Affirming journey. **Please share the information by email, but do not post it on social media.** Here is the Zoom info:

<https://united-church.zoom.us/j/81578258746?pwd=GnkTxGGCVn8zWKDo7mwCcf0Pwyus36.1>

Meeting ID: 815 7825 8746 Password: 967101 1-855 703 8985 Canada Toll-free

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

St. Andrew's College "Year of Intention" Thursday February 8, from 7:30 – 9pm

St. Andrew's College and the Saskatoon Theological Union next **"Year of Intention"** 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 [zoom link here](#).

For more details, contact shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca

NEW: Daring Justice: Uniting in Dialogue and Reflection, online February 15 - April 25, 2024. A six week LeaderShift course exploring how our work for justice is rooted in United Church of Canada faith tradition and sacred scripture. [Click here for full details.](#)

NEW: PIE in the Public Square, Affirming PIE Day preparation, Thursday February 15 at 6:00PM Central Get ready for dessert with a purpose! Affirming PIE Day is coming up **March 14**, and to help us get ready, Affirm United/ S'affirmer Ensemble is inviting three dynamic faith leaders to reflect on what this years' theme means to them: Rev. Franklyn James; Rabbi Dr. Nachshon Siritsky; and Rev. Tricia Gerhard. Together we'll be Public, Intentional, and Explicit with our Affirming welcome. [Register here!](#) [Here's the Facebook event link.](#)

NEW: Beloved Is Where We Begin: An Online Conversation With Author and Artist Jan Richardson You are warmly invited to join us for an amazing online conversation with author and artist Jan Richardson on **Saturday, February 17th, 2024 from 9:30am - 12:00pm PT.** This event is co-hosted by Oasis United Church and Naramata Centre. If you register between **now and January 26th**, there is a 20% discount. For more information, please see [the Naramata Centre website.](#)

Getting Started in Stewardship – February 22 at 3pm or 5:30pm Central Time. Come on your own, or come with a team and join United Church people from across the country to learn some stewardship first principles. This 90 minute course is the place to start if you are new to stewardship or need a refresher. [Register or learn more right here.](#)

3. Into the Future:

An Ecumenical Opportunity - World Day of Prayer 2024 (wicc.org)

The theme for 2024 is written by Palestinian Women. The service is offered in two formats: a 55-minute video service or the traditional format of using the paper copy. The WDP service can be any time of the day from March to September. The women who have done these services in their local area are not able to carry on and WDP is looking for new coordinators. We are trying to revive this great ecumenical tradition among churches in Canada. Please contact me for more information. Linda M. Ervin (Diaconal Minister) at fieldrep567@wicc.org or call 250.493.5333.

St. Andrew's College's last 'Year of Intention' 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

NEW: Anti Racism Work and Action conference for those in ministry with children and youth, April 4-6 2024, Vancouver. Held in-person at the Epiphany Chapel on the University of BC Campus. An [amazing line up of speakers](#), worship leaders, and hosts are already preparing to welcome, educate, and inspire you in Spring 2023! [Click here for full details.](#) If you are considering attending, please let justice minister Julie Graham know: jgraham@united-church.ca

Annual Meeting date change

The Regional Meeting dates have been changed to **June 13 – 16, 2024.** Please mark your **calendars** with this updated information.

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). The cost of accommodation for 3 nights is \$360 Canadian. [See their website for more details.](#) Those interested in registering for this event, please contact Catherine Christie, christiecatherine4@gmail.com