

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



January 3, 2024 – Events – *Happy New Year*

*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:

The Multifaith Saskatchewan Annual General Meeting will be held on **Sunday, Jan. 7, 2023 at 3pm**

This meeting is held online to facilitate participation from across the province. More information, including Board vacancies and downloadable documents (agenda, minutes and financial statements), can be found on their website: <https://multifaithsask.org/>

No experience is necessary. Please register for the Zoom meeting at

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMldO2oqD8rE9LjZqz5RedfelKFcj_dmKg

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**.

Reminder: M&S Contributions – 2023 contributions must be postmark before January 15, 2024

Please remember to send in your Mission and Service contributions as soon as possible to ensure this work continues. Remember, to have your contributions counted towards 2023, you must send them in postmarked before **January 15th, 2024**. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

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](#).

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: **Thursdays: Jan 11, Jan 18, Jan 25, Feb 1, Feb 8, 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: Heat Pumps in Saskatchewan: What You Should Know Saturday, Jan. 13, 10:30am to Noon.

What's all the fuss about heat pumps in Saskatchewan? Are they efficient enough to heat your home when it's -30 outside? How do they compare to natural gas heating? What is the carbon footprint? Does it make sense in Saskatchewan? **Join our panellists** who will explore the economics and environmental impact of heat pumps for Saskatchewan homeowners. **In-person** at the Central Regina Public Library meeting room C-1 (2311 12th Avenue, Regina) or **livestream** at <https://bit.ly/kairos-yqr-heat-pumps> . **Free. All are welcome!** The in-person event is planned by Kairos Regina, an ecumenical social justice network.

NEW: 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>

Local neighbourhood services and other observances are encouraged at any time of the year.

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>

Next Contemplative Gathering: the Gift of Pause – January 30, 2024 at 11:40am Sask time

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, Jan 30 at 11:40am**. 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>

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 Feb. 8, from 7:30 – 9pm**

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=aBYtIAN462xYyqzljFFT96pP2yHMgL1>

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

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 filedrep567@wicc.org or call 250.493.5333.

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 (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