

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



February 28, 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 - 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.

All the offerings from **United in Learning**, our national online home for courses, training, and conversation, [are listed here in their latest newsletter](#). The United Church's Edge Network also offers online courses related to Change and innovation. [See their courses here](#).

1. This month:

Setting your remit vote: An important event only you can create! Set a date for your vote on Remit 1! And please plan to email your ballot in; information for that is on the ballot itself, which is a [printable PDF file available at this link](#). Having difficulty getting a time set up, or with sending your results in? Have questions? Don't hold back- contact the office and we will figure out how to put you in touch with resources and people to talk with. Phone: 306-704-0181. Email: livingskies@united-church.ca

Give it up for the Earth! 2024 runs from February 14 to March 28. The climate crisis demands action, and [Give it up for the Earth!](#) makes it easy for you to make a difference. This national ecumenical Lenten campaign empowers Canadians to reduce emissions, embrace [eco-spirituality](#), and demand bolder [climate action from the government](#). Visit the campaign website for more information, resources, and to register your community of faith.

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](#).

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](#).

National Lenten study: Act Fast: Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis,

February 20-March 26, Tuesdays at 12:00PM CST / 11:00AM MST. Grief, anxiety, hope, love pain, despair, awe – many emotions are used to describe our relationship with all of Creation. What is your personal, physical, and spiritual relationship with God's Creation? How does this relationship affect how you follow Christ? This Lenten devotional invites us to deepen our love for Creation and take action or fast for a climate in crisis. [Click here to register.](#)

Bearing Faithful Witness - addressing anti-Judaism,

February 26–March 11, 2024, 6:00-7:30PM CST, 5:00-6:30PM MST. Join members of faculty from our United Church theological schools and guests, to explore [Bearing Faithful Witness](#), a United Church resource that addresses anti-Judaism in worship, liturgy, Christian education, and scriptural interpretation. Participating schools are: Vancouver School of Theology, St. Andrew's College, and Emmanuel College. [Register now!](#)

2. Next Month**World Day of Prayer 2024 (<https://wicc.org/>) Friday, March 1 or a day of your choice.**

This year's service has been prepared by Palestinian Women and includes material and a full video of the service. [Please have a look at their many prayerful and thoughtful resources here.](#)

Please contact Linda M. Ervin for more information at fieldrep567@wicc.org or call 250.493.5333.

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/>

Upcoming programs include: **1) *Who Am I?*** on Zoom, **Saturday, March 9 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. CST.** Facilitator will be Lynn Gow. [More information is here.](#) **2) *The Shadow and the***

Mystery of Evil – A Workshop for Spiritual Directors, Clergy, Therapists, and others in the helping professions. This is offered in-person and on Zoom on **Thursday, March 21, 7:00 - 9:00pm. MDT and Friday, Mar 22, 10:00am - 4:00pm.** Facilitator will be Donald Bisson, FMS. [More info is here.](#)

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.

You're invited: In person discernment for our new Affirming Committee: March 12, Calvary

United Church, Prince Albert or by Zoom. In May, Living Skies voted to become Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ Affirming. To carry this work into the future, the Region needs to move from an interim task group to a longer-term committee, and for that, people with a passion for this work of public, intentional, and explicit commitment are needed and welcome. Come out in person or online and discern with the Affirming task group to see if you're called to help Living Skies live into its commitments. Please contact Justice Minister Julie Graham for details, jgraham@united-church.ca

Equipping the Saints - Save the Date!

The next gathering of folks interested in pastoral visiting will be on **Thursday, March 14 at 1:30pm.** Details including content and special guest to follow.

NEW: Congratulations to two new Affirming ministries in our Regional Council!

Westminster United Church in Humboldt and Mayfair United Church in Saskatoon will be holding their public worship and celebration to mark their official Affirming status, which reflects many years of inclusive commitments that have come before, and many more yet to come.

Westminster celebrates **March 17** (see this newsletter and our website events calendar), and Mayfair United will celebrate on **April 14**, with more details to come. What is “Affirming” and is it an option for your ministry? Yes, and [read more here](#).

Affirming Celebration for Westminster United Church, Humboldt, 2:00 pm Sunday Mar 17, 2024.

Join us as we celebrate becoming an Affirming Ministry, committed to full inclusion of the 2SLGBTQ+ community and all folks marginalized in society due to ageism, racism, economic status, etc. A special worship service takes place. You have been invited because of your part in our Affirming journey, demonstration of allyship, and/or commitment to caring for others. The worship service is open to everyone! Following the service, refreshments will be served and Live and Silent Auctions of pies will take place. Stay and join the fun! Please send a message of congratulations, and an RSVP for the refreshments, to westminsteruc@sasktel.net.

NEW: St. Andrew’s College Year of Intention Final Webinar

Building on the momentum of our first three online webinars, the Saskatoon Theological Union continues our Year of Intention in 2024. This involves 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.

Our final webinar is scheduled for **Tuesday March 19, from 7:30-9pm (Sask time)**. It will be an online panel discussion featuring parents of transgender and non-binary youth, speaking from faith-based perspectives. The [zoomlink for this webinar is here](#). For more information, please contact shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca

3. Into the Future:

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 2024! [Click here for full details](#). If you are considering attending, please let justice minister Julie Graham know: jgraham@united-church.ca

NEW: St. Andrew’s College Year of Intention Final Event Our Year of Intention will culminate in a **worship service** of recommitment, celebrating 15+ years of [Affirm United/S’affirmer Ensemble](#) Affirming Ministry, 4+ years of [ReconcilingWorks](#) Reconciling in Christ, and the ongoing engagement of all three schools toward greater inclusion and transformation. This worship service will take place in person, and online, during the STU chapel service on **Thursday April 4, at 11:40am (Sask time)** ... [the chapel zoomlink is here](#).

Following the worship service, there will be a **light lunch** served in the Main Lounge / Great Hall downstairs at the College. All are warmly invited to partake! (**Please RSVP to Shawn by March 21**). For more information, please contact shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca

NEW: Tending the Light Within - A Zoom-Based Spring Retreat - Monday, April 8, 15, and 22nd, 2024 (1:30-5:00 CST) In this Spring-filled month of April, teeming with both its dull muckiness and flamboyant beauty, we will be gifted with an extra 2 hours, 7 minutes, and 22 seconds of gorgeous life-giving sunlight. In this retreat, as we draw from the work of Brene Brown, we will invite this splendid light that makes stained-glass windows and the natural world shine with vibrant colors to accompany us as we reflect upon ways to keep: * our inner light sparking like the glistening snow as it melts, * our resiliency glowing during the mucky moments of life, * and our joy radiating like the world coming into blossom.

For full details, visit: <https://www.freeflowwellness.ca/retreats>. **Registration deadline March 30.**

NEW: Save the Date!

Our next online **Contemplative Gathering** will be held on **Friday April 19, at 10am (Sk time)**.

More details and registration information will be available soon ... in the meantime, please contact Dr. Bernon Lee if you have any questions (bernon.lee@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca)

Updated: Save the date – Sask UCCW AGM and Gathering – Saturday, April 27, 2024 at St. David's

Trinity United Church (3318 Merritt Street, Saskatoon). The Saskatchewan United Church

Women's Gathering is for all the women of The United Church of Canada. Our guests are the Rt. Rev. Jordan Cantwell, former Moderator of the United Church and the Growth Animator for the Prairies and Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle, Representing our National UCW.

Theme: Growing Spiritually based on **Scripture:** Mark 1:29 – 39. This is from verse 34: *"And he healed many who were sick with various diseases; and cast out many demons. And He would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew Him."*

Registration: 9:00 am., with the **Programme** to follow at 10:45 a.m. More information to follow.

NEW: Music Matters AGM and conference, May 2-5, 2024, at St. Paul's United Church (Thunder Bay, ON) **or online**. Music Matters and its AGM are open to everyone who is interested in music in The United Church of Canada—music leaders, singers, instrumentalists, lay volunteers, clergy. There are a variety of payment options to suit your needs; the suggested fee is \$200 per person, with a sliding scaling down to \$150, depending on circumstance. Registration to participate online is \$75. [Register](#), and for more information and the schedule, email worship@united-church.ca, or visit [Music United](#).

Hear ye; hear ye. Good News is here!

The Living Skies Regional Council Meeting will be held from **June 13 to 15 (2024) at the Travel Lodge** (Idylwyld Dr. N. and Circle Dr) **in Saskatoon**, with the **Moderator, the Right Rev. Carmen Lansdowne attending** for part of our meeting. The Service of Praise will be at a United Church in Saskatoon on **Sunday, June 16**. This year the **registration fee will remain at \$175.00**.

At your upcoming Annual Meeting, **please remember to elect or appoint your Community of Faith's Regional Council Representative** (each congregation is entitled to have and send at least one). Their involvement in the wider church is extremely important in keeping our Living Skies Regional Council functioning and healthy for the long term.

Advance notice: Rural ministries conference: experience the rural culture of the Alberta Foothills, June 18-21 2024, Cochrane, AB. Hosted by the Centre for Rural Community Leadership and Ministry and by the Rural Church Network of the United States and Canada.

Accommodation, meals, and some programming at Mount St. Francis Retreat Centre. Off-site programs include visits to a farm involved in regenerative agriculture; a site with Immigrant and Indigenous urban gardening; a Stoney Nakoda community in the foothills, with roots in the history of the Indigenous Day of Prayer, and Banff. Total cost for residential conference and all tours will be \$500. Options available for people not staying at Mount St. Francis. Information at www.circle-m.ca and [registration is now open at this link](#).

NEW: SAVE THE DATE: UCC Office Admin Conference! October 1-4, 2024

Planning is underway for our next Office Administrator's Conference at Home Inn & Suites in Saskatoon, SK. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to connect, learn and "fill our cup". A registration package will be coming out in early April with more details, along with a letter for support to provide to your M&P Committees.

COSTS: Single accommodation: \$600 / Double accommodation: \$475 / No accommodation: \$300. For more information, contact Chantal Winslow at cwinslow@united-church.ca