

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



March 27, 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](#).

FINAL NOTICE: Sending in your remit vote

Please email your ballot in; information for that is on the ballot itself, which is a [printable PDF file available at this link](#). Having difficulty 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 **Deadline: March 31, 2024**

1. This month:

Tending the Light Within - A Zoom-Based Spring Retreat - **Monday, April 8, 15, and 22, 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.**

2. Next Month

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](#).

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

Introduction to Godly Play – Online via Zoom - April 13 at 9:30am – 4:30pm (Mountain)
The registration link is now open for the next Introduction to Godly Play. Originally developed with children, Godly Play is both spiritual practice and a process applicable to all ages and many settings. **Cost: \$50** Now is [the time to register](#).

Childcare at the Regional Meeting Survey

The Regional Gathering Planning Committee is polling potential delegates to see if childcare will be needed. Please email Bev Diebert (bdiebert@united-church.ca) **by April 15, 2024**, if there is a possibility of you bringing children to the Gathering in **June (13-16, 2024)**. Please include the ages of the children attending. Your responses will help decide if we provide childcare for children under 5; or Children at the Gathering (ages 5/6 to 12).

Save the Date!

Our next online **Contemplative Gathering** will be held on **Friday April 19, at 10am (Sk time)**. Join us for an hour of contemplation and conversation. As we move through the Great Fifty Days of Easter, we will explore being “**Rooted in Resurrection**”. Please join online here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85211124350?pwd=3orbaz8d8UDOcDVSWAulK4ALe2aWSW.1>

Updated: An Invitation: 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 women of The United Church of Canada. Full details, a poster and registration form are all found [in the Living Skies Regional calendar announcement](#). **Cost is \$30** and **Registration Deadline: April 19, 2024**. Please note the requests for “In Memoriam” material, nominations and more.

Wait- Is This Racist, new online community to explore anti-racist practices!

Beginning **Monday, April 22 at 6:00 PM CDT, 5:00PM CST/ MDT**. Together, we'll be drawing from some of the themes of the book [Wait—Is This Racist? A Guide to Becoming an Anti-Racist Church](#) to explore very practical ways of co-creating anti-racist congregations. This will not be a book study! Reading the book and using the provided assessments will be useful, but it is the shared experiences of learning and implementation that are what will change our communities. As part of the first session, Kerry Connelly, the author, will join us. There will be lots of support along the way. Full description: "[Wait—Is this Racist?](#)" on Church X, the national church's online learning platform.

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.

YAYA Spring Youth Retreat – April 26-28, 2024 at Knox Met United Church in Regina.

Grades 7 – 12 are welcome. **Cost:** \$50 (with funding available if needed.) [See here for more info.](#)

ATTENTION: Pastoral Charges with Manses

We have been notified by Erik Mathiesen, Chief Financial Officer of The United Church of Canada, about a requirement for all Pastoral Charges with manses to submit a CRA form related to “Underused Housing Tax” by **April 30, 2024**. It is the responsibility of the UC General Council and Regional Councils to **flag the risk related to not complying. There is an apparent duty to file -with a penalty for noncompliance.** For more information about the Underused Housing Tax, please read this [memo](#). The General Council website offers some information [here](#). The Tax was also discussed at the Treasurer’s webinar held on **February 28**, including a bit of a “how to” complete the form. To watch the recording, [click here](#). The discussion about the Underused Housing Tax begins at 33:45 minutes. **To keep up-to-date** on the latest news and advice for treasurers, trustees, payroll contacts, and more, join every month. [Register here](#).

3. Into the Future:**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](#).

NEW: Sacraments Elder online training

Back by popular demand, Living Skies Regional Council will be offering Sacraments Elder training by Zoom on **Saturday, May 11 from 1:00-4:00pm**. Given the shortened timeline, it is important that participants read the material in the [handbook found here](#), and find someone who is ministry personnel to serve as a mentor. Current Sacraments Elders are welcome to attend as a refresher. In order to register, contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca.

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 Knox United Church in Saskatoon on **Sunday, June 16**. This year the **registration fee will remain at \$175.00**.

Advance notice: Rural ministries conference: experience the rural culture of the Alberta Foothills,

June 18-21 2024, Cochrane, AB. 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

Eatonia-Mantario Pastoral Charge will be covenanting with **Rev. Peter Kugba-Nyande** and Living Skies Regional Council on **Sunday June 23, 2024 at 4:00 pm** with pot luck supper to follow. All are welcome to join this in-person only service.