

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



August 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.

[Click here for the latest United in Learning](#) online conversation and learning offerings on the church's online education and training space. The United Church's Edge Network also offers online courses related to Change and innovation. [See their courses here](#).

1. This month:

Season of Creation resources available now

The 2024 Season of Creation will take place from **September 1st to October 4th** with the theme "To hope and act with Creation". This year, the **September 1st** celebration falls on a Sunday, providing a special opportunity to prepare prayer services in tune with this year's theme and symbol. We invite everyone to start planning your events and celebrations! [Download the 2024 Celebration Guide here](#). Further information about the [Season of Creation is available here](#).

2. Next month:

Updated: Ministry Personnel Gatherings - Tuesdays at 1pm

The Zoom room will be open over the summer but there will be no facilitation. [Connection information is in the calendar](#).

Women's Camp at Camp Christopher – September 6-8, 2024

Women of the United Church have been invited to join a weekend of fun, hope and joy. Camp registration starts at **4pm on Friday**. Register by sending your name, address, any dietary or accommodation needs and payment by e-transfer to Sharon at womenscamp1@gmail.com. [Click here for the information page](#) or call Donna at 306-535-6916.

A Spiritual Journey Rooted in Nature Tuesday, September 24 (4:00 pm) – Thursday, September 26, 2024 (1:30 CST) (Option to stay an extra day for a time of complete solitude) Qu'Appelle House of Prayer, Fort Qu'Appelle, Sk.

In this retreat, we will be inspired by Richard Rohr's contemplative practice to stop our busy lives and minds long enough to see everything in the natural world with humility and love. We will be invited to love what is right in front of us one step at a time, starting with a stone and then moving to the plant world, the world of creatures, and humanity itself. Once we see the divine fingerprint of beauty, truth, and goodness pulsing through all that is, we may have worked up to loving the divine in new and refreshing ways. For complete information, visit:

<https://www.freeflowwellness.ca/retreats> **Register by Sept 13**

NEW: Decolonizing ourselves gathering: We all drink from the same river. Saturday September 14 2024, at Echo Valley Provincial Park near Fort Qu'Appelle SK, Treaty 4, from 1:00-5:30 PM, plus optional additional times and locations for the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the signing of Treaty 4. Please join KAIROS Prairies North for a day of water teachings, ceremony, reflection, and action commitments with Elders and knowledge keepers Elder Marjorie Beaucage; Holly Yuzicapi; Michelle Brass (invited), settler educator Jim Harding (invited). [Please click here for all details and free registration](#). We invite you also to see this gathering as a chance to reflect on commitments mutually made in ceremony in Treaty 4. Our gathering is taking place in the wider context of the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the signing of Treaty Four. [Click here for more Treaty 4 information](#).

NEW: Hold the dates: Olive harvest focus for Palestine, September 15- October 16

We invite United Church people into this opportunity to understand the violence facing Palestinian farmers and villagers as they commence their annual olive harvest. In Gaza, part of the Occupied Palestinian Territories, harvest will not happen at all this year, amidst the unspeakable devastation and starvation.

This focus is intended for everyone, and we hope people who live in rural or remote areas closer to the rhythms of harvesting, fishing, and hunting will bring their lived experience to this work.

Planned by SK people of faith, we warmly welcome participation from across Turtle Island into film viewing, learning, worship, personal reflection, and advocacy. Key dates will include the Season of Creation, the World Council of Churches' Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel, World Communion Sunday, and World Food Day. Information will be shared on the Living Skies Regional Council website, www.livingskiesrc.ca.

NEW: River Run and bell ringing in support of Grassy Narrows First Nation, Wednesday Sept 18, 11:00AM CST/ MDT, 12:00PM CDT. This United Church endorsed action supports Grassy Narrows First Nation in northern Ontario, whose river is contaminated with mercury from off-reserve industrial operations. Their struggle for justice, health, and a return to clean water has gone on for decades. Grassy Narrows has called on the national community to help raise the profile of this struggle, and the United Church is asking us all to join in. This includes ringing our church bells or creative alternatives (and being clear about why). That's when a community march is predicted to arrive at the Ontario provincial seat of government. (Freshwater is a provincial jurisdiction and successive Ontario governments have not taken action on this desperate situation and injustice.) [Please see the link for full details, and join in!](#)

NEW: *We Sing Our Faith: A conversation on the evolution of intercultural music in the United Church of Canada*, Thursday September 19 2024, 12:30-2:30PM MDT/ CST, 1:30-3:30 CDT. Join us for some singing, a look at our past music, and a look forward to living more fully into expressing our intercultural hopes through song. As we turn 100 in less than a year, we'll bring an intercultural approach to exploring together what our music could become. Resource people: Rev OhWang Kwon, Rev Dr Lisa Waites, and Dr Becca Whitla. Free; all welcome. Sponsored by the Western Intercultural Ministries Network; this is also a 100th Anniversary event. [Click here for full details, including the Zoom link.](#)

Contemplative Gathering

St. Andrew's College invited you to join them on **Friday, September 20 at 10 am** for an hour of quiet contemplation and conversation. As we begin a new academic year, we will explore the **Ember Day** theme of "**Birthing Hope and Harvest**". [Please join online here.](#)

NEW: Fall YAYAC Youth Retreat - September 27 – 29, 2024

Grades 7-12 are invited to join us at Lumsden Beach Camp for a weekend away! More information & registration is available here: <https://livingskiesrc.ca/event/fall-yayac-retreat-grade-7-12/> If you are willing to help out with planning or leadership (anyone out of high school), please be in touch with Rev. Lindsay Mohn at livingskiesyaya@united-church.ca (sleeping on a floor or bunk bed not required!).

Save the date:

Living Skies Regional Council will be participating in covenanting services on **September 29** at Saskatoon: Mount Royal Emmanuel with Debz Ferber, and the Regina Collaboration with Bonnie Morton, Russell Mitchell-Walker and Dexter van Dyke. And, on **November 3** at Davidson with Shelly Manley-Tannis. Details including timing to follow.

NEW: Honouring Orange Shirt Day/ National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Monday Sept 30/24 **Orange Shirt Day/ the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** is an important public space for truth telling and for commitments to challenging ongoing colonization. It's now [an official day across Canada](#). The [Orange Shirt Day society](#) offers leadership for this important space, as all of Canada joins in efforts to honour, remember, and change. [Click here for more information and resources](#) on how United Church communities in our Regional Council can support this day. *"When you wear an orange shirt it's like a little bit of justice for us Survivors in our lifetime, and recognition of a system we can never allow again."* -Phyllis Webstad

3. Into the Future:

Ministry & Personnel Committees: Everything you wanted to know but were too afraid to ask

Tracy Murton, Pastoral Relations Minister, will be offering an online training session on **Thursday, October 10 in the evening**. This will be a refresher for folks continuing in this role, and would also be appropriate for people just beginning. To register, please email Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca.

Equipping the Saints next gathering – Wednesday, October 16, 1:00-2:30pm

This initiative is an opportunity for lay folks to develop skills and gather information in an online community to strengthen and encourage visiting community of faith members, hosted by hospital chaplains Emily Carr and Lorna King. The goal is to aid caregivers in developing the sensitivities required to offer pastoral support. Everyone is welcome to attend, even if this is your first time joining. Contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca to register.

Hold the date! Rural Ministry Conference, [October 25-27, 2024](#) in Fort Macleod, AB!

With workshops specifically designed for ministry in rural contexts, including First Third (children, youth, young adults) Ministry, Becoming Affirming, Intercultural Ministry, and Community Partnerships. Keynote speaker Rev. Bronwyn Corlett, Rural and New Ministries Coordinator, UCC. Registration opens late July!

“Faith in a Time of Genocide” - a United Network for Peace in Palestine and Israel Conference

[November 1](#), and **Palestine Land Exercise Training, [Thursday, October 31, 2024](#)** in Toronto, ON

This Conference and Land Exercise Training are both important opportunities to reflect on our faith and a call to faithfulness in solidarity with Palestinians. *“What does our faith call us to now?”* The conference invites you to wrestle together with these questions and find paths of effective action that bear witness to our faith. Our congregations, our United Church, our partners in Palestine Israel and our ecumenical friends need your faithful leadership now. We welcome your prayers for the people of Palestine and for UNJPPI as we prepare this conference. [Full details here.](#)

NEW: Living Skies Youth Confirmation 2025

Our YAYAC Team is currently making plans for our confirmation class that will be held as a one weekend retreat in [early 2025](#). If you have youth grades 7-12 in your community of faith that might be interested in being confirmed, please let us know by emailing Rev. Lindsay Mohn at livingskiesyaya@united-church.ca as this will help us determine the location and timing of the event. We will also be looking for leaders and mentors for the class, so please prayerfully consider if you might be able to offer your time and presence!