

# Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council  
The United Church of Canada



## September 11, 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](mailto: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<sup>rd</sup> 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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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:

**Last call!** **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 150<sup>th</sup> 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 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of Treaty Four. [Click here for more Treaty 4 information](#).

#### **Updated: Ministry Personnel Gatherings - Tuesdays at 1pm**

Facilitated gatherings for all ministry personnel (active or retired) continue every **Tuesday at 1pm** on Zoom. Please check the website calendar for [connection information](#) to join colleagues for conversation and support.

**Last call!** **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!](#)

**Last call! 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 100<sup>th</sup> 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.](#)

### September 20 transphobic marches and our responses

The "hands off our kids" transphobic and homophobic marches we dealt with last September are making a comeback across our Region and the country **Friday, September 20, 2024**. [Please click here to read more](#), including encouragement for all our members, communities of faith, and community ministries to speak faithfully, proactively, and positively against fear and hate.

**NEW: Restorative Justice Fall kickoff and AGM, Saturday September 21, 2024 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.** Rosthern Mennonite Church (3016 5th Street, Rosthern, SK) and online. All welcome; free/ donation appreciated. The Micah Mission and [Parkland Restorative Justice](#) are ecumenical partners of our Region. Come celebrate the impactful work of prison ministry and the power of restorative justice. Panel and discussion, book table, food, and fellowship. This event is a wonderful opportunity to learn, reflect, and celebrate the positive changes happening within the realm of prison ministry. **Please RSVP by September 16, 2024 to [info@themicahmission.org](mailto:info@themicahmission.org)**

**NEW: New Network on ChurchX.ca! - Church Tech Best Practices: Learning together how to use technology to enhance our ministry** **First webinar is on Tuesday, September 24th at 7:30.**

Just as the Treasurer's webinars and network have offered a space for peer learning, questions, and support, this new network aims to support communities of faith seeking to enhance their ministry through technology. It will offer regular webinars and an interactive forum where participants might explore topics such as theology, digital discipleship, ethical tech decisions, and practical implementation. **Highlights include:** \*Regular workshops and webinars; \*Peer-to-peer learning through discussion forums; \*For both clergy and lay; \*All experience levels welcome; \*No question too big or too small! "Building a Sound Foundation for Worship" with John Bedell from Niagara Online Worship Learn More: <https://churchx.ca/course/view.php?id=397>

### 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](mailto:livingskiesyaya@united-church.ca) (sleeping on a floor or bunk bed not required!).

**Updated: Save the date:**

Living Skies Regional Council will be participating in covenanting services on **September 29** at Saskatoon: Mount Royal Emmanuel with Debz Ferber. Also, on Truth and Reconciliation Sunday, the Regina Collaboration (Regina Beach, Eastside, Heritage, St. James and Lumsden: St. Andrew's) will covenant with Bonnie Morton, Russell Mitchell-Walker and Dexter van Dyke at **10:00am** at Heritage United Church with a potluck lunch to follow. And, on **November 3** at Davidson with Shelly Manley-Tannis. Details including timing to follow.

**NEW: The Archives is in urgent need of a new home! Application Deadline – September 30, 2024**

For the full story, with details about the archives' needs and wants, and what you need to do if you are interested, [please click here](#).

**NEW: Bold Discipleship: The 6th Intercultural Adventure Seminar, Oct. 21-22, 2024 in person and online, St Andrew's College, Saskatoon.**

Join us to explore bold discipleship with Korean members of the United Church through three lectures by Don Schweitzer and Ohwang Kwon, workshops by Rev. Eun-Joo Park and Rev. Taylor Croissant and a panel discussion led by St. Andrew's College faculty and Rev. SunDo Hyun, of Meadow Lake. There will be translation between Korean and English. Registration: \$120 in person (accommodation and meals are included); Online: free.

**Registration deadline is September 30, 2024.** To register contact Melanie Schwanbeck at [melanie.schwanbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:melanie.schwanbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca).

**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

**2. Next month:****NEW: Worldwide Communion Sunday, October 6: Palestinian Olive Oil liturgy and resource**

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. Our partners ask us to learn from them, to see signs of hope with them, and to offer them solidarity. Join us! Hosted by Living Skies Regional Council and Mennonite Church SK, with all invited to participate with special liturgy, and online film and learning events. [Details are here](#).

**NEW: The Ethics of Reading Biblical History: Cover Stories on Stolen Land, Sunday October 6,**

**7:00PM CST, in person in Saskatoon and on YouTube.** Join us for a presentation by Biblical scholar and Professor Rev. Bill Richards looking at the context of the Prophets of the Jewish Bible, and the ethics behind the concept of "Promised Land" and chosen people. We'll look at history from the arrival of enslaved Hebrews in Palestine to the collapse of their various states at the hands of imperial powers. Over time other imperial interests have read themselves into this "conquest narrative", as a cover story for their own colonizing projects here in the Americas, and in Australia, Africa, and Palestine. These interpretations ignore significant voices within the Jewish Bible that challenge us to look at how "chosen people" should live with their neighbours. In person at

Grace-Westminster United Church, [or on their YouTube channel](#). **Hybrid conversation after.**  
[Please click here for more details and a shareable link.](#)

**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](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca).

**Updated: Summary of grants to support your work**

As fall begins, the national church enters a new round of grant application opportunities. [Click here for a handy summary](#). Seeds of Hope applications are due **October 15, 2024**. Other deadlines vary, so please check the terms before you apply.

**NEW: 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism 2024: Live event every Tuesday, October 15 – November 19, 7:00 p.m. ET** (please convert the time for your zone, noting that Daylight Savings Time ends Nov 3). [40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism](#) returns this fall with brand-new content! The series is an excellent way to delve deeply into exploring anti-racism—as well as to engage in related faith reflections and ideas for action. This year's series features several dynamic speakers for the online events, which all run on **Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. ET**, in October and November. There are also accompanying [study groups](#), which offer ways to integrate and reflect on the content with learners from across the church. [Register for this year's live events](#)—and please [sign up for the newsletter](#) to stay up-to-date with regular content for this year's exciting program.

**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](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca) to register.

**NEW DETAILS: LeaderShift Rural Ministry Conference, Friday October 25 - Sunday October 27, Trinity United Church, Fort Macleod AB.** In person, online TBC. This conference is for lay leaders and ministry personnel whose church life and work is rooted in a rural setting. Come experience rural hospitality, inspiring theme sessions and practical workshops tuned to today's rural ministry contexts! Workshops include a focus on intercultural ministry and anti-racism; Affirming ministry; youth; and much more. [Click here for full details](#).

**NEW: Grounding the Future: Spiritual resources for responding to climate change, KAIROS Prairies North fall regional gathering, Saturday, October 26, 9:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m. CST, St. Luke's Anglican Church, 8424 – 95 Ave, Edmonton, AB with some online options.** KAIROS Prairies North covers Northern Spirit and Living Skies Regional Council. Climate change is a spiritual crisis rooted in fear and greed. Individual actions like recycling and biking are important responses, but they aren't enough. Political and collective decisions are required, but they will always be thwarted unless people's hearts and values are also involved. What spiritual postures can we adopt that can ground both our personal actions and our collective decisions? [Click here for the event link](#).

### **3. Into the Future:**

**"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.](#)

### **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](mailto: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!