

# Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council  
The United Church of Canada



September 18, 2024 – News

*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).*

**Church office workers, please feel free to use these announcements in your church bulletins or newsletters.**

In this **NEWS** edition of the Rambler, new and time-sensitive items are listed near the top of each section. Items included for the first time will have **NEW**: beside the title of the event. **Dates** are highlighted in green for easy identification.

## 1. Living Skies Regional Council News

**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: You Are Loved t-shirts and bunnyhugs are coming back!**

We have had so many requests for a third round of this lovely clothing and logo that the Regional Affirming Committee will be re-opening the store. This is your advance notice for Christmas shopping! [Here's the original May notice](#)- please wait for new details on the store code before ordering.

### **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.

### **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*

**Final week for now: Callout for Living Skies photos for the archives and our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

Do you hold a favourite photograph of your Community of Faith? Tucked in boxes, albums, or on your phone, is there a picture of yourself or loved ones past that makes you smile or reflect? The Living Skies Archives is on a quest to receive digital copies of the photos that embody the ethos, activities, and life of your United Church. As the United Church of Canada celebrates and reflects on its Centennial, we are looking to gather and share images that help us remember our Story. [Click here for all the background and instructions!](#)

**Ministry Personnel Gatherings**

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.

**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 7:30pm.**

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!).

**Olive harvest focus and resources for Palestine, October 2024**

Living Skies and Mennonite Church SK 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. Together, we will explore why, and what Canadians can do. 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 United Church and Mennonite members, we warmly welcome you to film viewing, learning, worship, personal reflection, and advocacy. Key dates to help us prepare in advance include the Season of Creation, and the World Council of Churches' Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel. For October we offer resources for World Communion Sunday and World Food Day. [Information will be shared throughout on this web page.](#)

**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).

### **Equipping the Saints next gathering – 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.

## **2. Wider Church Information:**

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

Wow, that was fast! There is just one month left in our Fall 2024 granting round and we want to help you make the most of it. The Foundation team's calendars are OPEN for free one-on-one calls! [Book your session here](#). If you're curious whether your project is eligible for a grant, need support with your application or would like to discuss which program is the best fit, this is the perfect time to explore it together. Click the button above to go right to our team's calendar and schedule a time to chat via a video or phone call. Looking forward to connecting with you! [Click here for a handy summary of available grants](#).

### **NEW: Commemorating death and grief in Palestine and Israel: worship resource available**

Mennonite Church Canada's Palestine-Israel Network (PIN) encourages congregations to mark the October 7 anniversary of the mass murder and kidnappings in Israel, and the start of the genocide in Gaza. The PIN has prepared an online package of resources designed for congregational prayer or small group use. It features scripture, stories, and the song "If the War Goes On" by John Bell, who gives voice to the questions we ask in times such as these. [Click here for a video of the song](#). The free download for worship leaders [is available here](#) and at the PIN web page [here](#).

### **Standing Together Against Hate Based on Religious Identity**

The [Canadian Interfaith Conversation](#) has issued a statement on behalf of over 60 signatory faith traditions and institutions, including The Canadian Council of Churches, of which the United Church is a founding member. The goal: to present a common public position adopted by Canada's faith communities, on combatting hate against and between our country's religious communities. [Click here to read the statement in English](#).

## **3. Upcoming Opportunities:**

**Please check out our CoF calendar** on the LSRC website **for upcoming local events**. Our [Community of Faith events calendar](#) is open 24/7 for online events, so new events can be added at anytime - *as long as the public is invited, you can post it*. From workshops to worship, go for it. [Here's the handy form](#). Be sure to **submit your events**, so folks don't miss events in their own 'backyard'.

## **4. Reminders:**

### **Regional Council directory updates are still being accepted**

Updates for the RC on-line (password-protected) directory are still being accepted. Contact Bev Diebert with your questions, permissions or corrections/updates at [bdiebert@united-church.ca](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca).

### **Lifelong Learning at St. Andrew's College**

Are you looking for new opportunities to learn at your own pace, in your own space, following the questions and passions which really matter to you? St. Andrew's College Lifelong Learning Pathway offers all the tools you need to go deep in your quest for wisdom and insight. Certificate streams include "Leadership in the Faith Community", "Leadership in the World", and "Spiritual Exploration". Reasonable tuition subscription, with bursary support available!

<https://standrews.ca/lifelong-learning-pathway/>