

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



November 6, 2024 – Events

“I don’t know who has done this. You did not tell me, and I heard about it only today.” Genesis 21:26

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. For easy identification: **Date/s of the event** are highlighted in green; **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** section 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.

October-November online workshops from **United in Learning** are listed [here](#). Lots to choose from: stewardship and anti-racism, support for treasurers and those who work with church tech, courses on challenging anti-Semitism and on fair wages for ministry personnel. Have a look! The **United Church’s Edge Network** also offers online courses related to change and innovation. [See their courses here.](#)

1. This month:

NEW: *The Stones Cry Out* film discussion online, **Wednesday, November 6, 1:30pm CST.**

This is our final Olive Harvest event. This 30-minute introductory film lifts up the voices of Palestinian Christians who are often left out of coverage of the military occupation of Palestine. It covers Palestinian Christians’ experiences from 1948 to the modern era, including the effects of the Israeli military occupation on Bethlehem. Although they are a small minority, Palestinian Christians have played a critical role in the territory’s history. [Click here for full details.](#)

Video License Applications Now Open Applications Due TODAY (Nov 6, 2024)

Video license applications are now open for annual licenses from **January 2025 to December 2025.** Many churches benefit from the opportunity to show films and clips during worship and at events, and require a public performance license (or video license) to do it legally. The United Church of Canada offers discounted access to annual licenses from both Audio Ciné Films and Criterion Pictures. To access more information about the licenses, including pricing, please visit: <https://rtps.ca/UCC/Categories/license.php>. If you have not had a chance to register for Buying United, please do so using the code **united** (all lowercase).

Apply here: <https://forms.office.com/r/6u3DdenSF8>

Ministry Personnel Gatherings

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

Strengthening Invitation | United in Prayer

Each **Thursday at 11am Central / 10am Mountain** the Growth Department prays for and with communities of faith in our shared ministry of Strengthening Invitation. This event is hosted primarily in English. Let us know how we can pray for your community of faith.

Join us on Zoom and pray for others. Register to join us [here](#). Send your prayer request to growth@united-church.ca (you can send a request even if you're not attending)

All you need to know about Faithful Footprints energy efficiency grants, November 8 and

December 6, online, 3:00PM CST. The Faithful Footprints Prairie Hub wants to give you money! These events are for United Church ministries interested in lowering carbon emissions and investing in energy efficiency and green energy projects in their faith spaces. These events will provide detailed information on how to apply for the grant, eligibility criteria, and tips for a successful application. Don't miss out on this opportunity to take the first step towards creating a more sustainable future! Click here for full [information and registration on the Nov 8 session](#); and [click here for December 6](#).

NEW: Prairie Centre for Ecumenism 40th anniversary dinner, Friday November 22.

Shared here even though this is in-person only, because so many of our members have been involved over the years. Since its founding in 1984, PCE has been dedicated to promoting and facilitating Christian unity across denominations in the Canadian prairies. Please join us for a special celebration banquet; we will share good memories of the past 40 years and share our hopes and dreams for the future. Tickets are \$35 each and are available by contacting us by phone - (306) 653-1633 or by email – admin@pceecumenism.ca. **Deadline to purchase tickets is November 8th.**

Healing Haunted Histories decolonization course, Mennonite Church SK and Canadian

Mennonite University, in person in Saskatoon, November 11-15. Through bible studies, social analysis, communal narratives and historic literacy, this interactive course will explore how Canadian landscapes are “haunted” by historic and continuing violence against Indigenous peoples. We will examine how trauma and resilience, as well as devised and dismembered stories, inhabit our settler communal places, memories and myths. This is an intensive course, with classes running from 9am-12pm, and then 1pm-4pm (roughly) each day. [Click here for full details](#). This is a rare chance for a week's conversation and study on decolonization in a Christian context still has some spaces available. Our friends at Mennonite Church SK and Canadian Mennonite University stress that this is an open space for everyone. The Remembrance Day start may be difficult for those of you holding services that day, but that can be accommodated. Please consider, and email Justice Minister Julie Graham to discuss further if you wish jgraham@united-church.ca

NEW: 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism 2024: Event summary for November!

Time: 6:00PM CST, 5:00PM MST. [40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism](#) comes to a close this month, and there are some great events coming up. [Click here for full information](#); a summary is below.

Tues. Nov. 12: Continuing Our Stories: Indigenous Identities in the Christian Church with leaders from the Anglican Church of Canada and The United Church of Canada.

Tues. Nov. 19: The Texts of Advent: Finding Good News and Avoiding Antisemitism with Amy-Jill Levine. There will be English-French interpretation.

Tues. Nov. 26: What Will We Sing When We Need to Sing a New Song? with the Then Let Us Sing! Committee

Western Intercultural Ministries Network AGM and workshop, Thursday, November 14, 12:30 MST, 1:30PM Central Standard. Your presence and ideas make intercultural ministry work! Please come for a short AGM, and a focus on the church's [recent study on diversity and equity in ministry leadership, Leadership Counts](#) to better understand what the Interim Report of Leadership Counts tells us. Our Annual General Meeting will follow immediately after the presentation and discussion, and all are welcomed to join us for an update on our activities in the last year. WIMN's Executive represents the five Western Regions, and meets monthly. This supportive and fun space welcomes additional Regional representatives, and this meeting is a great chance to learn more about the network and how it runs. [Learn more about our work here.](#) And [click here for full details on the meeting, workshop, and Zoom info.](#)

NEW: Candlelight vigils for climate justice, November 15-17, nationwide at a time of your community's choosing. From **November 11-22**, world leaders, civil society, Indigenous peoples, and others will gather at the [COP29 conference in Baku, Azerbaijan](#) to advance action on addressing the climate emergency. Leaders across the world and particularly in Canada are failing to take the decisive action needed to protect our world, and particularly the most vulnerable members of the global community. For the Love of Creation invites groups across Canada to host candlelight vigils in their own communities on the weekend of **November 15-17, 2024**. We encourage people to use their local events to highlight local climate-related issues that are important to them, as well as global issues. Make this as simple as you need! We will amplify each other's voices by acting on the same weekend. Let's light up the whole Canadian map. [Here's the link for resources and the vigil map.](#)

Called to be the Church the Journey: Fall Stewardship Courses Stewardship Resource Kits

If you want to get started right away, consider downloading stewardship resource kits online. You can find links to 4 different themed [kits online here.](#)

Set Up Your Giving Program – Begins Week of November 19 This two-session course is for teams that have completed Getting Started in Stewardship and are wanting to focus on creating a stewardship campaign for winter or spring of 2025. [You can read more here.](#)

Next Getting Started in Stewardship Course is November 20 at either 3 or 5:30pm (CST)

Curious about how to revitalize stewardship in your community of faith? Register now for our next session of Getting Started in Stewardship. This 90-minute session is the foundational course to help your community of faith move away from the annual cycle of panicking about the budget, to an on-going, sustainable ministry of gratitude and generosity, which supports people in their lives of faith. You can participate as an individual or in a team. After the course, we'll support you in taking the next steps. [Register here on CHURCHx.](#)

If you have any questions, or want to discuss your community of faith's context, reach out to stewardship support staff, Vicki Nelson – vnelson@united-church.ca

NEW: UC Rural Ministries Network workshop for LLWLs: Thursday November 21, Zoom UCRMN is aware that many rural congregations are ministered to by Licensed Lay Worship Leaders. Each quarter UCRMN holds a free Zoom Workshop that allows folks to come together and share their stories, struggles, successes and blessings. **Thursday November 21, 2024** is for our many LLWL to check in and share their stories. [Please register!](https://us10.list-manage.com/contact-form?u=f46050c97bb479a9898e72f2b&form_id=f97bae812effd61fee8b9ad89ee3749d) https://us10.list-manage.com/contact-form?u=f46050c97bb479a9898e72f2b&form_id=f97bae812effd61fee8b9ad89ee3749d

NEW: “Finding Our Way Into Advent Hope”

St. Andrew’s College, in partnership with Living Skies Regional Council, invites you to our next **contemplative gathering**, to be held with the Saskatoon Theological Union Chapel community on **Tuesday November 26, at 11:40am Sask time**. Come spend 40 minutes or so in quiet contemplation, centered on the ancient practice of *lectio divina*. Join us via zoom, and be welcome! <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82963758924>

A Time for Awe - A Free Flow Wellness Zoom-Based Retreat Tuesdays, Nov 26 – Dec 17, 2024 (1:30-5 CST)

From our first breath to our last, experiences of awe create moments of connection to a vast mystery beyond ourselves, and inspire us to live our lives with greater unity and reverence. Leading up to Christmas, when we prepare to be awe struck by an incredible birthing story, we will explore the top four wonders of life that bring awe our way as identified by Dacher Keltner: moral beauty, collective movement, nature and music. For anyone interested, this theme will be further explored leading up to Easter with 4 other wonders of life that bring us awe. For full details visit: <https://www.freeflowwellness.ca/retreats>

NEW: Youth Forum at General Council 45**Application deadline is November 30.**

Youth Forum is an opportunity for young people ages 15-25 to participate in the education, decision-making, and community of General Council 45 of The United Church of Canada. Its aim is to ensure that young people have a voice in the denomination-shaping issues and decisions for the next three years in the life of the church. It is an opportunity to speak to issues that matter to young people, to share ideas, and to connect with peers and other members and leaders of the General Council. For more information and to apply: <https://livingskiesrc.ca/event/youth-forum-2025/>

2. Next month:**3. Into the Future:****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!