

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



April 9, 2025 – 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 (mostly) 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.

Upcoming online [events for United in Learning are listed here](#). There are a lot of great opportunities coming up, from a focus on global LGBTQIA rights, and series on stewardship, church property, church tech support, and more! The **United Church's Edge Network** also offers online courses related to change and innovation. [See their courses here](#).

1. This month:

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)

From the Edges to the Centre: Black Voices Shaping the Church, Thursday April 10 Noon Mountain Daylight/Central Standard, 1:00pm Central Daylight (Ninety minutes) People of African descent and other ethnocultural groups have long contributed to the life and mission of the church, yet their voices have often been overlooked or sidelined. *From the Edges to the Centre* challenges us to recognize, amplify, and embrace Black leadership in shaping the future of the church. Here at the 100th anniversary of the United Church, where do the vision and practice of intercultural ministry challenge the church from local to global? Join the Western Intercultural Ministries Network for an interactive presentation and community conversation with Rev Franklyn James, co-chair of the Black Clergy Network. [Click here for all details](#).

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.

Spirit River Community

Sarah Donnelly has created a new 'retreat centre without walls', called "Spirit River Community". To learn more and to see what programs are being offered, see www.spiritrivercommunity.org

Updated: Federal election campaign, now through April 27

This is an important moment for discerning our collective response to pressing social issues, including widespread polarization and disinformation. We as a church have positive ideas, principles, and concerns to share with all candidates. A [shared regional and national United Church resource](#) is now posted, so please have a look.

Earth Week, April 20-27, 2025

Communities of faith, networks, and regions are invited to initiate and participate in climate justice events during the week of **April 20–27** to pray, learn, and act for the love of Creation. This is a tremendous opportunity for the church to lift up and strengthen the ways that we are putting our house in order by reducing our carbon footprint; raising our spirited voices through advocacy efforts; connecting with the earth; responding to climate impacts; and challenging ourselves to be deep, bold, and daring. [Click here for a video from the Moderator and for more resources.](#)

NEW: Engage Difference! Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry training and community, Saskatoon, May 26-30, 2025 Intercultural practitioners, we have a good national opportunity coming up right in our backyard. The *Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministries* 5-day training in intercultural ministry is only held twice a year anywhere in the country, because of capacity. It's a chance to be with an ecumenical or interfaith group and explore what intercultural ministry and best practices could look like in your community of faith or ministry, and your community. Rich conversation and community, and practical learnings are very much part of the course. Subsidies are available! Please have a look and take this to your board or other relevant committees. Spaces fill up fast. [All the details are at this link.](#)

Living Skies camps, and Camping Sunday April 27

Support our camping ministries - Camps Tapawingo, Lumsden Beach, Woodboia, and Shagabec, in addition to a partnership with Wellman Lake Camp in Manitoba by [highlighting their vital ministry on Camping Sunday, April 27](#). You can also use our very [own Living Skies Camping Sunday service: click here to download it](#) (PDF).

NEW: Updates on the United Church's 100th

We continue to update our [Regional Anniversary page and news feed here](#). We've added [a new set of stories to the centennial collection](#) generously written by Edmonton author and researcher Gayle Simonson. These are perfect for your bulletin, announcement, or PowerPoint.

We want your events too! [Click here to post your own event](#). Have a story from your community of faith you want to share? Send it to Bev at bdiebert@united-church.ca or Julie at jgraham@united-church.ca

2. Next month:**NEW: Enlarge our Pot; Enrich our Soil**

St. Andrew's College (in partnership with leaders from the Living Skies Regional Council, Northern Spirit Regional Council, and GreenSpirit Chaplaincy) invites you to our next **contemplative gathering, on Friday May 2, at 10 am Sask time**. Come spend 40 minutes or so in quiet contemplation, centered on the ancient practice of *lectio divina*.

Join us via zoom right here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89048170607?pwd=RdlKnqQsaAnPXQEG6eh5VJ3PhNitag.1>

All are welcome ... and invite a friend!

NEW: Red Dress Day, Monday May 5 and Moosehide Day Thursday May 15

All communities of faith, ministries, and people are encouraged to publicly show support and take action against colonization, racism and the injustice of the Murdered and Missing and speak out against this epidemic. You can show your support for the families, and demand justice for the missing and murdered, by participating in two upcoming days of action:

May 5 is Red Dress Day, the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S). On this day you can wear red, hang a red dress outside your home or church, and participate in Red Dress events in your community.

May 15 is Moosehide Campaign Day. This year, we are invited to walk and fast to end violence. The United Church supports the Moosehide Campaign. For more information on this year's Campaign Day activities, please visit the [website](#). And don't forget to order [moosehide pins](#) for your community of faith.

NEW: Lunch & Learn: Getting your church on the map!

Join us on **May 6th at 12:00PM EDT (11:00am CDT / 10:00AM SK & MDT)** for a 45-minute webinar that will walk you through setting-up your church's Google Business Listing. In this webinar we will be exploring ways you can create a welcoming "digital doormat" for your community of faith. From ensuring you're easy to find on search results, to highlighting what seekers really want to know, we will explore how to create a strong invitational first impression online.

This webinar will be provided in English, but content is available in French by emailing tmullin@united-church.ca.

Register: https://united-church.zoom.us/meeting/register/RaQ37EahRj-AnyoP5rtf_A

Deep Memories, Daring Visions: national gathering of United Church people of Korean descent,

May 13th to 15th, 2025, at Willowdale-Emmanuel United Church in Toronto. This bilingual in-person gathering celebrate the 60th anniversary of Korean ministry in the UCC, and the UCC's 100th anniversary. It will bring together ministry personnel and lay leaders to honour the church's history and envision its future. Featuring worship, fellowship, panel discussions, and theological reflection, the event will foster renewals, growths, and connections. Please invite people of Korean descent in your Region! Please contact Rev SunDo Hyun for more information: hyunsundo@hotmail.com [Please click here for registration](#) (Korean).

Save the date - From fear to hope - who is The United Church of Canada called to be?

The Regional Council Executive invites you to join in a day of learning together to mark the 100th centennial, followed by the celebration of ministry service. The event will be **Saturday, May 24 – Sunday, May 25** at Grace Westminster in Saskatoon, and will include a theme speaker, afternoon workshops, and the celebration of ministry banquet. Further details to follow!

Arbor Week, May 24-31, 2025: lots of new resources and a connection to our 100th

Thanks to past Moderator Walter Farquharson, we have many resources to help all of our communities of faith celebrate and take action on this week dedicated to Saskatchewan's trees and to healthy, thriving ecosystems. [Click here to access them all](#), from a sermon to a new song to children's time.

Planting a tree or engaging in different activities to celebrate the value of trees in our world and local environments, would be a great way to celebrate Arbor Day and The United Church of Canada's 100th Anniversary!! **So now is the time to get your group together** and begin making plans.

A tree is a wonderful symbol of God's love and creation, a sign of hope for our church and world. Be part of this call to offer this benefit to your community – wildlife and humans alike.

3. Into the Future:

100th Anniversary special edition of *Broadview* magazine

The **June issue** of *Broadview* will be a historic keepsake edition celebrating the United Church's 100th anniversary — a once-in-a-lifetime issue filled with powerful stories, pivotal moments and reflections on the past, present and future of the church. [Click here for all the details](#), and to make a gift of this one-time special edition.

NEW: KAIROS: G7 Jubilee People's Forum, June 12-15 Calgary

You are all warmly invited to come to Calgary for the [G7 Jubilee People's Forum](#) and/or to send one or two representatives from your local group/congregation/community/region. Subsidies are available for students and low-income people. This forum includes: sessions with Global South partners, Indigenous partners, and network leaders covering the breadth and depth of the Jubilee campaign, connections to land, ecology, migration, gender and more. With incorporation of the arts! A trip to Stoney Nakoda land to gather around the Medicine Wheel outside for a prayer session with Stoney Nakoda elders about the G7 proceedings. On the final day: a public demonstration in downtown Calgary, bringing the Jubilee message to the G7, presenting the petitions. [Registration is here](#).

"I want those already wise to become the wiser and become leaders by exploring the depths of meaning in these nuggets of truth." Proverbs 1:5-6