

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



May 7, 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.

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](#).

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.

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)

NEW: All the latest national church news is [out in the latest E-ssentials newsletter](#).

NEW: Refugee Sponsorship online conference May 13: If you have ever been involved as a community or individual in supporting people seeking refuge, have questions, or just want to know what's involved, please accept this national church invitation. Regional justice staff Julie Graham is also happy to talk and put you in touch with resource people: jgraham@united-church.ca

Renew Refugee Sponsorship and Rejuvenate Our Community! Tuesday May 13th, 11:00AM-2:00PM Central Standard and Mountain Daylight. This is an engaging event in partnership with the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP). Explore the United Church of Canada's history of refugee sponsorship, hear insights from UNHCR on the global refugee crisis, and gain practical sponsorship training and support from RSTP. Connect with local settlement workers and community partners to build strong support for newcomers. Whether you're new to sponsorship, already involved, or simply curious, this is your chance to get inspired, ask questions, and gain the tools to make a difference. [Register today!](#)

NEW: Final call for Tri-Region Preparing for Pride Month, co-hosted by the Living Skies Affirming Team **May 13, 6:30PM CST/ Mountain Daylight, 7:30PM Central Daylight**

An online multi-Region space to check in and share plans for Pride Month. Come out for community and creativity as we get ready for some good Affirming work in June! If you see this note, and you're affirming, you're welcome to join.

Zoom info (please do not post on public social media profiles or groups)

<https://united-church.zoom.us/j/86242595936?pwd=DxcnDS47pW6QhC9H6jCMMVV7CVb400.1>

Meeting ID: 862 4259 5936

Password: 028941

855 703 8985 Canada Toll-free

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).

NEW: A Pastoral Care learning opportunity

Are you new to the practice of offering pastoral care in your community of faith? Have you been offering this important ministry and have some specific questions that the chaplains could answer? Are you interested in brushing up on your visiting skills? Join chaplains Emily Carr and Lorna King for an introductory session **May 14, 1:00-2:30pm** on Zoom. Contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca to register and to submit your questions.

Take Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People in May

This May, continue to raise your voices and speak out against colonization, racism, and the injustice of Murdered and Missing Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S).

Monday, May 5 was **Red Dress Day**, the National Day of Awareness for MMIWG2S. **Thursday, May 15** is **Moosehide Campaign Day** —a time to take further action against violence.

What can you do?

- Take time in worship to pray for action to end this epidemic of violence
- Hang a red dress outside your church and home as an act of public witness
- Wear a [moosehide pin](#), and participate in [this year's activities](#), which include a livestream, walks to end violence, and a fast
- Support the [Healing Fund](#)

NEW: M&P 101, so much fun!

There are now a number of new resources available to support the important work of the M&P Committee in your community of faith. There will be an online training on **Wednesday, May 21, 7:00pm**. Contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca to register.

It's finally time to register for "From Fear to Hope – who is the UCC called to be?"

There is something for everyone in Living Skies to join the celebration of our 100th birthday into the future. The gathering will be held **Saturday, May 24, 2025**, at Grace-Westminster United Church in Saskatoon, Treaty 6 territory, **9:30am to 4:30pm**. Online options will be available – feel free to plan to gather with your neighbours for a watch party! Speaker: Rev. Diane Strickland. Worship, workshops, a trivia contest and memory wall, lunch, many spaces for great conversation, and more! The Celebration of Ministry banquet will be at **6:00pm**, same location and day.

Registration deadline is Friday, May 9, 2025. [Click here to register!](#)

On **May 25**, join us in person or online for the Regional Celebration of Ministries and Centennial service! Dainties to follow. [Please see the summary here](#), and please share in your community of faith.

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.

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. This 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](#).

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.

NEW: Zoom Clergy Communion – cancelled for May

Laura Fohse is cancelling the monthly Zoom clergy communion gathering for **May**, but will resume in **September** on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:00pm SK time. Please adjust your calendars accordingly.

Jubilee campaign for debt cancellation- and hope

Jubilee 2025 is a global ecumenical initiative that builds on the transformative success of Jubilee 2000, which canceled \$100 billion of debt for 36 low-income countries. The Global South and Indigenous communities face a devastating debt crisis, with many nations spending more on debt repayments than on healthcare, education or climate action **There's also an exciting in person event in Calgary to further this important work; [the details are here](#).**

With other groups, [KAIROS is mobilizing communities of faith and conscience](#) to demand:

- **Debt cancellation** for unjust and unsustainable debts.
- **Global financial reform** to prevent future crises.
- **A debt resolution framework within the United Nations** that is transparent, binding and fair.

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

2. Next month:

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

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](#).