

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



June 18, 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.

NEW: The latest United in Learning online continuing education [events list is available here](#). 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.

This month:

June is Two Spirit and LGBTQI+ Pride Month

The [United Church has resources available here](#). You're invited to be out and proud - show up for a parade, host a meal or special service, decorate your church inside and out, support your library or the local school's GSA (Genders and Sexualities Alliance)... and more. There are so many possibilities to offer a Public, Intentional, and Explicit welcome.

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)

(Slightly updated) Choking Gaza: why aid isn't getting through, and what we can do.

Thursday June 19, 7:00PM CST (SK) Gaza's people are dying of imposed hunger and thirst. Its medical system is targeted for destruction, and people of all ages suffer continuous bombing. We'll learn about why aid isn't getting through, the terrible impact, and what Canadians can do through our donations and advocacy- because we can do something! Here is the [information for the event](#), including our speaker- please use it to invite.

Zoom link (do not post this in online public spaces; share by email only):

<https://united-church.zoom.us/j/88958792399?pwd=V46lOvsfe3OOrutWBCTOQwal6o05Fo.1>

Meeting ID: 889 5879 2399 Password: 600297

1 855 703 8985 Canada Toll-free

Call to support those affected by the wildfires in the north: Message from the Region

[Please see the full statement here.](#) [A printable pdf is here.](#) “The fires are ravaging the northern part of our province, and those of our western and eastern neighbours. Lives are at stake, sacred ancestral lands, homes and farms are threatened; evacuation orders are not just in place but are being implemented.

...It is our calling not only to offer prayers, but also to stand at the ready, with arms wide open, to help all those affected. We can all help, depending on our abilities and location. We can all pray, and then we must roll up our sleeves.

If your location and facility allow, consider getting ready to open your doors to those who have no roof over their heads, getting ready to feed the hungry, getting ready to comfort the grieving and the scared. Co-ordinate those efforts with the local government or appropriate community unit. If emergency housing is already being organised or provided in, or near, your community then reach out and simply ask: “How can we help?” – *Rev Piotr Strzelecki, chair of the Regional Council.*

If you have any ideas or concerns, please contact Bev at the Regional office, livingskies@united-church.ca or 639-396-0200.

The Power of Prayer: call for daily prayer for wildfire impacts

Keewatin Circle, the Indigenous United Church in Manitoba, invites you to pray with them for all communities in Canada regarding the forest fire emergencies. **Praying will take place for 1 hour each evening beginning at 7:00pm CDT (MB/ NWO), 6:00pm Mountain and CST**

We are praying for the following:

- **Rain**
- **Safety of all communities**
- **Safety of evacuees**
- **Safety for all those responding to the needs of evacuees.**
- **Safety for those who are in communities fighting fires.**
- **As well as the animals both domestically and wild**

We are asking that all communities pray with us, as prayer is stronger when we come together in time of need.

CANCELLED – Women’s Camp

Women's Camp at Tapawingo that was to be held **June 20 – 22**, **has been cancelled** this year due to the fire situation at Candle Lake.

Indigenous Peoples’ Day June 21

June is Indigenous History Month and **June 21** is National Indigenous Peoples’ Day. This is a time to celebrate the outstanding achievements, history, cultures, and diversity of Indigenous peoples. This is also the time of summer solstice.

Check to see what First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities and organizations in your area are doing to celebrate, and join in. Check to see how your municipality, schools, and libraries are marking this time. Take in the Indigenous programming on APTN (Aboriginal Peoples’ Television Network) and the CBC.

This year, the United Church celebrates [National Indigenous Day of Prayer](#) on **Sunday, June 15.**

New worship materials are available on the [United Church website](#). This year’s resources feature an order of service from the perspectives of both Bible and Bundle by the Rev. Agnes Spence of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, and another marking the 10th anniversary of the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Calls to Action from the Rev. Emma Seamone of Carberry, MB.

Last Chance - Call for nominees for Moderator

The next Moderator will be elected by the Commissioners of General Council 45, in **August 2025**. [Learn more about the nomination process and responsibilities at this web page](#), which will also be updated with nominees' names. **Deadline: June 22, 2025**

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

NEW: Ministry Personnel Gatherings

Please note there won't be any Ministry Personnel Gatherings held over the summer. Watch the fall Ramblers for start up dates.

United Church's 100th Anniversary:**Updated: Short reminders of our history for this Centennial year continue**

As we enter the month of The United Church of Canada's 100th Anniversary, here is another one of Gayle Simonson's very short stories about United Church history. Many thanks to Gayle, who offers us these 100-word history vignettes for use in your own community! **Please remember to credit!** For our fourteenth vignette, she writes:

NEW: The church has a long and varied history, providing both education and medical care across the country as communities developed. While the early workers are gone, many kept records and some of those records have survived to tell us of people and of the work they did under difficult conditions. In the early 1950s, the United Church established a central archive in Toronto at Victoria University though it has recently moved. Others were established across the country and today an archives network includes eight regional archives to protect our stories. As stated in 1924 by Canada's Dominion Archivist Arthur G. Doughty, "Of all national assets, archives are the most precious. They are the gift of one generation to another."

Next month:

NEW: Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble annual conference, **July 18, 2025- July 20, 2025** at Trinity Clifton United Church in Charlottetown PEI. [Registration is here](#).

Into the Future:

United Church of Canada Apology to Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+/ queer/ gender-diverse people:

Friday, August 8th at 9:00AM MD, Knox United Church, Calgary and via livestream.

This is an advance notice of a very important commitment by the United Church to offer a public apology, with more details to come from the General Council 45 planners. This worship service is open to all. If you are considering attending in person, please contact your Regional office or regional justice minister Julie Graham at jgraham@united-church.ca so that the Regional Affirming Committees can be aware of who wishes to attend, and can look at carpooling as needed.

NEW: Decolonizing Ourselves: Residential School Tour and Our Future in Treaty, KAIROS Prairies

North visit to Blue Quills College and treaty learning, Saturday September 6, 10:30-4:30PM, at [University nuhelot'jne thaiyots'j nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills](#) near St Paul AB. Learn about our Treaty Obligations and see, first-hand, how the wound of Residential Schools can be transformed. Free registration and lunch, with support from the United Church's Justice and Reconciliation Fund. [Registration is here](#). SK people, you are welcome too! This is the first KAIROS Prairies North decolonization gathering to be held outside SK. Carpooling can be explored as registrations come in.