

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



June 4, 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:

NEW: 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.

NEW: **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.

NEW: 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.

NEW: CBC Radio interview about UCC 100th Anniversary

Last weekend on CBC Radio's *Saskatchewan Weekend*, Shauna Powers interviewed Revs Jim Tenford and Cam Fraser about The United Church of Canada's 100th Anniversary. [Click here to hear the full interview.](#)

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 twelfth vignette, she writes:

NEW: The first ministers in the United Church in 1925 included Robert and Egerton, the sons of Ojibway missionary Henry Bird Steinhauer, who had established the Methodist mission at Whitefish Lake, Alberta in the 1850s. Robert served in a number of Indigenous congregations in Alberta and, like his father, spoke out about the treatment of native people. In 1936, he became the first indigenous person to receive a Doctor of Divinity degree from their alma mater Victoria College. Egerton served first in the west and from 1918 to retirement in 1926 worked with the Ojibwa on Lake Huron. Together they published a hymn book in Cree in 1920.

Centennial worship resources for your community of faith

Many elements of the June 8 **national** Centennial service are now available on this resource page.

<https://united-church.ca/worship-theme/centennial-worship>

Have a look for the Northern Lights Centennial Service but also many other excellent resources on this page, to accompany your own local Spirit-led creativity.

If possible in your area, plan to participate together in the national service, which will be livestreamed on YouTube here. <https://www.youtube.com/live/bh4sW1kdpWo?feature=shared>

Our Regional Council won't be offering a separate resources for worship, so that we can participate together as one United Church by using the gift of national resources.

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

Celebrate 100 Years with Colour!!!

Are you looking for quality children's content for use during your worship services, as part of Sunday school, or to send home with families? To celebrate the United Church's centennial year, a series of children's activity pages have been created. There are now 9 pages available featuring a history of a United Church leader with accompanying colouring page. Start off a series focused on the Centennial with the Happy Birthday United Church activity page. Once children have created their works of art, parents can use the QR code on each activity page to submit photos of finished artwork to share with the wider church! The activity pages and more great content are available in the Centennial Toolkit. [Get the Toolkit!](#) [Aussi disponible en français](#)

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)

ICM Saskatoon invites everyone

ICM is excited to invite you and the wider community to our **Volunteer Appreciation Lunch & Annual General Meeting**, taking place on **Tuesday, June 17th from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM** at **KAP House (226 Ave. V South, Saskatoon, SK)**. This special event is our way of expressing gratitude to our incredible volunteers and sharing highlights from the past year at River Bend Integrated Community Ministries. **Kindly RSVP by June 10th at 5 PM** to: icmsaskatoon@gmail.com or 306-653-2662

Thank you for your continued support and for helping us celebrate the amazing people who make our work possible.

UPDATED: Structural Change Evaluation Survey - YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT!

The time has come to evaluate the impact of the restructuring of the United Church from four courts to three councils. Did it accomplish what was intended? As part of the evaluation, a survey has been developed to invite wide participation from across the church. It has been sent via email, using email addresses in ChurchHub, to:

1. All pastoral charges—**to be completed at a meeting of the Board/Council**;
2. All ministry personnel;
3. All regional council staff, Office of Vocation staff, and General Council staff impacted by the change.

The Structural Change Evaluation Steering Group has engaged Credence and Co., a consulting firm, to collect and analyze the data to protect anonymity and prevent bias in reporting.

If you did not receive the survey, please check your junk email. Also please ensure that the correct email address is attached to your ChurchHub profile to ensure you receive reminder emails which will contain the necessary link.

The survey will be open until **June 15, 2025**. Please make time to respond as a comprehensive and useful evaluation depends on input from across the church.

NEW: Indigenous Day of Prayer June 15, and 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.

NEW: 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!

We are grateful to hear from Dr. Deidre Nunan, a Saskatchewan-trained orthopaedic surgeon who primarily works in the international medical humanitarian field. She has served in Palestine five times for a total of two years, most recently in Gaza in April 2025. 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

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.spiritriverrivercommunity.org

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.