

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



August 27, 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:

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: Season of Creation resources available now

The [Season of Creation](#) is a time to renew our commitment to caring for our planet. The 2025 theme is "Peace with Creation," and you can get involved. The season begins **September 1st** with the online [World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation](#) at 9:00 a.m. ET. It continues on **Sept 10th**, with the [Practicing Peace with Creation webinar](#) at 6:00 p.m. ET, hosted by the For the Love of Creation coalition. Other events will follow. Find more Season of Creation worship resources on the [Season of Creation website](#) and [The United Church of Canada website](#).

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 seventeenth vignette, she writes:

NEW: Though all English-speaking Congregationalist churches in Canada became part of the United Church, some of those who worshipped in other languages did not. One German congregation

that did join the United Church was Salem in Medicine Hat. After 1948, they shared a building with Memorial United Church but continued to function as a separate congregation. The bilingual Rev. George Spady served both for ten years. Memorial had both Methodist and Presbyterian roots (Washington Avenue Methodist and Knox Memorial Presbyterian) so as Memorial Salem, when they combined boards in the 1970s, they were believed to be the only Alberta church that had roots in all three denominations. Memorial Salem has since amalgamated with Fifth Avenue.

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

Next month:

UPDATED Invitation: Decolonizing Ourselves: Residential School Tour and Our Future in Treaty:

Saturday 6 September 10:30AM-4:30PM MDT/ CST at [University nuhelot'jine thaiyots'j](#)

[nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills](#) Please join KAIROS Prairies North for a day that will include a tour of the former Blue Quills Indian Residential School building led by survivors/Elders, lunch, and learning about Treaty. All welcome! **This in-person only event is within a reasonable drive of the Edmonton area to the west and the Battlefords area to the east.**

This gathering is hosted by the KAIROS Prairies North Decolonization Group with gratitude to our community partners, in particular University nuhelot'jine thaiyots'j nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills and the United Church of Canada's Reconciliation and Justice Fund. This gathering is free of charge, including lunch. We do ask you to register so we know numbers and can send you material. Optional free transportation (carpooling) from Edmonton will be offered and details will follow by email. Here are [details and a shareable invitation link](#). [The registration link is here](#).

NEW: Sharing the Bible With Children storytelling workshop **September 6**

On **Saturday, September 6, 2025**, join the Network of Biblical Storytellers Canada for a fantastic online workshop with Children's Biblical Storyteller, Carole Danby!

Carole has been a Biblical Storyteller for 24 years and has worked with children and families for more than 35 years in her role with the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane, Australia. Recently retired, she is now spending more time writing resources for church leaders who work with children across Christian denomination.

Her legacy resource: '*Getting to Know Jesus*' was launched in April 2021.

Carole will take us through an hour-long workshop on how to share Bible stories with children in simple and engaging ways. For more information and to sign up through the Network's online festival page, <https://www.nbscanada.org/workshop-sharingthebiblewithchildren>. **The single workshop is \$35.** Questions? Email Rev. Catherine Stuart at cstuart@united-church.ca

NEW: Ministry Personnel Gatherings

This time of gathering with colleagues will resume its weekly occurrence on **Tuesday, September 9, at 1:00pm on Zoom**. Connection information will be in the calendar.

NEW: Save the date

Let's start the fall well supporting our staff. Join other ministry and personnel committee members for a time of learning and sharing of best practices. **Wednesday, September 17, 7pm on Zoom**.

Contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca to register.

NEW: Mark Your Calendars for **Orange Shirt Sunday: September 28**

On **September 30**, wear an **orange shirt** to say that Every Child Matters. And on **September 28**, mark [Orange Shirt Sunday](#) in your community of faith.

This year, consider deepening your commitment through a [gift or special offering to the Healing Fund](#), which supports initiatives for survivors of the residential school system and its ongoing intergenerational impacts.

On **September 30**, we also invite you to join in the [Remembering the Children: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation event](#) on Parliament Hill. This 90-minute program is a united effort of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, the Algonquin Nation, APTN, and CBC/Radio-Canada. It begins at 3:00 p.m. ET and all are welcome. Not near Ottawa? It will also be broadcast live on APTN and on YouTube.

[Into the Future:](#)

NEW: Fall YAYAC Retreat: We're going on a road trip to Manitoba!

This year, join Living Skies YAYAC (Youth & Young Adult Community) as we hit the road to Virdin, Manitoba for an incredible weekend with the Prairie to Pine YAYA crew on **October 24-26**. This retreat is open to grades 7-12 and there will be a few carloads going over from various parts of the province. We can't wait for you to join us! For more information [click here](#) or contact Rev.

Lindsay Mohn at livingskiesyaya@united-church.ca

Save the dates – November 4 and 6, 2025 evenings

Watch this fall for more information about the LSRC Learning Session and Online General Meeting. But for now, please save these dates.

“Hear this, all you peoples; listen, all who live in this world, both low and high, rich and poor alike”
Psalms 49:1-2

Welcome back