

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



September 10, 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: Find what's new in [United in Learning upcoming programs](#). The **United Church's Edge Network** also offers online courses related to change and innovation. [See their courses here](#).

Updated - **Check out the Community of Faith Calendar** (on the Living Skies Regional Council website - 3rd option under News & Events). **Be sure to browse** the list for fun and interesting upcoming events. [Click here to view it](#). **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:

Online Bible study

Resuming on **September 10, every Wednesday at 1 pm (SK time)** Deep conversation Spiritual friendships Faith exploration. *New participants always welcome!* Contact jcantwell@united-church.ca for more information. Click here to join: <https://bit.ly/41Vh93V>

Annual General Meeting

Micah Mission's AGM will be on **Monday, Sept. 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** at the MCC Building (600 45th Street West). Join us as we reflect on the past year, share updates, and look ahead to the coming year. Please RSVP by **Sept. 10** to info@themicahmission.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

NEW: United in Learning upcoming programs

Here's the [latest newsletter from the national church's online education, action and community program](#). Upcoming opportunities include a cross-country check up, a stewardship series, Indigenous perspectives on climate change, and more.

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)

Ministry Personnel Gatherings

This time of gathering with colleagues has resumed its weekly occurrences on **Tuesdays at 1:00pm on Zoom**. Connection information is in the calendar.

Save the date – M&P 101

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.

Save the date – Covenanting Service

Fall is the season of new beginnings! Join the covenanting service between Prince Nkhoswe and Knox United Church in Lanigan on **September 21, 3:00pm**. Stay tuned for further updates, and for information about other services in Living Skies.

NEW: Truth and Reconciliation Lunch and Learns, 22-26 September, 12:00 CDT, 11:00AM MDT/CST

The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation invites us to join daily *Lunch and Learn* webinars – an immersive experience to UN-learn the myths of colonial history in Canada. *Lunch and Learn* sessions are **aimed at an adult audience**, and **open to the public**, and will be hosted virtually over Zoom Webinar and streamed to YouTube. Expert matter speakers will present for 40-50 minutes before a Q&A between the moderator and guest(s). All sessions will have simultaneous English-French, and ASL interpretation. [Please have a look at the topics and details](#). They include: **Sept 22** - Surviving the Residential School System; **Sept 23** - Uncovering the Truth: Ground Searches; **Sept 24** - The Ongoing Legacy of the Residential School System through Child Welfare; **Sept 25** - Reflecting on the TRC's Calls to Action 10 Years Later; **Sept 26** - Confronting Residential School Denialism.

NEW: Tech best practices for churches: a national network open house, Tuesday, September 23rd at 6:00pm CDT/ 5:00PM Mountain and Central Standard, online only.

Wondering how to strengthen your hybrid worship? How to connect with those who worship from a distance? Looking to get the most out of your donor management software or social media posts? **Then it's time to join the [Church Tech Best Practices Network](#)!**

This Network hosted on CHURCHx.ca is a space for those new to tech and ministry and those who have been at it for decades. It's a space to ask questions and learn from each other.

Curious? Want to learn more? [Register for the open house on Zoom](#).

During the open house session we'll introduce you to the network and related resources, and invite your ideas.

NEW: Lunch time Intercultural Coffee Chai series: Stories and Narratives: God-Talks from Diasporic Filipino Ministers in the United Church of Canada, Thursday, Sept 25, 2025, 12:30pm MDT and CST/1:30pm CDT (90 minutes). Bring your lunch and join us as we resume the Western Intercultural Ministries Network 100th Anniversary series honouring ethno-cultural communities within the United Church. The Filipino Ministers Network in The United Church of Canada invites you to join them for a panel discussion about seeking God in the midst of every-day life. In the Philippines, theologizing is embodied in everyday life; not seen as a separate religious category or exercise. Faith grows out of our lived experience: life-stories, turning points, crises and celebrations. God is active in shaping our everyday decision-making. [Please see and share all the details!](#)**Mark Your Calendars for Orange Shirt / Truth and Reconciliation Sunday 28 and Tuesday Sept 30**

Please read and share this [summary from the national Indigenous church](#).

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 in particular we ask you to honour the children with [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.

NEW: Luther Lecture Series 2025, with The Very Rev. Dr. Carmen Landsdowne

The Very Rev. Dr. Carmen Landsdowne, former Moderator of The United Church of Canada, will be speaking at the Luther Auditorium (also on Zoom) on **Monday, September 29 at 7:30pm.** Registration for Zoom is required. [Click here for more information or to register for the event.](#)

NEW: Book Launch with The Very Rev. Dr. Carmen Landsdowne

On **Tuesday, September 30, 2025**, former Moderator The Very Rev. Dr. Carmen Landsdowne will be in Treaty 4 for the launch of her new book *Wearing a Broken Indigene Heart on the Sleeve of Christian Mission* in which seeks to engage the question, “If Indigenous hearts are broken by Christianity, what is it in Christian theology that is life giving at all?” Time and location are still to be determined. Carmen will share from her book and engage us all in conversation. We are working to have copies of the book available for sale at the event – [books can also be ordered online here](#). She notes that this is an academic focused book (and she reads macro-economics for fun) but has written a Study Guide designed for non-academic uses which is [available here for free download](#).

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

[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 nineteenth vignette, she writes:

NEW: In 1992 the United Church elected Reverend Stan McKay from the Fisher River Cree Nation in Manitoba as its first aboriginal moderator. After his schooling at the Fisher River, then Birtle Indian Residential Schools, he studied at the University of Winnipeg and was ordained following graduation from the Faculty of Theology. Throughout his career, he has sought opportunities for reconciliation. As a co-director of the Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Centre (now the Sandy-Saulteaux Centre) in Manitoba, he created opportunities for non-indigenous people to learn about indigenous cultures. There, both Indigenous and Christian beliefs are respected and shared. In 1992, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate degree from the University of Winnipeg and in 1997, received a National Aboriginal Achievement Award.

[Next month:](#)

“Francis and the Web of Creation” ...

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, to be held on **Friday October 3, at 10am 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](#). *All are welcome ... and invite a friend!*

NEW: Save the idea

Are you or someone in your community of faith interested in becoming a [Sacraments Elder](#)? The Committee on Lay Leadership Support is discerning whether to offer a training session this fall. Email bdiebert@united-church.ca if you are interested.

Seeds of Hope Grant Applications Now Open!

The Foundation's Fall 2025 *Seeds of Hope* granting cycle is now accepting applications! The Seeds of Hope granting program supports innovative, unique projects which enable us to live out the New Creed's call to seek justice, live with respect in Creation, and love and serve others.

Deadline: Applications must be submitted by 11:55 p.m. on October 15, 2025

Apply today: <https://unitedchurchfoundation.ca/grants/seeds-of-hope/>

NEW: Save the date – Equipping the Saints: Pastoral Care for patients and Families affected by Alzheimer's and Dementia - Wednesday, October 15, 1:00-2:30pm on Zoom.

Our guest speaker will be Nancy Styles. Nancy is a retired registered nurse with 24 years of experience caring for patients and families affected by a variety of forms of dementia. She is a Licensed Lay Worship Leader with the United Church offering regular ministry at Stoughton, New Hope Nursing Home and Ceylon and occasionally at Yellow Grass, Minton and Creelman. She provides music at Parkway Nursing Home monthly.

We hope that you will join with Living Skies, our Hospital Chaplains, and with Nancy for this time of learning and discussion.

NEW: Advance notice: World Food Day (October 16) resources from the Canadian Foodgrains

Bank This year, CFGB invites churches, groups and individuals to mark World Food Day with a variety of thoughtful resources that can be incorporated into church services, used in small group gatherings, or personal reflection. Drawing from the story of Gladys in our new film called [A Legacy Taking Root](#), which will be released to the public this fall, our resources invite to pray, learn, advocate, and give. Our collection of worship resources on our [World Food Day website – Until All Are Fed](#) includes calls to worship, prayers, videos, scripture readings, group discussion guides, sermon starters, and diverse activities for children.

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 Viridin, 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

Into the Future:**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.

NEW: YOUTH CONFIRMATION RETREAT 2025 Save the Date - **November 21-23** in Biggar SK.

Grades 7-12 are invited to go through the confirmation class together with other youth from around the region, and will then return to their home communities of faith to be confirmed. More information and registration form available next week!

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