

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



October 15, 2025 – News

*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.*

**Church office workers, please feel free to use these announcements
in your church bulletins or newsletters.**

In this **NEWS** edition of the Rambler, new and time-sensitive items are listed near the top of each section. Items included for the first time will have **NEW:** beside the title of the event.

Dates are highlighted in green for easy identification.

1. Living Skies Regional Council News:

Equipping the Saints: Pastoral Care for patients and Families affected by Alzheimer's and Dementia – **today from 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. To register, please email Bev Diebert (bdiebert@united-church.ca). We hope that you will join with Living Skies, our Hospital Chaplains, and with Nancy for this time of learning and discussion.

NEW: Attention treasurers

The [2026 Minimum Salaries and Reimbursements for Ministry Personnel document is now available at this link](#). This includes the updated visiting minister and travel rates, effective **January 1, 2026**. Please ensure the ADP contact for your community of faith communicates this information accurately for ministry personnel, and that adjustments are made for reimbursing (and budgeting) for pulpit supply.

NEW: Self-Assessment season

The Manual requires communities of faith to complete a self-assessment to help ensure adherence to the polity and practices of the denomination. This replaces the old pastoral oversight process and happens every 3 years. The Committee on Community of Faith Support has updated the document with links for information, and is preparing to host online Zoom conversations for guidance and support. The answers provided on the form do not require approval, but will be reviewed by the Committee to determine how best to provide support for communities of faith around our Regional Council. You will find the [Instructions at this link](#), and the [Self-Assessment Tool](#) at this link. Contact Tracy Murton with any questions at tmurton@united-church.ca.

NEW: Pastoral Relations Ponderings - [Pastoral Relations Pondering Vol 64](#). Updates from the Pastoral Relations desk.

Clergy Appreciation Month

Take a moment sometime in the **month of October** to express appreciation for those who offer leadership in your community of faith. A word of gratitude, an offer of assistance, or even a high-five will brighten their day.

Reminder: Ministry Personnel Prayer Gathering – a time to connect

All ministry personnel – *active, retired, honorary associates, and candidates in appointment*, are warmly invited to a once a month, one hour online gathering on **Wednesday, October 28** (the **4th Wed. of each month**). For details of what to bring and link information, [please see the calendar announcement](#). This is a simple space to pause, breathe, and remember we are not alone in ministry. Come for prayer, community and the gift of communion shared across our regions.

Save the date – November 6, 2025 evening for Living Skies General Meeting

Watch for more information about the LSRC Learning Session / Online General Meeting. *For now, please save this date.*

2. Wider Church Information:

Seeds of Hope Grant Applications **Deadline**

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.

Applications must be submitted by tonight. [Apply here.](#)

Deadline for a new intake for Gifts with Vision - Here are the details applicants need to know:

Application deadline: today. Applicants must be **current Mission and Service partners.**

[Applications are being accepted online via Microsoft Forms.](#) The number of gifts will be small this year, with plans to expand gradually. **Every gift requires an application** – even those who have been part of Gifts with Vision before

NEW: Leave a Legacy of Change | The United Church of Canada Foundation

Legacy giving has long been a tradition and foundation for the United Church of Canada. [Watch this video](#) to hear voices from across the Church reflect on the impact of legacy giving and why **your congregation should join the Centennial Legacy Campaign**. Support ministry into the future, visit centennialcampaign.ca to learn more and get involved today.

Updated: Short reminders of our history for this Centennial year continue

Here is one of Gayle'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 twenty-fourth vignette, she writes:

NEW: The 1988 General Council decision that "all people regardless of sexual orientation are welcome as full members of the United Church" and that "all members of the United Church are eligible to be considered for ministry" made national headlines. It was still a very hot topic at the 1990 General Council meeting as a group known as the Community of Concern tried to stir up opposition. Presently there are 44 Affirming congregations in Alberta, the latest being Living Spirit in Drayton Valley. Nationally there are over 300 Affirming ministries openly welcoming all people.

NEW: Rally Against Legislated Poverty

Join the Anti-Poverty Ministry on International Day for the Eradication of Poverty to Rally Against Legislated Poverty at Victoria Park (in Regina) on **Friday, October 17 from 12:30 to 1:30pm**. *We need systems to live, not systems to die.*

3. Upcoming Opportunities:**Community of Faith Calendar**

Please check out our CoF calendar for upcoming local events. Watch for other upcoming events to be added. Our [Community of Faith events calendar](#) is open 24/7 for online events! As long as the public is invited, you can post it. From workshops to worship, go for it. [Here's the handy form](#). Be sure to **submit your events**, so folks don't miss events in their own 'backyard'.

Engagement on Anti-Racism 2025 - continuing Wednesdays to November 26, 2025, 6:00 p.m. ET

Please join us for this popular annual series! Weekly Wednesday events are opportunities to delve deeply into anti-racism work: **Live events each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time. (7 Live Events); Videos for each week**, with faith reflections and action items and a **downloadable folder of materials** for leaders to run an anti-racism program. Please sign up for the [Anti-Racism newsletter](#) to continue to stay up to date! To learn more and to register, visit [CHURCHx](#).

NEW: World Council of Churches Webinar: AI and Our Information Society—The Good, The Bad and The Ugly, online

Join the [World Council of Churches Faith and Science Working Group](#) on **October 15, 2025 at 6 pm MT / 8:00 p.m. ET**, for a crucial discussion on the impact of artificial intelligence on communication, ministry, and advocacy. This timely webinar will explore the opportunities and challenges presented by AI, from its potential to democratize technology and boost creativity to its risks, including the spread of disinformation and the perpetuation of bias. [Registration is required to attend this webinar](#). This event is the first in a series on AI and faith, with future sessions to be announced.

Would you like to help others start or enrich their Messy Church? Thursday, October 16, 2025

As we move into fall it seems a great time to come together and discuss how to start a Messy Church, how to enrich a Messy Church, and to connect with others who are leading Messy Churches in our country! Please join as we share some ideas and offer some tips and ideas for starting a Messy Church. We will meet on [ZOOM](#) -- for about an hour beginning **at NOON (MT)**

Eyewitness Report on Gaza, Oct. 22, 7:00pm CST, Knox Met United Church in Regina and

by livestream. Join us to hear the firsthand experiences of **Dr. Deirdre Nunan**, a Saskatchewan-trained orthopaedic surgeon who has spent much of the past decade working in international humanitarian contexts. She has spent nearly two years working in Gaza, including on three occasions during the past year. She recently returned from working in Gaza. Admission is free. No registration required. For livestream info, please contact Valerie Zink, valeriezink@gmail.com. *This event is sponsored by Doctors Against Genocide, Palestine Solidarity Regina, Amnesty International Saskatchewan, Regina Peace Council, Regina Public Interest Research Group, Students for Justice in Palestine, Faculty for Palestine, and Regina Making Peace Vigil.*

How did we get from the Bible to a genocide in Gaza?, with Dr. Dan Epp-Tiessen,

Wednesday evenings, October 22, 29, and November 5 at 7 p.m. (CST). This popular three-part webinar series returns on Zoom, free of charge. **Oct. 22:** How the Bible helped generate Israel's settler-colonialism and the dispossession of Palestinians. **Oct. 29:** How Christian antisemitism, inspired by the New Testament, led to the creation of the state of Israel and the oppression of

Palestinians. **Nov. 5:** How Christian Zionist readings of the Bible have enabled the genocide in Gaza. [Register here](#). **The Zoom links will be sent to registrants closer to the dates.**

Stewardship Best Practices - Five weeks, starts Thursday, Oct. 23 – 1pm Mountain (2pm Central)

This course is for a team or committee who are keen to see generosity grow and gratitude transform their community of faith. Five sessions on zoom, that unpack the theological and practical components of stewardship, are followed by the development of an annual plan and consistent online coaching. After almost 5 years of offering *Stewardship Best Practices* we have seen that congregations who participate in the course, and do the follow up work see higher giving and morale—teams report to us optimism about their ministry and hopes for the future. Register here - <https://churchx.ca/local/shop/product.php?id=297>

Voices of the Land: Indigenous perspectives on Climate Justice – Oct. 23, 2025, 7:00-8:30 p.m. ET

Join three internationally respected Indigenous leaders in a transformative webinar on Indigenous spiritualities, Land Rights, and Climate Justice. This isn't just a discussion; it's a call to action.

Why Attend? *Hear how Indigenous communities across the globe are leading the way in climate justice. *Reflect theologically on land and Creation through Indigenous lenses. *Deepen your understanding of decolonization and what it means to Indigenous peoples. *Be inspired to advocate for Indigenous rights and climate action.

Lori Ransom of the World Council of Churches will moderate the webinar. All speakers contributed to the WCC's report: *Indigenous Spiritualities, Land Rights and Climate Justice*. To find out more and register, visit [CHURCHx](#).

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

NEW: Gather Around a Kindled Flame: Reflecting on Our Paths Towards Christmas through the Gift of Stories - A Free Flow Wellness Zoom-Based Retreat facilitated by Marg Janick-Grayston (Registration for individual sessions or the complete 4-part series are both welcomed.)

Mondays, Nov. 24, Dec 1, 8 and 15, 2025 (1:30-5:00 CST) Registration Deadline: November 12

During this zoom-based retreat we will gather around our kindled candle flames to hear and reflect upon stories that might deepen our journey towards Christmas. Each week we will explore a different children's Christmas story, for children's stories have great power in touching our adult hearts. There will be ample time for sharing, reflecting, and responding creatively through writing, walking, collaging or any method you can imagine into being. Full details can be found at: <https://www.freeflowwellness.ca/retreats>

4. Reminders:

- ***Online Bible study - Wednesdays at 1 pm (SK time)** Contact jcantwell@united-church.ca for more information. Click here to join: <https://bit.ly/41Vh93V> *New participants always welcome!*
- ***Strengthening Invitation** - the Growth Department prays for and with communities of faith each **Thursday at 11a-m Central / 10am Mountain** 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 - Tuesdays at 1:00pm on Zoom**. Connection info is in the calendar.