

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



October 8, 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.

United in Learning - Find what's new in the [latest newsletter from the national church's online education, action and community program](#). Upcoming opportunities include a cross-country check up, and much more. **E-ssentials** - Please also see the [very handy latest national newsletter](#), which goes over highlights for national work. 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 Week's Events:

- ***Online Bible study - every Wednesday 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 each **Thursday at 11a-m Central / 10am Mountain** Register to join [here](#) . Send your prayer request to growth@united-church.ca (you can send a request even if you're not attending)
- ***Ministry Personnel Gatherings** - weekly on **Tuesdays at 1:00pm on Zoom**. Connection information is in the calendar.

This month:

NEW: 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.

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. 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: Engagement on Anti-Racism 2025 - October 15 - 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. A season with new content launches this October!

This year's series will feature: **Live events** with dynamic speakers each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

Eastern Time. (7 Live Events); **Videos for each week**, accompanied by faith reflections and action items. 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 about the live events schedule and to register, visit [CHURCHx](#).

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

Application deadline: **Wednesday, October 15, 2025**. 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

Would you like to help others start or enrich their Messy Church?

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 Messy Church Canada as we share some ideas about Messy Church and offer some tips and ideas for starting a Messy Church.

We will meet on [ZOOM](#) -- for about an hour on **Thursday, October 16, 2025 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 at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, 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>

NEW: 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](https://churchx.ca).

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

Next month:**NEW: Walking the Long Path: How to Build Peace Sustainably**, a Saskatchewan Peace Conference **Saturday, November 1, 9:00 am to 3:45 pm** at First Mennonite Church, 418 Queen St, Saskatoon

If you are working to make your community better, you are a peacebuilder! We invite you to a one-day peace conference exploring what it means to be grounded in hope amidst turbulent times. Together, we will reflect, learn, and practise the skills needed to continue the work of peacebuilding within ourselves, with our neighbours, and in our broader world. To learn more or register, visit <https://mennonitecentralcommittee.cmail20.com/t/i-i-zlyhild-l-r/> MCCS's Facebook link for the conference is [here](#). *Join us to be inspired, challenged, and equipped to keep walking the long path of peace. We look forward to seeing you there!*

Save the dates – November 4 and 6, 2025 evenings for Living Skies General Meeting

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

Northern Saskatchewan Hospital News - Saskatoon Cluster Meeting

Expanding Pastoral Care In Our Communities of Faith, a time of sharing and discussion with the Northern Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy. All are welcome to join this in-person gathering at **St. Martin's United Church** (2617 Clarence Ave., Saskatoon) on **November 13th from 1pm - 3pm**, to encourage and equip lay pastoral care within our churches.

NEW: Save the date – Covenanting Service

Fall is the season of new beginnings! Join the covenanting service between **Hyerim Park** and **Westminster** United Church in **Humboldt** on **November 16 at 2:00pm**. Stay tuned for further updates, and for information about other services in Living Skies.

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 the registration form are available on [the Living Skies 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 twenty-third vignette, she writes:

NEW: For centuries, Christian churches used creeds that changed little. The Nicene Creed was developed in the 4th and 5th centuries, and the Apostle's Creed is also believed to date to the fifth century. However, as ideas evolved, the United Church developed a new Statement of Faith in 1940. A new creed in 1968 was updated twice, changing to inclusive language and adding the words "to live with respect in creation." This creed was often used in services. A new Song of Faith was completed in 2006. It includes the words "We cannot keep from singing."

The following is based on that song if you wish to sing it.

Holy Mystery, Holy Wisdom

(2006 – a response to the draft of a new faith statement for the United Church)

Holy Mystery, Holy Wisdom
Wholly Love who guides our way,
Loving Presence, Source of Being,
Now transform us day by day.
Words of Scripture tell our stories,
Voices rise in gifts of song,
Calling us to loving action,
Faith-filled as we journey on.

We are partners in creation,
Bound by love to all around,
Seeking justice and compassion,
Sharing truths that we have found.
Spirit – Source of Inspiration,
Love – our song along the way,
Holy Mystery, Holy Wisdom –
Source of hope with each new day.

(possible tune – All the Way, Voices United #635)

Into the Future:**Save the Date for *Collective* - a national youth event in Summer 2026**

Start thinking about youth connected to your community of faith that might be interested in joining a group from Saskatchewan to travel together! For more information: <https://united-church.ca/events/collective-2026-embrace-impact>

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

"Hear this, all you peoples; listen, all who live in this world, both low and high, rich and poor alike"

Psalm 49:1-2