

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



November 12, 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:

LAST CHANCE: YOUTH CONFIRMATION RETREAT 2025 - 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 then return to their home communities of faith to be confirmed. More information and the registration form are available [here](#). **Deadline to register: Friday, Nov 14.**

NEW: Regional Council Connections

Members of the Committee on Community of Faith Support are experimenting this fall with connecting online with those communities of faith whose annual reports they have read. 6 different gatherings throughout November will help build community and answer questions, especially about the Self-Assessment tool. Contact the chair of the governing body, your minister or your pastoral charge supervisor to ensure they received the invite or to join in the conversation!

NEW: Preparing a records transfer for the archives?

We're nearly ready for you! Please reach out to the archivists, Erin Acland and Leanne Templeton, to discuss your plans for transferring records. ***All transfers require an appointment!** The best way to reach us is via email at Livingskiesarchives@united-church.ca

It's been a long time waiting for the Living Skies Regional Council Archives to reestablish itself. We have a new home in the basement of Grace-Westminster United Church, Saskatoon, and a Young Canada Works Intern currently on site. While we wait for the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan to fix their elevators and send us Living Skies boxes, we want to connect with community members that have been patiently holding onto records.

- ***Please do not drop off records without an appointment.**
- Contact the archives to receive forms and guides.
- Schedule a transfer date.
- Ask us any questions about your record-keeping system.

Updated – Covenanting Services

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**. Guest worship leader will be Rev. Laura Fohse, with a potluck lunch and fellowship after the service. This service will be live-streamed. And, on **November 19 at 6:30pm**, the covenanting service between **Regina: Broadway** United Church and **Jenni Krall**. Stay tuned for further updates.

Calling All Communities of Faith

The next Living Skies Regional Council “In-person” Meeting is **May 27-30, 2027**. The Regional Council Meeting Planning Committee (RCMPC) is looking for a community to host. Hosting means forming a Local Arrangements Committee to work with the RCMPC to find appropriate meeting/eating/book room/display space for approximately 200 delegates. Worship Space for the Service of Praise will also be needed. Closer to the meeting more details and decisions will be made. Finding a Host Community and Venue early is very important for planning this kind of event. If your Community of Faith might be interested please contact Miles Russell (Chair of RCMPC) at russella@sasktel.net or Bev Diebert (Admin Support Staff) at bdiebert@united-church.ca.

NEW: Preparing for guests with joyful anticipation this Advent

Advent is fast approaching! As we start to dust off decorations, and plan Christmas activities, it is the perfect time to consider how we can be fostering a culture of invitation in our churches. Just as we wait expectantly for the arrival of two weary travelers to Bethlehem, we can also prepare our own hearts to offer welcome to the stranger.

Click [here](#) for some resources focused on cultivating invitation during the four weeks of Advent.

Christmas comes early: An Advent Gift for Living Skies Communities of Faith

We never tire of the story. Each Advent, we set out the beloved figures of the creche and are invited again into the mystery of incarnation. In this small group study and worship series, we look more closely at the figures and what they reveal about the human journey of faith, the bigger picture of Love, and the Divine Longing at the heart of Christmas.

Alongside four study sessions, you'll also receive complete Advent worship services—rich with liturgy, Advent candle-lighting, all-ages activities, Scripture, reflections, prayers, and music suggestions. Together, they invite us to approach the creche with fresh wonder, to notice who is present (and who is missing), and to be shaped by Love that is already here and still arriving.

This series is provided by **Prayer Bench** and offered as a gift to leaders and communities of faith through a Regional License **purchased by Living Skies Regional Council**. You can [sign up for this resource here](#).

2. Wider Church Information:**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: From Unconscious Bias to Conscious Inclusion November 17 @ 7:30 PM CST by Zoom

Prairie to Pine's Equity and Diversity Committee is excited to host an [online workshop on Unconscious Bias](#), on **Monday, Nov. 17, at 7:30 pm CST**, for 90 minutes.

All Communities of Faith are invited to send a member from their Board, M&P Committee, and if applicable, Search Team to this important workshop. With trained resource people, they will focus on offering a very accessible, basic introduction to bias: what it is, how it can impact relationships between individuals and between communities, and how to move past it to turn diversity into an asset instead of a perceived division. Please click [here](#) to register.

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 *thirtieth vignette*, she writes:

NEW: For many years, most Sunday School teachers were women. In the early years, many had trained as teachers before marriage but were required to stop when they married. Lucille Marr, a chaplain and academic dean at the Presbyterian College in Montreal (associated with McGill), has studied the early years of Sunday Schools in the United Church, focusing on the 1920s and 1930s when the United Church began programs of teacher training and curriculum development. She believes that it gave women new leadership roles and considers teaching "a women's enterprise." She has concluded that "the new theology shaping the Sunday Schools reinforced women's roles as nurturers of children while investing them with significant roles in the church."

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'.

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: today!** 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. Full details can be found at: <https://www.freeflowwellness.ca/retreats>

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) **tomorrow (Nov.13) om 1pm - 3pm**, to encourage and equip lay pastoral care within our churches.

Hey friends! 🌈 It's that time again - [Affirming Leaders Day](#) is back!

Join us *online* on **Saturday, November 15**, for a day to **refresh, recharge, and reconnect** around the vibrant intersections of **faith and 2SLGBTQIA+ life**. This isn't your average conference - it's a space to be inspired, challenged, and renewed by bold changemakers, artists, and theologians who are helping shape a more inclusive world.

Special offer: Use code [JOURNEY](#) for **30% off** all tickets *and* the recording package.

Please share this with your networks - let's spread the word and make sure everyone who wants to be part of this experience can join. And if cost is a barrier for someone in your community, just let me know - we've got sponsored tickets available. Let's gather online **Saturday, November 15** to learn, connect, and re-ignite our Affirming spirit together!

NEW: Join the Conversation at the Next Cross-Country Check-In, November 18, 6:00 ET/4:00 MT, *Online* Connect with church leaders! The Moderator, The Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath, and General Secretary, Rev. Michael Blair, invite you to a live online [Cross Country Check-in](#) with the General Council Executive (GCE) on **November 18, 6:00–7:30 p.m. ET**. This is an opportunity to put faces to names and engage directly with the GCE soon after their meeting. [Register today!](#)

NEW: Transgender Week of Awareness, Transgender Day of Remembrance, and an online service Transgender Week of Awareness culminates in Transgender Day of Remembrance. The week takes place from **November 13- 19**. Affirm United will share a story of an historical Transgender or Non-Binary person or event each day in podcast and written formats. They will be posted to the [Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble social media and website](#).

On **November 20 at 3 pm ET / 1 pm MT**, you are invited to a service of remembrance online ([Register at this link](#)). The service will be pre-recorded, but we will have a time after the service for anyone who wishes to talk. This November, let us all remember those who have lost their lives by violence or suicide. Let us remember those from the past who never stopped being themselves. Let us remember and share their light.

NEW: Online Intercultural Workshop and WIMN AGM - Beyond the Chinese Face: Challenges Faced by Chinese in Canada, Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 12:30 PM MST, online

Join three UCC ministers from the Chinese Association of The United Church of Canada to hear their insights on aspects of Chinese culture, serving English congregations in Canada, and outreach to Hong Kong diaspora. Presenters: Rev. Dr. Alan Lai, Rev. Mini Choi, and Rev. Calin Lau. WIMN AGM follows. [Full details at this link!](#)

4. Reminders:

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.

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.

Weekly events:

***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.