

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



November 5, 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 and more** – Please see the [very handy latest national newsletters](#), which goes over highlights for national work.

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!*

Engagement on Anti-Racism 2025 - now until - 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](#).

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

Last session - Wednesday, November 5 at 7 p.m. (SK) This popular three-part webinar series concludes on Zoom tonight, free of charge, discussing 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.**

***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)

Updated: Thursday, November 6, 2025 for Living Skies General Meeting

Living Skies Regional Council (LSRC) will be holding its Online General Meeting on **Thursday, November 6, beginning at 6:30pm**. This is your chance to hear about the work of our regional council and learn about plans for the future. There is no need to register; **connection information** will be on LSRC website calendar (found at the bottom of the home page). Just click on LSRC Business Meeting. Also, check out the reports collected from our working groups, staff, partners and friends that are posted on the [Regional Gathering page](#) of our website to find out more about what's been happening across our church. Hopefully, you will have a chance to preview all the sections before the meeting. The agenda for the meeting also posted there.

***Ministry Personnel Gatherings** - weekly on **Tuesdays at 1:00pm on Zoom**. Connection information is in the calendar.

This month:**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: 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.

This year's lineup includes:

💎 [Lucas Wilson](#) – author, editor, post-doctoral fellow; 💎 [Tyler Babiy](#) – queer content creator & social media strategist; 💎 [Rev. Michiko Bown-Kai](#) – minister, activist, and community dreamer; 💎 [Ben Dobyns](#) – musician & Sanctuary program organizer

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!

Updated – 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**. 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, 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](#).

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>

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 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-eighth and twenty ninth* vignettes, she writes:

NEW: The United Church has long welcomed ministers from many countries. At this year's Northern Spirit Regional Council meeting, two were ordained into the United Church, Rev. Lloyd Nyarata from the United Methodist Church in Zimbabwe and Rev. George Mafuleka from the Reformed Church in Zambia. One long-serving example is Rev. Dr. Neville Smith, the first, and to date the only minister born in the Dutch Antilles to serve the United Church of Canada. He and his late wife Joan, a diaconal minister, served congregations in Alberta and Ontario after their arrival in the 1980s. He also worked for General Council for a few years, including work with the ethnic ministries unit. He now resides in Edmonton where he is a board member of the ANWC Historical Society, committed to preserving United Church history.

NEW: In the baby boom years in many urban congregations, Sunday Schools overflowed church sanctuaries with hundreds of children attending together before separating for age-related classes. The first class in Canada dates to Montreal Congregationalist Miss Hedge in 1801. Before TVs and computers, many children looked forward to the story-telling and especially to the take-home papers. For younger children, these small folders would have a picture on the front illustrating the bible story inside. For young teens, they would have brief articles and stories discussing issues of interest to that age group. Some congregations even arranged interfaith field trips. In the mid-1960s, Deer Lodge United in Winnipeg arranged for some of the children to visit a synagogue and learn something of the Jewish faith.

Into the Future:

NEW: 'Kindle in Us the Fire of Your Love' - The Holy Spirit as Hope, Peace, and Unrest

A four-week series offered by Don Schweitzer, PhD on Zoom; **Thursdays, January 22, 29, February 5 & 12 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. (CST)** To learn more and register:

<https://www.spiritriverrivercommunity.org/courses/'kindle-in-us>

A workshop offered by **Spirit River Community: A Retreat Centre Without Walls:**

<https://www.spiritriverrivercommunity.org/>

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.

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>

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