

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



December 3, 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!*

A Message to you from Messy Church Canada - *Thank you for all you do in sharing God's love!* Advent, Christmas, New Year's, Epiphany – they all come so quickly at this time of year! It can be overwhelming to do all the planning and preparation! Let's connect, share ideas, and pray for and with one another on **Wednesday (today), December 3, 2025**. There are **2 time-options** for gathering on ZOOM. **1:00 p.m. Central time** (Saskatchewan, Manitoba, NW Ontario, and some of the North) **And an evening session: 7:00 p.m. Central time**. Here's the link [for BOTH sessions](#): *You are welcome at one or both!* We look forward to seeing you!

***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)

Miracles of Advent: Light in a Divided World

On **Thursday, Dec. 4, at 7:00 pm** (SK time), bring a candle and join the Canadian Council of Churches on Zoom for *Miracles of Advent: Light in a Divided World*. In 45 mins, you'll hear 3 short stories your support makes possible, light a candle of hope with friends across traditions, and learn how you can help form young leaders and strengthen ministries serving neighbours in need. Bring a candle! (Or phone light, if needed.) [Register here](#) . We look forward to sharing this holy season with you!

***Ministry Personnel Gatherings - Tuesdays at 1:00pm on Zoom**. Connection info is in the calendar. Next Tuesday's Gathering (**December 9**) will be the last Gathering until **January 6, 2026**.

This Month:

Equipping the Saints- Advent/Christmas Communion

One of the intentions of lay pastoral visiting is to bring a connection to a community of faith to those who are missing it. Join Emily Carr on **December 10 from 1:00-2:00pm on Zoom** to discuss how to extend the communion table to those who can't make it to church. Bring communion elements so we can have communion together. You are also invited to bring extra juice and bread to be blessed and shared with those you visit, especially if you will not be celebrating communion in your church this season. Contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca to register.

CCS Friday – Microaggressions

Centre for Christian Studies invites you to join them on **Friday December 12 (noon Central)** for a free hour-long online discussion with Samantha Miller and James Obi from the UCC's Indigenous and Racialized Youth Scholars program about their research. [Register here](#). They are both doing research into racial microaggressions, in society and in church, and their impact on identity.

CCS Fridays: Online conversations help us respond faithfully to emerging issues in local contexts. These workshops are open to anyone who might be interested. Each session will be on a Friday from 12:00 to 1:00 CT and in the form of a Zoom workshop. There will be a presentation that will be recorded for future viewing, plus opportunities to engage with the ideas in small groups.

NEW: From the Regional Council Office:

- 1) Next week's Rambler (**December 10**) will be the **last newsletter of 2025**. The Rambler will resume on **January 7, 2026** with a News edition. The Living Skies Regional **Council Office will be closed from December 15 to January 2, 2026, inclusive**. If you have an emergency, please contact Tracy Murton at tmurton@united-church.ca or 1-306-988-0672 and leave a message. To learn of other staff's plans, please see their bounce back messages.
- 2) The **mail forwarding service** through Canada Post will stop at the **end of December**. Please make sure the address you have for the regional office is **423 Main St. N., Moose Jaw, SK S6H 0W5** (mail sent to the Athabasca St. E. address won't be forwarded). *Please let everyone in your community of faith know!!*

NEW: The Ministry Personnel Prayer Gatherings usually held the 4th Tuesday of the month, has been **cancelled** for **December**. Please join Laura Fohse on the **4th Tuesday in January** for this time of prayer, community and the gift of communion.

NEW: Basic Income Guaranteed (BIG) in PEI

For those of you who are unfamiliar with BIG, it is an unconditional cash transfer from government to individuals to enable everyone to meet their basic needs, participate in society and live with dignity, regardless of work status. The federal government doesn't want to support the PEI BIG Demonstration Proposal. All PEI political parties have agreed to see this demonstration to the end, despite who is in power, *which is unprecedented!* They need federal money along with the provincial funding (already in place) to make this work.

Here is a link to Coalition Canada (<https://basicincomecoalition.ca/en/>) which has more information and a link to the petition (e-6772). **The petition will close on January 2, 2026**. When you get to the petition, scroll down to the bottom of the page to sign. To learn more about BIG, check out this 3 min video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qlwyTtPY0vY>

NEW: This year's Advent Unwrapped resources are now available

Check out this year's Advent Unwrapped resources, including a Longest Night Service, "Making things Right." You can download it (and other Advent materials) from the [Advent Unwrapped page](#) of The United Church of Canada website.

NEW: Resource Now Available: Moderator's Advent Message

If you missed the send out from the GC Communications team, the Moderator's **Advent** Message for 2025 and related instructions are here: [Resource Now Available: Moderator's Advent Message](#)

A Prairie Christmas Eve for Everyone

The Northern Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy would like to encourage all communities of faith to gather together this Christmas season. Please find [A Prairie Christmas Eve Service here](#) that can be lay-led, and adapted for your own setting. Many blessings to you all as you share the light of Christ's love with your neighbours this season.

Preparing for guests with joyful anticipation this Advent

Advent is here! 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.

Posture of a Porter: Mini-Devotional for Advent

Discover what an ancient monastic rule can teach us about welcoming newcomers with this mini devotional, available as a [Word Doc](#) or printable [PDF booklet](#). This packet also comes with an accompanying [art piece](#). Use any and all of this resource in your own spiritual practice, with a group (including leadership teams) or as part of worship (this includes the right to reproduce the artwork with accompanying credit: Aaron Miechkota, 2025).

[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 *thirty-sixth* vignettes, she writes:

NEW: The Women's Christian Temperance Union advocated strongly against any form of alcohol. Preachers too warned of its dangers. Provinces varied in their repeal of prohibition acts. Emily Spencer Kerby, a prolific writer, wife of Calgary minister George Kerby and a strong activist for women's rights both in the church and in society, recalled that, as a child, "The preachers were always ringing the changes on the awful peril of "women and wine," so I had a sort of feeling that some day we might be legislated out of existence, like the whiskey, and it behooved us to mind our Ps and Qs." The church has since relaxed its stance. In 1960, General Council determined that while it was "the wisest and safest course," abstinence was not a condition of church membership.

[Next Month:](#)**NEW: Prayer Cycle for 2026**

The 2026 Prayer Cycle, available for use in your bulletins, announcements or during your Prayers of the People, is now posted on the Regional Council website under [Resources> Worship](#). It can be found in the Prayer Cycle box, near the bottom of the page (just click on it and it will open). Also, in that expanding list, is the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle [link](#).

NEW: Messy Church Canada Meetings

Messy Church will begin holding Zoom meetings the **first Wednesday of the month** (next one - **January 7, 2026**) with **2 times** options for gathering. **1) 1:00 p.m. Central time** (Saskatchewan, Manitoba, NW Ontario, and some of the North) **And an evening session: 7:00 p.m. Central time.**

Here's the link for **BOTH** sessions: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4098204079> . You are welcome at one or both! We look forward to seeing you!

Spiritual Practice learning circle January 13 to February 19 (Tues and Thurs, online.)

A six-week online course from the Centre for Christian Studies for anyone who wants to explore spiritual practice in the Christian tradition and nurture the spirituality of their congregation. For more information, visit <https://ccsonline.ca/program/courses-and-circles/sc05-spiritual-practice/>

NEW: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 - Free resources available now

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling" (Eph 4:4) Download the entire kit, including the International theme materials, and special resources developed for Canada [found here](#). The WPCU is traditionally observed from **January 18 to 25**. Weekofprayer.ca is a project of the Canadian Council of Churches, the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, and the Centre canadien d'oecuménisme.

'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.spiritrivercommunity.org/courses/'kindle-in-us> . A workshop offered by **Spirit River Community: A Retreat Centre Without Walls**: <https://www.spiritrivercommunity.org/>

Into the Future:

Updated: Arbor Day - May 29, 2026 / Arbor Week - May 25-31, 2026

One of the best ways to celebrate creation is to plant a tree or trees. Planting trees or shrubs is an activity that can involve big plans or very small activities for individuals and small groups. It is a great opportunity to involve persons of all ages and circumstances. To chat about possibilities, contact Walter Farquharson -306-744-2214 or farq.blueheron@sasktel.net.

NEW: Suggestion #1: *Six adult volunteers each invite 1 or 2 children or youth to participate with them - meet together - talk about trees and favourite trees – plan how to access trees, seek public or private places for possible planting- perhaps report to congregation - have some fun doing all this. Celebrate and share stories and share questions. Explore what the Bible verse "Everyone shall sit under their own fig tree" means.) Micah 4:4.*

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"
Psalms 49:1-2