

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



January 28, 2026 – 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-essentials 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!*
- ***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 - Tuesdays at 1:00pm on Zoom**. Connection info is in the calendar.

This Month:

NEW: It's deep winter but it sure is nice to be thinking about SUMMER CAMP!

Watch the dates carefully for Staff, Counsellor, and Volunteer applications as well as Camper Registrations!

Camp Tapawingo:

Camper Registration - **open with early bird pricing**
Staff Application - **Open!**
Volunteer Application - **Open!**

Camp Shagabec:

Camper Registration - **Friday March 13**
Staff Application - **Open due March 27**
Volunteer Application - **Open!**

Lumsden Beach Camp:

Camper Registration: **Monday February 2**
Staff and LIT Application - Watch for postings and dates.
Volunteer Application - **Open!**

Camp Woodboia:

Watch for info and dates!

Next Month:

Assessment invoice available

It is now possible to view the invoice from the United Church of Canada regarding the assessment levied for your community of faith for 2026. You can find this information through your ChurchHub account. For more information, including an updated mailing address if paying by cheque, [please follow this link](#). A reminder that if payment is made annually, it is due **February 1**.

An Invitation to Wonder - *Online Discernment Weekend* February 20–22, 2026

*Is something stirring in you? A wondering about ministry — what it is, how it looks, and whether it might be calling your name? Join us for **An Invitation to Wonder**, a gentle online retreat for people exploring a call to ministry in The United Church of Canada.*

While our original hope was to gather in person, we will now be offering this retreat online via Zoom, allowing participation from near and far. Instead of full days on screen, the weekend will unfold in intentional blocks of time, with room for group exploration and personal discernment woven throughout. *This is not a commitment. This is not a decision-point.* This is simply space to listen - to your heart, your questions, and the Spirit moving within you.

Deadline for registration is Saturday, January 31. [Click here to register.](#)

All are welcome — youth, young adults, mid-lifers, elders, lifelong United Church folks, newcomers, seekers, and those simply curious. **If something is nudging in you... come and wonder with us.**

United Church's 100th Anniversary:

Updated: Short reminders of our history from the Centennial year continue

As we leave the Centennial year, here is another of Gayle's 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 *forty-third and forty-fourth vignettes*, she writes:

NEW: "Why is it called Mission Beach?" That question led to nearly sixty years of exploration into missionary history for Rev. Gerry Hutchinson following his family's move to the seven-point Telfordville Pastoral Charge in 1949. His research, first on Robert Rundle who established the first Alberta Methodist mission there in 1847, and then others, particularly James Evans and Henry Bird Steinhauer led to the founding of the Rundle's Mission Society, the acquisition and development of the Rundle's Mission site on the shores of Pigeon Lake and to the development by the Alberta government of the Benjamin and Margaret Sinclair Provincial Historic Site adjacent to the Rundle's Mission property. This site includes the nearby native burial grounds and the area where early mission buildings were located.

NEW: Shortly before his death in 1938, while immobilized in hospital, Rev. Hubert Bosomworth wrote to his congregations in the Airdrie pastoral charge what he called "Epistles of My Imprisonment." These mini-sermons show that, in true United Church fashion, Bosomworth understood the challenge of change. Using the circumstances of his existence at that time, he reflected in one on ceilings and in another on casts. His messages remain relevant more than 85 years later: "The application of Christianity today often requires the breaking down of old casts because they don't fit this day and the building of new because they do...We know that the burden and task of the United Church to which we belong is to form new molds into which the changing way of Canadian life may be fitted."

Into the Future:

NEW: The Great Exhale: A Gentle Pause for Faithful Souls - A retreat for clergy

All active ministry personnel (currently in, or searching for, a call or appointment) from Prairie to Pine, Living Skies, and Northern Spirit Regional Councils are warmly invited to **The Great Exhale**, a retreat for rest, renewal, and connection, held **May 5–6** at **Star of the North Retreat Centre** in St. Albert, Alberta.

Designed with spaciousness in mind, this retreat offers time to rest, reflect, pray, laugh, walk, and simply breathe—alongside worship and shared learning. The retreat will be facilitated by **Rev. Jordan Cantwell**, with gentle sessions focused on listening deeply, reconnecting with God, and renewing imagination for ministry.

Flexible registration options are available to support accessibility. More information can be found on the registration form. **Registration deadline is March 15**. Click [here to register](#)

Contact Laura Fohse, Vocational Minister for more information.

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

As we look forward to warmer weather, **Suggestion #3 Plan a pilgrimage** – this could take the place of a regular church service for a small congregation, or be a special event for a group, or an open invitation to everyone.

Begin with a Gathering Time – include an explanation, description of the route, prayer, perhaps a hymn. Let's assume 6 stopping places: **Stop #1** (a place where there is a special tree or group of trees/shrubs) Here we give thanks for trees and their value to our community – a naming, a silent time of reflection. **Stop #2** We give thanks for the tree planters in our community over the years (naming -with a community affirming after each name of person/group). “Thanks be for those who plant and nurture.” **Stop #3** Remembering a tree or trees of special significance in our own lives – a communal “thankyou” to each and all who shared a story or just a “naming”. **Stop #4** – A listing of the variety/diversity of trees/shrubs around us – and the unique feature of each i.e. colour in the fall. **Stop #5** Trees as messengers – call to awe/worship, call to consider interdependence, call to reflect on the stages of life, call to care for creation. **Stop #6** Where a tree can be planted -everyone encouraged to feel the earth, the water. As many as possible dig/prepare the soil, and plant – consider your community – planters, nurturers, people of hope, joy, trust and love. The tree of blessing!

Please contact Walter Farquharson (306-744-2214 or farq.blueheron@sasktel.net) with your ideas.

Collection 2026 – a national youth event – August 12 – 15, 2026

[Collective 2026 registration is now open!!](#) The Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) and The United Church of Canada (UCCan) are coming together once again to offer inspiring workshops, meaningful worship, and plenty of recreation for Christian youth across Canada. Whether you're a youth participant, young adult, or youth leader, we can't wait to share what's in store for Collective 2026.

Learn more and get ready at Collective-Gathering.ca.