

# Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council  
The United Church of Canada



## February 25, 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](mailto: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 - 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:growth@united-church.ca) (you can send a request even if you're not attending)

## This Month:

### **NEW: It's Tax-Receipt Time!**

Sarah Giles, Interim Community of Faith Stewardship Resource Coordination, has a whale of a tip this week. [Click here to see it!](#) Find free resources from the [Encouraging Generosity in Your Community of Faith](#) webpage. Sarah also shared a [Stewardship Blog post](#) from the National Church.

*Want to chat all things giving and generosity? Reach out to Sarah – [sgiles@united-church.ca](mailto:sgiles@united-church.ca) .*

### **NEW: Composting is an act of faith.**

It requires trust in the hidden work of bugs, microbes and the natural processes of decay to convert old food into nourishment for new life. Lent is a time of preparing ourselves for the new life God offers at Easter. We are invited to look at our lives and communities of faith and ask – What needs to be composted so that we are ready for resurrection? [Click here](#) to read this article by our Growth Animator, Jordan Cantwell.

**CCS Friday:** (Centre for Christian Studies)

Join us **Friday, February 27, 1:00pm**, for an online conversation with Paul Douglas Walfall, organizer of the “Here From the Beginning” exhibit highlighting the contribution of Black people to the history of the United Church. (see announcement below)

**Black History Month: Here From the Beginning**

Unveiled last year as a Centennial project, [Here from the Beginning](#) is an in-person and [virtual exhibition](#) that showcases the contributions and experiences of Black people within the United Church, amplifying voices that have long been overshadowed. It is a celebration of faith, history, and community. [Learn more and explore the exhibition online.](#)

For more information and resources about Black History month, [click here](#).

**Next Month:****Stats are interesting and fun!**

It’s time for the Community of Faith statistic forms to be filled out. These forms can be found on your ChurchHub account. This is the information that informs the annual assessment for your community of faith, and is also an opportunity to be attentive to the trends happening locally. [The instruction booklet is at this link](#). Contact [statistics@united-church.ca](mailto:statistics@united-church.ca) for further assistance. Stat forms are due **March 2, 2026**.

**NEW: A Pause for Peace and Justice**

In these troubling times at home and in our world, let’s come together to hear words of hope, justice and empowerment, to be grounded in compassion and radical kindness. Join us at **8pm (SK time)** for 15minutes **through the month of March 2026** (every Monday to Friday) [on this Zoom link](#). **Everyone welcome.** *This is a community initiative of Grace-Westminster United Church in collaboration with the Oliver & Gruchy Learning Centre, St. Andrew’s College (Saskatoon).* For more info, contact Jan Clarke ( [jlclarke@sasktel.net](mailto:jlclarke@sasktel.net) ), Brenda Curtis ( [c.b.curtis@sasktel.net](mailto:c.b.curtis@sasktel.net) ) or Bernon Lee ( [bernon.lee@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:bernon.lee@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca) ).

**Save the date – Covenanting announcement**

Janelle Shaw and the collaboration between Lafleche-Limerick and Grasslands pastoral charges will be held on **Sunday, March 8, 1:30pm** in Glentworth.

**NEW: Things we Tell Ourselves - 7pm to 9pm ET from March 11 to May 20, 2026**

The United Church has spent 100 years establishing patterns and ways of doing ministry. Many of us are still doing what was done a generation or two earlier. We want to try new things but don’t know where to start. Join us Wednesdays for this ten-week series of learning sessions and workshops that gives participants the chance to see new opportunities, engage with new ideas, meet other lay church leaders and reimagine the church of the future and start building it now. For details and to register, see: [Things We Tell Ourselves](#)

**The Moderator's PIE Day message: now available**

Every year, on **March 14<sup>th</sup>**, The United Church of Canada celebrates National Affirming PIE Day. This year for PIE Day 2026, we celebrate every kind of creator—woodcutters, crocheters, gardeners, and bakers—who help weave connections in our communities. [Access the Moderator's PIE Day video in advance and review release information at this link.](#)

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

**REMINDER** for all ministry personnel (and candidates) currently in (or searching for) a call or appointment. The clergy retreat registration deadline is approaching. **Please complete the registration form by Sunday, March 15.** These days apart will be intentional, spacious, and restorative. If your soul has been whispering (or shouting) that you need a pause, I hope you'll listen. **You deserve rest. You deserve care. You deserve community that holds you gently.**  
**Retreat details: May 5-6** (option of staying longer for personal retreat time), held at **Star of the North Retreat Centre** in St. Albert, AB. You will find details about cost on the registration form.  
<https://form.jotform.com/253108673785264>

### **NEW: Buds and Shoots: Groaning towards New Creation**

A Contemplative Gathering on **March 20, 2026, 10 to 11 AM (Sask time)**. Please join us with this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89719528378?pwd=iClh84RK6H4SOz0BpzTmnN9mFNqwY8.1>  
 An Offering of the Oliver & Gruchy Learning Centre (of St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon) in Collaboration with GreenSpirit Chaplaincy, and the Living Skies, Prairie to Pine, and Northern Spirit Regions of the United Church of Canada.

### United Church's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:

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

As we leave the Centennial year, here are another couple 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 *fiftieth and fifty-first vignettes*, she writes:

**NEW:** Lawyer, minister, Executive Secretary of Alberta and North West Conference (1986-1993), moderator (1997—2000) - through it all, Bill Phipps was a strong advocate for social and environmental justice and an ardent baseball fan, encouraging Alberta delegates to the 1990 General Council to bring their baseball gloves for some sport at the meetings! While with ANWC, he worked with the Metis Lubicon band in northern Alberta to try to confirm land rights. In 1998, he issued the church apology to those abused in residential schools. He also initiated the "Moderator's Consultation of Faith and the Economy" which led to the national interfaith organization Faith and the Common Good. Never afraid to express his opinions, including on theology, in an article in *Broadview* magazine after his death, former UCC general secretary Jim Sinclair described him as "very gutsy in addressing issues within the church and beyond the church."

**NEW:** Theme speakers, workshops, worship, music, conversation and laughter – there was always plenty of food for thought, food for the soul – and, of course, food for the body – at the Kananaskis Stewardship Event (KSE). The KSE was held biennially from 1992 to 2002 and open to registrants from beyond Alberta and United Church borders. Stewardship is defined as the responsible planning and management of resources. For churches, this includes both financial and volunteer resources. For attendees it was a chance to meet others concerned with stewardship to share ideas and recharge enthusiasm. In 2002, theme speaker U.S theologian Ched Myers suggested that we now need a new creative theology, a new narrative that allows us to tell our stewardship story to the world. We need, in communion, to focus, not on the death of Jesus, but on the life and the vision of community he represented.

### Into the Future:

#### **LIVING SKIES YOUTH RETREAT:**

**Save the date** for **April 24-26** in Prince Albert! Registration will open soon. Grades 7-12.

**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!**

**Lumsden Beach Camp:**

Camper Registration: **Monday February 2**

Staff and LIT Application - Watch for postings and dates.

Volunteer Application - **Open!**

**Camp Shagabec:**

Camper Registration - **Friday March 13**

Staff Application - **Open due March 27**

Volunteer Application - **Open!**

**Camp Woodboia:**

Watch for info and dates!

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

A suggestion Walter received was: *As a fun activity in the congregation pass out slips of paper and pencils. Invite each person to finish this sentence: "I would like to be like a tree ..."* Gather these up and read them aloud. Remind people that they can all participate somehow in celebrating and hopefully planting a tree (or trees) as a way of celebrating creation as part of our call to be church! While you are writing your idea, you are invited to access a delightful new song - lyrics by Clark Saunders, retired UC minister and music by Craig Cassels. To play and listen, [checkout this youtube video](#) of the song "I Want to be Like a Tree".

Do you have an idea you would like to try, or perhaps have tried and would like to share? To chat about possibilities, contact Walter Farquharson -306-744-2214 or [farq.blueheron@sasktel.net](mailto:farq.blueheron@sasktel.net).

**NEW: Learning on Purpose:**

The Centre for Christian Studies' transformative two-week leadership development course is coming to the Five Oaks Retreat Centre in Paris, ON, **June 15-26, 2026**. Whether you are discerning a call to ministry, starting a program of diaconal formation, building your skills for lay leadership, connecting your community engagement and your faith, or just trying to figure out what your purpose is, Learning on Purpose is for you. For more information, [visit here](#).

**Collective 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](http://Collective-Gathering.ca).

**Are you talking about it in your Community of Faith???**

We need your help in planning the "in-person" Living Skies Regional Council Meeting for **May 27-30, 2027**. Would you consider placing this item on your Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda. The Agenda item would be whether your community of faith would be open to hosting this event in your community either on your own or with the help of a neighbouring community of faith. All that is needed is a preliminary interest. Final decision would be made later, after consultation with the Living Skies Regional Council Meeting Planning Committee. Contact is Miles Russell at [russella@sasktel.net](mailto:russella@sasktel.net) or 306-547-8517. Thanks for your consideration of this important event.