

# Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council  
The United Church of Canada



March 11, 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-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 - 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!*

### **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](#)

### **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 (every Monday to Friday) **through the month of March 2026** [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 ( [jclarke@sasktel.net](mailto:jclarke@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) ).

\***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)

## It's back to winter outside, but it sure is nice to be thinking about SUMMER CAMP!

Please check out each camp for camp dates and for the various applications and registrations!

**[Camp Shagabec](#)**: Camper registration **opens** on **Friday, March 13**. Volunteer Applications **open now!**

**[Camp Tapawingo](#)**: Camper Registration, Staff and Volunteer Applications **open now!** *Early bird pricing!!*

**[Camp Woodboia](#)**: Camper Registration, Staff and Volunteer Applications **open now!**

**[Lumsden Beach Camp](#)**: Camper Registration, Staff and Volunteer Applications **open now!**

### **NEW: National Affirming/PIE Day is March 14!**

PIE Day is approaching fast, and we have lots of resources for your services and events, including **graphics, posters, songs, brand-new worship templates** (including our first-ever version Français), and much more! Check out [our materials page here](#) for everything you need to make your event Public, Intentional, and Explicit!

**Submit your PIE Day Event!** Submit your own PIE Day events to the official PIE / National Affirming Day event calendar! [Click here to submit!](#)

### **NEW: The Moderator's PIE Day message:**

In her National Affirming/PIE Day message, Moderator Kimberly Heath asks us to craft community through art, faith, and imagination made visible. Click here to [read more](#).

### **Last Chance: 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](#).

## **This Month:**

### **Equipping the Saints: the pastoral care workshop**

Join the Equipping the Saints Gathering on **March 18<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm-2:30pm** with special guest, **Dave Whalley**. Dave will share his experience with Pastoral Care among those Experiencing Mental Health and Addictions and their Families. He serves the people of First United Church in Big River SK and has dedicated his life and ministry to walking with those on the healing journey; those in and out of the justice system, those experiencing poverty, and those healing from the trauma of colonization and residential schools. Dave walks the talk. This workshop is open to all members of Living Skies Region, lay and ministry personnel. To register, please email Bev Diebert at [bdiebert@united-church.ca](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca).

### **Shared Way, Shared Witness: A Gathering on Ministry for a Collaborative Church** in Montreal, **May**

**19–22, 2026. Early registration deadline: March 20.** This three day gathering for lay and ordained leaders in the Anglican and United Churches of Canada focuses on developing the skills, relationships, and theological imagination needed for collaborative ministry in a rapidly changing church. Together, we will explore two central questions: What is the church for, now? and What ministry do we need to sustain a vital Christian presence in communities across Canada? Through keynote presentations, workshops, and structured conversations, participants will engage emerging models of church and ministry that move beyond the colonial, Christendom patterns we have inherited. More information is available at [www.sharedway.ca](http://www.sharedway.ca).

***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](#). *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.*

**NEW: Late-breaking opportunity for learning – Sacraments elder training**

The Committee on Lay Leadership Support is once again offering an online opportunity for training for Sacraments Elders. This would be appropriate for those new to the role, as well as serving as a refresher for those currently licensed. It will be offered over Zoom on **Saturday, March 28 from 9:00am to 12:00pm**; there is no cost. Feel free to share the invitation widely. Contact Bev Diebert at [bdiebert@united-church.ca](mailto:bdiebert@united-church.ca) to register.

**NEW: Follow the Yellow Brick Road..... Follow the Yellow Brick Road....**

**Inspire, and Invite and Thank! Oh, my! Inspire, and Invite and Thank! Oh my!**

Like the Yellow Brick Road's lions and tigers, and bears (oh my!), the Stewardship's road of inspiring, inviting and thanking also represents a journey toward personal growth, self-discovery, and the realization that the power to achieve one's goals lies within oneself, or within one community of faith. Like the Yellow Brick Road's golden path, the path through the "Called to be the Church: the journey" programs will help to shed light on and inspire you to build up faithful disciples who desire to support their community of faith through gifts of time, talents, and treasures. We are all looking to express our physical, emotional, and spiritual selves more fully, and live meaningful journeys through life. If we link arms with one another, our stewardship team can help you find a new rhythm and stay connected, strong, and focused on the love of Christ that is reflected in your faith community. **Be bold**, you are called to journey and to be the church.

[Book time to meet with Sarah Giles](#) or check out [our Stewardship Programs on ChurchX!](#)

**Next Month:****Living Skies Youth Retreat:**

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

**Faithful Footprints Grants re-open**

[Faithful Footprints grants for energy efficiency and reduced fossil fuel use](#) are being re-opened after the long pause. All submissions to be considered for this year need to be in by **April 30<sup>th</sup>**.

**Into the Future:****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.