

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



April 1, 2026 – News

*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.*

Church office workers, please feel free to use these announcements in your church bulletins or newsletters.

In this **NEWS** edition of the Rambler, new and time-sensitive items are listed near the top of each section. Items included for the first time will have **NEW:** beside the title of the event.

Dates are highlighted in green for easy identification. And, **deadlines** are highlighted in dark orange;

1. Living Skies Regional Council News:

Living Skies Youth Retreat - April 24-26 in Prince Albert!

Make friends with other youth from across the United Church's Living Skies Region while exploring faith life through worship, song, and interactive theme times. This event is open to youth Grades 7-12. **Registration deadline is April 13.** For registration and more details [see here](#).

NEW: Rekindling Hope: Reimagining Being and Doing Church in a Changing World

On **May 23-24**, the Regional Council Executive invites you to join them in a weekend of connection, learning, and fun. Beginning at **10am on Saturday, May 23**, join us for a day of worship, learning and opportunities for networking, followed by the **Celebration of Ministry service banquet at 6pm**. The weekend will close with the **Celebration of Ministry worship service at 10:30am on Sunday, May 24**, all hosted by Grace United Church in Weyburn. Registration details to follow after Easter, but for now, mark the time in your calendar.

Faithful Footprints Grants re-open

The [Faithful Footprints Grant](#) supports United Church communities with funding for building retrofit projects that reduce carbon emissions, and strengthen the long-term sustainability of church buildings. The [2026 funding cycle is now open](#), and Expressions of Interest are being accepted until **April 30th**.

VBS and Summer Day Camps

Is your community of faith considering hosting a day camp for kids and families this summer? Please email Lindsay at livingskiesyaya@united-church.ca to indicate interest, and we will organize a zoom to share resources and ideas!

NEW: Volunteers needed

South Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy has a couple of Board positions vacant. If you are willing to volunteer as a Board Member or have questions regarding being on the board, please contact Randy Graham at randygrahamn369@gmail.com

2. Wider Church Information:

NEW: Passing of two respected United Church elders: Rev John Snow Jr, and Simogyet James Angus Our Regional Council sends its condolences to the loved ones and communities of [Rev John Snow jr](#) (Íyarhe Sa Wahachâga, Stoney Nakoda Nation), and [James Angus](#) (Simogyet Wii Eelast, Gitxsan First Nation). These elders and leaders in the United Church will be deeply missed across the church and the country. Please take a moment to pray, and to remember them. Please see the links above for their memorials and their funeral information. Thank you to Indigenous Ministries and Justice and Pacific Mountain Regional Council for working with the families and communities so that this news could be shared in a good way with all of us.

NEW: The Moderator's Easter Message: From Heartbreak to Hope

In a world filled with dashed expectations, war, and "fake news," the Easter story can feel more like an idle tale than a reality. This year, [Moderator Kimberly Heath](#) tells the story of how the earliest followers of Jesus navigated their own skepticism to find a hope that transforms the world. [Click here to watch her full message.](#)

Easter: A Place at the Table for New Life (*a message from your Growth Animator*)

Easter is God's great yes to life—spoken into places of fear, grief, uncertainty, and waiting. The stone is rolled away not so the story can end, but so new life can begin. What might that look like in your community of faith?

Share an Inspiring Easter Appeal

Easter is fast approaching, as is an annual time of generosity for our communities. *Inspire* and *Invite* gifts to Mission and Service this year with these helpful resources: 🐰 Use the [pre-made Script and Slideshow](#) to make an Easter Appeal as part of your worship services this Easter. 🌸 Share the [2026 Mission and Service Easter Video](#) in your newsletter or on social media. 🙏 Include the new [God of the Wild Wilderness prayer](#) from Mission and Service in your worship. **And**, as always, don't forget to *Thank* the amazing donors who make the work of Mission and Service possible.

Jordan Cantwell, *Growth Animator* - jcantwell@united-church.ca

Sarah Giles, *Stewardship Animator* - sgiles@united-church.ca

Reflect and pray each day this Easter

As a gift to the United Church community, Growth Animator Sharon Ballantyne (Atlantic Regions), has written a 50-day Eastertide devotional. These seven weeks of prompts focus on sharing the story of Resurrection, ministry as a community, and living a life of discipleship. Explore it personally or as part of a group. Access the [booklet formatted PDF](#) (Printing instructions: select double-sided, print on long-edge). Access the [simple Word Doc version](#). For questions about formatting or printing contact tmullin@united-church.ca.

NEW: This May, Discover the power of PAR!

Wouldn't it be great to even out the yearly cash-flow of your Community of Faith? Not be so reliant on year-end giving in December? Have more money to do more ministry? Taking part in PAR month this **MAY** could be your answer! All the resources you need, including a full sermon, two sample letters, and announcements are ready for you to download and use, on the [Giving Monthly through PAR](#) page.

For Stewardship information and resources check out the [Community of Faith Stewardship page](#) or contact Sarah Giles – Western Canada's Stewardship Support Person at sgiles@united-church.ca

NEW: The United Church of Canada Foundation seeks

THE UCC Foundation is currently seeking a *Grants and Projects Coordinator* to add to their team.

Applications for the position will be accepted until April 10. For information about the position and how to apply, [see here](#). There is also a [Facebook post](#).

NEW: Earth Week video from the Moderator

Join the Moderator for **Earth Week (April 19–26)** as we partner with [For the Love of Creation](#) to move from prayer into action, advocating for climate justice and repairing our relationship with the land through education and direct engagement with our Members of Parliament. The video is posted to YouTube; the [English version is here](#) and the [French, here](#). Click 'download' in the video description to receive an offline version for in-person events. For more 2026 Earth week resources, [visit the national website](#).

Camping Sunday Resources:

Sunday April 26 is designated "Camping Sunday" but it's great to lift up our amazing camps any time of the year. [Check out our list of resources here](#).

Update on United Church refugee sponsorship

The ongoing crisis in the Middle East has intensified pressure on our refugee program, driving a sharp rise in inquiries and sponsorships from churches. Our 2026 United Church submission quota has dropped to 50 regular spaces, while the LGBTQIA program remains stable at 75 annual spaces under the current agreement. Federal cuts have also affected Settlement Providing Organizations, reducing access to key newcomer services such as language, literacy, and employment programs. Drastically longer processing times that now average 24–54 months are also a reality. We give thanks for national staff, for the many caring experts in our networks, all communities of faith carrying sponsorships forward, and for all our many community partners who are deeply dedicated to offering safe haven. Above all, we offer prayers and action for the millions who cannot go home. If you are interested in sponsoring or have questions, the General Council is the best place to get answers, but the Regional office and experts can also help you out. Please email Julie at jgraham@united-church.ca and she can put you in touch.

Aid for the Middle East: a call from United Church partner the Canadian Foodgrains Bank

The headlines say it all, and have for over two years. If you are moved to [offer food aid for the millions in need across the Middle East, see details here](#). The Canadian FoodGrains Bank is a longtime and respected partner of the United Church who also works through a wider Canadian aid coalition. Together, we have trusted partners on the ground, working with communities deeply impacted by war and displacement.

3. Upcoming Opportunities:**Community of Faith Calendar**

Please check out our CoF calendar for upcoming local events. Watch for other upcoming events to be added. Our [Community of Faith events calendar](#) is open 24/7 for online events! As long as the public is invited, you can post it. From workshops to worship, go for it. [Here's the handy form](#). Be sure to **submit your events**, so folks don't miss events near to them.

United in Learning Spring courses from the national church

Feeling disconnected? Want to explore specific topics like myths about the church, speaking up for the Earth, racism, church tech, and much more? [See the latest newsletter here](#), and please share it. All courses require a free account, to help you access course materials. Have a look at the long list of excellent topics available to all of us, and please share.

Collective national youth event Info Session

Thursday April 15, 11 am SK time, hosted by coordinators from the event from the UCC and the Presbyterian Church in Canada. If you are considering attending or sending a group, [please join this call](#) and also let Lindsay know of your interest at livingskiesyaya@united-church.ca.

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.

Things we Tell Ourselves - 7pm to 9pm ET from now until 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](#)

Godly Play Core Training Intensive 2026

Get ready to enter the stories of our faith In person **May 7 – 10, 2026 (6 pm May 7 to 5:30 pm, May 10 PDT)** Through an action/reflection model of learning you will learn more about creating sacred space, building and working in community, nurturing spiritual development, using silence, story and play to make meaning. All learning takes place in a prayerful and playful atmosphere with creative and experienced Godly Play trainers. **Space is limited to 18 people. Cost: \$350 CDN** to register for all sessions. [Click here](#) for more information or to register:

4. Reminders:

Pastoral Relations Ponderings - [Pastoral Relations Pondering Vol 68](#). Updates from the Pastoral Relations desk.

A New Chaplain in Regina

The South Saskatchewan Chaplaincy Board is very pleased to announce Roel Tolentino as the new Chaplain. Roel's calming and compassionate presence will serve this position well. Roel has training and experience in pastoral care and palliative care along with extensive ministering experience. Role will be on-call 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday, and can be reached by cell phone at 1-306-551-7755 or email at rtolentino1224@gmail.com. If you know of someone in a hospital in Regina and would like them to have a visit, please give Roel a call.

Weekly events:

***Online Bible study - Wednesdays 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 for and with communities of faith each **Thursday at 10a-m Central / 9am Mountain** Register to join us [here](#). Send your prayer request to growth@united-church.ca (you can send a request even if you're not attending)