

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



April 15, 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:

NEW: Pastoral Relations Ponderings - [Pastoral Relations Pondering Vol 69](#). Updates from the Pastoral Relations desk.

NEW: A New SSHC Chaplain in Regina

The new South Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplain, Roel Tolentino, is sharing a [new printable poster](#) with contact information and hospital locations he serves. Be sure to hang the poster where everyone will be able to see it. If you know someone in a hospital in Regina, especially from a rural community of faith, be sure to reach out to Roel to arrange for a visit.

NEW: Around the World Zoom Prayer – Int’l Rural Churches Association

IRCA Americas is hosting a 5 hour Zoom Prayer on **Thursday April 16 starting @ 1 pm ET**.

Different Rural Ministries across the Americas will share information on the work they do, answer questions, and say a prayer for the work being done by that ministry and the people that area represents. *You can join us and learn.* The Prayer starts in Western Canada at **11 am (MT)**. For details about who is presenting, including Living Skies folks, and approximate times, please see the [April UCRMN newsletter](#). To receive the link to the ATW Prayer Zoom Event, [register here](#).

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.

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!

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 open](#), and Expressions of Interest are being accepted until **April 30th**.

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: This week's E-ssentials – See this week's [national newsletter](#), which offers 'essentials' from The United Church of Canada and highlights national work.

NEW: Death of former General Secretary Rev Ginny Coleman

The United Church of Canada grieves the death of Rev. Kathryn Virginia "Ginny" Coleman, who faithfully served as the eighth General Secretary of the church from **1994–2002**. Rev. Coleman died on **April 3, 2026**. She is predeceased by her beloved spouse, Suzanne Morris (2014), and survived by her sister, Barb (Gary), stepson Chris Emond (Lisa), and two grandchildren, Kye and Michelle. [Please see the church's memorial here](#).

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](#).

Ecumenical Earth Week resources, April 19-26

Together with ecumenical partners we join our communities in love for the Earth, and deep concern about the immense strain it is under. We **pray** to connect with God and God's Creation. We **learn** about the realities and solutions to climate change. And we **act**— showing leadership for climate justice in our communities and bringing a clear call for leadership to our Members of Parliament. From wildfires across the West and North to floods and devastating hurricanes, creation is groaning. Our efforts may seem small, but they are seeds to plant. We hope these resources will help you do that. Resources include a video from the Moderator, prayers, a nationwide map of events for you to add to, a leadership guide and more. Please [scroll down through this national page for all resources](#), including the downloads at the bottom of the page.

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](#).

Is it Time to Become an Apartheid Free Community?

Join UNJPPI on **April 20th (7PM Eastern)** for the webinar: "Is it Time to Become an Apartheid Free Community?" Your faith community can help bring the apartheid in Palestine/Israel to an end. This webinar will help you explore how becoming an Apartheid-Free Community can be a good way for your Faith Community to help end the apartheid and bring peace with justice to Palestinians living under Israeli rule. Learn more [here](#). [Here is a poster](#).

The webinar is organized by United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine/Israel, a network of United Church of Canada members/adherents and friends. We work for the end of apartheid in Palestine/Israel and for peace based on justice.

Go here to learn more and register : <https://forms.gle/4x2fcyC8SAetgkSM8>

Choose the Next General Secretary!

The United Church of Canada is starting a search process for its next General Secretary. A Selection Committee supported by an executive search professional will recommend the next General Secretary to be appointed by the General Council Executive. Vacancies on the selection committee: 2–3 vacancies (members-at-large). Key skills: Deep understanding of the United Church or experience and understanding of the role of the senior executive in other large complex organizations. *Could this be you??* [Full details and expression of interest / nomination](#). **Deadline: Monday, April 20.**

NEW: Graduate of Emmanuel College? Please help update your contact info for their upcoming Centenary As Emmanuel College in Toronto prepares for its 100th birthday in **2028**, they are working to update Emmanuel College alumni contact lists. They write, “Over the years, we have lost touch with many EC alumni, often due to the itinerant nature of their work. We would like to be able to reach as many of them as possible in the UCC Community, ask them to self-identify and provide us with a current email address so that we can keep them updated on the Centenary plans. Can you please share this [brief questionnaire](#) with your congregations, networks, or colleagues? It asks individuals for their name, email address, and graduating year.

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.

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.

Invitation: National Moosehide Campaign against violence, 14 May

Canada is in the midst of an ongoing national crisis of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2S-LGBTQIA+ people. The Moosehide Campaign is a call to all people in Canada to take a stand against racism and for justice. This year we are hoping for a record United Church turn-out at the virtual events, local walks to end violence, and fasts to end violence. [See all information about the national campaign here](#).

National events include a sunrise ceremony, educational plenary, and workshops (all available via livestream). You can register [here](#) for virtual events (including livestream links to all the national campaign day events). Local marches are being organized across the country. Find your local march on the map located [here](#), or register [here](#) to become a community steward and organize your own events.

4. Reminders:

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.

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.

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

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](#)

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)