

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



April 22, 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.

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:

NEW: National Volunteer Week (April 19-25)

In celebration of the wonderful volunteers within our church community, the Moderator shares a message of profound gratitude for the incredible dedication of United Church volunteers. **Thank you for all that you do!** [Watch and share this video message](#) from Moderator Kimberly Heath. Our thanks and appreciate to the countless individuals who share their gifts and time within and on behalf of the United Church of Canada.

NEW: Earth Week is here! Add events, find resources, and more

For the Love of Creation event map: <https://forthe loveofcreation.ca/earth-week-2026/#mymap>
United Church resources: <https://united-church.ca/news/together-love-creation-earth-week-2026>

NEW: E-ssentials and more – Please see the very handy [latest national newsletter](#), which goes over highlights for national work.

NEW: The latest [United in Learning newsletter is now posted here](#), and it has lots of opportunities for online community and learning. Scroll through, as events are not listed chronologically, but are instead arranged by series and networks.

***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!*

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

NEW: Updates from Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre: Spring happenings

SSSC is the Indigenous seminary for the United Church, and [here's their latest newsletter](#) with upcoming events and great reports on past gatherings.

***Strengthening Invitation** - the Growth Department prays each **Thursday at 10am Central / 9am 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)

NEW: Canadian Foodgrains Bank: Live from South Sudan

Thursday, April 23, at 10:00 AM Mountain Daylight/ Central Standard, 11:00AM CDT.

Executive director Andy Harrington will join us live from South Sudan, a place where many families are fleeing to, seeking safety from the conflict in Sudan. You'll hear from our members' local partners who are responding to this crisis. They'll share firsthand accounts of the hunger, displacement, and loss that communities are facing, and the difficult choices families are being forced to make to survive. [Click here](#) to register. [Learn more](#) about why this is the world's largest humanitarian crisis.

NEW: Faithful Footprints Conversation: practical advice from United Churches who've done carbon reduction retrofits, 24 April, 1:00-2:00PM Central Daylight, 12:00-1:00PM Mountain Daylight/ Central Standard. Coming together for the love of creation is a way to connect, grow, listen, inspire hope and affect change. In celebration of [Earth Week \(April 19–26, 2026\)](#), join us for a Faithful Footprints: Retrofit Conversation, a live panel discussion featuring United Church members who have led carbon reduction retrofit projects supported by the United Church of Canada's [Faithful Footprints Grant](#), and are eager to share what they learned along the way. [Details and registration.](#)

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: <https://livingskiesrc.ca/programs/yavac/camps/>

Reminder: Ministry Personnel Prayer Gathering – a time to connect

All ministry personnel – *active, retired, honorary associates, and candidates in appointment*, are warmly invite to a once a month, one hour online gathering on the **4th Tuesday of each month (April 28)**. For details of what to bring and link information, [please see the calendar announcement](#). This is a simple space to pause, breathe, and remember we are not alone in ministry. Come for prayer, community and the gift of communion shared across our regions.

This Month:

Final week - Faithful Footprints Grants open **Deadline for applications: April 30**

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 still being accepted.

Next Month:

NEW: May is PAR month...**P**-practical **A**-accountable **R**-rewarding

Let your community of faith be able to rely on your generosity through automated remittance! Faithful contributions help your community of faith continue to do the work of caring for one another and the community! Did you know that you can also designate a portion of your PAR offering to M&S? Continue to help fund the programs and supports in our communities and abroad. Let's live out the gospel through the faithful spiritual practice of financially supporting the work of the church. The church is the Good News – We are the Gospel - Let's help to share it!

Discover the Power of PAR! Check out the resources on the United Church webpage for PAR month - <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/get-involved/ways-give/giving-monthly-through-par> Reach out if you need some help with sharing this message with your community. Don't forget to sign up for a Stewardship Course so that you can help the people in your community of faith practice their spiritual discipleship. For more information about PAR or other Stewardship Resources, contact Sarah Giles, Stewardship Support for Western Regions sgiles@united-church.ca

NEW: Red Dress Day, May 5: the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people (MMIWG2S).

Let us honour the lives lost, support the grieving, seek justice for the missing, and call on all levels of government and society to implement the Calls to Justice from the Final Report of the National Inquiry. **We can:** * **Hang** a red dress outside your church or home. * **Attend** a local vigil: please search on the web and social media, as these are planned by local groups. * **Pray** for and with all survivors, loved ones, families, and communities. Year round: * **Consider** inviting (and certainly paying) advocates and survivors who wish to speak publicly. * **Develop** trusted sources of information you can learn from, including grassroots and university groups that offer online learning. This violent pandemic is not improving. The facts are so hard and so important to learn.

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. *For more information or to register:*

<https://godlyplaybcevents.weebly.com/onsite-core-intensive-2026.html>

NEW: Preparing for Pride - Affirming open forum, Tuesday May 12, 7:00- 8:30 MDT/ CST, 8:00- 9:30PM Central Daylight Time June is Pride Month and Indigenous Peoples' Month. Join us for a community conversation on Pride festivals, and church plans for being Public, Intentional and Explicit supporters of Pride. Come with your ideas and questions. All people of goodwill, and all Affirming/ Affirming-curious ministries welcome. Thank you to Prairie to Pine's Equity and Diversity Committee for hosting this space for everyone! [Join the meeting here.](#)

Meeting ID: 843 5188 4794 Password: 474411 1- 855 703 8985 Canada Toll-free

Updated - Rekindling Hope: Reimagining Being and Doing Church in a Changing World - May 23-24

Living Skies Region invites you to a meaningful weekend, designed to refresh your spirit and be reminded that you do not do this work alone! Beginning at **10am on Saturday, May 23**, connect with others, worship together, and take part in engaging workshops that equip and encourage. Grounded in the theme **Toward 2035**, we will dream and discern together for the church we are being called to become in the years ahead. Whether you're seeking inspiration, practical tools, or new resources for church leadership, this weekend offers space to grow, listen, and be renewed together. Bring a group from your congregation or come and make some new friends!

That evening, beginning at **6:00pm**, we will hold our **Celebration of Ministry service banquet**. Banquet **tickets are \$30** per person and must be purchased in advance [at the registration link](#). The weekend will close with the **Celebration of Ministry worship service** at **10:30am on Sunday, May 24**, again at Grace United Church (210 Third St. NE.) in Weyburn. **Participation in Saturday's event is free**, although there will be a free will offering for lunch. **Registration deadline** for both the Saturday event and the banquet **is May 13**. Mileage reimbursement is available for travel

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.

NEW: Visit of Filipino partner to Regina, Saskatoon, & North Battleford, May 21-22 and May 23-24

Danilo Ramos is a leader in the Filipino peasant farmers' movement. He is visiting Canada with several partner groups that have United Church connections, and we are invited to join in planned public events and possibly farm visits. He'll be talking about the struggle of farmers in the Philippines, and strong concerns about a recently announced military alliance between Canada and the Philippines. The planners would love to make some United Church connections. Please email Julie Graham, jgraham@united-church.ca, as the schedule is still being confirmed.

NEW: M&P Committee deep dive

If you are newly elected to the M&P Committee in your community of faith or want a reminder of what your responsibilities are in this important role, please join Tracy Murton on **May 28 at 7pm** on Zoom. Bring your questions, openness, and care for the staff you support. Contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca to register.

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

Walter Farquharson is once again sharing a full service to use in connection with Arbor Day / Week in Saskatchewan. The service has been created to be very flexible, for use by one leader, by a couple of folks or by using several voices. You can use all, parts or adapted parts of the service. A new original piece of music is included in the package. Here is [the service in Word](#) and here is his hymn [Young Apple Trees](#). If you have questions, please contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca

Into the Future:**NEW: Ladies' "Shagabec" Day**

Ladies' "Shagabec" Day will be held in Swift Current, **Tuesday, June 9** at First United Church (223 3rd Ave. NE., Swift Current). At this time the program is not finalized but watch the Sask UCC Women's Network Newsletter posted on the Living Skies website on the 15th of each month for more details.

NEW: Camp Tapawingo Women's Camp

Camp Tapawingo is pleased to be hosting the Women's Camp on **June 12 to 13, 2026**. Please see the [Sask UCC Women's newsletter](#) for details about the camp. To register, see the [Camp Tapawingo website](#). Moneys from the silent auction will go to the camp.

NEW: Advance notice: 150th anniversary of the signing of Treaty Six, 20-23 August, Fort Carlton

This **August**, we begin a series of commemorations marking 150 years of Treaty Six, which covers a significant part of our Regional Council, and like all treaties, holds all of us in relationship to this day. When plans are ready, they will be posted to the [Treaty Six 150 site](#), and in the meantime, you can RSVP and have a look at your schedule. Here's some [more background](#).