

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



April 8, 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.

United in Learning - Find what's new in [the latest newsletter here](#) . **E-ssentials and more** – Please see the very handy [latest national newsletter](#), which goes over highlights for national work.

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:

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.

***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](#)

***Strengthening Invitation** - the Growth Department prays each **Thursday at 10a-m 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)

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](#).

This Month:**NEW: Staffing update: Farewell and best wishes to Charlene Burns**

Indigenous Ministries and Justice, General Council, regret to announce that Charlene Burns' employment has come to an end. Charlene connected with our Regional Council as part of her wider work as a Community Capacity Development coordinator with the Indigenous church, and as an educator and connector in many shared spaces. Many of us in the Regional Councils have met Charlene at right relations events, gatherings with the Indigenous church, and at Regional Council, Conference, and presbytery meetings. Over the past fifteen years, Charlene has brought laughter and deep prayer to Indigenous Ministries and Justice, and a commitment to nurturing community with all people, and we thank her for this presence and her many gifts.

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.

Living Skies Youth Retreat - April 24-26 in Prince Albert! **Deadline: April 13**

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. For registration and more details see <https://livingskiesrc.ca/yayac-spring-retreat-2026/>.

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](#).

NEW: 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.

NEW: 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>

NEW: 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.**

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/>

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**.

Next Month:**NEW: Discover the power of PAR month this May!**

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.

This **May**, discover the power of PAR! For more information about PAR or other Stewardship Resources, contact Sarah Giles, Stewardship Support for Western Regions sgiles@united-church.ca

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: 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.

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, but for now, mark the time in your calendar.

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](#).

Whitehorse (Yukon) Worship Arts Festival & Contemplative Retreat

Join us in the Yukon for a four-day immersive gathering, **July 2-5, 2026**, designed to heal and inspire. A partnership of the Anglican, Lutheran, and United Church traditions, this practice-forward retreat offers a restorative balance of **deep contemplation and vibrant, embodied worship**. Click [here](#) for more information and registration.

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](#).**