

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



May 20, 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: E-ssentials and more – Please see the very handy [latest national newsletter](#), which goes over highlights for national work.

***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!*

***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)

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 check out the Living Skies FaceBook page for details as they become available, as the schedule is still being confirmed.

NEW: YOU are invited!

Living Skies Regional Council is thrilled to be celebrating ministry on **Sunday, May 24** at Grace United Church in Weyburn. You are warmly invited to join online through Grace United Church's FaceBook page or in person, beginning at **10:30am**. We will be celebrating the ministry and retirement of Deb Anderson-Pratt. We will also be commissioning Jenni Krall, and admitting The Rev. Prince Nkhoswe and The Rev. Adesegun Igbekele (Trust) Oluweyami. As always, the service will be followed by refreshments. Plan to join in your most festive Pentecost colours or traditional cultural clothing. We hope to see you then!

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 (May 26)**. 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 will be the last MP Prayer Gathering until the fall.**

This Month:**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.

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

All the Arbor Day / Week suggestions shared in the Rambler over the last six months have been collated [into a post](#) on the front/home page Living Skies Regional Council website. *See if there is something* on the list that might use to celebrate trees in our part of the world.

If you have new suggestions to add, please contact Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca.

Next Month:**Updated: Inventions of Summer – a summer worship gift from your Regional Council.**

A simple, creative, theologically rich companion for a Summer Sabbath or Worship Series from **Prayer Bench**, the folks that shared Advent resources with us last fall. ***Inventions of Summer*** is a four-week, ready-to-use Summer Sabbath booklet and worship series inviting you to enrich your summer through simple reflections on sunflowers, string beans, mosquitoes, and fireflies.

Designed for flexible use as a creative summer workshop series. This series is offered as a gift to leaders and communities of faith through a Regional License **purchased by Living Skies Regional Council**. Here is the [Access Link to access the materials](#). When you sign up, you will receive access to the booklet, the worship notes and additional resources.

NEW: Welcome to new Affirming ministries! (Updated)

Pride Month is a busy season for welcoming new ministries to the family officially - in practice, these fine communities have been Affirming for a long time. Let's celebrate these ministries in our Prairies and North regions:

[Grace-Westminster United Church](#) in Saskatoon celebrates on **Sunday, June 7 at 10:30am**.

Celebratory coffee and treats will be provided by the Affirm Team after the service!

[Charleswood United Church](#) in Winnipeg celebrates **Sunday, June 14 at 10:00AM**, followed by a BBQ. Everyone is invited!

[St Paul's United Church](#) in Oxbow, southern SK is celebrating **June 14** with details to come.

A reminder that Living Skies' [Affirming Committee](#) is ready to support any ministry or person that wants to further their Affirming work, consider the process, or have thoughtful conversations. This includes online gatherings of Affirming or curious ministries and people (and hopefully an in-person gathering one day). You can contact them through the office: livingskies@united-church.ca Just put "Affirming Committee" in the subject line.

“Seeking the Extra in Ordinary” July 27 – 31/26 Registration deadline is June 1, so sign up soon! Join pilgrimage guides Carolyn & Blaine Woodall and GreenSpirit Chaplain Shawn Sanford Beck, in partnership with the Oliver & Gruchy Learning Centre at St. Andrew’s College, for a five-day spiritual exploration of Saskatoon, its beautiful river, and its surrounding lands.

Space is limited to nine pilgrims, who are also eligible to earn a Certificate in Spiritual Exploration through St. Andrew’s College if so desired.

[See here for more information](#), or to register, please contact Rev. Carolyn Woodall at carolynsparlingwoodall@gmail.com or 780-385-5124 (text is a great way to connect).

NEW: From Words to Practice: Living Into the United Church’s 2S and LGBTQIA+ Apology June 9, 2026, 1:00 – 2:30 pm CDT, 12:00-1:30 pm MDT/ CST.

In this national **United in Learning online session**, participants will reflect on the 2S and LGBTQIA+ apology the United Church offered last year at General Council, learn from communities already living into it, and explore **practical ways to embody the apology** in worship, community life, and public witness. You will hear from members of the Interim Working Group on the apology animation, share ideas with others across the church, and leave with **concrete, context appropriate next steps** for your own ministry or community. [Details are here](#) and the webinar will be offered via Church X, which requires a free account to join.

Updated: 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). Details about the day are available on page 3 of the [May issue of the Sask UCC Women’s Network Newsletter](#) posted on the Living Skies website on the 15th of the month.

Updated: Camp Tapawingo Women’s Camp

Camp Tapawingo is pleased to be hosting the Women’s Camp on **June 12 to 13, 2026**. Please see page 4 for details in the [May Sask UCC Women’s newsletter](#) about the camp. To register, see the [Camp Tapawingo website](#). Moneys from the silent auction will go to the camp.

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](#).

NEW: Living into Radical Welcome: Rainbow Refugee Sponsorship

June 18th, 2026, 1:00 – 2:30 pm CDT, 12:00-1:30 pm MDT/ CST.

In recognition of the annual World Refugee Day, this interactive webinar invites communities of faith, refugee sponsorship groups, and justice-seeking individuals to explore how sponsorship can become a meaningful expression of radical welcome, solidarity, and faithful discipleship.

Around the world, many LGBTQIA+ individuals continue to face persecution, criminalization, displacement, and violence because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Faith communities across Canada have a unique opportunity to respond with compassion, accompaniment, and concrete action through **rainbow refugee sponsorship**.

Whether your congregation is already sponsoring refugees, offering support programs, or just exploring how to get started, this webinar will provide practical guidance, real-life insights, and opportunities to connect. [Please see all details here](#).

[Into the Future:](#)

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](#).**

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](#).

SAVE THE DATE: UCC Office Admin Conference! October 5 - 9, 2026

The next Office Administrators Conference, open to all United Church of Canada Office Administrators, will take place at St. Martin's United Church in Saskatoon from **Monday, October 5 to Friday, October 9, 2026**. Thanks to the generous support of several Regional Councils, the cost of attending has been partially subsidized. **Costs** (per person) are: \$325 (no accommodation); \$525 (shared accommodation) and \$750 (private accommodation). **Registration deadline is August 1, 2026**. A [basic agenda](#) and [a letter of invitation](#) contain more details.

For further information, contact Chantal Winslow at cwinslow@united-church.ca or Brandy Emmerich at office@stmartinsuc.com

NEW: Joyful Resistance: Intercultural Worship Arts for Bold Discipleship

November 19 - 21, 2026 at the Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton AB

Join the Western Intercultural Ministries Network in an immersive, intercultural worship-arts conference. This will be hosted by the five Western Regional Councils, and is open to everyone anywhere in the country. We'll explore **joy as a form of resistance** that sustains bold discipleship and justice-oriented ministry. Join in plenary, rotating stations, theological reflection with hands-on musical and arts. We'll combine theological reflection with hands-on musical and artistic practice. **HOLD THE DATE** - more details to come, including cost and full program. [All details will be posted here](#).