

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council
The United Church of Canada



May 27, 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:

Last Chance - 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 – **this week – 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.

NEW: Equipping the Saints

Create and Lead a Prayer Service for use in Church, Hospital, or Care Home with chaplains Roel Tolentino and Emily Carr and Tracy Murton, Pastoral Relations Minister on **Wednesday, June 3rd 1:00pm** on Zoom. Register with Bev Diebert at bdiebert@united-church.ca

NEW: Be kind! Change the world! Change yourself!

Last weekend many in the region gathered in Weyburn to be in community, celebrate ministries and people and worship together. While there, a collection was taken to be given to Mission and Service. If you were unable to attend but would like to make a donation online, please do so! Feel free to mark the donation as being in honour of the Living Skies 2026 Gathering. Let's share our blessings with others so they too may feel blessed. <https://united-church.ca/donate>

Updated: Living Skies Region is Hiring for the Summer! - one position left!

We are excited to be hiring for three summer positions funded by the Canada Summer Jobs program. Two positions have been filled, but we are still searching for one more successful candidate between the ages of 15-30 and legally eligible to work in Canada to start **July 1**. [See here for more information](#). Applications will be accepted until **Friday June 12, 2026, at 11:59 pm**.

Updated: Welcome to new Affirming ministries!

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, will celebrate becoming an Affirming ministry **following their worship service on June 14th**. And, they will wrap with serving PIE!

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.

Affirming news and events update is out and about

The latest [tri-Region Affirming newsletter is out](#), focused on events and resources by, for, and with 2SLGBTQIA+ people and allies. Pride month is coming up and a lot is happening! If you didn't receive it and want to, get thee hence to the mailing list by contacting staff support Julie Graham, jgraham@united-church.ca

NEW: Save the date!!

'Tis the season to celebrate new beginnings! Please join the following covenanting service celebrations:

-Lakeview United Church and Yellow Grass United Lutheran Partnership (service in Regina), with Wanda Walter – **June 14, 1:30pm**

-St. Andrew's United Church (Eston), with Ryan Sawchuk – **June 28, 10:30am**

Stay tuned for information regarding online participation!

Gather Round Curriculum for Day Camp or VBS

Our friends at First Third Ministry have created a gorgeous camping curriculum for 2026 and have generously offered it for free to any United Church ministries that can use it! It is designed for use in a variety of settings including summer camps, day camps, Vacation Bible School, or any event throughout the year that involves kids and faith formation. Check it out here

<https://firstthirdcampingcurriculum.ca/> and let Lindsay know if you're going to use it (and if we can support in any way) at livingskiesyaya@united-church.ca

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.

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: Happy Pride: A Message of Apology, Healing & Radical Belonging video from the Moderator- early launch to help your worship planning In 2025, The United Church of Canada offered an apology to 2S and LGBTQIA+ people and communities—naming the real harm caused through words, actions, silence, and systems that failed to protect and affirm God's beloved people.

This message reflects on that apology—not as an ending, but as a beginning. A threshold into deeper healing, accountability, and transformation. [Please use this link to see how to use the video, and when.](#)

NEW: 100 Tables Returns Nationwide

As spring blooms and our centennial year draws to a close, we are excited to once again invite all United Church communities of faith to take part in 100 Tables!

New ideas for projects and favourites from last year are welcome, and we highly encourage both communities who participated in 2025 and those who couldn't make it to join in the fun.

Communities who haven't yet received a \$225 RONA gift card to purchase their picnic table are still eligible to do so. Participants from last year will receive more information in the coming weeks. [Please read more here!](#)

Take action for Guaranteed Livable Income

Everyone deserves to live with dignity. Across the country, people are struggling to afford basic necessities. That's why the United Church is calling on the federal government to create a Guaranteed Livable Income program. It's a practical, compassionate solution that would help ensure no one is left behind. By providing a consistent income floor, it can reduce poverty, improve health outcomes, and give people the stability they need to thrive.

You can help make this change happen. We've made it easy to contact the Senate Committee who is reviewing Bill S-206 for the creation of a Guaranteed Livable Income. Add your voice today with just a few clicks: <https://united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/create-guaranteed-livable-income-program>.

Together, our voices can help build a more just and compassionate Canada.

***You still have time* - Canadian Foodgrains Bank appeal for Sudan**

The United Church is a founding member of the CFGB and many in our Region are involved in its ministry. Executive Director Andy Harrington writes, "Last month, I travelled to Sudan and South Sudan and met people living through the world's largest humanitarian crisis. I saw firsthand what it means to survive without reliable access to food, shelter, healthcare, or safety. The suffering is overwhelming.

After 3 years of conflict, millions of families are unable to access food or basic necessities needed to survive. The United Nations (UN) is reporting 33.7 million people in Sudan – around three-quarters of Canada's population – need humanitarian assistance right now. The situation is grim.

And yet, even in the midst of such devastation, I continued to see signs of hope and humanity.

Communities sharing what little they have. Neighbours looking out for one another. Humanitarian workers doing everything they can to bring relief, often at great risk to their own safety.

From now until **Sunday, May 31**, your donation will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$250,000 to help fund emergency food assistance, thanks to a generous private donor who cares deeply about the people living through this crisis." To give, [please visit the CFGB website.](#)

Running out of time - "Seeking the Extra in Ordinary" July 27 – 31

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. **Registration deadline is June 1**, so sign up soon!

[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).

3. Upcoming Opportunities:

Community of Faith Calendar

Please check out our CoF calendar for upcoming local events. 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!!**

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.

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.

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

4. Reminders:

Pastoral Relations Ponderings - [Pastoral Relations Pondering Vol 70](#). Updates from the Pastoral Relations desk.

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)