

Regional Rambler

Living Skies Regional Council The United Church of Canada



June 24, 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: Last Rambler until **August 19th**

As summer has arrived, so has the time for rest and relaxation (summer holidays). The *Regional Rambler* will be paused until **mid-August**. However, if important items or information arises over the summer, it will be distributed in a timely manner. Also, for those on Facebook, keep an eye on the Regional Council Facebook page for any announcements. ***Have a safe summer!***

NEW: Canada Day and Staff Summer Holidays

Please note that Living Skies staff will be observing **Canada Day** on **Wednesday, July 1**. For staff holidays, not all have firm plans at this time, but some definitely do. Please check with individual staff about their schedules. Auto-responders and email messages may give more details.

NEW: Endings in Living Skies

June is the month of transition and change. Traditionally, June 30 signaled the end of the pastoral year and so we take time to highlight changes in pastoral relationships. We are grateful for the gifts, skills and passion of those who have left our Regional Council or have retired, and wish them well in their future opportunities: John Sellwood (moving to East Central Ontario Regional Council) and Deb Anderson-Pratt (retired). At the same time, we welcome the following into new ministries within our Regional Council and look forward to all that will unfold: Ryan Sawchuk (Eston), Koshy David (Bridging Waters), Kelly Osgood (Swift Current: First United), and Wanda Walters (Lakeview-Yellow Grass United Lutheran Partnership). Finally, we acknowledge the ending of seasons with the final service for Strasbourg United Church. May the Spirit of hope continue to work within each of these folks, reminding them that they are not alone. Stay tuned for the full list of Pastoral Relations information on the [Regional Gatherings/ Meetings page](#) soon.

NEW: A note from your Nominations Committee

A big thank you to all who have served in the Living Skies structure over the last year. Whether you served on a commission, a committee or in a less structured way, your work and effort is much appreciated. The Nominations Committee will be taking a break until late-August and wish everyone a safe and relaxing summer break as well. Watch for opportunities in the fall.

NEW: Check the Community of Faith calendar

As summer holidays approach, folks are encouraged to check out the [Community of Faith events calendar](#) on the Living Skies website home page (at the bottom) for services of all kinds, as well as summer schedules for churches around the Region. If you have something special happening in your community of faith, please use the form under **NEWS & EVENTS** ([4th option down](#)) to add your special event. The calendar is open 24/7 for online events, so new events can be added at anytime - *as long as the public is invited, you can post it.*

Save the date!!

'Tis the season to celebrate new beginnings! Please join the covenanting service celebration at **St. Andrew's United Church (Eston), with Ryan Sawchuk – June 28, 10:30am.**

YOUTH CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Grades 7-12 are invited to go through the confirmation class together with other youth from around the region, and then return to their home communities of faith to be confirmed. If you have youth in your community of faith that might be interested in this kind of weekend experience, please contact Rev. Lindsay Mohn at lmohn@united-church.ca. Date and location will be determined in consultation with the participants.

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: Living into Right Relations newsletter - [Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice News](#) from the UCC.

NEW: United Church Summer Camps:

Have your kids, grandkids, neighbours and friends registered for camp yet? Check out the options at one of our super fun, extremely inclusive, and absolutely gorgeous United Church Camps in the province!

Perhaps you could make an incredible difference in the life of a kid or youth in our province by donating to the campership funds for one of our amazing camps!

Or, are you planning an event this fall? Don't forget that our amazing UCC Camps have GORGEOUS sites that you can rent for extremely reasonable rates! Available for retreats, youth events, corporate training, family reunions, school groups... Get out into nature and experience the hospitality of our 4 facilities: [Camp Shagabec](#) (Cypress Hills); [Lumsden Beach Camp](#) (just north of Regina); [Camp Tapawingo](#) (on Candle Lake, just out of Prince Albert); [Camp Woodboia](#) (southern Saskatchewan, Wood Mountain Provincial Park)

100 Tables Returns Nationwide

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!](#)

AND Living Skies' Affirming Committee is offering \$225 per table from their budget to support your work. They invite you to reflect on this: **How will your table intentionally embody belonging, accessibility, and affirmation for those who have often been excluded or marginalized?**

Interested? *Watch for more details and a form to be posted on the [home page of the Living Skies website](#) early in July. Still have questions, get in touch with Bev Diebert at the Regional office, bdiebert@united-church.ca or 1-639-396-0200.*

Forget where's Waldo... Where's your church!? 🧐

If you have ever wondered if it is worth ensuring your community of faith's information is on Google Maps, this story might inspire you. In 2025, Bill Gillard updated the listing for St. Peter's on Google Maps, as it was incorrectly named. Since then, 5,000 visitors have viewed the updated profile, even though St. Peter's is in a small town. Recently, a colleague of mine was asked to visit a local community of faith to preach. When they got the email, they immediately went to Google to see how long the drive would be. But guess what? They couldn't find the church on Google! It took a couple of phone calls to track down their physical address because not even their ChurchHub account was up to date (they had accidentally entered their mailing address under physical address). If it's hard for a United Church staff person to find you, how much harder is it for new people seeking community!? So, if you do one additional task this week, perhaps it should be this: Google your community of faith and make sure what's listed is correct (or that there is a listing at all!) [How to Edit your Google Listing](#) / [Claim your Google Listing](#)
Email Jordan Cantwell for more ideas on how to strengthen your invitation - jcantwell@united-church.ca

We Say “NO” to U.S. Threats of War on Cuba. Why Doesn’t the Canadian Government?

The United Church of Canada, Canadian churches, labour organizations, and civil society groups are calling on the Government of Canada to publicly reject escalating U.S. actions against Cuba and to support humanitarian assistance for the Cuban people. The statement comes as partners in Cuba continue to report severe shortages of fuel, food, water, and medical supplies. We hold in prayer all the Cuban peoples affected by the ongoing crisis and call for peace, justice, and humanitarian support. [Read the full news story](#) and learn more.

3. Upcoming Opportunities:

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

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](#).

4. Reminders:

Weekly events:

Last Session until the fall: *Online Bible study - **Wednesday at 1 pm (SK time)** Contact jcantwell@united-church.ca for more information. Click here to join: <https://bit.ly/41Vh93V>

Watch the August issues for the starting date in the fall. New participants always welcome!

***Strengthening Invitation** - the Growth Department prays for and with communities of faith each **Thursday at 11a-m Central / 10am Mountain**, *even through the summer*. 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)

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](#) 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.

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](#). *Together, our voices can help build a more just and compassionate Canada.*

Have a great, safe summer!!