



Keeping in Touch

NUCW President Barbara DeJeet

Theme: "WALK WITH ME"

Hymn: *Walk with Me* VU #649

Scripture: Micah 6:8 "And what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly,
to love mercy and walk humbly with your God"

Corinthians 5:2 "For we walk by faith not by sight"



Travel Adventures of the President

"Walk with me!" is my theme for my years as President. When this theme came to me, I didn't know at the time what it really meant. But God has shown me. He wants me to WALK with HIM and WALK with United Church Women, spreading His love wherever we go.

The position of President has been very interesting and exciting since my installation in September; invitations to AGMs to relay greetings from National and remind everyone about:

1. President Elect position needs to be filled this year;
2. Time to think about another initiative for National UCW starting September 2027.
3. Applying for grants to attend 65th Anniversary, July 19-23, 2027 at Hilton Garden Inn Ottawa Airport.

I also did participate in some installations of Executives across the country.

My adventures to Saskatoon, Fredericton and Gander, have shown me that we have many spiritual women in our UCW. Women who are great leaders, organizers, musicians, and some comedians. I had such wonderful times at each Regional UCW meeting I attended. Each event was a blessing to me and showed me our UCW may be low in numbers but the power of the Spirit is still with us all.

Some of the themes were: Strong Women – Firm Foundation; Creation, Creator and I: Jesus is the Rock, Reliving our youth. (I added and we're rolling with Him. We even had a sock hop in NFL)

Ladies, we are still standing strong on our Four Pillars, worship, study, fellowship and service. They are our sound foundation for our wonderful organization. Keep up the good work! Enjoy your summer! For those of you who are coming to National in September, come refreshed and ready to listen, enjoy and relax as we continue to build, and learn more of what God has in store for us.

Blessings and walk with me!

Barbara DeJeet National UCW President

Introducing Our National President-Elect Nominee: Myra Spence

We are thrilled to celebrate the nomination of **Myra Spence** for the position of National President-Elect! Nominated by Ruby Myles and seconded by Kay Hurley, Myra's nomination has been officially confirmed by West District President Eileen Butt and Vice President Nina Butt.



Myra brings a wealth of leadership experience to this role, having served as President-Elect (2021–2022), President (2023–2024), and Past President (2025–2026) of the West District First Dawn Eastern Edge Region.

A Lifetime of Dedication and Service

Born, raised, and rooted in Deer Lake, NL, Myra has dedicated her life to education, faith, and community leadership:

Professional Background: A graduate of Memorial University (BA and B.Ed. with a Special Needs diploma), Myra is a retired Special Needs teacher and a Lifetime Member of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association.

Church Leadership: A lifelong, active member of St. Paul's United Church, Myra has served in nearly every capacity—from Sunday School teacher and superintendent to Chair of the Official Board, Session member, and Choir member. Notably, she led a worship team for nearly two years during a ministerial vacancy. She joined the UCW in the 1980s, received her lifetime membership in 2003, and currently serves as local President.

Community Impact: Myra's passion for helping others extends deep into her community. She served an eight-year term on the local town council, was named "Pride of the Town" in 2000, and has worked extensively with the Vera Perlin Association and SEDLER to advocate for individuals with disabilities. Furthermore, she has dedicated many years to the Girl Guides as a District and Division Commissioner, earning a prestigious Medal of Merit.

Family Life

Behind all of Myra's incredible work is her loving family. She has been married to her husband, Dan, for 49 years. Together, they have a daughter (Danielle), a son (Kenneth), a daughter-in-law (Kayla), as well as two beloved Samoyed Huskies and a cat.

Please join us in congratulating Myra on her nomination and thanking her for her continued, inspiring leadership!

United Church of Canada Address

Although the General Council office is temporally moving to a different location, they are still using the same address. Continue using this address until further notice.

United Church of Canada
Church in Mission Unit National UCW
3250 Bloor St West
Toronto ON M8X 2Y4



Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada Conseil œcuménique des chrétiennes du Canada



World Day of Prayer

www.WICC.org

- VISION:** Restoring hope to women touched by injustice
- MISSION:** Empowering Christians to pursue justice, peace and reconciliation by standing together in prayer and action.
- VALUES:** What do we stand for?
- Faith
 - Justice
 - Prayer
 - Solidarity
 - Respect

We also strive to be intergenerational, foster partnerships, and catalyze grassroots initiatives.

World Day of Prayer: Theme 2026 "I Will Give You Rest: Come"

Service written by the WDP Nigeria

What is World Day of Prayer?

Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action

Imagine over **1.5 million** Christians speaking **90 different languages** in **150 countries** coming together in spirit; uniting to pray for relevant issues affecting women and children. This was the 2026 reality for this tremendous movement that has been active for nearly **100 years**. 2027 will be a bit different for World Day of Prayer (WDP) because no country had been chosen. This year we are celebrating 100 Years of WDP. Feature past achievements with a Prayer Calendar, Fabric shopping bags with Logo and a very special tea towel for purchase. Wait for news on these items and more.

Donations to the WDP help to provide grant funding for grass roots programs that support and empower women and children both in Canada and overseas. Donations can be sent electronically or by mail to WICC, 477 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON M5S 2C3

Blessings *Marilyn Johnston*
(NUCW representative to WICC)

UCW Alumnae – June 2026

I continue to invite the alumnae members to share memories of their time on the National UCW and how it might have affected what they are doing now.

In this issue Ruth Kennedy, a past president of Maritime Conference, shares some of her thoughts with us: Romans 12:6-13 reminds us to use our gifts generously and serve with genuine love. My journey with Maritime UCW from 2017 to 2025 was filled with learning, challenges, and joy. Stepping in as Vice President, I quickly found myself taking on unexpected responsibilities and learning about UCW beyond my local group.



Throughout my tenure, I faced trials—like sudden leadership changes, health issues, receiving STATS on time, and the restructuring of the church. There were also joyful moments: connecting with dedicated women in Bermuda, attending rallies, and witnessing the spirit of service in communities across the Maritimes. The pandemic brought new tribulations, forcing us to adapt and find new ways to connect and celebrate, including organizing the 60th Anniversary under difficult circumstances. Despite challenges, I worked to keep UCW units connected and informed, striving to honor everyone's contributions.

The trials in UCW have waned for me, but the trials in life have increased. I studied, I listened, I learned and I tried to get us as a UCW to be more connected, particularly in the Maritimes Bermuda. I find joy in hearing the current successes of the UCWs, that they have found new ways of being together and offering their talents to others. I know the United Church does acknowledge that we are a force that held and continue to hold many churches together. Restructuring loosened the glue and COVID loosened it further. I am saddened as units decide it is time to close, but find joy in hearing about the small unit that still wants to meet and support each other and donates a few dollars if they can.

Now, as a member of the alumnae, I am grateful for the hard work, fellowship, and faith that define UCW. Through trials and joys, UCW remains a blessing to the church and community—never forget your worth. I had a wonderful time and now it is an honor to be on that list of very talented, articulate, faith filled women, the NUCW Alumnae. It was a LOT of hard work and I didn't have all the components mentioned in Romans 12, but I gave it my all. Through trials, tribulations, joys and junkets, UCW IS A BLESSING to the church and community.

PS – Answer to photo in January 2026 KIT – Sharon Moyse shown with her daughter, Heather, two-time Olympic gold medalist in two-woman bobsled competition in the 2010 and 2014 Winter Olympics.



Blessings *Pat Edmonds*, Alumnae Rep.
patriciaedmonds11@gmail.com

The Healing Fund

"I know UCW are strong supporters to the Healing Fund and I want to give me sincere apologies for lacking communication.

As for update on 2026 UCW initiative, this year's Spring 2026 review, the healing program working group did not identify a UCW initiative within the healing fund submissions. They initially had selected a boys' medicine camp but I reminded the group of the UCW mandate to support women and children. The working group will discern and select 1-2 initiatives in the fall review as supported by UCW.

I know 2027 is coming and UCW will have selected a new initiative. I want to ensure we have a good final report of the last 5 years 😊

Thank you so very much for understanding."

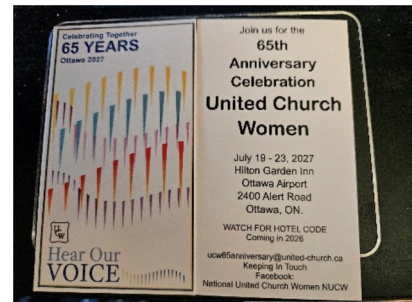
Joni Shawana

This is a reminder that any payments by cheque to the healing fund are to be made out to: The United Church of Canada and memo line **NUCW The Healing Fund** Blessings, *Carolle*

UCW 65th Anniversary in Ottawa

Date: July 19th – 23rd, 2027
Location: Hilton Garden Inn, Ottawa Airport
Theme: Hear Our Voice
Scripture: Proverbs 8:1
Contact: ucw65anniversary@united-church.ca
Theme Hymn: *Draw the Circle Wide*

65th Anniversary Cards are available by request from your regional NUCW representatives.



Planning for the 65th Anniversary celebration in Ottawa, Ontario

The anniversary is being held July 19-23, 2027. Many women applied to the Dorothy Amos fund, and we thank you for doing so. It is not too late, there are two more opportunities to apply. You can apply to the Agatha Kaasa Bursary Bursary which has two deadline October 15, 2026 and April 15, 2027, You can not apply for this bursary if you have already applied for the Dorothy Amos Bursary.

It was moved at the National UCW Annual meeting last September that each United Church Woman who applies will receive \$300.00. You do not have to submit two written recommendations/references with this application.

Please apply this year. If you receive the funds and can not attend in July of 2027, you will need to return the \$300.00. If you have any questions you can contact Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle, Treasurer National UCW by phone 343-571-7780 or at dallasarbucklecarolle@gmail.com
See you at the 65th Anniversary.

Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle National UCW Treasurer

Antler River Watershed UCW

MIDDLESEX ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 22, 2026

The day started with a sing song from the Lambeth Songbook played by Alan Davidson, Lambeth's organist. We had the usual business meeting including greetings and welcome from Beth Karr, President Lambeth UCW, Mary Dillon, Antler River Watershed UCW President, Carter Mahoney, Director of Camp Kee Mo Kee, Brian, the camp assistant director, London Chaplaincy, Southdale Chaplaincy, Limberlost, and Nancy Howard from East Lond United Church Outreach (ELUCO).

We have an annual award for Women of Distinction and this year three deserving women from Lambeth United Church – Anna Geene, Fran McKean and Pat Hatt received the award.

Our guest speaker was Nelia Amarai from formerly Women's Community House (ANOVA) told us what ANOVA does. She talked about the various types of violence and she shared a list of upcoming events and workshops many are free on Zoom. Rev. Doug Peck lead the worship, communion service and installation of officers. It was a wonderful morning with 40 people attending.



Dot Duncan, President Middlesex UCW introducing Nelia Amarai

Linda Britton

Treasurer Antler River Watershed UCW

Middlesex UCW "Fun In The Sun Day" at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee

Our day started with a sing song led by Neila Lawson. The Camp Director, Carter Mahoney, warmly welcomed everyone and introduced the camp staff. We were entertained and participated in various skits that Nancy Urquhart had prepared. She also gave us a list of where we could get free skits if needed. We had the opportunity to share lunch with the staff. The women supplemented lunch by bringing salads and desserts. The women also brought items from the Camp's Wish List.

After lunch, Carter Mahoney led an optional a short hike around the camp. The rest of the women enjoyed the wonderful sunny day while visiting. There were interesting Canadian themed Word Search puzzles provided. When the hikers returned we had a brief sing song. Rev. Sandra Bendall led us in making decoupage clip boards. It was very interesting craft to do. Cheryl Partington mentioned that she was crocheting "Love Hearts" to be distributed at the Pride Parade in July. Cheryl Partington mentioned that Riverside United Church in London usually makes around 1,500 hearts.

To end our day, Rev. Sandra Bendall led us in communion. It was truly a wonderful relaxing day for all 24 ladies that came. Next year we will be returning to camp on June 7, 2027.

Gathering as the day started



Rev. Sandra Bendall



Some finished examples.



Linda Britton

Treasurer Antler River Watershed UCW

Antler River Watershed: Oxford UCW

On June 1, a retreat for the UCW of Oxford and Elgin Counties was held in Ingersoll. 57 women and 2 men enjoyed a day of singing, laughing and eating. The morning opened with a hymn sing of old favourites, followed by a short devotion. A community building exercise was held to enable the women to meet each other. After dividing into groups of 5, a question sheet entitled "How well do you know Jesus" was handed out. It was interesting to hear different group answers.

The speaker, Cara Tuck, works in Victims Assistance Service in conjunction with the Woodstock Police Service. Her department provides aid in the case of accidents or emergencies. She explained that Woodstock and Oxford County are areas where trafficking young people is very high. Cara explained the dangers of those who traffic young children and what to watch for. The women were very interested and asked many questions.

After a delicious lunch served by the Centre's cook, the ladies were able to shop at the display from Five Oaks Book Store. The ladies again joined together in the singing of favourite

hymns to begin the afternoon. The Ukulele Players of the Senior Centre entertained with the playing and singing of old familiar tunes.

To end the day, Rev. Larry Schneider led us in a very inspirational communion service. The day concluded with the singing of "Go Now in Peace". Everyone travelled home, feeling happy and at peace.

Guest speaker: Cary Tuck



Some of the women



Ukulele group from Woodstock



Linda Britton

Treasurer Antler River Watershed UCW

Women of the United Church Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit

AGM April 2026 – Theme "Justice and Hope"

The women travel many kilometers to an in-person meeting. For this reason, our annual AGM has become a Thursday to Saturday conference. All other meetings are held on Zoom.

This year our conference was held at the Providence Renewal Centre in Edmonton April 9 - 11. One car load travelled 500 km.





The business portion of the meeting was woven around the other activities including 3 speakers, small group discussion, and entertainment.

Since the AGM April 2025, we have Co-presidents, Karen McLennan (left) from Northern Spirit Region and Debra Logan (right) from Chinook Winds Region.

They took turns conducting the meeting. Debra also played the piano for singing.

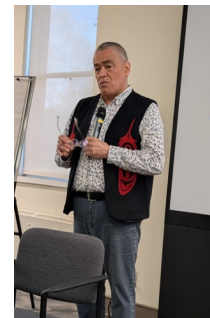
The “bring a book, take a book, & leave a donation” table was popular. The donations and the offering after the communion service were given to M&S.

The speakers were definitely the highlight of the conference. Each gave us a different perspective on Justice and Hope.

Our first speaker, Lewis Cardinal, Indigenous communicator, educator, and film producer, is the chancellor of St. Stephen’s College, Edmonton. He spoke about “Manito Asini: The Journey of the Creators Stone” a story he is making into a documentary.

In 1866, the Creators Stone, a meteor, was stolen and ended up in Ontario. Currently it is at the Royal Alberta Museum in Edmonton.

Mr. Cardinal’s documentary is about the loss and recovery of this sacred stone, a gift from the Creator, which will be completed late 2026 or early 2027.



Lewis Cardinal

Dr. Alison Dunwoody, recently retired from teaching Criminology and Criminal Justice programs at the University of Alberta. Her presentation “Women in Prisons in Canada” was deeply moving and upsetting at the same time.



80% of women in prison have been living in poverty; are victims of assault, violence or addictions; and have mental health issues. “This reflects a systemic societal failure. If a woman receives a mandatory 30-day sentence, she has probably lost her job, her apartment, and her children.”

An inmate reported, “You aren’t a person here. You are a risk level, a cell number, a series of tasks to be managed. The hardest part isn’t the walls; it’s the way they look through you like you’ve already disappeared from the world”.

Dr. Dunwoody said, “We need to start asking, what happens to these women who have been imprisoned?” She suggests that we support Elizabeth Fry, demand trauma informed care, support Indigenous led initiatives (like the Healing Fund) and challenge stigmas.

Our third speaker, Jonathan Mackereth, Development Officer at Bissell Centre, Edmonton, spoke about “Justice and Hope” in a different way.

Bissell Centre began 116 years ago as a Methodist Mission to help Ukrainian settlers. It has relocated and adapted many times over the century. It currently works closely with community partners like Boyle Street, the Mustard Seed, Hope Mission and Homeward Trust.

Current programs include Encampment Housing Support: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Services: Recovery House with 24 hour staffing for sober-free living: Family Support and Child Care with free diapers, wipes and formula: Indigenous Support in Cree and English: Moonlight Bay Camp at Wabamun: Harvest Catering: Income Tax preparation and more. The whole point is to reduce barriers and form relationships.



On Saturday, our Conference ended with a communion service conducted by Rev. Chelsea Masterman from Grace United Church in Edmonton.

All our speakers received a blessing bag with their honorarium while we sang the UCW blessing for them. They were visibly moved by the gesture.

The Blessing Bag by Sharon Prenevost prenevsh@telusplanet.net or call 403 330 3391



During the pandemic, the UCW of McKillop United noticed a number of unhoused community members on the streets of our city and wondered where they might be sheltering and what personal care products they would be able to access. We thought they might have need for a small bag in which to store personal effects.

In 2022, the UCW and other groups of women who had been sewing shopping bags (to replace the plastic ones) began sewing smaller lined, drawstring “blessing” bags (each with a small pocket) made from those same beautiful, donated pieces of leftover fabric.

The bags, filled with personal care products, have been given to those in need through agencies at: Women’s Shelters, Food Banks, Soup Kitchens, Indigenous Centres, the Salvation Army, Public Libraries and High Schools.

Products for the 370 plus blessing bags given away so far, have been donated or purchased with money given to the “Blessing Bag” project. The estimated value of product in each bag is

\$20.00. The bags are stuffed (at stuffing bees) with: a toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, mouthwash, comb, brush, shampoo, soap, deodorant, tissues, lip gloss, handwipes, band aids, hand sanitizer, face cloth, pair of socks, toque, mitts, energy bars, as well as sanitary supplies for women and shaving supplies for men. This summer sunscreen was added to the bags. Each bag also includes a note of encouragement and support.

The lined "Blessing Bag" Pattern can be requested at NUCW email nucwcanada@gmail.com

Susan Oleskiw

Recording Secretary. Northern Spirit

Nanton UCW High Tea

Our Guest Speaker was 102 year old Bridget Jones. She spoke about her experiences coming from England to explore the Rocky Mountains; ending up staying, living in Nanton where there is always a view of the Rockies."



Guest Speaker Bridget Jones and Friend

High Tea Place Setting



Women at High Tea



Blessings, Eleanore Tribe

Living Skies Region

Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women Network

SASK. UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA WOMEN'S GATHERING REPORT:

At the Women's Gathering in Saskatoon on April 18, Rev. Debz Ferber led the worship service. It was based on Psalm 78: 1 – 7 from Woman's Wisdom Everyday Psalms by James Taylor. Anne Mathewson provided the lovely piano accompaniment for all our singing. Throughout the day

the theme of “Faithful Women – Strong Foundation” was evident. During worship we also remembered women from our local churches who had passed away since we last met. These included: Olive Gage, Doreen Matheson, Kathleen Pollock, Linda Bradley and Carol Sherdal from Grace Westminster United Church in Saskatoon; Beth Rude from Birch Hills UCW; Barbara Ruth Dunham and Tessie Lila Ingham from Knox United Church in Lanigan; Dorothy “Dot” Bennett, Verna Chappell, and Mabel Thompson from Mount Royal Emmanuel United Church in Saskatoon. The service closed with National UCW President Barb DeJeet and Sask. UCCW Co-chair Debz Ferber leading and serving communion to all.

We transitioned into the Annual Meeting chaired by Debz Ferber with Chantal Ntibategera accepting the duties of secretary. Following elections, the executive was installed by National UCW President Barb DeJeet. Special thanks to all those who let their name stand. Due to technical problems it was not possible to view the reports at the meeting. The reports were presented at a special Zoom meeting on June 8 and all those present at this meeting were invited to take part.

Following a delicious lunch served by ladies at St. David's Trinity, National UCW President Barb DeJeet was formally introduced. In keeping with the theme of the day Barb spoke on “Lessons from Women in the Bible”. She also invited and encouraged everyone to attend the 65th Anniversary celebration of the United Church Women July 19- 23, 2027 in Ottawa.

The day ended with a fun way of mingling in the form of Getting to Know You Bingo and followed by a candle holder craft. Incoming Co-chair Susan Dokken ended the meeting with a beautiful prayer reflection and the Lord's Prayer. The Silent Auction continued throughout the day and brought in \$332.

Outgoing Sask. UCCW Co-Chair, Diane Thurlow thanking Barb National UCW President for coming to our Annual Women's Gathering.



Newly elected executive of Sask. UCCW:

Co-chair: Susan Dokken, Newsletter Editor: Mary Mohn, First Vice: Katie Pollock, Second Vice: Dawn Weber, Secretary: Chantal Ntibategera, Past Co-chair: Diane Thurlow, Co-Chair: Debz Ferber, Treasurer: Phyllis Robinson

Camp Shagabec Annual Women's Camp Day 2026

The UCWs from the south-west corner of Saskatchewan have an annual gathering in support of Camp Shagabec, the United Church Camp at Cypress Hills. The camp has been in operation since 1938. The UCW groups bake and freeze thousands and thousands cookies ready for the camp.

This year the gathering was in Swift Current with 62 women in attendance. The oldest woman attending was Audrey from Abby at 91. At 90 she stepped down as treasurer. Audrey had served on the UCW convening committee in the 90's. The three of us from Saskatoon were recognized as we had travelled the furthest.

Coffee, tea and homemade cinnamon buns greeted us when we arrived. To serve as a mixer, each name tag was colour coded to a table. It was a wonderful way to meet new people or reconnect with someone who you hadn't seen for awhile. I was fortunate to be seated next to Audrey who I had met last year.

The first activity we were led in was some gentle stretching exercises a lot of which could be done while seated if desired. After having been in the vehicle for 3 1/2 hours it was the perfect way to get body and mind ready for the day.

The guest speaker was Deanna Baje, Director of the Southwest Newcomers Welcome Centre. Based in Swift Current the centre works with refugees and immigrants to provide them with the settlement and integration services they need to make a home. In 2025 they assisted 372 people from 37 countries. This number doesn't reflect the children or other family members who are partnered with the refugee. Deanne Baje came to Canada as an immigrant herself. One thing that stood out to me is they do tours to parts of the region to help participants to get to know more about where they are living. They tour the River Landing, the Sandhills, East End's T.Rex Discovery Centre, and Cypress Hills.

I brought greetings from Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women Network and from National UCW. I shared information about the UCW 65th Anniversary Celebration in Ottawa in 2027. Information cards and Bursary forms were left with the attendees. Two women completed bursary forms and submitted them on the spot.

The ladies provided a beautiful lunch with more than a dozen salads along a build your own sandwiches buffet and offered cake, ice cream and fruit for dessert.

Several times throughout the day, we joined in singing camp songs. A very appropriate activity for a camp focused day. This united us in a wonderful way as many of us attended various United Church camps throughout Saskatchewan.

The afternoon opened up with a skit which introduced our activity. We made a spice mix called Cowboy Butter. We all came away with our own jar of the spice mix. Doing this was a great opportunity to move around, laugh and chat.

We moved into the business part of the day, the meeting, a report on Camp Shagabec and a discussion about next year. The Memorial service honoured the women that passed away this past year in the region. The minister, Rev Kelly Osgood, of First United Church led us in worship and communion.



Rev Kelly Osgood, Minister First United Church
Swift Current and Deanne Baje, Guest Speaker

Marilyn, Audrey, 91 years old and still
active UCW member with Phyllis



Light & Love, Phyllis Robinson

Camp Tapawingo Women's Camp June 12 – 13

On Friday afternoon, June 12 women gathered in the dining hall at Camp Tapawingo on Candle Lake. After settling into their cabin, the group did a variety of indoor activities such as board games, puzzles and just visiting until supper time. Due to rather inclement weather outdoor activities were curtailed though a few took a walk about around the camp. After a delicious supper, the group was given many in-door craft options that included rock painting, prayer rock poem, constructing a pocketful of positives and friendship bracelets. We had an indoor campfire with songs and skits that evening. Special on going skit was a visit the “Aunties” from Usbekistanestonia.



Waking up to a bright sunshiny day we headed to the dining hall where a scrumptious breakfast awaited. Two special birthdays were recognized with unique pancakes served by the "Aunties". Chair Yoga was led by Ruth Griffith. Worship and Communion followed at the campfire pit. Samantha Clayton officiated at the outdoor communion service. Susan Dokken led the worship service based on Psalm 100 as the scripture – Make a Joyful Noise. She then went on to give the "Gratitude Reflection". Following worship we had time to continue working on crafts, play board games, work on puzzles or go for a walk. Throughout the two days the Silent Auction remained set up and bidding continued in earnest for some specific items. After lunch there were games and skits and again a visit by the "Aunties". Before leaving for home snacks were provided and a closing prayer service was held outdoors. The Silent Auction closed with over \$360.00 raised for Camp Tapawingo.

Those attending expressed sincere appreciation to the Camp Tapawingo Board for offering the Women's Camp this year. Special thanks to Executive Director, Terry Linsley, Board Member, Shelby Rheame, this year's Camp Director, Maddy Antaya, and Cabin Leader Mya Linsley who planned and led all the camp activities and prepared the meals, and snacks.



Blessings *Mary Mohn*

East Central Ontario (ECOR)

UCW AGM April 2026

The East Central Ontario Region UCW held their Annual Meeting at Trinity St. Andrews United Church in Brighton, Ontario. The Theme was 'Reaching Out'. The theme hymn was 'When Hands Reach Out Beyond Divides' MV 169. President, Nora Darling greeted 55 members and guests. Our first speaker was Rev. Wanda Stride speaking on the theme – 'Reaching Out'. She incorporated Neil Diamond's song 'Sweet Caroline' into this. She encouraged us to move beyond what has always been and have the difficult conversations to envision what this can be. Marilyn Rodger spoke about the Fair Trade items for sale. Pat Gilmore from Grand River Books gave a 'Book Flash' on selected books she had for sale. Rev. Janet Stobie, author, spoke about her books.

We watched the video on “Healing with Horses”, a special NUCW project.

Bev Gough (from the Camp Quin-Mo-Lac Board) updated us on upgrades to the camp, both completed and underway, registration for the summer, and staffing.

After lunch we had an update from Elaine Farley on Old Hay Bay Church, the oldest surviving Methodist building in Canada. Then we heard from Rev. Doug Ferris, a ministry support gift recipient. Shining Waters area entertained us with skits ‘Surprise’ and ‘Then God made the cat’. Janet and Helmut Enns from Friends of Migrant Workers Brighton, an Outreach ministry from Trinity St. Andrews shared with us how they support local migrant workers

Kente area prepared the worship. Kawartha Highlands area prepared the In Memoriam and Communion. Following various business items and our new executive was installed by a former National UCW President – Nancy Sutherland.

We finished with the UCW prayer.



Grand Valley Books



Free Trade Display



Lunch



Installation of the 2026-2027 executive
Nancy Sutherland (behind pulpit)

Back Row – Peggy Fillier, Nora Darling,
Carolyn Vanhorne-Coffey, Marilyn Rodger
Front Row –Khristine Raynor, Anne Smith
Lynne DeSaulnier, Helen Cox, Dorene
Kelsey, Sue Reid, Cheryl Mound, Freda
Burns

Pacific Mountain Region

“Bloom Where You Are Planted” UCW Gathering/AGM April 2026

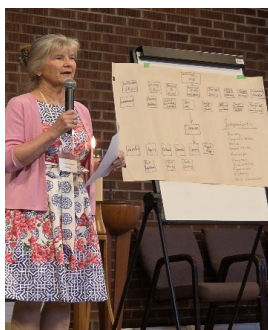
Fifty -seven women attended the Gathering hosted by Golden Ears UCW, Maple Ridge BC. The hymns, worship, table settings, and games supported the theme. The highlight of the day Presenter Bob Peragallo, who as a young man served in the USA Armed Forces during the Vietnam war. Here he learned to “bloom” where he was planted. Bob came to Canada in 1988 and settled in Maple Ridge, BC. He has worn “many hats” – a Pastor for over 30 years where he nurtured a non-denominational church in East Vancouver, a woodworker, a house builder and a gardener extraordinaire. On his fence hangs a “gong” which was made from an undetonated bomb from a Vietnam village. To this day, undetonated bombs are being found in villages. His slide presentation showed his “Iron Tree Gardens” as a place of peace and tranquility. Topics discussed included the revision of the BC 2020 Temporary Food Markets Guidelines which would curtail the production of lower risk foods (baking, jams, jellies, relishes, etc) in home kitchens.



Golden Ears United Church



Courtesies by Joy



Val Weinert, President of Fraser Area, reported on the NUCW Annual General Meeting. Using a flip chart, she explained the new structure of UCW at the different levels.

The big change for the Pacific Mountain UCW was holding the Gathering/AGM for only one day instead of two half days. It worked well. It was less work for the host and less expensive for attendees.

We were involved in the planning and participation of two ecumenical events: The World Day of Prayer and weekly Lenten Lunches. The World Day of Prayer was hosted by the Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Surrey. Their Priest, Father Augustine, was born in Nigeria. At the end of the service, Father Augustine sang a Nigerian song. Five denominations took turns providing the Lenten Lunches. June is the month of wind ups and presentations. We are in summer mode but already thinking about Fall activities. With gentle energy we carry on.

In peace, *Winnie Kowalewich*

Maritime UCW News

The annual meeting of Maritime UCW took place on April 24 to 26 2026 at Nashwaaksis United Church in Fredericton NB. 80 women from across the Maritime provinces gathered to conduct the business of MUCW, worship, sing, laugh, pray, learn, and share tables of food. The theme of this year's gathering was Creator, Creation and I. We heard a wonderful presentation from Alice Finnamore on the topic of creation and nature and how to engage with nature in our prayers. Nick Hawkins, a nature videographer, presented his work on the life cycle of the Atlantic Salmon. This was fascinating and his videos were amazing.

We had four creative workshops to choose from. Lynda-Jean Coffin gave us an introduction to the new hymnbook *Then Let Us Sing*, which was very well attended and enjoyed by all who attended. Betty Ann Watts led a workshop that included breaking pottery and putting it back together in a way that decorates and improves on the original piece. Elaine Burrows led a workshop on creating quilt blocks for our Banner for the 65th Anniversary of UCW that will take place in Ottawa in July 2027. Anna Peters led a workshop on creating beautiful bookmarks. Our Saturday evening was entertainment provided by the Golden Club Singers. The weekend ended with Sunday morning worship at our host church where we were welcomed and processed in and filled 4 or 5 pews of the sanctuary. It was a joyous service with music provided by Lynda Jean Coffin, Sue McBeath and Ann Piper.

Our new executive was installed by our guest, Barbara DeJeet, National UCW president. Barb also presented us with her thoughts on Creation. Although our nominations committee has worked very hard over the past year to find people to fill executive positions we still have a few vacancies to fill. We are looking for a president-elect, Treasurer or Recording Secretary, (the current recording secretary is willing to be treasurer if we can find a new secretary). We also need a newsletter editor although, the president and past president will continue to produce the newsletter in the meantime.

A new contact list for our full executive will be posted on the UCCEast website.

Our next executive meeting will be on June 15 at the Church Office in Sackville NB.



National UCW President Barbara Dejeet with 2026 MUCW Executive

Our new Fiddling President
Ann Piper



Quilt Block Workshop
for 65th Anniversary



Creating Bible
Bookmarks



Broken pottery restored
and beautified



Learning some songs from
“Then Let Us Sing”



80 attendees at MUCW Annual Meeting in Nashwaaksis United Church, Fredericton NB.
Respectfully submitted, *Ann Piper* – President MUCW

Celebrations of United Church Women Anniversaries

The 45th Anniversary “We Are One” was held in Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador. *Hosted by the East and West District of Newfoundland and Labrador.*

If you have an anniversary pin that you are willing to pass on, we have a member that needs pins to complete a UCW anniversary collection. If you have one to trade or sell or give away and are attending our AGM in September, please bring it with you. Please email me for further information. nucwcanada@gmail.com

Phyllis



Exciting Times at Broadview

If there are opportunities to speak either in person or virtually, Jocelyn Bell (Editor/Publisher) and I would be interested. We are expanding from being a magazine to a multi-media news agency, making partnerships with mainstream news agencies across the country, starting with the Winnipeg Free Press. You can read about it here: <https://broadview.org/announcement-winnipeg-free-press/>

This is huge for Broadview and frankly, for Canadian media. We'd love to talk about it if there is an opportunity."

The September/October 2026 issue of Broadview is a special print edition focused on **Small Churches, Big Impact**. It explores how smaller congregations across Canada are redefining growth through depth, relationships, and community impact rather than raw numbers.

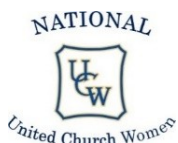
Rev. Trisha Elliott (she/her)
310 Danforth Ave., Toronto, M4K 1N2
[Interest Magazine](#)

Executive Director, Broadview [Broadview.org](https://broadview.org)
Broadview is Canada's Best Special

Keeping In Touch

You can send your submission by email to nucwcanada@gmail.com. Please include the date of the event, the name(s) of people in your photo, your region, the name of your UCW, your church, your town and province with each submission. With privacy awareness please ensure you have permission from all the people in the photos for the photo to be shared. Submissions may be edited. Thank you for all the submissions that are part of this issue of Keeping in Touch.

Blessings *Phyllis Robinson*
NUCW Communications Chair



"Keeping in Touch" November 2026 Issue
Submission Deadline 10 October 2026
nucwcanada@gmail.com