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"

Adventures of the President

Hello Everyone!

Well, where has our summer gone?! Once again, we begin the busy time of church life with teas and sales, anniversary dinners, baking, and decorating for the coming Christmas season.

Advent, the season of expectation, when we prepare our home and our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. The word Advent is derived from the Latin word *adventus,* which means "coming".

Advent is a season of hope, a time to nurture peace and experience joy in anticipation for the love that is made incarnate with the birth of Jesus. Keep this purpose ever in mind as you make your plans to prepare for Christmas. Everything will make sense or become senseless in relation to this purpose. If baking cookies helps you achieve this purpose, bake away. Sitting quietly on a park bench, taking long walks in quiet places, visiting your church each day, reading, singing, serving others… whatever it is that helps you achieve the purpose of Advent, give yourself to those activities.

Wake up each day with this purpose in your heart and on your mind. Purpose has a way of transforming the way we live our lives. Allow the purpose of Advent to transform you.

At our NUCW conference in September, we elected the President Elect- Myra Spence, from Newfoundland. We selected a new initiative for National UCW after our 65th celebrations, which will be announced next September. We learned about the Seven Grandfather Teachings. We were introduced to Healing Pathway. We learned more about WICC- Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. WICC is a national ecumenical organization with a mission to empower Christians to pursue justice, peace, and reconciliation by standing together in prayer and action, World Day of Prayer. We were updated about our wonderful 65th celebration in Ottawa in July 2027. There was a presentation on "God winks!", the presence of Divine intervention in your life. A food for thought presentation. Many wonderful ideas were taught and learned.

There were so many talented ladies attending and they showed us their talents on Thursday evening as we entertained ourselves with skits, songs and many comedians. Blessed time for all!

As we walk together into our future to celebrate our 65th in 2027, let us all remember our four pillars: Worship, Study, Fellowship and Service, knowing we are doing God's work together.

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 becoming our President-Elect 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
Prayer
Respect
Justice
Solidarity

We also strive to be intergenerational, foster partnerships, and catalyze grassroots initiatives. World Day of Prayer began in 1927 and in 2027 will celebrate 100 years. The WDP international committee wrote the WDP service for 2027, celebrating all of the countries that have contributed to the World Day of Prayer.

The theme for the World Day of Prayer Canada 2027 is **"United in Prayer for Justice and Peace"**

Blessings *Marilyn Johnston*
(NUCW representative to WICC)

National United Church of Canada Women Executive 2026-2027



Sharing the photo with us are The Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath, Moderator and Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary.

UCW Alumnae – October 2026

I was unable to attend the NUCW Executive this September as my husband had been hospitalized for 11 days and was being discharged on Monday, September 14th. I really missed participating.

It is becoming more difficult to keep in touch with some of our older alumnae, particularly those who must be contacted by "snail mail". Canada Post takes such a long time to return letters if the addressee has moved that the next KIT is already on the way before the former one is returned as "undeliverable". Sending KIT via email is definitely the better way.

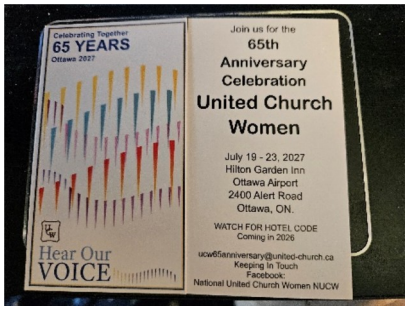
Phyllis has requested a copy of my alumnae lists and I am currently updating them but am very busy conducting 5 services in November. When you get the lists could you please check and see if you know someone on the Canada Post list for whom you might print and deliver the newsletter.

I welcome memories and stories of alumnae's experiences as part of the National UCW. Current members and alumnae love to hear these reminiscences.

Please send them to patriciaedmonds11@gmail.com so I can include them in a future issue.

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

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.

When registering for the 65th Anniversary and paying by cheque, please make the cheque payable to EOOR UCW and in the memo line put Anniversary registration.

The Healing Fund

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 Dallas-Arbuckle

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. There is one more opportunity to apply for funding. You can apply to the Agatha Kaasa Bursary which has a deadline of 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

Living Skies Region

Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women Network

Our two Co-chairs, Rev. Debz Ferber and Susan Dokken were excited to attend the NUCW AGM. Comments from them included the following.

"Thank you for the opportunity to attend the NUCW. It has been a blessing and privilege for me to join these past two years. God is doing some pretty amazing things through humble church ladies like ourselves!" Rev. Debz Ferber

"You know what the best thing was? – I met all these women – from all across our great Country! – we were all alike! We were all Sisters in Christ! United in our love for our God – and for our love of the United Church of Canada!" Susan Dokken

Blessings, *Phyllis Robinson*

Maritime UCW News

Greetings to everyone from the Maritimes.


Peaceful Hemlocks

I hope each of you enjoyed your summer. I feel blessed to be able to live here in the Maritimes and experience the summer here. I just wish summer lasted much longer. Berwick Camp was definitely the highlight of my summer. 10 days full of living out our UCW purpose.
"Expressing loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ?" That was apparent everywhere.
"Christian witness?" – everywhere you looked there it was.
"Start of Day?" How wonderful to have Morningside to start each day. Professors from Atlantic School of Theology gave us much to think about.

"Fellowship?" From socializing on the porch of the dorm, to our shared community full of laughter, fun, music, games, crafts, prayer and praise.
"Service?" I witnessed so many ways that campers served. From the teens in the dining hall serving food at every meal, to Peggy Vink, (who came to camp all the way from Ontario) signing the children's story so that those that were hearing impaired could know the story, to musicians sharing their talent to entertain us, and of course the volunteers and to all of my UCW sisters who made cookies. The UCW cookie cottage and serving cookies is such an amazing part of Berwick Camp.

Weekday evening and Sunday morning services brought us inspiring messages from our minister in residence, Rev. Bev Brazier, and uplifting music from the choir and instrumentalists. For those unable to attend camp, there are recorded services offered on the camp's Facebook and YouTube pages. The services follow the theme of God's Covenant with his people. "I will be your God and you will be my people." You can follow along the covenant story by watching these services in order. They will take you on a covenant journey through the stories of the old testament.



On the Wednesday of Camp week it is UCW day. Women from across the Maritimes are invited to join us for lunch and Worship with a guest speaker. This year Rev. Bev Brazier was invited to speak on Wednesday afternoon as guest program speaker at the UCW gathering. She gave an engaging talk about life as a United Church minister in the Yukon Territory.

One other thing that I found inspirational at Berwick Camp was Ukulele Church. Linnea Good and Rev. Catherine Stuart lead a fun group that not only teaches you how to play the ukulele, but you get to sing too.

This was so meaningful to me that I now attend Ukulele church every Sunday via Zoom at 12:30 Atlantic Time. On the website it gives the times to join for each time zone across the country. People from across the country and even a few from other countries join in worship, prayer, songs of praise. Everyone is welcome all ages and abilities, even if you just want to sing along but it sure is fun learning to play the ukulele.
There is a time for learning, and a craft time also. If you would like more information see the website at ukulelechurch.com

Blessings, *Ann Piper*
President Maritime UCW


Ukulele Church at Berwick Camp

Northern Spirit UCW

Northern Lights Area
EVENTS IN 2026



St. Paul's UCW members in Grande Prairie Alberta lead worship and celebrate UCW. Pictured are Sherida Rossol, President and Margaret Bowes, Charter member



St. Paul's UCW in Grande Prairie, Alberta hosts its annual fund raiser for the Stephen Lewis Foundation -Grandmothers to Grandmothers coffee and muffins. This event receives strong support from other church women in Grande Prairie every February.



UCW members are ready to help at the St. Paul's, Grande Prairie garage sale in August. This sale is supported by the wider community. It is a fund raising event as well as providing household goods for refugees new to Grande Prairie. All items left over are recycled to other charities.

Photo credit is Brenda Stouffer.

Blessings, *Martha Dawson*
Northern Lights Area contact.

St Albert UCW Hosted the Annual UCW Fall Rally on September 12, 2026

Fifty-one ladies from Leduc, Barrhead, St. Albert, Stony Plain, Drayton Valley, Two Hills, Namao and Edmonton participated in this year's Rally hosted by St. Albert UCW.



Pastor Anne Tomlinson, St. Albert United Church led the Morning Worship. Barrhead ladies led the Rally in music, accompanied by Donna Graham, pianist of St Albert United.

The theme of the rally was "Hope in our Changing World". Our Day began with Val Ellis and Nelda Arnst reading a delightful skit called "Change". Mable Hunter,

Rally Chair introduced our guest speaker, Reverend Chelsea Masterman from Grace United Church in Edmonton.


Speaker-Rev Chelsea Masterman

In Chelsea Masterman's meaningful leadership she spoke of where we might find hope in our lives, dealing with change and loss, speaking with God, looking ahead with positivity. Her interactive presentation involved composing our own Lament from which we could derive comfort. Lamenting can create space for grieving losses and building trust in God's direction for the future.

Val Bogen gave a short history about Rundles Mission and read the Rundles Mission Annual Report by Audrey Brosseau. Diane Nikiforuk, Drayton Valley introduced the indigenous book table and explained its relevance.

Susan Oleskiw, UCW Regional Representative, shared report highlights from Karen McLennan's Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit Region Report at the National UCW AGM.

Local UCW reports from St. Albert, Leduc, Barrhead and Stony Plain indicated very busy groups: Various activities from all the groups were: Participating in Fundraising for Widows to Widows in Africa, Hosting an Annual Strawberry Tea, Serving at funerals, Having a Craft Sale and Silent Auction, Hosting Potlucks on Sundays in November for Church members, Participating in a Fall Women's Weekend Getaway, Holding an Annual Bake Sale and Coffee and Pie Sale in November, Sharing an Appetizer and Dessert Snowflake Festival and Vespers service in December, Participating in World Day of Prayer, Hosting a June Luncheon for 90 year old members, Having a Muffin Café and Bake sale in November, Hosting a guest speaker on Truth and Reconciliation, Donating to local charities, Re-creating greeting cards from used cards to sell at Markets and Care Centre, Donating Birthday money to Mission services.

During the business meeting it was decided that we would donate $745.30 to Broadview Magazine (after expenses).



Entertainment was led by St. Albert UCW: Members participated in an interactive, well-received "Sherlock Holmes" exercise exchanging information and learning about members from other groups. Stony Plain UCW presented Memorials to the six UCW Members from the various groups who were remembered with a lighted candle and a summary of their service to church and community.

The Next Rally will be held in Barrhead on September 11, 2027.

Blessings, *Pam Sutherland*
Secretary St Albert UCW

Antler River Watershed UCW

SUMMER EVENT JULY 18TH, 2026

This annual gathering took place at Siloam United Church, London. Neila Lawson led us in some up-beat songs taken from Voices United and More Voices.

The program speakers were, three women from the three religions that have roots in the Old Testament patriarch, Abraham. All the speakers were from the London area. Representing Christianity was the Rev. Jennifer Prince, who shares leadership in 2 United Church congregations. The second speaker was Ghadeer Abdallah, a member of the Muslim community. She was accompanied by several women from a variety of countries, wearing their hijabs, community She was accompanied by several other women from a variety of countries, wearing their hijabs, as symbols of their faith. The third speaker, a Jewish woman was unable to attend. Roxanne Andrighetti, a member of the Ba'Hai community shared the tenets of her faith. shared the tenets of her faith.



Rev. Jennifer Prince
Roxanne Andrighetti,
Ghadeer Abdallah

Middlesex UCW members shared the Worship service based on the Golden Rule and how it is expressed in similar ways by many religions around the world. Worship was followed by Communion with liturgy in the Christian tradition.

Many of us are unfamiliar with Bahá'í and were very interested in learning more. Roxanne shared that each time period in human history has produced leaders who spoke to people about the circumstances that affected their lives and provided wisdom to guide them through troubled times. Major Bahá'í principles are to acquire as much universal education as possible, to help build a moral and spiritual framework, to honour a loving God, and to find Truth. She addressed the question of equality of the sexes, by giving the example of a large bird: one wing is male, the other is female, and both wings are needed to help the bird soar.

It was truly a rewarding day for one and all.

Blessings, *Linda Britton*

Antler River Watershed and Western Ontario Waterways

2027 UCW Joint AGM

Will be hosting a joint Annual Meeting
In Woodstock at Dundas United Church
On April 24, 2027 with guest speaker:
Barbara DeJeet, National UCW President

East Central Ontario (ECOR)

"Living in the Light" was the theme of our September retreat at Camp Quin-Mo-Lac. It was well attended by about 60 weekenders and 25 Saturday day timers. There were 10 attending for the first time.

The Spirit shone as we engaged with speaker Rev. Cheryl McMurray, swayed to the music of Ron Nicholas and his guitar and enjoyed workshops: Card Making, Scavenger Hunt, Drumming, Tai Chi, Tie Dye, Story Telling or Kazoo.





As morning light rose over Moira Lake, a great blue heron came for a visit, we gathered for devotions led by Hills & Shores and Shining Waters UCWs. At sunset, vespers were led by Kawartha Highlands UCW on Friday and high-spirited summer camp counsellors on Saturday.

We were awed by moonlight rides in the big canoe and inspired by Sunshine Sunday when we were invited to wear yellow, view an historic Quin-Mo-Lac video and celebrate Polar Dippers who had begun each day braving the cool to splash in the pool.

Event planning is shared throughout the region. The Regional UCW appoints a registrar for registering, accommodations, workshop slotting and name tags; and a logistics leader for camp rental, catering, snacks, First Aid, Life Guard, camp staff, Book and Fair Trade displays.

Program planning rotates through Areas and is shared by two Area UCWs – a lead host and co-host (which will become the lead host the next year.) This year, Kente and Lakeridge UCWs (about 2 hours apart) found ways to work together: by Zoom, meetings after Spring Area Annuals, and a summer get-together at a half way point. Kente UCWers enjoyed getting to know the Lakeridge group – bright lights all! We left the weekend on a high!

On Sunday, we took some time for personal reflection on the weekend experience. One person wrote: "At Quin-Mo-Lac Weekend I received rejuvenation and spirit and continuation of Friendships. A Retreat of relaxation. Encouragement for our lives with God."

More photos available on the East Central Ontario UCW facebook page.

Blessings, *Cheryl Mound*
QML Weekend Program Team Coordinator

Pacific Mountain Region

It was wonderful to be able to attend the National Annual General Meeting. Seeing familiar faces and meeting six new ones gave one a feeling of connection.



Michael Blair, Carolle, and Winnie
"The long and short of it"

Pacific Mountain UCW wish Michael Blair well upon his retirement. He was a great supporter of UCW. Michael will be remembered for two statements he made: "Welcome – come in and be like us; hospitality – come in and change us". That was certainly true for my Church. The other: The seven deadly words spoken in the United Church of Canada. "We have always done it like that".

As this is being written, we are in the throes of preparing for the Fraser (Area) UCW Gathering/AGM on October 27, 2026. The theme is "Music and Movement". We look after our bodies by doing various activities. What about our brain? Through music and movement, the Presenter will demonstrate how to improve our cognitive skills.

As reports are being received from the Units, I continue to be amazed by the work United Church Women do for their churches and outreach. The following are highlights of some activities of a few of the UCW Units.

Carman UCW (Namrac), Chilliwack BC
A Talent/Art Show and Dessert Party was held to raise funds for a Tent Service and lunch. Namrac hosted teas/lunches after memorial services for five individuals. Contribution of $2,500 was made to M&S and $1,600 to community groups. They are on the budget line of the Church. The list of their fund raising is long and varied.

Trinity Memorial Abbotsford UCW
The Grace, Friendship and Harmony Units meet monthly. Meetings maintain an educational component by inviting speakers on various topics. The Friendship Unit sponsors an African student through the Harambee Society. The Executive meets monthly by ZOOM. Four members received Life Memberships. Many church projects such as the Onside Restoration for the repair of the kitchen and approval of the Food Permit by Fraser Health were spearheaded by the UCW. Donations to M&S and various charities totaled $3,700.

Golden Ears United Church, Maple Ridge, BC
Although not a formal UCW group, Sue Kellas and the women from Golden Ears hosted the Pacific Mountain UCW Gathering/AGM which was a very successful event attended by 60 women. Annually women attend a weekend retreat at Westminster Abbey in Mission, BC. The theme was "Journeys of the Heart". The 15 members of the group are involved in all aspects of the church.

United Churches of Langley, Langley, BC





UCW meetings are held alternately at Murrayville and Fort Langley attended by 16 – 20 members. Two members, Peggy Lenti and Sharon McMath received Life Memberships.
Memorial receptions for church members and adherents were catered by UCW. UCW hosted a Festive Reception for the 140th Anniversary of St. Andrew's United Church, Fort Langley. The UCW paid for 20 UCW members including members of the congregation to have Food Safe accreditation. UCW donates generously to local and regional organizations including the Church's General Fund.



With gratitude and blessings,
Winnie Kowalewich

Celebrations of United Church Women Anniversaries



The 50th Anniversary "Our Tapestry of Love" was held in 2012 in Ancaster, Ontario. Hosted by the Hamilton Conference.

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 Robinson

A Time for Prayer

At the NUCW AGM in September we participated in a prayer exercise.
This is one of the exercises. **Stop. Drop. Roll.** Stop what you are doing. Drop whatever is in your hands. Roll into prayer. Take a minute (or more) to pray.
This touched me and that night, I set an alarm for a time that would work for me. When that alarm goes, I pause my music or work and take the next minute or two for prayer. It is only been several weeks and I find that this added prayer time very powerful.

Prayerfully, Phyllis Robinson

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

2026 AGM Photo



Rev. Michael Blair
Past President Barb Davison
President Barb DeJeet

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nucwcanada@gmail.com