



Keeping in Touch

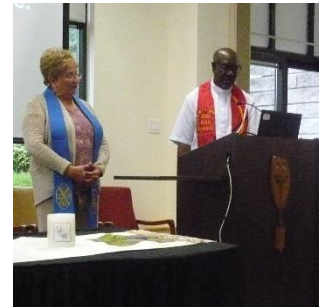
NUCW President Barbara DeJeet

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"



Letter from NUCW President Barbara DeJeet

Hi Everyone and Happy New Year,

We are in the season of Epiphany in the church. The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek word *epiphainein* meaning "to reveal" or "to be manifest". Within the world around us, the light of our day is getting longer – being revealed. A little more of our world is brought to light.

The same is said in our spiritual lives too. During epiphany, we are learning more about who Jesus is and why he came at Christmas. He wants us to "come and see" what he has to offer to us – joy, love, understanding, comfort, and much more.

This is a good example for our UCW groups; offering women to "come and see" what we are all about. Come and spend time in worship, study, fellowship and service.

We, the UCW, are the arms and voice of Christ, ready to share with others what we are all about. Yes, our numbers are getting smaller, but we still have a voice and each of us has a special way of gathering together to do our work for the church and God. We bring to communities around us the light and love of God.

What does God require of us? To do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. Invite others to "come and see."

This is the busy time of the year when AGMs are being planned. Let us see how our gatherings can bring new women to our meetings so they too can know more about us and what fun we have together.

Keep up the good work. I am looking forward to travelling to see some of you this spring and summer.

"Walk with me."

Blessings *Barbara DeJeet*

National UCW President

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 Suite 200
Toronto ON M8X 2Y4



Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC) www.wicc.org

Mission" Empowering Christians to pursue justice, peace and reconciliation by standing together in Prayer and Action"

Christian Women from Nigeria wrote the World Day of Prayer service for 2026.

Theme: "I Will Give You Rest: Come"

Scripture: Matthew 11:28-30

For more information and resources go to WICC web site www.wicc.org

Blessings *Marilyn Johnston*
(NUCW representative to WICC)

UCW Alumnae – January 2026

With the excitement of the 2026 Winter Olympics almost upon us, let's take a walk down memory lane! Which former NUCW member has a daughter who is an Olympic gold medalist?

Keep sending me memories of your time as a NUCW member or write a tribute about an Alumnae member in your region who has recently passed away. We enjoy reading their stories.



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

The Healing Fund

We started The Healing Fund as our Special Project in September of 2022. To date from 2022 to December 29, 2025, we have donated \$107,726.88 to The Healing Fund.

Thank you to all who have donated and let us all keep up donating to the Healing Fund. Carolle 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*

This year we elect our National President-Elect.



Are you inspired by God to serve National UCW as President-Elect?

You must have held or are holding the position of President of UCW at the District/ Region or former Conference Level. Each candidate must be nominated by their Regional UCW at their AGM. Forward your application to National UCW secretary prior to June 1, 2026.

Check the Handbook Appendix 5 for more information on qualifications and requirements.

The National President-Elect is elected every two years.

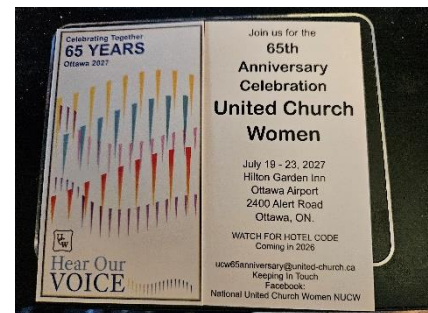
One year as National President- Elect, two years as President, one year as Past-President

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.



From the Finance Committee

Planning for the 65th Anniversary celebration in Ottawa, Ontario

The anniversary is being held July 19 - 23, 2027. The deadline for the Dorothy Amos Grant application for **United Church Women** attending is **July 2, 2026 this year**. Applying July of 2027 is too late!

On Page 3 section of the application:

Expenses: Course fee/registration approximately \$500.00
Travel: estimate your travel
Accommodation is set \$195.00 plus taxes per night double/single occupancy
Meals not included breakfast and Wednesday lunch
Other tours estimate \$135.00

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.

Special Note: National UCW transferred \$50,000.00 from the Life Membership Fund (terms: UCW project which is the anniversary) to the Dorothy Amos Fund (terms: must be a UCW member connecting to members of UCW within Canada and around the world).

Women can apply to the Agatha Kaasa Grant deadline October 15, 2026, or April 15, 2027, (terms: any woman who is a member of the United Church; does not have to be a member of UCW). For this reason, any of the \$50,000.00 that is not granted out this July from Dorothy Amos can not be transferred to the Agatha Kaasa Fund for the anniversary.

Please apply this year, if you 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 cdallas@ripnet.com
See you at the 65th Anniversary.

Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle
National UCW Treasurer

Antler River Watershed UCW

We are planning our 2026 Annual Gathering which this year will be in St. Thomas on Saturday, April 18. We have Paula Jesty from *M.I. Understanding* coming as our guest speaker. We are looking forward to her coming. The cost of registration will remain at \$35.00 which includes lunch.

Summer Event will be happening on Saturday, July 18 from 9:30 to 3:30. This year we are planning to have a panel discussion with various member of different faith denominations. The registration is \$35.00.

Middlesex Annual Gathering will be at Lambeth United Church on Wednesday, April 22 and we have a speaker coming from ANOVA Community Centre, London to speak to us. Anova is an emergency shelter with two locations in London. They have a second stage housing which is transitional housing for women and their children. They advocate and educate to create a future without violence. This meeting is from 9:30 am to noon. No registration required. Oxford's Annual Gathering is Tuesday, April 14 at Avondale United Church, Tillsonburg.

Linda Britton
Treasurer Antler River Watershed UCW

WUC Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit

Conference and AGM

April 9 - 11, 2026

Place: Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton, Alberta

Theme: Justice and Hope

Speakers are being finalized.

Watch for the poster and registration form which will be out soon.

Susan Oleskiw
Recording Secretary.

Northern Spirit

Snowflake Festival with Appys & Vesper Service

We held our annual Christmas get together Dec. 16, 2025. Women from the congregation and invited friends joined for an evening of eating along with some sipping of wine, singsong and a lovely service. It ended with candles lit and singing of Silent Night. We appreciated all the work put in by Mary Heathfield, Irma Wilson & Joyce Kidney for the prep and cleanup.



St. Albert United Church Women

Our UCW held their annual Fall Fair, Nov. 8th, 2025. This is a fundraiser to support our outreach projects such as: Bissell, Operation Friendship, Jellinek, George Spady, Youth Empowerment & Support Services, WIN House, St. Albert Community Services, SAIF, Jessica Martel Foundation & St. Albert Seniors association. We began preparing early October to get the word out by Posters and a shout-out at church. Sign up sheets began to fill up and baking began. We got lots of support from our congregation. It was lots of work but also lots of fun. We usually have quite the run on sales from 1 – 2pm. Besides the baking, we sold pies prepared by UCW members and congregation, and served coffee, tea and juice. It was a time enjoyed by all. People often comment how early they must get there to get the goods. We made approximately. \$3300, which certainly helps us with our budget for 2026. We also shared our day with our Outreach Committee for their Book sale, working together as a community and church.



Bake sale crowd



Craft Table



Outreach Book Sale

Scholarship South Albert UC



A \$500 Scholarship was presented to Devyn Waldie by Sandy Skogstad to help her with her studies. She's in her 4th year at Augusta University and will graduate in 2026 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. Her focus has been on Women's and Religious studies, with courses in Women and Gender studies, specifically in the sport world, indigenous histories and literature. This year she was hired as a student chaplain. She has worked at Camp Maskepetoon in Pigeon Lake. We were very pleased to present her with this as she met all our qualifications for the scholarship.

Karen McLennan

2026 President of SAUC

Living Skies Region

Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women Network

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS PRESENTED

Congratulations to the following five members of St. Martin's United Church Women (UCW) who each received a Life Member certificate and pin on October 14th for their outstanding dedication to the work of the church and to the wider community.

We are very grateful for their unwavering commitment, and for their gifts of generosity, time and effort over these many years!



From left to right: Bonnie Erickson-Wudrick, Dawn Weber, Marlene McComber, Kalene Lipka and Phyllis Wingerak.

Congratulations to Rev. Nora Vedress at Calvary United in Prince Albert

In early January Rev. Nora was named Prince Albert's 2025 Citizen of the Year. In an interview with Logan Lehmann from PA Now she said, "I was just shocked, speechless."

She did not know she was even in the running for the award.

Rev. Vedress served in the Birch Hills, Crystal Springs and Kinistino Pastoral Charge before moving to Calvary United Church 20 years ago.

She has been active in many roles in her local church family as well as in the region, including leading worship at the Women's Camps at Camp Tapawingo at Candle Lake.

Recently she immediately stepped in to offer help to Major Ed Dean following the devastating fire at the Salvation Army Warming Centre. She is chaplain for the Prince Albert Police Service and is also known for the work she does with Prince Albert Elder Liz Settee. A special banquet to honor Rev. Vedress on winning this prestigious award will be held in March.



Women's Gathering – Saturday, April 18

The Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women are hosting a region-wide, one-day Women's Gathering on April 18 for ALL women in Living Skies Region. It is a way to say "thanks" for the countless hours of volunteer work that women do within the church. It also gives them an opportunity to stay connected and get rejuvenated.

It will take place at St. David's Trinity United Church in Saskatoon. This year's special guest speaker will be National UCW President Barbara DeJeet. The day will include a worship service with communion and remembrance memorials for those women who passed away. There will be a silent auction, getting-to-know-you mixers, and AGM as well as time to visit.

Blessings *Mary Mohu*

Maritime UCW News

New Life Members Honoured:

Trinity UCW Shediac, NB: Bonnie Wallace and Elizabeth Hyndman life membership recipients.



Myrna Ward, Bonnie Wallace, Lois Budd

Myrna Ward, Bonnie Wallace, Elizabeth Hyndman

Myrna Ward is Trinity UCW President and Lois Budd is Chignecto UCW President

Mountainview UCW Moncton, NB: Deborah Ellison and Carolyn Smith life membership recipients.



Lois Budd, President of Chignecto District, Deborah Ellison, and Carolyn Smith

MUCW Annual General Meeting

April 24-26, 2026

Nashwaaskis United Church
46 Main St. Fredericton NB

Theme: Creator, Creation and I

Scripture: Job 12:7-10

Guests: National UCW president Barbara Dejeet
Tri-Region Executive Minister Faith March-MacCuish
and others to be confirmed

There will be regular business meeting of MUCW, worship, workshops,
informative speakers, entertainment and community.

Cost: Registration \$30 Meals \$80 for all.

Watch for registration and further details in next issue of the MUCW Newsletter

Celebrations of United Church Women Anniversaries

The 40th United Church Women Anniversary was celebrated in 2002 in Winnipeg. The theme was "Side by Side". It was hosted by the Manitoba – Northwestern Ontario and Saskatchewan Conferences. More information in KIT throughout 2026 and 2027.

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. Please email me for further information. nucwcanada@gmail.com



Phyllis

Spreading the Word About ... Holy Moments!

It is exciting to hear more people talking about *Holy Moments* and how reading the book and/or attending a presentation has made them realize the value of this simple approach to enhancing the lives of themselves and others!

Holy Moments is a concept of offering others a simple comment – a compliment, a greeting, an expression of compassion or concern or whatever God directs you to do – and watching the effect of the comment as they smile or laugh and often express a positive response. Matthew Kelly writes of physiological and psychological benefits for both the giver of the comment and the receiver. The process of offering a comment to someone and/or of being the recipient of such a comment is heartwarming and promotes wellness. Matthew writes:

“Holy Moments boost feelings of confidence, optimism and the general sense that our lives are moving in a positive direction. Holy Moments also liberate us from feeling helpless. Holy Moments move us from a passive state (wanting for something good to happen) to an active state (making something good happen).” (p.55)

I have found myself telling people who have made heartfelt comments to me, or where I witnessed them making an endearing comment to someone else, that they are practicing Holy Moments. I have had a number of Holy Moments directed my way and respond with a “Thank you. Your Holy Moment means so much to me!” and then I explain the concept, so they understand what they were doing.

Holy Moments is a short easy-read book which will affect your future as you start to look for the good things happening in your life and your community and recognize their value to living longer with an enhanced purpose in your life! You can order up to 24 books for free, paying only the Shipping and Handling, and start your own journey of learning together about the many benefits of spreading Holy Moments!

Reference:

Kelly, Matthew. (2022). *Holy Moments: A Handbook for the Rest of Your Life*. Blue Sparrow Publishing.

Joan Zaretsky

Western Ontario Waterways – WOW

“Walk With Me” Tuesday February 10, 2026 An online gathering

[CLICK HERE](#)

POSTER IS ON THE LAST PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER

Keeping In Touch

There are several regional UCW's who don't hold events in the wintertime. Stay warm, stay safe and send us updates when you resume events. Please encourage every UCW group to send us a hello, a story, a picture, as we would like to share with all women of the United Church from sea to sea to sea. 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. Thank you for all the submissions that are part of this issue of Keeping in Touch.

Blessings *Phyllis Robinson*
NUCW Communicans Chair



As women of faith, our strength, commitment, joy and love are important examples in our world today. With issues locally, nationally, and internationally influencing our lives, keep true to your belief in our Divine Creator and let God help you every day. May all our communities of faith be steadfast and sustain us and those around us.

Being in the Light, Phyllis



"Keeping in Touch" June 2026 Issue
Submission Deadline 20 June 2026
nucwcanada@gmail.com

Pictures from NUCW AGM 2025: Your Executive in Action





"We're looking for a church with a vibrant, active congregation...
that we can quietly observe from the back pew."



UCW of Western Ontario Waterways

Invites you to:

“Walk With Me”

Tuesday February 10, 2026

An online gathering [CLICK HERE](#)

- 11:00 a.m.** Link opens
- 11:15 a.m.** Gathering Music with Dan Van Winden
- 11:30 a.m.** Welcome – Anne Reuber
Presentation by Rev. Kathy Douglas:
“What’s a Region?”
- 12:45 p.m.** Lunch & chat with other women across Canada
- 1:30 p.m.** Gathering Music with Dan Van Winden
- 1:45 p.m.** Meet Women from four Regions
- 2:30 p.m.** Closing Worship led by Barbara DeJeet,
President, National UCW



Online Gathering Zoom link. <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/81096309097>