

May 2020 Women's Network Newsletter

I hold this Bible passage close after the week we have had:

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. *NRSV Galatians 3:28*

The defacing of worship spaces in Saskatoon with spray-painted homophobic rhetoric has saddened and shocked many. We, in the United Church, have come so far, that we can hardly believe there are still those who are against equality and justice for all. How I wish we could get past labelling groups and individuals and just all be "one in Christ Jesus". Let us pray for the congregations affected by this criminal act of vandalism including staff and students of St. Andrew's College.

Here is a list of **Women's Events that have been cancelled** so far this year:

- *One Day Women's Camp at Camp Shagabec that was to take place in June.
- *Camp Tapawingo Women's Retreat that was planned for July.
- *National UCW meeting that is held annually in Mississauga, Ontario in September is being changed to a Zoom meeting.

The following was written in March 2020 by Kitty O'Meara.

And the people stayed at home. And read books, and listened, and rested,
and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of
being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Someone meditated,
someone prayed, some danced

Some met their shadows.

And the people began to think differently. And the people healed. And, in
the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless
ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they
grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and
created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

This offering has been recognized as being written in 1869 by Kathleen O'Mara and reprinted during Spanish flu Pandemic, 1919 : (some of you may have already read it on Facebook) **Snopes** – the fact checking website – [reports this 'poem' has been misattributed](#). An interview with the author can be found at: <https://www.deseret.com/indepth/2020/5/7/21230350/coronavirus-pandemic-lockdown-poem-and-the-people-stayed-home-kitty-omeara>

As **Mother's Day** was celebrated in an entirely different way this year, I leave you with this writing by Judith Viorst from *To Be a Mother*:

Last year I had a shampoo and set every week and
Slept an unbroken sleep beneath the Venetian chandelier of our discerningly
eclectic bedroom, but
This year we have a nice baby,
And Gerber's strained bananas in my hair,
And gleaming beneath the Venetian chandelier,
A diaper pail, a portacrib, and him,
A nice baby, drooling on our antique satin spread
While I smile and say how nice. It is often said
That motherhood is very maturing.

Now take time to enjoy hearing the frogs croaking, the birds chirping and even
look at the dandelions blooming along with the leaves turning green!

Blessings,

Mary, on behalf of Sask. United Church of Canada Women