

September 2020 Women's Network Newsletter

"Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest. For the yoke I will give you is easy and the load I will put on you is light." Matthew 11: 28 – 30

Welcome back after the summer break. I hope you are well and ready to enjoy the autumn months in all their colourful splendor! I know some of you are wondering what we, as individuals, UCWs and women's groups, can do to keep the church alive and going, now that this pandemic has gone on much longer than most anticipated. Some have expressed concerns about not being able to plan and host fund-raising events like fall suppers, garage sales, rummage sales, etc. However, maybe now is the time to look at other ways of serving the church's financial needs. Who would have ever thought Virtual and Zoom meetings would be the norm? Even regular Sunday services from the comfort of your own living room with a cup of tea or coffee?

National UCW Meeting

Maybe we can share ideas that have worked in providing spiritual care as well as financial blessings to churches. Remember the four pillars adopted by UCW are to unite women for the total mission of the church and to provide a means through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service. The national UCW meeting will be held through Zoom at the end of September and Dawn Weber and Barbara Byers Bradley will be our on-line representatives for the meeting. There is also a time when all are invited to be part of Rev. Michael Blair's special worship service. He has been at several national UCW meetings and will be our new General Council Secretary as of November 1, 2020.

Take special note that for Friday's closing worship, October 2, Rev. Michael Blair will be joining us to lead Worship and Communion. If you wish to join with us in worship on Friday, October 2, you are asked to e-mail Dawn Weber at morning.glory6.dw@gmail.com or Barbara Byers Bradley at greenview@sasktel.net by Sept. 21 so they can send all names to Karen Gardner and Sartu Mohammed. They will then create a master list of attendees.

Here is a Thank You I received in June for the generous donation of UCW to M & S.

You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

Mark 12:31 (NRSV)

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all you do to live out Jesus' call to love one another through your gifts to Mission & Service. God's compassionate presence is made real by the beautiful things that are happening because of your generosity.

We are grateful to the United Church Women of Living Skies Regional Council who have generously given \$50,402 in 2019 to enable life-saving and life-changing work through our shared Mission & Service.

Mission & Service takes on a new importance as the church responds to the worldwide COVID-19 crisis. Our ministries in Canada and across the world are acting quickly to help people whose lives have suddenly changed. In-person outreach programs closed by social distancing have been replaced by food distribution and finding safe homes for people who are homeless. Hospital chaplains are caring for COVID-19 victims and their families. People are being helped to adapt to pandemic conditions and taught how to keep the virus from spreading. Virtual camps and education programs are being offered to support families in isolation at home.

Your gifts to Mission & Service make all this possible. You are truly an example of what it means to love one another! Please continue to be a part of our amazing ministry.

Blessings,

The Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, Moderator, The United Church of Canada
Sarah Charters, Acting Director of Philanthropy

Then I also received congratulations from Tricia Gerhard, chairperson of Living Skies Regional Council:

This is excellent news and definitely something to celebrate. I send my congratulations and deep appreciation for all the work that Sask UCW members do for the mission and service fund, and for the church in Saskatchewan and Canada.

Blessings,

Tricia

It should be noted again that, in total, UCWs across Canada and Bermuda gave \$1,020,034.00 to Mission and Service in 2019.

Many of you have likely recently received your receipts from your donations at World Day of Prayer which was probably one of your last in-person gatherings on March 6. "Your donations permit funding for many grant projects to restore hope and to women touched by injustice," according to president, Diane Dwarka.

World Day of Prayer 2021

The 2021 theme for the World Day of Prayer country of Vanuatu is "Build on a Strong Foundation". Women's Inter-church Council of Canada will be providing details on wicc.org of an online service and events in your area. Information on Fellowship of the Least Coin services are also available at wicc.org

In closing I remind you of the Women's Association (predecessor of UCW) and how their purpose and resolve speaks to all of us today:

Woman's Association Of The United Church of Canada

Keep us, O God, from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.

Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.

May we put away all pretense, and meet each other face to face without self-pity and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgment, and always generous.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid.

Let us take time for all things; make us grow calm, serene, gentle.

Grant that we may realize it is the little things that create differences; that in the big things of life we are one.

And may we strive to touch and know the great human heart common to us all, and, O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind.

(A Collect by Mary Stewart)

Take care of yourselves whether you are meeting with social distancing guidelines, by phone or Zoom.

Blessings,

Mary