

Saskatchewan United Church Women Newsletter December 2021

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11

Thank you to all who organized, took part in and viewed the Living Skies Advent Concert Celebration on December 12. If you missed it, you can still view it on YouTube. The link is <https://youtu.be/ecJkqJQgq7A>

Here is the Christmas message from our National UCW president, Nancy:

A Christmas Hope 2021

As we come to the end of the first week of Advent, with the lighting of the candle of Hope, starts the journey of the Advent season. Hope that God gave us, with the coming of his son Jesus to save mankind.

I am reminded of the hope Mary and Joseph had and their story of being tested by a miracle. The hope they had was that the trip to Bethlehem would be safe and that they would get there before the birth of the baby. When they arrived to find the Inn was full, the hope that the stable would be a safe place for the birth. Their journey would continue, standing with God in hope.

As the candle of hope continues to burn throughout the weeks of Advent, it will remind us that we too shall continue standing with God in hope.

I hope you all will have a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Standing with God in Hope,
Nancy Risto

60th Anniversary UCW

Remember, if you are planning to go to the 60th Anniversary in Sydney, Nova Scotia on July 11 to 15, 2022 register by the end of December 2021 to be assured a spot. After that it will be open to all who are on the waiting list. Here is the information link: ucceast.ca

As some of you are deciding to close your church, or disband your UCW and various other fellowship groups please read this letter from our National UCW treasurer. While it is written to UCWs, it pertains to all congregations and groups.

What should WE do?

Fellowship & UCW

An important part of belonging to UCW is the fellowship. During the Covid-19 Pandemic we were not able to do that.

Our UCW lives changed. I personally realized how much I missed my sisters in Christ the longer I had to go without seeing them in person.

Our world and lives began to change, how we did things changed. We discovered that, for most of the time, we did not have to leave our homes: our computers and the internet had us connected to everything. I always had a big thank you and smile to the person who delivered my purchases. When I did need to leave the house it was usually only once a week or once every two weeks for groceries, the drugstore, that medical appointment. I noticed there was a big difference between what I needed to live and be happy and what I thought I wanted.

I noticed that something else was taking place within UCW. I have had email communications and telephone calls from UCW women who are thinking that now is the time that maybe, just maybe, they should close their UCW group. One part of me totally understands and there is another part of me that, right now, is screaming no, not yet, please do not let the pandemic be the excuse to close your UCW.

Now is not the time to make decisions, now is the time to stop, to breathe, to rest, and to enjoy just being UCW women. Many women say that their age and mobility is the reason they can no longer be UCW.

I get you, my body sure cannot do the things it has done in the past. Many UCW groups no longer have the number of women needed to hold a fundraising event, why should they continue?

Please try this, while you spend time thinking about closing, I want you to consider staying open for another year. If the women cannot submit your units membership dues then don't worry about that; please also don't worry about Mission & Service or the National UCW special project, Women for Change – Zambia.

Things will fall into place when God is ready.

Take this time to just be friends, be UCW friends, call each other. If you are able to go outside and meet with social distancing try doing that. If you are able to share a meal together do that. Know that being together is fellowship, is service

as you support and encourage each other. If you are comfortable sharing your faith (a good way to do this is if you are able to get your Minister's sermon or are attending church, discuss what your minister said), this can really lead to study and witnessing of your faith.

Take the time; you might even decide to change how you do UCW, and that change will be great. If you decide after a year or so to close, celebrate all things UCW within your unit, area, Region and across Canada.

Blessings and stay sane.

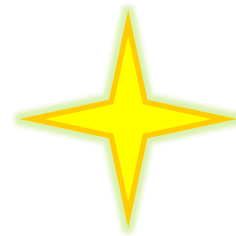
Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle – Treasurer National UCW cdallas@ripnet.com

Hope is a Star: Voices United #7

Hope is a star that shines in the night,
Leading us on till the morning is bright.

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong and none shall be afraid.



Christmas blessings,

Susan Dokken, Chantal Ntibategera, Dawn Weber, Diane Thurlow, Marilyn Bodner, Wilma Will, Phyllis Robinson, Barbara Byers Bradley, Mary Mohn