

Sask. UCCW Newsletter - March 2023

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3: 16

My first tomato seeds have just germinated! I love the smell.

I attended two World Day of Prayer services this month: one at Knox United in Saskatoon and one hosted by the Anglican Church ladies here in Birch Hills. To gather in person and enjoy fellowship as well as learn about Taiwan was great!

I hear many Communities of Faith and in particular UCWs lamenting about lack of members and wondering how to keep going. My first suggestion is to take the UCW 60th Anniversary theme of "Continuing in Hope" to heart. If you want to continue with your regular events go right ahead, but don't be afraid to try something new. That might be in meeting as a fellowship or bible study group, having a guest speaker (on mental health, self-motivation, spirituality, etc.), touring to other United Churches, day trips around the province. If someone new has an idea encourage and help them to implement it. If some of you have other ideas please send them to me so we can share.

The book *The Circle of Life* by Joyce Rupp and Macrina Wiederkehr provides a ritual for each season based on the ancient custom of honoring the four directions of Earth. This celebrates winter. You will need the following: feather, candle, cloth to cover the candle, an empty water pitcher, bowl of soil and seeds.

East

(Hold the feather. Silently place it down flat on the table or on the ground as a sign of the loss of vitality when in the winter time.)

Great Spirit of the East,

My dreams grow dim and weak.

Songs of hope fly away like ghosts of long ago.

Enter my lost and wandering heart.

Greet me with your promise of the new life

And your revitalizing energy.

Speak to me of blessings to come

While the hidden and the unknown gestate in the dark spaces of my inner cave.

South

(Hold an unlit candle with a cloth over it)

Great Spirit of the South,

The sun hides from my bereft heart,

The light of consoling love has dimmed,

The warmth of self-satisfaction turned cold.

Soften the pain of my depleted spirit.

Surround me with the assurance of love.

Strengthen my trust as I stand in the shadows of life.

Let the remembrance of fruitful times gently hold me.

West

(Lift up an empty water pitcher to symbolize the emptiness of the wintered heart)

Great Spirit of the West,

The leaves of my good fortune wither

While the wind whispers the need to let go.

My good works fade and blow away.

I bend with vulnerability and weakness,

The basket of happiness emptied of its fruit,

The pitcher of love void of satisfaction.
Part of me fears the surrender required.
Empty me of what keeps me from growth.
Protect me from what leads to despair.

North

(Place a bowl of dirt on a table. Push some seeds deep into the soil.)

Great Spirit of the North,
My heart is frozen, my mind barren.
A glacial wilderness pervades my life
Yet the seeds of hope are secretly planted.
They gestate and turn within me,
Silent messengers of transformation.
I wait with faith-filled confidence,
Hearing songs without a sound.
I will stand with full courage,
breathing deeply the ancestral air
which strengthens me.

Camp Christopher

The dates for Camp Christopher Women's Camp are September 8 – 10 this year.

Camp Tapawingo 75th Anniversary

For those who have been former campers, are planning to attend camp for the first time this year, or just want to take part in the special celebration.



Camp Tapawingo 2023 Camp Clean-Up

Saturday, June 3rd

- **Camp Clean-up**
- **Starts at 10 am**
- Followed by spaghetti supper

Sunday, June 4th

- **Camp Sunday**
- **Vesper Hill Service at 11 AM**
followed by potluck lunch
- Celebrating 75 years of Tapawingo bring old camp photos, memorable, etc.

Anyone wishing to join us Saturday for camp clean-up and wanting to spend the night please contact us at info@camptapawingo.net

Hope:

May your Easter season be filled with HOPE! Hope for our shattered world. Hope for our country. Hope for our health care system. Hope for the United Church of Canada. Hope for your community of faith. Hope for your family. Hope for yourself...that you may grow spiritually and renew your faith in God.

March CCS Friday: Addiction and Faith

Ed Treat from the Centre of Addiction and Faith will speak on March 31 from 12:00 to 1:00 CDT. He believes churches are poised to make a dent in the opioid crisis. There is no charge but you must register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEscOCorz0tG9Ib10grJzqObAiXeApWDacq>. For more details about the session, check out

<https://ccsonline.ca/2023/03/march-ccs-friday-addiction-and-faith/>.

Each CCS session will be on a Friday from 12:00 to 1:00 (Winnipeg time) and in the form of a Zoom workshop. Presentations will be recorded for future viewing. CCS Fridays are online conversations to help us all to respond faithfully to emerging issues in local contexts and are open to anyone who is interested.

Easter Prayer - Joan McMurty Taken from Voices United – page 174

God of resurrection,
you have rolled the stone away
and the tomb of our world has been opened wide.
With the dawn has come a new creation.
Let our celebration today
empty our tombs,
renew our lives,
and release your power;
through the risen Christ we pray. Amen

Easter Blessings,

Mary