

SASK. UCCW NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024

Bethlehem in the land of Judah, you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Judah, for from you will come a leader who will guide my people Israel.

Matthew 2:6

**The message you heard from the very beginning is this: we must love one another.
1 John 3:11**

AN EPIPHANY PRAYER – Voices United 86

Radiant God, light for all people and all places,
by the guidance of a star you led the Magi
to worship the Christ Child.

By the light of faith
lead us to worship You in peace and love,
and guide us in your way.

We pray in the name of Christ,
light of the world. Amen

SASK UCCW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Friday, January 26 at 7 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE AND TIME.

January 19 is the deadline to register for the Zoom Annual meeting of Sask. UCCW. Please note that ALL women are welcome to join in this meeting. Register with Barb Byers Bradley by e-mail: greenview@sasktel.net or phone 306-370-0136. There is no cost but we need you to register so we can send out the link for on-line or phone connections.

SASK. UCCW ELECTION

The Annual General Meeting of Sask. UCCW has been reset for Friday, January 26, 2024 at 7 p.m. It will be a Zoom meeting and ALL are invited to attend. We have three vacancies to fill on the executive: secretary, first and second vice-chairs. The following have agreed to let their name stand for the up-coming year: Co-chair – Diane Thurlow, Co-chair – Allison Irvine, Treasurer – Phyllis Robinson. Meetings are usually held by zoom three or four times throughout the year. If you or anyone you know is interested please let any member of the executive or myself know.

STATISTICS FORM AND ANNUAL \$2 MEMBERSHIP FEE DONATION

Please send [statistics form](#) to Barb Byers Bradley at 41 Nicholson Place, Saskatoon, Sask. S7L 4G7 or e-mail: greenview@sasktel.net. You can also send your membership fee donation to Barb along with the statistics form. Make cheques payable to: **SASKATCHEWAN UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA WOMEN (Sask. UCC Women)**. \$1 goes to National UCW to cover a fraction of the cost of sending two reps. to the annual National UCW meeting and the other \$1 stays here and goes towards the cost of printing and mailing our monthly newsletters to those who can't access internet.

ONE DAY WOMEN'S GATHERING

Following the Gathering in Esterhazy it was the consensus of those who attended that they would prefer a one-day Gathering rather than a three-day Gathering. Sask. UCCW is planning to host a one-day Gathering in Saskatoon in the spring. We have two dates in mind: Saturday, April 27 OR Saturday, May 25. The latter would correspond with Grosvenor Park United Church's Contemplative Arts Festival that Thursday and Friday so Gathering attendees could come early and take in both events if they wished. Please let me (Mary Mohn) know which date you would prefer by January 23 so we can include it in our Annual General Meeting discussion.

UCW Bursary Fund

The UCW Bursary Fund is available to anyone who is in a program of ministry in the United Church of Canada and who is a member of a United Church in Living Skies Region (Sask.). The first deadline for applications this year is February 29, 2024. [The application form is found here.](#)

Next Contemplative Gathering: The Gift of Pause – January 30, 2024 at 11:40am Sask time. St. Andrew's College, in partnership with Living Skies Regional Council, invites you to our next contemplative gathering, to be held with the Saskatoon Theological Union Chapel community on Tuesday, January 30, at 11:40am. Come spend 40 minutes or so in quiet contemplation, centered on the ancient practice of *lectio divina*. Join us via zoom, and be welcome! <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5845127421>

An Ecumenical Opportunity - World Day of Prayer 2024 (wicc.org)

The theme for 2024 is written by Palestinian Women. The service is offered in two formats: a 55-minute video service or the traditional format of using the paper copy. The WDP service can be any time of the day from March to September. Some of the women who have done these services in their local area are not able to carry on and WDP is looking for new coordinators. We are trying to revive this great ecumenical tradition among churches in Canada. Please contact me for more information. Linda M. Ervin (Diaconal Minister) at fieldrep567@wicc.org or call 250-493-5333.

Frequently Asked Questions about World Day of Prayer Writing Committees (WDP 2024)

How is the writing committee chosen for World Day of Prayer? In August 2017, 188 delegates traveled from around the world to attend the World Day of Prayer International Meeting in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil. These women came from Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox traditions to pray together, share their stories in community, and make decisions for the future of the movement. It was an executive committee of these delegates who selected the writer committee for 2024.

How is the theme chosen for World Day of Prayer? Every five years, the World Day of Prayer International conference is held. Each national committee is given the opportunity to submit a theme, along with a suitable Bible passage. During this international meeting, a committee considers the various suggestions for themes, and then chooses themes as well as writing regions for the next five years. Palestine was chosen to be the writing committee for 2024 and was given the theme on which to base the service.

What is the membership structure of the World Day of Prayer International Committee? The WDPIC constitution divides its membership by 7 regions in order not to be restricted by geo-political designations. "Regions" of the world are namely, Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, Caribbean-North America and Pacific.

How should we receive the World Day of Prayer service written by the Palestine writing committee? Each year the WDP theme and the worship service developed by women of another region is a gift. Receiving it is a spiritual process. It needs time, open hearts and minds, careful listening and speaking, willingness to stretch beyond what is familiar. When we receive the liturgy in a local community, we begin by ensuring that there is an atmosphere that is spiritually open and non-judgmental. In this way we can listen to the voices of faraway women and to the biblical message they want to convey to us. In a climate of attentive listening, we will hear them speak about their hopes and fears, joys and sorrows, and at the same time we will listen to the women next to us and find our own response. We use silence to reflect and pray.

How do we respond when some people object to the writing committee region? In 1994 when Palestine was the writing committee for the World Day of Prayer service, Eileen King, then executive director of the International Committee for the World Day of Prayer, reminded participants that the 1994 service was to be understood as one written by Palestinian Christian women, not a Palestinian service. Let us, then, look now for commonalities and avoid polarization. Let us be an example of women working well together with as purpose to build relationships with women in other regions of the world, and grow and deepen our understanding, in part, by reading our Palestine background information. As the service theme suggests, I beg you ... bear with one another in love.

Are World Day of Prayer donations given to the writing committee region? No, donations in Canada support future World Day of Prayer services as well as grants provided in Canada and internationally. World Day of Prayer grant applications are received via wicc.org and carefully assessed.

What is the meaning behind the symbol for World Day of Prayer? The symbol for World Day of Prayer was developed by the women of Ireland and adopted as the international logo in 1982. Its design is made up of arrows converging from the four points of the compass, people kneeling in prayer, the cross, and the circle, representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.

Do
all the
good you can,
by all the means
you can, to all the
people you can, in all
the places you can, as long
as ever you can—

John Wesley

Blessings,
Mary