

Sask. UCCW Newsletter for February 2024

Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable' love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope and patience never fail. 1 Corinthians 13: 4 – 7.

We have just celebrated Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday on the same day. Both are a form of Love. As we enter the Season of Lent it is “the time to turn our whole self toward God,” according to Joyce Rupp in her book God's Enduring Presence.

WOMEN'S GATHERING, SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Sask. UCCW invites ALL women in Living Skies Region to attend.

It is being held at St. David's Trinity United Church, 3318 Merritt Street in Saskatoon

We are so happy to have Past Moderator, Very Rev. Jordan Cantwell, help plan and be an integral part of the morning worship service. She will giving the reflection and serving communion with us.

In the afternoon we will hear from Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle, National UCW Treasurer. Information on grants available to lay women in the church who would like to take special courses or travel to different church events will be provided.

Details and registration will follow in the March Newsletter.

UCW Bursary Fund

The Sask. 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 link to the form is here.](#)

Newsletter Information

Please contact me if you have any information or events you would like in the monthly newsletters by the 10th of each month. Phone 306-749-3446 or e-mail at d.mohn@sasktel.net.

What is World Day of Prayer?

MEDIA RELEASE – World Day of Prayer 2024

World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical event that began almost a century ago bridging social, geographic, and political barriers. It has been an **important ministry for women in Canada over the decades** as they faithfully lead ecumenical services within their communities year after year.

In 1895, The Anglican Women's Auxiliary of Canada began a day of "corporate intercessions for mission". By 1916, the Dominion Board of the Women's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church of Canada was calling for a meeting for "united prayer for missions".

On October 19, 1918, Bessie McMurchy invited representatives of five women's missionary boards – Anglican, Baptist, Congregational, Methodist, and Presbyterian – to meet together to "promote the spread of Christ's kingdom by united prayer, united action, and a stronger voice in national questions."

Her letter led to the formation of the Inter-Board Committee of the Women's Missionary Societies.

Imagine this small group of resilient women getting together near the end of WW1, and then ...

1918-19 The Spanish Influenza epidemic puts the plans of the newly formed inter-board committee on hold.

1919 – On February 15, a planning meeting resulted in the drafting a approval of a brief constitution.

1920 – On January 9, the first national interdenominational women's day of prayer is held in Lindsay, Ontario.

1920 – On February 20, the first interdenominational day of prayer in the US is held

1922: On Friday, March 3, millions of church women in Canada and the United States celebrate a common day of prayer. The Canadian and US committees continue to prepare their own services but use the same theme.

1927: The World Day of Prayer for Missions is instituted.

Preparation for the day is vast. The international committee is based in New York and there are national committees and organizations in 146 countries. In Canada, the World Day of Prayer (WDP) is coordinated by the **Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC)**, one of the original founders of this prayer movement.

World Day of Prayer events/services have four parts:

1. Prayer for the region of the writing committee
2. Invitations for others to join your event
3. An opportunity to donate
4. Use of the WDP service provided by WICC – available in print, online and video formats

Offerings received through the World Day of Prayer transform our prayers into action in the form of **project grants** empowering women and children in Canada and throughout the world. Through WDP offerings, WICC has distributed almost 3 million dollars for small projects over the past 40 years. The vision is to restore hope to women and children touched by injustice. Grants must be approved by the WICC board which includes ten ecumenical partners.

The invitation is out to be part of **World Day of Prayer 2024!** The service is based on Ephesians 4: 1-3 – **“I beg you ... bear with one another in love”** – and was written by Christian women of Palestine who primarily connected via the internet during the heights of COVID isolation.

World Day of Prayer is a special opportunity to prayerfully consider the ongoing anguish in the Middle East, and hear first-hand stories from the writing committee.

WDP in-person or Zoom services will take place in over 1000 Canadian communities on or near Friday, March 1, 2024. As well, individuals and families are welcome to watch an almost one-hour WDP service video prepared by WICC that features participants from across Canada.

For WDP 2024, we are encouraged to reflect on the history and challenges faced by the birthplace of Christianity as citizens struggle for security, peace and independence as well as on the efforts that women have made during changes in ruling influences over the last century.

Please help keep this opportunity for Christian connection intact as together we pursue justice, peace, and reconciliation by standing together in prayer and action. Go to <https://wicc.org/world-day-of-prayer/> to learn more about World Day of Prayer including how to coordinate a service and the video service release date.



Sask. UCCW invites you to review the UCW Purpose and incorporate it as part of your Women's groups

UCW PURPOSE

**To unite the women
Of the congregation for
The total mission of
The church and to
Provide a medium through which we may
express our loyalty and
devotion to Jesus Christ
in Christian witness, study,
fellowship and service.**

I have posted this in previous newsletters, but I feel it is especially relevant to today.

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis:

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Blessings,
Mary