

SASK. UCCW NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

1 Corinthians 13: 1 – 2

Let us begin this new year by LOVING one another as He loves us.

CONGRATULATIONS TO REV. NORA VEDRESS

The following is an excerpt from the story written by Logan Lehmann in Prince Albert. Now announcing the city's Citizen of the Year!

Tuesday was just a normal day at the office for Nora Vedress.

The reverend at Calvary United Church was doing her daily duties until around midday, when roughly fifty people ambushed her office in celebration and excitement to tell her that she was named Prince Albert's 2025 Citizen of the Year.

"I was just shocked, speechless," Vedress explained, adding she had no clue she was even in the running for the award.

"People just started coming in and I started thinking, like, 'What anniversary? There can't be another anniversary, I just had mine.' Like, I didn't know what it was for, no idea."

Members of the Prince Albert Kinsmen Club and Prince Albert Daily Herald presented her with the honours, alongside her family members, friends, and those she has touched through her work at the Church and throughout the community. She recently celebrated her 20th anniversary at the Calvary United Church, and prior to that, worked with the Birch Hills, Crystal Springs, Kinistino Pastoral Charge for four years.

She said she was only planning on staying here for a few years but ended up making Prince Albert her home, and she's been here for the last two decades.

"I was told once, when you come to P.A., you either leave right away, or you stay forever. There's a beauty to this community that I don't know that people from the outside see all the time. It's an overgrown town, but then you get to know people, and I love how people will come running up like they know you or like how everyone's kind of connected."

She continued that in the days following the fire at the Salvation Army Warming Centre, she was in close talks with Major Ed Dean to see where she could lend a hand, even though they're a different ministry.

"We go in to help their ministry as Calvary people, but we're there to support what they're called to do in a time of need. I have seen the Salvation Army do that for us in

the past in another situation where they backed us up, and even though you're different, we can still come together."

Vedress also works closely with well-known Prince Albert Elder Liz Settee, who called Vedress an inspiration to everyone she meets.

"She says she doesn't do anything by herself, but she sets such a good example for leading people who just want to follow. She doesn't give herself credit for that. There's so many people that do deserve Citizen of the Year, yes... but [she's] been here for 20 years, and you think about the impact [she's] had on people over the course of those 20 years. Just the small moments even, that might have turned their life around and made it better or that smile. She's my earth angel, I think she's just an earth angel, period."



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UCW BURSARY FUND

The Sask. UCW Bursary application form is available on the Living Skies Website under [Resources > Funding](#), by e-mailing livingskies@united-church.ca and is also available at St. Andrew's College. This is a reminder that the deadline for funding this year is February 28, 2026 and Oct. 31, 2026. Here is the [application form](#) .

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement that brings Christians of many traditions together to observe a common day of prayer each year. Through preparation and participation in the worship service, we can learn how our sisters of other countries, languages and cultures understand the Biblical passages in their context. We can hear their concerns and needs and can join in solidarity with them as we pray with and for them. In this way, it is possible to enrich our Christian faith as it grows deeper and broader in an international, ecumenical expression.



The motto of the World Day of Prayer movement is ***Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action***. Through our participation in the World Day of Prayer, we affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence on the world.

World Day of Prayer in Canada

The World Day of Prayer traces its roots to the 19th century when Christian women of Canada and the United States became involved in missions at home and worldwide. Since 1812, women have encouraged one another to engage in personal prayer and lead communal prayer within their mission groups. Presbyterian women in the United States then called for a national day of prayer in 1887, and Anglican women in Canada established a national day of corporate intercessions for mission in 1895.

On October 19, 1918, Presbyterian women in Canada called together representatives of five Women's Missionary Boards – Anglican, Baptist, Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian – “to promote the spreading of Christ's kingdom through united prayer and action.” That first inter-church meeting gave birth to the Interim Committee on the Federation of the Women's Missionary Society Boards of Canada, which organized a national and inter-denominational day of prayer on January 9, 1920.

In 1922, the Canadian and U.S. committees agreed to use the same theme and day for the Day of Prayer as U.S. women. This annual event became the Women's World Day of Prayer in 1927. The Canadian committee changed its name to become the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada and now includes representatives from 11 church partners. This council continues to coordinate the World Day of Prayer in Canada and to speak to issues that concern women of faith across the country.

The World Day of Prayer is generally celebrated on the first Friday of March, but it can be celebrated whenever the host committee chooses. Roads and weather can definitely be a determining factor here in Saskatchewan. This year (2026), the writing committee is WDP Nigeria: “I Will Give You Rest: Come” Matthew 11:28-30.

Western WDP Coordinators Networking Event (MB, SK, AB, BC, YT, NT, NU)

By **Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada**

Online event: Jan 17 from 12pm to 1:30pm CST

Linda Ervin is our Field Rep for the World Day of Prayer. Her e-mail address is fieldrep567@wicc.org or phone number 1-250-493-5333. Contact her if you have any questions regarding this year's World Day of Prayer event.

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 18

As we trudge through this week in January remember that Epiphany brings us out of dark into Light in our church year. Let us begin the year by thanking ALL the Women for their countless hours of volunteer work within the church. The Sask. United Church of Canada Women feel that hosting a region-wide event like the Women's Gathering is one small way of saying "Thanks". It gives women the opportunity to stay connected and get rejuvenated.

At a recent meeting of the executive, it was decided by consensus that we would hold a Women's Gathering on Saturday, April 18 at St. David's Trinity Church in Saskatoon. Watch for more details in next month's newsletter.

This year's special guest speaker will be National UCW president Barb DeJeet. Barb is a retired nurse and now is very active as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader in her Region as well as serving as National UCW President.

NUCW President Barbara DeJeet

Theme: "WALK WITH ME"

Hymn: "Walk with Me" VU #649 and "Let us Build a House" MV #1

Scripture:

Micah 6:8 "And what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, to love mercy and walk humbly with your God".

Corinthians 5:2 "For we walk by faith not by sight."

The executive also wishes to thank Chantal Ntibategera for accepting the position of secretary for the coming year. She was installed at the January meeting by zoom.

May this Epiphany prayer from VU 86 warm your heart:

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.

Blessings,
Mary