

Sask. UCCW Newsletter June 2026

Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands.... Psalm 98:4

In her book *God's Enduring Presence*, Joyce Rupp writes:

“The presence of God is everywhere. The more I am aware of this, the more joy my heart contains. The better I listen and more closely I look at where Love is present, the happier I am, the more kindness I generate, the greater peace I experience. It doesn't take much to sing joyfully to God—simply a human heart delighting in the beauty and miracles inherent in every single day: a new leaf on a plant, the lapping of ocean waves on the warm beach, a singing robin, a richly colored sunset, a dancing tree branch. What an immense joy—the gift of being alive and having God with us in each moment of existence. Ah, what joy there is in standing still long enough to discover the splendor in the presence of Love.”

Annual Reports from the co-chairs of Sask. UCCW

Co- chair Report April 2025 to April 2026

This is the 5th year of my term on Sask UCCW. 2 years as 1st vice and 2nd vice then 2 years as co-chair and first co chair. This past year I was able to support Debz as co-chair. By the last 3 meetings she has taken leadership of the meetings. Thank you Debz.

As chair I was able to attend two National UCW event in Mississauga in September 2024 and 2025 Phyllis was the 2024 rep and decided to offer her name for Communication Chair for the Keeping in Touch Newsletter. Debz was the second rep from UCCW in 2025. The National UCW is a strong organization that listens to the ways the delegates across Canada are working out their Purpose for their area. The dues each unit submits help 2 people attend the NUCW where all expenses are paid for delegates.

I have been a member of our Meadow Lake unit for a while and taken on many roles. I appreciate the way this UCCW invites women into positions on a gradual basis. There is lots of time to familiarize yourself to each role and lots of support and friendship developing in these 5 years. Being on the Executive has some small learning curves of what business the Executive is responsible for: Unit registration, fee changes, sharing what happens at the National UCW meeting. One challenge is how to receive information from all church women groups so that it can be shared in the monthly Newsletter that Mary Mohn writes up and sends out.

Our meetings are by Zoom on an evening convenient to all members. This means there is no winter travelling or hotel costs. Our meetings are June to wind up the AGM and Gathering event. Then in January, February and March or early April to plan the AGM and Gathering for April. Each year we are looking for a new vice as the 1st vice moves up to co chair. This year we are seeking 2 people because the 1st vice moved to co chair and the second vice has to withdraw because of health issues.

An exciting event that is happening in **2027 is the 65 Anniversary Celebration of United Church Women**

Theme HEAR OUR VOICE

Date July 19 -23 in Ottawa

Application for funding Maximum of \$300

Dorothy Amos Fund - for UCW members

Agatha Kaasa Fund - for all other women in the United Church

Support for filling in an application will be at the Gathering.

The filling in and sending of the Dorothy Amos application needs to happen now because the deadline in 2027 is too close to the event. The expected number of applications will be great so the approval team will need time to process all applications.

Events closer to home are the **Women's Camp at Camp Tapawingo**, Candle Lake on June 12 – 13. More information on the Camp Tapawingo web site or Mary Mohn.

I have enjoyed my time on Executive, making friendships and planning the Gathering. Phyllis Robinson as treasurer and with her ability to future think for meetings and the AGM & Gathering has been great. Mary Mohn as Communication helped me understand that Sask UCCW is for all women of the church. Her dedication to having the Newsletter ready for the 15th of the month is amazing. Dawn Weber & Chantal Ntibategera were Co chairs when I joined. Chantal has returned as secretary as of January meeting. Dawn as past chair shares her ideas and is very willing to help with setting up and in past years baked great cinnamon buns for the Silent Auction.

Debz Ferber, who with no UCW experience came on as 2nd vice. She's been willing to learn and share her dream of younger members being involved. She was very active at the National UCW meeting. She may have been the youngest one there but that didn't stop her from sharing her thoughts.

Susan Dokken came back on the executive as 2nd Vice this past year and has agreed to run for co-chair. She had previously served on the executive when Sask. UCCW was first formed.

There have been other members that have had to withdraw from the Executive.

Thank you to all of you for the experience of being on Executive and being able to attend the Gatherings and the Annual National UCW meetings.

God bless

Diane

UCW Report

Greetings Sisters,

As I write this, the sun is shining down and the snow is beginning to melt, signs of spring and new life are all around us. One of the new beginnings in my life was moving up to the Co-Chair position of our UCW in Saskatchewan.

This past year, we have experienced some difficulties, but we have also experienced much joy and the love and care of each other.

Even as churches talk about closure, rural churches disband their UCWs and we have a silent wish for newer and younger members to join something which has been so life-giving for all of us, we also see signs of hope and transformation.

Last September, I joined Diane and Phyllis in Mississauga for a week-long National UCW AGM.

While there, I learned so much about the incredible work our sisters in Canada are doing. We worked hard for sure, but we also played hard. We heard from various speakers on issues such as being an

affirming church (welcoming to members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community), Indigenous reconciliation, reaching out to the youth and young adults, and how to become more intercultural. These learning sessions and votes were also mixed in with prayers and worship times, meals, and even some skits poking fun (lovingly) at one another.

At our NUCW meeting we also said goodbye to Barb Davidson and thanked her for her service and welcomed Barb DeJeet as our new President. We feel very blessed that she agreed to meet us in Saskatchewan for our AGM.

In Saskatchewan, we have continued our regular meetings over Zoom which makes it much more accessible as we are a big province and not everyone lives close by. These meetings still provide face-to-face encounters and always are productive as we plan both for the immediate and long-term future. Our Keeping In Touch (KIT) Newsletter also helps both UCW members and alumni feel connected to what's happening in our area and beyond.

And the bursaries which were given out this year help all of us to feel like we have empowered and equipped ladies around Canada as they have pursued non-formal spiritual learning opportunities which are sure to enrich our wider church circles.

Of course, one of our biggest events coming up is our 65th Anniversary in Ottawa. It promises to be a great time and I'm definitely looking forward to it. Please remember to fill out your bursary applications and keep your eye out for more details.

Thank you for entrusting me in this role. Deborah (Debz) Ferber

Camp Shagabec Annual Women's Camp Day 2026

The UCWs from the south-west corner of Saskatchewan have an annual gathering in support of Camp Shagabec, the United Church Camp at Cypress Hills. The camp has been in operation since 1938. The UCW groups bake and freeze thousands and thousands cookies ready for the camp.

This year the gathering was in Swift Current with 62 women in attendance. The oldest woman attending was Audrey from Abby at 91. AT 90 she stepped down as treasurer. Audrey had served on the UCW convening committee in the 90's. The three of us from Saskatoon were recognized. I think we had travelled the furthest.

Coffee, tea and homemade cinnamon buns greeted us when we arrived. To serve as a mixer, each name tag was colour coded to a table. It was a wonderful way to meet new people or reconnect with someone who you hadn't seen for awhile. I was fortunate to be seated next to Audrey who I had met last year.

The first activity we were led in was some gentle stretching exercises a lot of which could be done while seated if desired. After having been in the vehicle for 3 1/2 hours it was the perfect way to get body and mind ready for the day.

The guest speaker was Deanna Baje, Director of the Southwest Newcomers Welcome Centre. Based in Swift Current the centre works with refugees and immigrants to provide them with the settlement and integration services they need to make a home. In 2025 they assisted 372 people from 37 countries. This number doesn't reflect the children or other family members who are partnered with the refugee. Deanne Baje came to Canada as an immigrant herself. One thing that stood out to me is they do tours to parts of the region to help participants to get to know more about where they are living. They tour the River Landing, the Sandhills, East End's T.Rex Discovery Centre, and Cypress Hills.

I brought greetings from Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women Network and from National UCW. I shared information about the UCW 65th Anniversary Celebration in Ottawa in 2027.

Information cards and Bursary forms were left with the attendees. Two women completed bursary forms and submitted them on the spot.

The ladies provided a beautiful lunch with more than a dozen salads along a build your own sandwiches buffet and offered cake, ice cream and fruit for dessert.

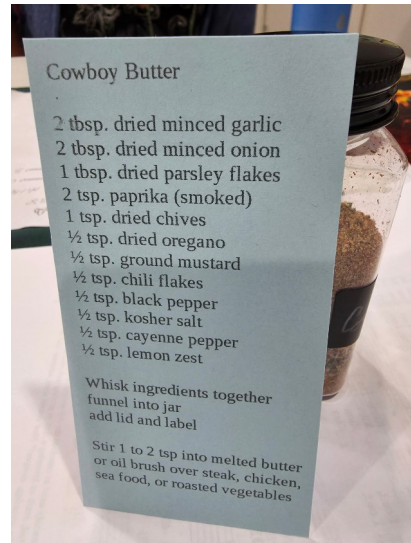
Several times throughout the day, we joined in singing camp songs. A very appropriate activity for a camp focused day. This united us in a wonderful way as many of us attended various United Church camps throughout Saskatchewan.

The afternoon opened up with a skit which introduced our activity. We made a spice mix called Cowboy Butter. We all came away with our own jar of the spice mix. Doing this was a great opportunity to move around, laugh and chat.

We moved into the business part of the day, the meeting, a report on Camp Shagabec and a discussion about next year. The Memorial service honoured the women that passed away this past year in the region. The minister, Rev Kelly Osgood, of First United Church led us in worship and communion.

Light and Love,
Phyllis Robinson





Camp Tapawingo Women's Camp June 12 – 13

On Friday afternoon, June 12 women gathered in the dining hall at Camp Tapawingo on Candle Lake. Once they got settled into their cabin they joined the group for numerous indoor activities such as board games, puzzles and just visiting until supper time. Due to rather inclement weather outdoor activities were curtailed though a few took a walk about around the camp. After a delicious supper, the group was given many in-door craft options that included rock painting, prayer rock poem, constructing a pocketful of positives and friendship bracelets. We had an indoor campfire with songs and skits that evening. There was also the first visit by the “Aunties” from Usbekistanestonia.

Wakening up to a bright sunshiny day we headed to the dining hall where a scrumptious breakfast awaited. Two special birthdays were recognized with unique pancakes served by the “Aunties”. Chair Yoga was led by Ruth Griffith. Worship and Communion followed at the campfire pit. Samantha Clayton officiated at the outdoor communion service. Susan Dokken led the worship service based on Psalm 100 as the scripture – Make a Joyful Noise....She then went on to give the “Gratitude Reflection”. Following worship we were invited back to continue working on crafts, play board games, work on puzzles or go for a walk. Throughout the two days the Silent Auction remained set up and bidding continued in earnest for some specific items. After lunch there were games and skits and again a visit by the “Aunties”. Before leaving for home snacks were provided and a closing prayer service was held outdoors. The Silent Auction closed with over \$360.00 raised for Camp Tapawingo.

Those attending expressed sincere appreciation to the Camp Tapawingo Board for offering the Women's Camp this year. Special thanks to Executive Director, Terry Linsley, Board Member, Shelby Rheaume, this year's Camp Director, Maddy Antaya, and Cabin Leader Mya Linsley who planned and led all the camp activities and prepared the meals, and snacks.





Summer Solstice Blessing

As the sun spirals its longest dance, cleanse us; as nature shows bounty and fertility, bless us. Let all things live with loving intent and fulfill their truest destiny.

Have a great summer! The next newsletter will be out Sept. 15, 2026.

Blessings,
Mary