



January 2021 Newsletter United Church Women Western Ontario Waterways

By now, you should have received your '**Stats & Contacts Form**' by email with the **assessment** amount on it (\$3.50 per member). Please return the completed form and payment soon.

Some of you belong to UCWs and pastoral charges that have considered closing or amalgamating. These changes are not easy. The members of the Transition Leadership Team would be glad to support you through any transition you're experiencing. Please contact us.

We encourage members who feel disconnected from a local UCW to contact us at ucw.wow@gmail.com to inquire about **individual memberships**. This is a relatively new option; we encourage you to continue your membership in UCW even if your local group has closed, and we promise to keep in touch with you.

Our next **UCW Tri-Regional Virtual Gathering** will be on Saturday, February 20 at 10 am. The theme is "A Step Toward Diversity". More details will be distributed soon. Watch for them and please share with your members and friends.

The link to the **World Day of Prayer service** for March 5th was emailed recently. The worship was prepared by the women of Vanuatu on the theme of "Build on a Strong Foundation". There is a virtual hour-long service for you to use; it would be a wonderful way to have a UCW unit gathering. It will be available for downloading for free after February 15 or for sale as a USB or CD. You may want to order the materials early for this service of prayer and celebration, (www.wicc.org), but they aren't necessary to participate.

There is a new event, World Day of Prayer Festival Highlights, scheduled for Friday, January 29 at 1 pm. Go

to the WICC link above, click on JOIN ONLINE EVENTS, and then on WDP FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS for more information and for pre-registering.

The National UCW newsletter **Keeping in Touch** is moving to a different format. Rev. Sandra Bendall from Antler River Watershed is the new editor. Her contact is nucw.kit.ed@gmail.com. National UCW is hoping to have the first online edition out by the end of January.

The **UCW Guidelines** (latest version dated March 2018) are being updated now and should be available this fall. The updates will reflect the church's new structure and current policies and procedures of the UCW. You will be notified when it's available; in the meantime please use the current handbook.

As Lent is approaching, consider one of the United Church's **Lenten books** of reflection. [Faith on the Move](#) for 2021 may be purchased from the United Church bookstore in Mitchell or the United Church Bookstore online. Perhaps you can partner to reflect together virtually on the readings throughout Lent.

Other resources to consider are the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council newsletter and Facebook page. The December newsletter includes the Moderator's Christmas message, introduces the new General Secretary The Rev. Michael Blair, promotes church camps and gives a link to receive **the United Network for Justice & Peace in Palestine and Israel Newsletter** in your inbox. As United Church Women, our passion for social justice throughout the world has deep roots; you can find much valuable information about issues that the United Church has taken up. We encourage you to check out some of the resources that are mentioned in this newsletter.

The Good News is that God is with us. We are not alone.

Anne Reuber
Chair of the Transition Leadership Team
United Church Women
Western Ontario Waterways