



**United Church Women  
Western Ontario Waterways  
Newsletter  
August 2024**

**Save the Dates 2024-2025  
UCW of WOW Gatherings**

**Fall Gathering**

In-person & Virtual

**Saturday, October 19, 2024**

Registration: 10:45 am

Meeting: 11:30 am - 3 pm

**Watch for the poster in the next couple  
of weeks with more details.**

**Winter Gathering**

Virtual only

**Saturday, February 22, 2025**

**Annual General Meeting**

In-person & Virtual

**Saturday, April 12, 2025**

Location to be Announced

**Greetings from Anne.**

Sometimes it is easy to get discouraged as we look around our region with UCWs and Communities of Faith closing, and our numbers as an organization dwindling.

But God does not measure success and health by the number of members an organization has.

The Christian and Jewish stories have always focused on the committed individuals who have a vision of what God's world could be, and who strive to make that vision a reality wherever they live. Jesus was one individual who saw the potential of each disciple and invited each to follow him, The women found the empty tomb and, though paralyzed with fear, somehow found the courage to live as though the impossible had happened, and their friend Jesus was still with them.

So each of you, in your own way, continues to live each day to the best of your abilities, sometimes numb with fear and grief, but still working to achieve God's vision of a world of love and justice - one step, one meal, one hug, one day at a time.

Anne Reuber, President

**Update on the NUCW Healing Fund  
Project:**

"United Church Women of Western Ontario Region continue to be faithful servants by supporting Indigenous women, children and Family Programming that focuses on the healing of intergenerational trauma caused by Indian Residential Schools." Joni Shawana, Healing Program Coordinator, Indigenous Ministries & Justice of the UCC, sent an update on the NUCW Special project of the Healing Fund.

United Church Women across Canada have given **\$36,639.02** to this project since its inception in September 2022. We have fully

funded our first Healing Project grant of \$15,000 to the Regina Native Outreach Ministries, "Mother & Baby Welcome Bag". Project.

After reviewing their applications this spring, "the Healing Fund Working Group of the UCC selected the Fort McKay Metis Nation Association's 'Healing in the Kitchen' Programme as the next one to be supported from June 2. to December 1, 2024."

"Some of the workshops to be offered throughout the "Healing in the Kitchen" program include Herbal Medicine and Plant Healing, Healing Practices Through Storytelling, Sweat Lodge Ceremony, Traditional Jigging and Movement Therapy, Medicine Wheel and Holistic Healing, Traditional Healing from Loss, Self-care and Healthy Living, The Role of Youth in the Community, Art Therapy, and Building Healthy Families."

More details are included in the June *Keeping in Touch*, the newsletter of the National UCW.

## Mission and Service Fund

WOW Regional United Church Women have contributed \$56,158 to the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada in 2023. Thank you for all you do to support people around the world as well across Canada.



## NUCW Executive Meeting

The National United Church Women Executive, with representatives from all of the regions across Canada will meet September 16 -20, 2024 in Mississauga. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers that week that we might all be led by the Spirit.

The National UCW Executive invites all UCW women to join us for the **closing Worship and Communion** led by Rev. Jennifer Henry. Friday September 20, 2024 10:00 a.m. - Zoom opens at 9:45 a.m. Have your communion elements ready **Join with your sisters Across Canada.**

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://united-church.zoom.us/j/81613182438>

Meeting ID: 816 1318 2438  
One tap mobile  
+16473744685,,81613182438# Canada  
+16475580588,,81613182438# Canada

## 40TH ANNIVERSARY AWARD By Eleanor Firth

The former Toronto Conference United Church Women (UCW) in conjunction with Emmanuel College established the 40th Anniversary Award in recognition of the 40th Anniversary of the United Church Women in 2002. Betty Ward of Caledon East UCW was President of Toronto Conference UCW 2001-2003, and with her dedication, the 40th Anniversary Award was established.

The first award of \$1,000 was given in 2003 to one student. In 2024, \$1,500 was given to each of four students. In the last 21 years, over 60 students at Emmanuel College have received an award from this Bursary. Their stories are an inspiration to us all.

Sadly, Betty Ward passed away February 21, 2024. Betty was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, daughter

of the farm, teacher, faithful church member, community organizer, and a UCW woman.

The goal has been to strive for \$250,000 in donations, with interest only to be used for students chosen by Emmanuel College. The fund has not reached the goal yet, so donations are still needed. The UCW units in the former Northern Waters Presbyterial of Toronto Conference UCW, made several donations from 2002 to 2019, and continue to support the Award. The UCW units of Shining Waters UCW, (formerly of Toronto Conference) continue to ask for donations, and to keep in touch with the recipients each year.

If you are interested in supporting this work cheques are payable to Emmanuel College and may be sent to:

Emmanuel College Alumni Office  
150 Charles St W, PO Box 40230 Stn BRM B  
Toronto, ON M7Y 5J1

In the memo line, indicate UCW 40th  
Anniversary Award.

**UCW Executive of Western Ontario Waterways Region:**

Anne Reuber (President), Joyce Osborne, (Treasurer), Eleanor Firth (Recording Secretary), Edith Coyle (Rep to Discipleship & Justice Commission on Regional Council) Mary Hawthorne (Communications), Members-at-Large: Margot White, Joan Whyte, Eileen Townsend, Diane Bender, Nancy Lennox, Barbara Seaton, Kathy Douglas (Faith Formation Minister for Antler River Watershed, Horseshoe Falls, & Western Ontario Waterways Regions)

Any questions? Email: [ucw.wow@gmail.com](mailto:ucw.wow@gmail.com)