



# Maritime UCW NEWS

## Winter/Spring 2026



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**Nominating:** (past president)

**Newsletter Editor: Vacant**

Temporary Editor: Ann Piper

### President's Greeting

Belated New Year greetings to all. As we begin another year in the life and service of the Maritime UCW; your AGM planning committee has been working to prepare a meaningful opportunity for you to join with women from around the region to share ideas and concerns, worship, fellowship and creative activities. I encourage you to plan to attend and to bring a friend. Our theme is Creator, Creation and I. In hindsight we should have perhaps said "us". It takes all of us to keep the UCW alive and well in our communities of faith and throughout the region. Please search your hearts and give prayerful consideration to volunteering to serve in one of the vacant positions on the Executive. Serving as your President has been a growth experience. I have been blessed by the shared knowledge and skill of everyone on the Executive. I have enjoyed meeting many of you at rallies and annual meetings. You have deepened my faith through our shared experiences and served to underline the very real need for an active and vibrant UCW in this United Church of ours. Next year the UCW will mark 65 years of service to the UCC but we all know women have been serving their congregations, communities, and world-wide missions since the time Jesus walked among us.

This troubled world of ours needs women of faith like you to bring love and care to those in need and to encourage those in authority to always weigh the human cost of their decisions at home and globally. May we all have the strength and courage to be counted with them.

As you dust the flour off your apron, flip that last pancake or don your favorite multi-coloured plastic bead necklace and perhaps enjoy a long held tradition of indulgence and excess before the first day of Lent; do you ever wonder why? Why pancakes? Why do we call it Shrove Tuesday or Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras? Shrove comes from the word shrive which means to free from guilt or to confess one's sins especially to a priest and/or to grant absolution (archaic) or preparation for the Lenten season. Folklore has it that a woman was in her kitchen preparing pancakes for her family (how long ago we do not know) when she heard the church bells calling the faithful to mass on the Tuesday of Shrovetide. In her haste not to be late she ran from the house still in her apron and with fry pan in hand and Pancake Tuesday was born. Maybe, maybe not, however the word shrove has now taken on a second connotation in addition to confession and reconciliation to be synonymous with party and celebration as a last fling before the fasting and sacrifices of Lent.

May your hearts and homes be filled with the wonder and mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection and thanks for God's gift of life everlasting.  
Betty Ann Watts.

**Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters  
Regional Council Rep (2022–2026)**

**and PEI contact**

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**Cape Breton: Contact vacant**

**Eastern NS: Contact vacant**

**South Shore/Valley: Contact Vacant**

**If your UCW is in one of the above  
areas please consider becoming a  
contact person for your area.**

**Letter From National UCW President**

**NATIONAL PRESIDENT-ELECT NEEDED**

January 27, 2026

Good afternoon, ladies,

This letter is to remind you that this year at National UCW conference we will be choosing a new President- Elect. This happens every two years and this is the year.

I am reminding you to speak to your women at your AGM's, to see if there is someone who feels led by God to apply for this position. Their application must be in to our National Secretary, Cheryl Sullivan [cheryl@7sullivans.ca](mailto:cheryl@7sullivans.ca) by June 1, 2026. The requirements for this application are in Appendix 5: Policy and Procedures regarding the Election of the National President-Elect.

[https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/handbook\\_ucw.pdf](https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/handbook_ucw.pdf)  
I am sure there are some women across our country and in our wonderful National UCW that would love to answer the nudging of God to join this wonderful Executive.

Please put this on your agendas as important information to be shared. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Blessings, Barbara DeJeet, NUCW President

**MUCW Annual General Meeting**

April 24-26, 2026

Nashwaaskis United Church  
46 Main St. Fredericton NB

**Theme: Creator, Creation and I**  
**Scripture: Job 12:7-10**

*“But ask the animals, and they will teach you,  
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;  
ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you,  
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.*

*Who among all these does not know  
that the hand of the Lord has done this?  
In his hand is the life of every living thing  
and the breath of every human being.”*

Guests: National UCW president Barbara Dejeet  
Tri-Region Executive Minister Faith March-MacCuish  
Key-note Speaker Rev. Alice Finnermore  
Wildlife Filmmaker and National Geographic Explorer  
Nick Hawkins

There will be regular business meeting of MUCW, worship,  
workshops, informative speakers, community and  
entertainment by **Golden Club Singers**.

Cost: Registration \$30 Meals \$80 for all.

**Registration form and hotel Information follows  
on next 3 pages of this newsletter.**



**MARITIME UNITED CHURCH WOMEN 2026 ANNUAL MEETING**

APRIL 24, 25 & 26, 2026  
 Nashwaaksis United Church  
 46 Main Street  
 Fredericton, NB

*“In His hand is the life of every creation and the breath of all mankind.”*  
**Job 12:10 NIV**

**Registration Deadline March 6, 2026**

**Please print clearly Each person attending must complete a registration form.**

Please check the ones that apply to you:

MUCW Executive member \_\_\_\_\_ District executive member \_\_\_\_\_ UCW member \_\_\_\_\_

Past MUCW President \_\_\_\_\_ Charter Member \_\_\_\_\_ Guest \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_ FSLDW (14) \_\_\_ Bermuda-Nova Scotia (15)

**Registration check in begins at 2:30 p.m. on Friday April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Refreshments will be available at time of registration. Meeting begins at 4 pm

**Registration Costs:**

Registration Fee (non refundable)	\$30.00 each	\$ _____
Friday dinner (Chili, veg soup, Ceasar Salad, Rolls, Assorted cakes)	\$25.00 each	\$ _____
Saturday lunch (Sandwich plate, veggie cup, fruit, dessert)	\$20.00 each	\$ _____
Saturday Banquet dinner (Turkey breast/Pork Loin, potatoes, vegetable, dessert)	\$35.00 each	\$ _____
Total amount for registration and meals	Total	\$ _____

Special food needs/allergies

\_\_\_\_\_

Other special needs we need to be aware of:

\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Person: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

We suggest you carry your list of medications with you.

Please make cheque payable to **Maritime UCW**

Mail completed registration (first two pages) and cheque to:

Myra Thiemann  
PO Box 335, Oxford, NS B0M 1P0

**OR**

Send completed registration to [mlthiemann@mail.com](mailto:mlthiemann@mail.com) and payment via e-transfer to Myra Thiemann [mlthiemann@mail.com](mailto:mlthiemann@mail.com)

Keep the third page with directions for your reference.

Note: In order to be good stewards of our resources, you are strongly encouraged to carpool. Mileage will be paid.

Registrants are responsible for booking their hotel room. A subsidy of 50% to a maximum of \$150 will be provided with receipts. Please submit your expense form (will be available at the meeting) to Phyllis at the meeting.

Registrants are asked to BYOB (Bring your own tote bag and water bottle)

**PROGRAM:** Business meeting plus a session led by Alice Finnemore as our theme presenter. As well, there will be an informative video presentation by nature videographer, Nick Hawkins.

**WORKSHOPS:** For the conference this year, please select two workshops as they will run concurrently.

1. *Then Let us Sing*-a workshop for those who want an opportunity to learn more about and enjoy the UCC's latest hymns \_\_\_\_\_
2. Broken Pottery-break it and remake it; our version of the Japanese art of Kintsugi. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Anniversary banner-get the inside track and share ideas for your unit's contribution to the NUCW 65th anniversary banner \_\_\_\_\_
4. Bookmark- create a unique and meaningful bookmark while learning about bible journaling. \_\_\_\_\_

The number of participants per session is limited so register early.

There will be a **Book Sale Table** (cash or cheque only), as well as a "**Bring a Book, take a Book**" table - we ask that the books be of devotion or Christian themed.



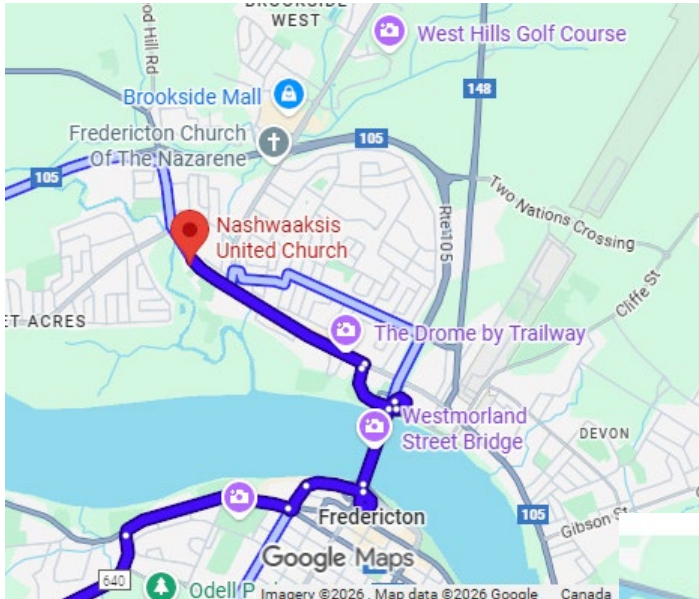
**In order for planning preparations please have your Registration Forms to Myra by Friday, March 6, 2026**

See the next page for directions and hotels.

## Travel to Nashwaaksis United Church

**COMING FROM SOUTH SIDE OF RIVER VIA TRANS CANADA (RTE 2) either from South or North**  
**Directions for getting to North side:**

- take exit 280 toward Hwy 8/Fredericton/Miramichi onto Hwy 8 N (5.8km)-
- take the 3<sup>rd</sup> exit from roundabout onto Smythe St. (2.1 km)- follow Smythe St. to Pointe Ste. Anne Blvd,
- take ramp onto Westmorland St. Bridge toward Fredericton North-
- Take ramp from bridge toward Main St.- Turn left onto Main St.- about 1.6 km to N'sis Church



If you are coming north from (Moncton, Nova Scotia, PEI) and staying at Ramada, it is very handy for you take the **Exit 333 for Sheffield from Hwy. 2 (Trans Canada) onto Rte 105**. That way you will come to the Ramada and the church is only 11 min. from there See map below.



## Hotel suggestions

Ramada by Wyndham

A block of 8 rooms have been saved and listed as 'United Church Women' Reservations 506 300-3447 or 506 460-5500 \$145 for two Queen beds Breakfast included.

Comfort Inn

797 Prospect St, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, E3B5Y4  
ReservationDesk.com:866-439-4874 \$157 Two Queen beds free breakfast

Days Inn by Wyndham

Humble hotel with free breakfast 958 Prospect St. Fredericton NB  
(506) 462-4444 \$167 for 2 Queen beds

Holiday Inn Express and Suites

Casual hotel with free breakfast 665 Prospect St. Fredericton NB  
(506) 459-0035 \$197 for 2 Queen beds.

There may be additional discounts if you use reservation services like Trivago or Booking.com or Hotels.com etc. The above prices are as of Jan 27, 2026 and are not guaranteed. In order to conserve our resources, please consider sharing a room with a friend.

## Western NB Area

**Harvey United Church** – Janet Blair reports that they are hosting their annual Crokinole event in February. In March they will be attending the World Day of Prayer service at the local Anglican Church. In April they are planning a special tribute to members of 90 years of age. At that time they will be presenting interviews done with eight of their members who have reached this milestone. At a special service to recognize these folks, they are inviting the congregation and families to join them for a time of recognition and fellowship.

**SAVE THE DATE AND STASH YOUR CASH**  
**National UCW 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**  
**July 19-23, 2027 Ottawa, Ontario**

Where: Hilton Garden Inn Airport – Free Airport Shuttle  
Guaranteed hotel price \$230 per night incl. taxes Double Occupancy

Theme: “Hear Our Voice”

Theme Hymn: “Draw the Circle Wide”

Theme Scripture: Proverbs 8:1

Registration fee estimated \$500

\$300 Bursary available from Dorothy Amos Fund

Applications will be received between January 1, 2026 and deadline **July 2, 2026**

Many exciting tours have been planned. We will hear from many speakers including Rt. Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath and Rev. Dr. Carmen Landsdown, Senator Bernadette Clament, Barbara Helms, Rev. Tucovi Arminian as well as representatives from Catholic Women’s League, Jewish Women and others. A detailed list will be available once the agenda is confirmed.

**Healing Fund Update**

Email received from Carolle Dallas – Treasurer of National UCW

Hi Everyone,  
We started The Healing Fund as our Special Project in September of 2022.

To date from 2022 to December 29, 2025 we have donated **\$107,726.88** to The Healing Fund.

Thank you to all who have donated and let us all keep up donating to the Healing Fund.

Blessings,  
Carolle

**From the Finance Committee**

**Planning for the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in Ottawa, Ontario**

The anniversary is being held July 19 - 23, 2027. The deadline for the Dorothy Amos Grant application for **United Church Women** attending is **July 2, 2026 this year**. Applying July of 2027 is too late!

On Page 3 section of the application:  
Expenses: Course fee/registration approximately \$500.00

Travel: estimate your travel  
Accommodation is set \$195.00 plus taxes per night double/single occupancy  
Meals not included breakfast and Wednesday lunch  
Other tours estimate \$135.00

It was moved at the National UCW Annual meeting last September that each United Church Woman who applies will receive \$300.00. You do not have to submit two written recommendations/references with this application.

**Special Note:** National UCW transferred \$50,000.00 from the Life Membership Fund (terms: UCW project which is the anniversary) to the Dorothy Amos Fund (terms: must be a UCW member connecting to members of UCW within Canada and around the world.)

This is the link to the application form.

[https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/2021-01/form\\_dorothy-amos-fund\\_2021.pdf](https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/2021-01/form_dorothy-amos-fund_2021.pdf)

**Chignecto District Annual Meeting**

March 21, 2026 (bad weather date March 28)

United Church Office  
21 Wright St. Sackville NB

Meet and Greet starts at 9:30  
Shared finger food pot luck lunch

**Guest Speaker**  
**Rev. Karen Oliveto**

Karen has recently retired to Pugwash NS. She was a Bishop in the Methodist United Church in the USA.

Maritime UCW president Betty Ann Watts will preside over the installation of officers.  
There will be a memorial service with communion.

**Nashwaaksis United** – Folks at Nashwaaksis are hosting a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 17th. As we are hosts for the Maritime UCW AGM the end of April, the next two months will be very busy. (Joan McGee)



## From the Maritime UCW Nominating Committee Call for Volunteers and Nominations



Welcome to 2026! Well, we made it through another year and here we are beginning a fresh year. I would like to thank the Executive members for their service in 2025 and especially our president Betty Ann Watts and our president elect, Ann Piper who has been at her side. At our annual meeting in April, we will see the completion of Betty Ann's term as she hands the reigns over. Ann has been working closely by Betty Ann's side and is more than capable and ready to lead us forward. How blessed we are to have such wonderful leadership. I am so grateful for the hard work of these two women, but they can't do it without the help of a solid foundation.

As our temporary newsletter editor, Ann Piper, wrote in our Summer 2025 newsletter "MUCW cannot operate without member participation. It takes many United Church Women to share the workload. The work of the UCW across the Maritimes is important work, and it has been important work since before our United Church was formed. Work is only a small part of the benefit of participating in MUCW, the fellowship, the laughter and the support in times of trouble, the celebrations in times of joy, and simply spending time with other women are all reasons to become involved. (And the food we share is always tasty!)"

Our Executive currently sits at 17 members and nominations are needed by our annual meeting for several key positions. Please give it some prayerful thought and consideration.

**President Elect** - Do you know of someone that would make a great leader? Perhaps you would be willing or know someone you would like to work with and share the position.

**Treasurer** – Are you good with finances? Do you know of a treasurer of a local unit who would be approachable? Phyllis Munroe will be finishing up her 2<sup>nd</sup> term as treasurer and we are so pleased that she has volunteered to stay on as a Member at Large.

**Maritime UCW Newsletter Editor** – We are still looking for an editor. We are very grateful to those who stepped in to make sure the news got out in 2025; to Ruth Kennedy for the Spring Issue and to Ann Piper and Betty Ann for the Summer, Fall and this 2026 Spring issue. Do you know of someone that would make a good editor?

**Members at Large** are needed; it is a great way to introduce someone (maybe a travel companion) to the committee and "get their feet wet" and **Contacts** are needed to collect and share news from Cape Breton, Eastern NS, South Shore/Valley.

If you have any questions, would like to volunteer or nominate someone for any of these positions, please contact any one of us. We will also be calling for volunteers and nominations during our MUCW Annual meeting in April. Please plan to attend. The Registration form is included in this newsletter.

Currently the Nominating Committee consists of past co-presidents Marilyn Bubar and Debbie Hawkins (NB) and Sharon Moyse (PEI). In an effort to have wide representation on the committee we are still seeking another member ideally from Eastern Nova Scotia/Cape Breton.

Blessings,

Debbie Hawkins, Marilyn Bubar, Sharon Moyse Nominating Committee

<p><b>Wilmot United Church, Fredericton</b> – Linda Gough is telling us about a Foodless Food Sale taking place as a winter fundraiser. With plans for several of our members to attend the Maritime UCW Annual General Meeting, which is scheduled for Nashwaaksis United Church April 24-26th, they have changed the dates for their annual <b>Spring Rummage Sale to April 17 18th.</b></p>	<p><b>Keswick Ridge United Church</b> – 2026 is the 200th anniversary of the church at Keswick Ridge. This church is rich in history and is always such a joy to celebrate every anniversary, but this one is really special. The UCW will be very busy assisting with plans to carry out several details such as hosting special celebratory events over the next few months, one member making banners for the occasion, decorations for the interior and exterior of the church as well as our usual spring events. In March we hope to have author Donna Jones Alward join us via Zoom to do a book chat on her latest book, Ship of Dreams. We will soon be making plans for our Annual Plant Sale, just waiting for spring to arrive! The big excitement for April is that the Maritime UCW AGM is being held in our area, at Nashwaaksis United Church, <b>April 24-26th</b>. See the registration form in this issue. I do hope you can come and join in this special time with other like minded women, the UCW! Blessings, Marilyn Bubar, Maritime Contact for Western NB and Saint John area.</p>
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## Maritime UCW 65th Anniversary Banner

The celebration is taking place in Ottawa in July 2027. I am sure that many of you have been involved in creating our Anniversary Banners in the past. It is time to start working on our next one.

The banner is 3' by 4' or 36" by 48" with a 6 inch sleeve on the back for hanging,

The banner will look like a window. There will be a centre block on a blue background with gold or yellow thread which will read Maritime United Church Women 1962-2027. I will get that embroidered in Summerside.

There will be 4-7" square blocks along the top and bottom (8 in all). Along each side there will be 2 – 7" wide by 12" long oblong blocks on each side. (4 in all). There will be another shade of blue sashing between each block and a blue with yellow or gold binding.

The blocks can be the 65th anniversary theme – "Hear Our Voice" or a UCW theme or a Maritime theme.

Get out your creativity. What will your block look like? The deadline for getting the blocks done and

submitted to us is **June 15, 2026**. This is the date of the in-person meeting of the executive and the 12

blocks will be chosen. Any blocks not chosen will go on the after quilt (the back). Please ensure that you pin

the name of the maker(s) to the block so that we can list all the makers of the blocks on the back of the

quilt. The blocks can be pieced, appliqued, embroidered, etc. Use your imagination.

Please leave the blocks at the size given. They will be trimmed to size. **Remember there will be a 1/4" seam allowance around each side.**

Have fun. For questions or further information please contact Elaine Burrows. contact info is on page two of this newsletter.

**If you have a block started or perhaps even completed bring it to our annual Meeting in April.**

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## Berwick Camp Cookie Cottage.

Dear Friends,

The United Church Women have a long and rich history of gracious hospitality. This spirit has been beautifully lived out over the years through their faithful service at Berwick United Church Camp.

For many years, UCW districts took turns acting as hosts and providing cookies—often in quantities of hundreds of dozens—for the much-loved Cookie Cabin at camp. This tradition has been a cherished part of camp life and is fondly remembered by many.

In recent years, however, we have seen units close and membership numbers decline, leaving fewer members and districts available to take on this important role. With fewer hands, it has become increasingly difficult to provide hosts, bake large quantities of cookies, and ensure they are delivered to camp.

As changes continue all around us, our desire remains strong to carry on this rich UCW tradition. We are therefore asking for your support. If you or your unit are able to make a small donation toward the Cookie Cabin, it would be immensely appreciated. These donations would allow us to purchase cookies for camp and continue the UCW Cookie Cabin tradition that means so much to so many.

Thank you for your continued support, generosity, and care for this ministry.

Sincerely,

Joan Fraser

Representative for the UCW Cookie Cabin

## Easter Memories from Betty Ann Watts.

As many of you are aware I grew up within the traditions of the Greek Catholic and Greek Orthodox churches. For me Lent was a time of fasting, meatless days, prayer, confession, communion, walking the Stations of the Cross and monitored sacrifice (my parents monitored adherence to my identified sacrifices) leading to Palm Sunday and all the special days of Easter week. Good Friday was a day of darkness, dread and sadness. Icons played a significant role in the eastern order, and I will always remember the life-sized painting of the crucified Jesus laid before the altar on that day as part of the service.

It was not all doom and gloom. There was time to write pysanka (paint eggs) and prepare food to be blessed on Saturday and enjoyed after church and the morning fast on Easter Sunday. I remember crying my eyes out as I ground horseradish for the beet and horseradish relish, helping my mother make the special breads, trying to carve a pound of butter to look like a lamb, indulging in the sin of pride if one of my pysanka was included in the basket of food to be blessed.

Easter Sunday was always celebrated with the gift of a new dress, shoes or hat. As we entered the church everyone greeted each other with the words "He is Risen!", or the response "Indeed He is Risen!" It was a time of pure joy. May Easter be a time of Joy for each of you.