

# The United Church in Meadowood Annual Report

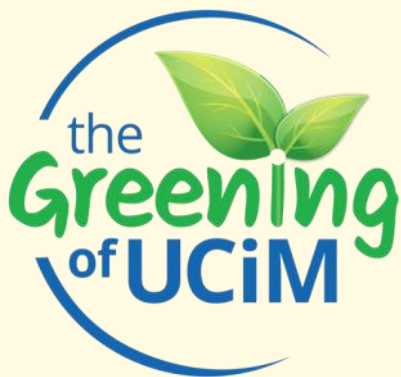


## 2024: Zero Carbon Emissions



By installing a geothermal (ground source) heating/cooling system, UCiM is now fossil fuel free. A 2 kilometre underground loop and 5 heat pumps provide the heat we need to warm the church in the winter and extract excess heat from the building in the summer.

With new electric hot water heating we have reduced our annual Green House Gas emissions from 19.5 tonnes per year to ZERO!



This project is formative in the congregation identifying itself as a Green Leader for the community and is a tangible way that people have taken action to mitigate against climate change.

### UCiM is a vibrant community

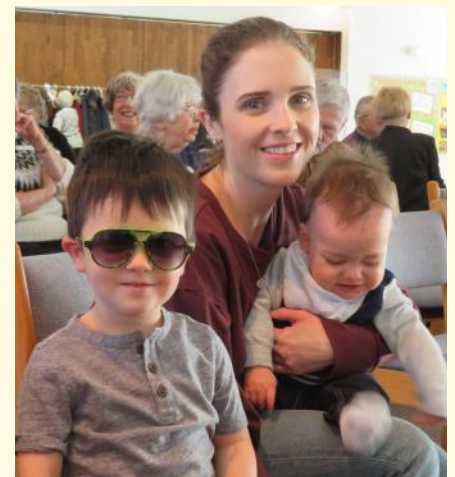
of believers, bearing witness to the love of God to a world in great need. We are actively loving our neighbours in the ways that Jesus taught.

We provide hospitality inside and outside of the building, a safe place to explore life's questions, worship which connects us to the God who made us and nurture for friendships that are deep and lasting.

### Welcoming people by meeting their needs

Throughout the year we effectively greeted many newcomers: those attending worship in person, joining in with one of the many programs we offer for all ages or attending one of our special events.

People came to us seeking refuge from loneliness, a family to care for them, support during tough financial times, and a safe place to be authentic to their gender expression.





*UCiM congratulated in MB Legislature*

The Greening Steering Committee, formed in 2023, guided the Geothermal project. There was considerable expertise among the Task Group members who carried out the work: Communication, Finance, Fundraising, Construction. (see page 11 for names). We navigated successfully through our mis-steps as we tackled something brand new.

**We wowed the skeptics: meeting 2024 deadline and with a surplus!**

The cost of the project grew about 14% over the budget established in September 2023, not unreasonable with a project this size. Reasons include inflation, estimating errors and an unexpected requirement to upgrade our electric service from Manitoba Hydro. **Fundraising was able to keep up** with the increases and it is expected that the project will end with a small surplus.

The unexpected Hydro work caused delays. A wonderful celebration was held in October, though the system didn't come online until November. Because of

the changing climate, we had a very warm fall and managed without a main heat source. This is a sad reality! Official commissioning was December 24, 2024.

We are grateful for the **many partners**. Without them we wouldn't have succeeded. United Church of Canada: General Council (\$150,000 bridge loan), Prairie to Pine Region (\$50,000 grant), Faithful Footprints (\$30,000 grant); and funding from Efficiency Manitoba, Province of Manitoba, City of Winnipeg, Cropro and Trottier Foundations.

A thorough communication plan kept the congregation informed: videos, presentations, phone tree, Q&A sessions. There was good coverage in the Free Press and a lot of interest in the community and among building users.

Construction began in July. Oversight was more complex than anticipated with 5 contractors and Hydro to coordinate. Thanks to a grant, a comprehensive **Research Study** report, due in 2025, will chart the many lessons learned and help

*Whoever you are,  
Just as you are,  
God loves you.  
No Exceptions.*

This report presents snapshots of our 2024 Story. More detailed reports are available at [ucim.org](http://ucim.org) or through the office.

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**2024 Fundraisers**  
Time & Talent, , Walkathon, Steel Orchestra, Quilting Retreat



An Affirming Ministry of The United Church of Canada



*Black Water: A Memoir*  
David A. Robertson,  
Cree Author

.....  
*We are all Treaty People*  
Karine Duhamel, Treaty  
Commission

.....  
*Bannock and Stories*  
Connie Budd, Cree United  
Church Minister and Elder

Drawing on its long standing engagement with social justice, UCIM continued work on Reconciliation: with Earth, with our colonial theology, with racism and homo/trans phobia and among Nations.

Some of the concrete actions taken:

Staff and some congregants attended 2 aday **Reconciliation Gathering**, deepening understanding and commitment to action.

Begun to learn and use Indigenous names for the nations recognized in Treaty One Land Acknowledgement:  
**Anishinaabeg, Anishininewuk, Dakota Oyate, Denesaline, Nehethowuk.**

Spent **a day on the land at Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre** learning from Métis Elder Jamie Topp. A joint project with Charleswood United Church.

The Good Book Club, First Edition: **3 books by Indigenous authors**

**Reconciliation Team took leadership** with Lunch and Learn events and workshops to hear directly from Indigenous people. There was good attendance from the broader community.

## Reconciliation woven throughout

It is hard work, and not always comfortable. **Some would rather it didn't happen.**

Yet, the commitment to repenting of theological positions that are the backbone of domination and colonial actions grew. It was evident in

worship and reflection throughout the life of the congregation. Jesus often taught on roads, and he joins us on this one.

*Jesus, the  
Word made  
flesh, to  
reconcile  
and make  
new*

UCC Creed

# Reconciliation

*Visit to IJustCity Pimicikamak Centre*





# Worship Ministries

**Worship draws us together and sends us out for ministry in the world.**

It was another year of creative, dynamic worship coordinated by our talented minister **Caryn Douglas**, with the support of our energetic Music Director, **Jeremy Vallance**. A great team.

Services are relaxed and fun yet also provide for deep reflection and expression of commitment. Worship is drawing people to the congregation, attracted by the contemporary message in

preaching, prayers and music, all rooted in the revolutionary ministry of Jesus and the prophetic tradition he claimed as his own. People feel inspired, stretched and informed. The Outreach Committee and Reconciliation Team used Sunday worship to grow the congregation's awareness and action on issues.

There was growth in the choir, numerically (32 members) and in the range and quality of their contribution: all without compromising the FUN.



Regular **Care Home Services**, in 3 facilities monthly, were led by **Margot MacInnes** and **Marcia Passmore**. (Photo right with congregant **Bob James**, resident at Golden Links). Other volunteers joined occasionally.

**Dane Dwarka's** work as Streaming Facilitator and coordinator of volunteers in the AV booth (photo left with **John Douglas**) has continued to assure good production qualities. Visioning for improving sound and upgrading cameras resulted in recommendations to the Board.



annual average in person attendance 109

.....  
5 congregations met at UCiM for Good Friday

.....  
155 on line views of choir's Christmas music service

*Committed to inclusion and diversity, worship is engaging, and conveys God's love and grace.*

A video of The United Church Creed UCiM made in 2021 has had **thousands of views on youtube**: an example of our digital worship outreach. Making livestreaming for funerals and Celebrations of Life available regularly broadened this ministry. These are an important aspect of our worship life together: assurance that God is with us “in life, in death, in life beyond death.” A Scattering of Ashes for Barb Strong was conducted in the **Serenity Memorial Garden**.



*Worship in house, on-line and in the community*

Working behind the scenes with image and visual presentations are **Sandy Katrynuik**, our Office Administrator, and **Linda Watson**, Communications.

**Some highlights**

Summer leadership and coverage during the minister’s absence was provided by congregational members, **Jeri Bjornson** (retired Ministry Personnel Covenanted with UCiM), **Hope Mattus** and **Marcia Passmore**.

A collaborative **Good Friday service** with Trinity, St Mary’s Road, Churchill Park and Fort Garry United Churches, drew 200 people with a large massed choir. (photo above)

The 3rd annual Paper Bag Pageant and **special music** for Mardi Gras, an Advent Sunday and Christmas Eve enriched worship.

**Lay leadership** in worship was impressive: Reconciliation Team, Outreach Committee, Memorial Fund and Congregational Life Committee, choir and many individuals.

Connection and community were built through services like **Holy Humour** Sunday, the annual New Years **Love Buns** Celebration, New Members and Baptisms.

*to bear witness to God’s love in vibrant worship*

**Baptisms**

**Connor Garth Glover**  
*(Jarad and Kari Glover)*

**Carol Oppermann**

**Erika Rodeck**

*By Profession of Faith*

**Carol Oppermann**

**Art Penner**

**Erika Rodeck**

**Jerry Semchyshyn**

**New Members**

*By Transfer*

**Patti Banks**

**John Hes**

**Heather Kielniak**

**Kathy MacDonald**

**Helen McKenzie**

**Celia Penner**

**Rosemary Pugsley**

**Sharon Stanier**

**Linda Watson**

**Heather Wood**

**In Memoriam**

**Andy Alexiuk**

**Richard Archer**

**Marcella Bearden**

**Helen Bragg**

**Sandi Godard**

**Georgiana Hodges**

**Shirley Koroluk**

**Lorraine MacLeod**

**Genevieve Manikel**

**William Schroeder**

**Cam Smith**

**Myrna Tole**

**Maira Wetmore**

**Wayne Worth**



**Erica Werboweski and Derek McIntyre**

*Life Passages*



## Earthsong : singing for connection

There was steady attention to the mission to equip the UCIM community for faith filled living and service by providing learning opportunities for all ages.

**Earthsong**, a week long singing camp for youth and adults was a new Greening Project. More than 40 participants established a safe, welcoming place to sing for the earth, build connections and be re-

energized. It was FUN. **Jeremy Vallance** was the music lead, supported by **Evan Miles**. Diaconal Ministers Karen Tjaden and Lynda Trono, along with Caryn Douglas rounded out the planning team. A grant from The Barb Elliott Fund for Innovative Diaconal Ministry helped to keep the program affordable. Participants came from BC, Nova Scotia and all over Manitoba.

65 smiling faces at Intergenerational event Cookies and Carols

24 Camp Meadowood campers

2 Pastoral Care Workshops: Family Addictions, Caring for the Caregiver

16 readers at The Good Book Club

# Educational Ministries

*Learning for all ages : skill and community*

The usual breadth of programs for children, youth and families continued with leadership from staff and many volunteers.

**Messy Church**, an active monthly Friday evening program for all ages. **Cradle Roll** and **Lambs' Corner**: Sunday support families with little ones. **Camp Meadowood**, a week long, full day camp for children ages 4 to 10, was a great success again. It is an important tool for leadership development.



Experimenting with the delivery of **Children's Church and Teen Programs** continued, responding to the age of children and the irregular pattern of attendance as families balance other activities on Sundays.

**CONNECT!** was created for pre-teens and Youth Coordinator, **Chelsea Sosiak's** work realigned to support it. Teen events were held less frequently and involvement in the Region's youth program was strengthened.

**Bonnie Gauthier** provided some hours of staff support although the permanent position remained vacant. The Christian Education Committee provided **Duty of Care** monitoring and Children's Church coordination.

There was wide spread leadership for **adult education**: Workshops by Pastoral Care Committee and Reconciliation Team. Congregational



Life oversaw new members and baptism preparation with leadership from our minister.

The United Church Women (UCW) and Men's Group included educational components in meetings.

Support for Teen Stop Jeunesse, a local family services organization, included turkey dinners



*to serve beyond our doors and give as generously as we are able*

## Outreach into the wider community

is a continuing strength of UCiM and is integrated throughout our Committees and Groups. Work to alleviate injustice and support the vulnerable was undertaken through advocacy for long term structural change and support for immediate needs.

Support was sent to **1JustCity**, our partner in the inner city: food donations, Men's Group Chili Supper and 100 pairs of leather mitts, financial support from UCW and Outreach, home baking, Gift Card donations and over \$6,000 to the Christmas Challenge.



**Public witness** welcoming people of all genders and orientation.

**Food was collected** and delivered to the Christmas Cheer Board.

\$1255 through small change Sundays to 3 organizations

.....  
2 local schools given mittens and scarves from the Mitten Tree

.....  
Exceeded \$6,000 1JustCity Christmas Challenge goal

.....  
4 congregants help with breakfast program at Victor Wyatt school

.....  
238.8 lbs of garden produce to agencies



# Community Ministries

Through the **provision of space** in our building we supported many community activities.

Regular **user groups** include: Embers, Baby and Me, St Vital Art Group, Collège Jeanne-Sauvé Choir, Women of Note Choir, Spirit's Call Choir, Alzheimer Society, Quilters, and Meadowood Seniors Club.

*Bev Hindle travelled on the Peace Train to Ottawa lobbying for a Centre of Excellence for the study of peace.*





**Our goal: all people known by their name, experience a sincere welcome, have a relevant connection and find fellowship opportunities.**

**I am here**, read aloud book club, started to improve accessibility for people with visual impairment.

**Quick Notes**, the weekly email, is now being sent to nearly 500 people.

**8 children received a bursary for Camp**

- .....
- 388 families we keep in touch with**
- .....
- 968 electronic cards sent**

# Caring Ministries

UCiM is a busy place, but never too busy to make time to get to know someone, invite them into a group or offer care.

**Memorial Fund** placed new planters and installed a stone pathway from the courtyard to the Serenity Memorial Garden to improve access and beautify the garden for visitors.

United Church Women sent **cards to people** at times of illness, loss and celebration. Many thanks to **Donna Wowchuk**.

Pastoral Care Committee monthly contacts 35+ people by phone, cards or visits and potted plants at Easter and cookies at Christmas so they know they are **remembered by their church**.



Our minister and office administrator offered **compassionate listening** and support for those arriving at our door: congregants, visitors and strangers alike.

Gracious and generous hospitality during **Funerals/ Celebration of Life** and support to grieving families.

Men's Group and United Church Women **monthly fellowship meetings**.

**Refreshments** served before and after the service had people coming early and lingering for conversation.

**Mother's Day Tea, High Tea, Senior's Lunches, Men's Group dinners, UCW Social Events:** just some of the opportunities to be together as friends.

Through a close partnership with the **Meadowood Seniors Club**, educational, recreational and fellowship events happened for Seniors: weekly drop-in, outings, concerts, yoga, quilting.

Gift cards, bus tickets, food and socks made available to people **who come to the door** with a need.

**Longest Night/Blue Christmas** service followed by a time of caring conversations.

*Multiple groups and individuals throughout the congregation responded to the immediate and long term pastoral and social needs of the community*





## Putting our talents into action

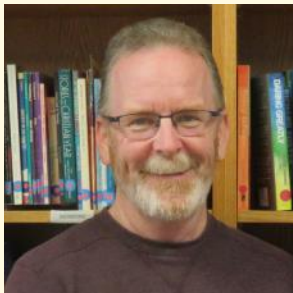
A revitalized Stewardship Team lead the **2025 Stewardship Campaign** resulting in an increase in pledges. The 2025 Budget will be presented at the Annual Meeting in April.

Three congregants shared during worship about why they support UCiM with their time and money. They were moving testimonials that UCiM is walking the talk about being welcoming, active in the community and a faithful witness to Jesus Christ.

There was an **increase in identifiable giving households** to 280 (up by 12 from 2023).

The 2024 year ended with a surplus, due to unexpected revenues, continuing vacant staff position, higher fundraising revenue and interest. Committee expenses were generally under budget.

After 15 years of consistently reliable and accurate book keeping **Jeff Grose** retired from this volunteer role. THANK YOU Jeff. Much appreciated.



Fundraising revenues, for the congregation and various groups within the congregation that have fundraisers, did not fall even though the Geothermal fundraising was underway.

## Amazing Generosity

Geothermal Project  
(as of December 31)

Donations  
**\$234,602**

**In addition to** General offerings to UCiM of **\$249,813**

Complete financial statements will be available for the Annual Meeting.

UCiM 2024 Budget	
Resources for Ministry	
Offerings	\$293,600
Fundraising	\$32,100
Other	\$21,430
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$347,130</b>
Allocation of Ministry Resources	
Worship, Learning and Service: Supplies	\$14,896
Worship, Learning and Service: Staffing	\$209,904
Building & Admin	\$73,170
Wider Mission (United Church Mission & Service Fund)	\$27,300
Local Mission	\$21,583
<b>Total</b>	<b>346,853</b>

Under the direction of the **Property Committee** there was ongoing maintenance. The sudden failure of the dishwasher brought together funding from groups within the church to replace it quickly.

There is **LED lighting** through out the building now, with incentives from Efficiency Manitoba and a donation from a congregant, further reducing our energy consumption.



# Stewardship Ministries



to share the abundant life of Jesus

Greening Steering Committee

# Leadership Ministries

UCiM has a dynamic team of volunteers and staff. Our Office Administrator, **Sandy Katrynuik** is key to effective coordination in our busy church.

The congregation celebrated a year with pianist **Evan Miles**, who moved to Toronto for further studies in Jazz. The **Ministry and Personnel** Committee provided leadership to hire **Tirian Plett**.

The **Christian Education Coordinator** position (14 hrs a

week) remained unfilled all year. **Bonnie Gauthier** was contracted for a few hours a week and the CE Committee assumed more responsibility. The search continues.

## Ministry Abounds

We acknowledge by name all those people in a designated role in our governance structures. This only represents a portion of those who contributed to the life and work of UCiM over the year.

### BOARD

- Sandy Bodnaruk**, from June
- Erin Crawford**, Chair
- Ron Eros**, Secretary, from April
- Myles Hildebrand**
- Bev Hindle**, Secretary, to April
- Angie Makumi**, from February
- Margaret-Anne Michalsky**
- Carol Oppermann**, Treasurer, from January
- Rudy Ramchandrar**, from April
- Jim Smith**

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- Ronda Eros**, Cradle Roll
- Alyssa Fehr**, from January
- Angie Makumi**, from April
- Cheryl Swanson**, assumed Chair in April

### COMMUNICATIONS

- Rachell Dolynchuk**, from April
- Pat Goss**
- Donna Kormilo**, to October
- Colleen Saydak**, from February

### CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

- Shannon Beaton**, from April
- Bev Dupasquier**, Chair, Historical Roll
- Barb Hayward**
- Andrea Hurst**
- Heather Kielniak**, from April
- Karen Lenaghan**
- Milli Paterson**, from March

### FINANCE

- Joan Bjornsson**
- Archie Campbell**, Envelopes
- Sheila Down**, Secretary, Counters
- Jeff Grose**, Bookkeeper, to December
- Gary Hyde**
- Karen Irvine**, Fund Raising
- Ali Karim**
- Margot MacInnes**, Cookbook
- Carol Oppermann**, Treasurer
- Scott Osinski**, Chair

## GREENING STEERING AND TASK GROUPS

Liz Bachmann, *Fundraising*  
Mike Balshaw, *Steering*  
Bev Beck, *Communication*  
Joy Bissoon, *Fundraising*  
Jeri Bjornson, *Communication*  
Jane Bullied, *Steering, Comm.*  
Susan Campbell, *Steering, Comm*  
Erin Crawford, *Steering Chair*  
Dane Dwarka, *Communication*  
Diane Dwarka, *Steering*  
Ron Eros, *Steering, Fundraising*  
Pat Goss, *Fundraising*  
Gail Graham, *Administrative*  
Gary Hyde, *Finance*  
Ali Karim, *Fundraising*  
Robert Gilbertson, *Graphic Design*  
Ron Kirby, *Finance, to July*  
Peter Kidd, *Steering, Construction*  
Joe Makumi, *Construction, to June*  
Mike McIlrath, *Steering, Finance*  
Margaret-Anne Michalsky, *Steering, Communication*  
Julie Nash, *Steering, Fundraising*  
Doug Purdey, *Fundraising*  
Rudy Ramchandrar, *Steering, Fundraising*

## MEMORIAL FUND TRUSTEES

Bev Beck  
Karen Bérubé  
Donna Bulow, *Chair*  
Marvie Gordon  
Helen Kirby  
Lorraine Purdey

## MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

Doug Durnin  
Donna Kormilo, *Chair*  
Kathy MacDonald, *from October*  
Kim Slack, *to September*

## NOMINATING

Erin Crawford  
Ron Eros  
Myles Hildebrand  
Jim Smith

## OUTREACH

Erin Crawford, *on leave*  
Carin Crowe  
Bev Hindle, *from April*  
Jean McIlrath, *Chair*  
Rita Taylor

## PASTORAL CARE

Edith Alexiuk

Mike Balshaw  
Jane Bullied, *Secretary*  
Susan Campbell  
Diane Dwarka, *from December*  
Marvie Gordon, *to April*  
Ann Ingalls, *Chair*  
Lynda Suderman

## PROPERTY

Bob Bulow  
Larry Gompf  
Myles Hildebrand, *from February*  
John Hes, *from April*  
Doug Purdey, *Chair*  
Jim Smith  
Dennis Titchkosky, *from September*

## RECONCILIATION TEAM

Carin Crowe  
Diane Dwarka  
Jeff Grose  
Joan Hutlet  
Stacey Milne Ciecko, *to June*

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Diane Dwarka  
Hope Mattus

## STEWARDSHIP

Joy Bissoon  
Jeri Bjornson, *from September*  
Tannis Young, *from September*

## TRUSTEES

Mike Ciecko  
Sean Crawford  
Diane Dwarka, *Chair*  
Sean Gatin  
Larissa Kanhai  
Bill McLean

## WORSHIP

Richard Ball, *from January, Chair from June*  
Jeri Bjornson, *Chair, to April*  
Gail Graham, *from January, Secretary, from April*  
Bev Hindle, *Secretary, to April*  
Margot MacInnes  
Hope Mattus  
Marcia Passmore  
Cathy Taylor, *Communion*

## GROUPS/MINISTRIES

### Choir

Kathryn Ball, Richard Ball, Joan Bjornsson, Derek Bowman, Jane Bullied, Bob Bulow, Donna Bulow, Archie Campbell, Susan Campbell, Erin Crawford, Bill Crowe, Carin Crowe, Blair Dalglish, Caryn Douglas, Cheryl Durnin, *continued*

Minister  
Caryn  
Douglas



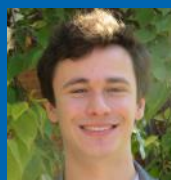
Office Administrator  
Sandy  
Katrynuik



Christian Education  
Bonnie  
Gauthier



Accompanist  
Evan Miles  
*(to Sept 2024)*



Tirian Plett  
*(from Sept 2024)*



Music Director  
Jeremy  
Vallance



Streaming  
Dane Dwarka



Communications  
Linda Watson



Youth  
Chelsea  
Sosiak



*Choir continued ... Janet Glazebrook, John Hes, Andrea Hurst, Sue Jacobsen, Heather Kielniak, Ron Kirby, Cassandra Lanyon, Donna Kormilo, Joe Makumi, Joan Marshall, Doug Purdey, Erika Rodeck, Judy Smit, Allison Swain, Linda Watson, Heather Wood*

**Communication**

*Bob Bjornsson, AV Booth  
Bert Dupasquier, AV Booth  
Nicholas Dube, AV Booth, videos  
Doug Durnin, AV Booth, Website  
Dane Dwarka, AV Booth, website, videos  
Pat Goss, Facebook  
Andrea Hurst, Electronic Sign,  
Ali Karim, AV Booth  
Ron Kirby, Database Support  
Bill Strong, AV Booth, Technology  
Cathy Taylor, Bulletin Boards*

**Gardening Group**

*Carin Crowe, Bev Hindle, Linda Huska, Conrad Lussier, Tannis Manikel, Joan Marshall, Diane Nichol, Lynda Unfried*

**Men's Group Executive**

*Doug Durnin, Chair  
Don Thorpe, Secretary  
Ali Karim, Jim Smith*

**United Church Women**

*Bev Dupasquier, Chair to June  
Alice Strong-Penner, Treasurer  
Lynda Unfried, Secretary  
Donna Wowchuk, Card Secretary*

**Ministers in Association with UCiM**

*Jeri Bjornson*

**Messy Church**

*Tyson Gauthier, Andrea Hurst, Angie Makumi, Carol Nikkel, Lynda Unfried*

**Library**

*Marnie Stimpson, Lynda Unfried*

**Children's Church**

*Blair Dalglish, Rachell Dolynchuk, Rhonda Dube, Ronda Eros, Alyssa Fehr, Wendy Friesen, Stacey Milne-Ciecko, Tyson Gauthier, Colleen Saydak, Cheryl Swanson, Zoey Swanson, Erica (Werboweski) McIntrye*

**Camp Meadowood**

*(staff & volunteers)*

*Erin Ashton, Liz Bachmann, Lee Beltran, Avery Berkowits, Sara Dias, Nicholas Dube, Rosa Dube, Ronda Eros, Jakob Godard, Jordan Godard, Andrea Hurst, Julianne Kaleta, Jemma McLean, Julie Penny, Ava Philippot, Zoey Swanson, Nancy Schneider, Chelsea Sosiak, Cathy Taylor, Lynda Unfried*

**Earthsong**

*Karen Tjaden, Lynda Trono, Andrea Hurst, Judy Smit, Cathy Taylor, Milli Paterson, Shannon Beaton, Bev Dupasquier, Carol Nikkel, Dee Dee Budgell-Short*



**The United Church  
in Meadowood**

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