

CENTRAL OKANAGAN  
UNITED CHURCH

THE  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CANADA  
CELEBRATING  
100 YEARS!



JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> 2025  
KELOWNA BC

# ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME AND GRATITUDES

LAND RECOGNITION

PASSING THE PEACE

INTROIT: "PRESENT MOMENT"

WORDS: THICH NHAT HANH, MUSIC: BARBARA SWETINA,  
© BARBARA SWETINA AND JOHN REES

CANDLE-LIGHTING

CENTERING

CALL TO WORSHIP:

(adapted from the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary service)

When the day of Pentecost came,  
they were altogether in one place.

Today, we gather in many places and ways,  
and yet we are one in heart!

Touched by the Spirit, the first disciples were enlivened.

By the Spirit, we live and thrive.

On the day of Pentecost, the church was born.

Today, we celebrate 100 years of being the United Church.

In our gathering today, we seek the Spirit's  
direction for tomorrow.

As we come together with open hearts,  
we pray for the Spirit's presence.

Come, Holy Spirit, come!

SCRIPTURE READING: ACTS 2: 1-17

WORD FOR ALL AGES:  
BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH

VIDEO GREETING

HYMN: "I AM THE CHURCH" VS 1, 3, 4  
WORDS & MUSIC: RICHARD AVERY & DONALD MARSH

DRAMA: IN THE BEGINNING

HYMN: VU 332  
"THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION"

DRAMA: UNION NIGHT IN CANADA

OPENING PRAYER:

(adapted from the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary service)

Awesome God, on Pentecost, you gave the gift  
of the Holy Spirit to an expectant and united  
church. And by your Spirit, you bring us to  
this time and place to lift our hearts, minds  
and bodies to worship you. We are diverse in  
many ways, but our hearts are one in you.  
Grant that, empowered by the Spirit, we may  
seek to honour your dream.

With grateful hearts, we gather. Amen



DRAMA: CONTROVERSY!

HYMN: VU 266  
“AMAZING GRACE” VS 1, 3, 5

DRAMA: THE PUNCH AND NELLIE SHOW

DRAMA: CONTROVERSY 2.0!

HYMN: VU 595  
“WE ARE PILGRIMS” VS 1, 2, 6, 4



**REV. LYDIA EMELIE GRUCHY**



Lydia Gruchy was the first woman to be ordained as a minister in The United Church of Canada. She was born at Asnières, France, on September 5, 1894. She was raised in France and England, and came with her family to Strasbourg, Saskatchewan, in 1913. In 1920, she received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Saskatchewan. She then studied theology at the Presbyterian College in Saskatoon (now St. Andrew's College), graduating in 1923. For several years, she served as a lay minister in the rural communities of Saskatchewan.

Gruchy sought ordination in 1926 in the newly formed United Church of Canada; her presbytery petitioned the General Council repeatedly, every two years, showing that she was already doing the work of an ordained minister and that she was clearly qualified. Gruchy was ordained by Saskatchewan Conference in 1936, the year that the Church altered the Basis of Union to allow for the ordination of women.

She served as minister's assistant at St. Andrew's United Church in Moose Jaw, then was called to Toronto to serve as secretary to the committee on the deaconess order and women workers in the United Church. Gruchy returned to pastoral work in 1943, and served at various small charges in Saskatchewan for the remainder of her career. After retirement in 1962, she settled in White Rock, BC, and became an active member of First United Church. Lydia Gruchy died on April 9, 1992. Gruchy is also the first Canadian woman to receive an honorary doctor of divinity degree, which St. Andrew's College awarded her in 1953.

INTRODUCTION TO OFFERING,  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIDEO GREETING

ANTHEM:  
“THIS IS A WINDING AND BEAUTIFUL ROAD”  
BY LINNEA GOOD. © 2017 BOREALIS MUSIC

OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

DRAMA: SAY WHAT?!

HYMN: VU 580  
“FAITH OF OUR FATHERS”

DRAMA: THE BIG BLOCKBUSTER FINALE  
PRODUCTION NUMBER

COMMISSIONING SONG:  
“WHEREVER YOU GO”  
WORDS & MUSIC BY: BARBARA SWETINA, © BARBARA SWETINA  
AND JOHN REES

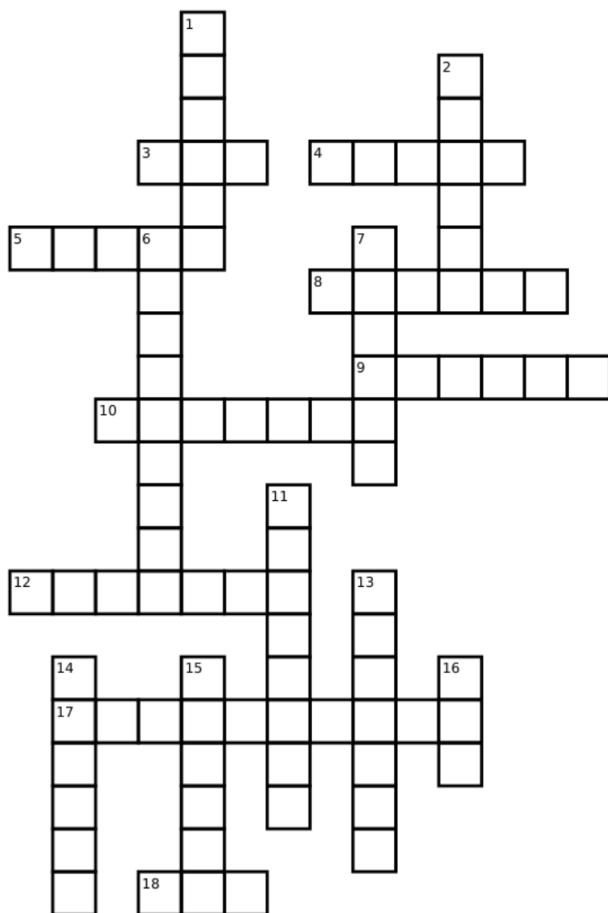


*Our Gratitude to participants in today's service:* Bryan Broughton, Rev. Heather Burton, Rev. Dr. John Burton, Rev. Linda Ervin, Ron Green, Jim Harnden, Rev. David Martyn, Rev. Bev and Ralph Milton, Rev. Cheryl Perry, Rev. Sharilynn Upsdell

*Dramatic vignettes from “Maybe One?: A Theatrical History of the United Church” were written by Scott Douglas, © Scott Douglas (revised 2015). We are grateful to Scott for allowing us to use and adapt his play with permission for this service.*

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support from The Centennial Granting Fund at The United Church of Canada Foundation which helped bring this celebration to life

# FUN & GAMES



## Down:

1. first woman ordained by the United Church in 1936
2. she is known as "the contemporary musical voice of the United Church of Canada"
6. churches sporting rainbows
7. \_\_\_\_\_ United is the red hymn book we sing from most Sundays
11. where the second General Council was held
13. where the 40th General Council was held in 2009
14. author of This United Church of Ours and he founded Wood Lake Books with partner Jim Taylor
15. Canadian Senator and first woman to be Moderator
16. theological school in BC

## Across:

3. the Women's Association (WA) and the Women's Missionary Society (WMS) merged to form this group in 1962
4. where the union of United Church took place
5. first indigenous Moderator
8. the phrase "All my relations" were added to the United Church Crest in 2012 in this language
9. post-worship necessity
10. pre-worship music
12. first Moderator
17. 1986 apology focus
18. the words on the crest read "That all may be \_\_\_\_"

# FUN & GAMES

## TRIVIAL PURSUIT

### Questions

G

What province are both the Centre for Christian Studies (where training for diaconal ministry is offered) and the Sandy-Saulteaux Aboriginal theological training centre located in?

E

Launched on September 1, 1988 this cable network broadcast a weekly United Church program, Spirit Connection, until 2008.

H

What was the name of the indigenous elder from BC who demanded the United Church make an apology for its role in colonization and the loss of Indigenous languages, culture and spirituality?

AL

The recipient of two honorary degrees, a Doctor of Sacred Letters and Doctor of Divinity, this author of the “guidebook to the United Church” has written more than 20 books including *The Gift of Story*, *Julian’s Cell*, and most recently *Well Aged: Making the Most of Your Platinum Years*.

SN

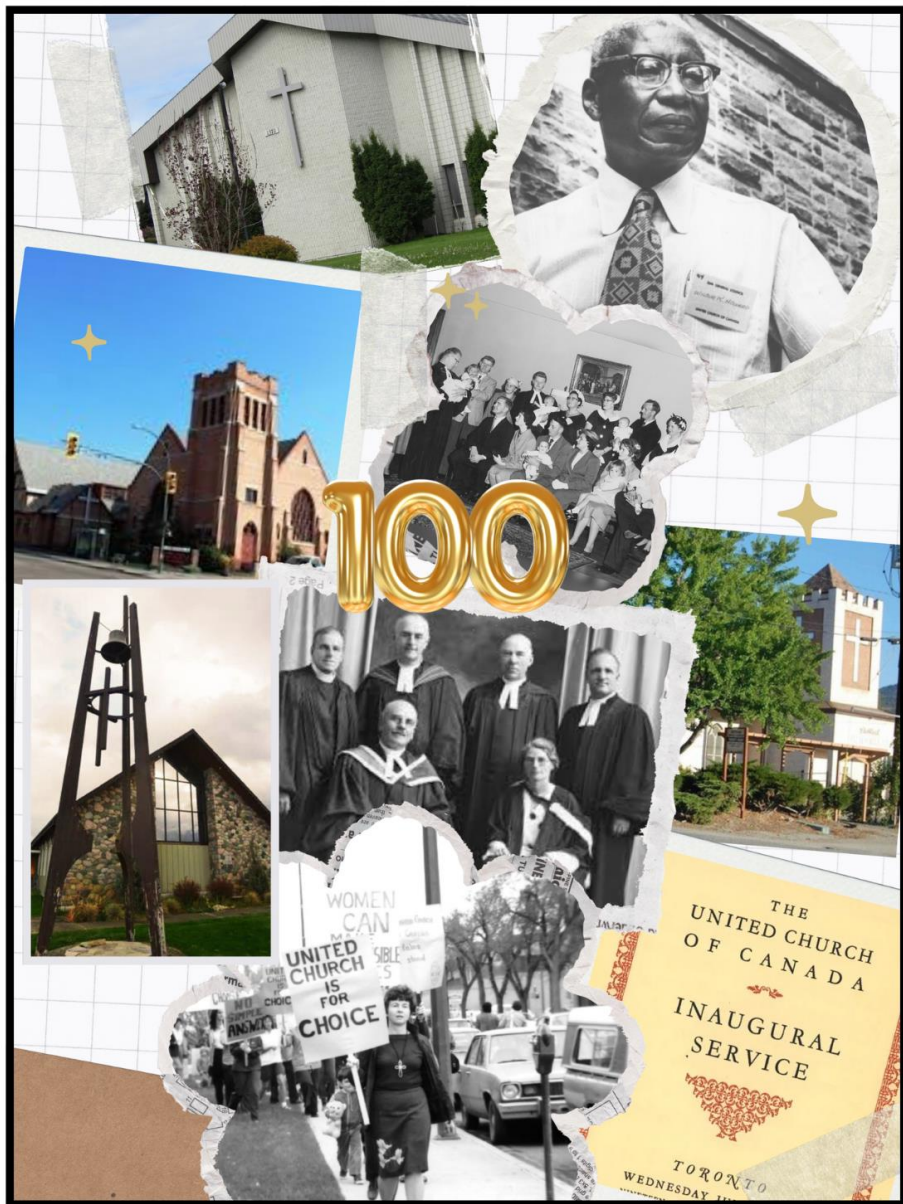
These words were added to the United Church’s “A New Creed” in 1995 to reflect a sense of responsibility to care for nature and the environment that is rooted in faith and a belief that the natural world is a gift from God.

SL

More than 7,000 people attended the inaugural service of The United Church of Canada and so it had to be held in one of these sporting venues.

ANSWER PAGE AT BACK OF  
BULLETIN

# HISTORICAL PHOTOS & MEMORIES

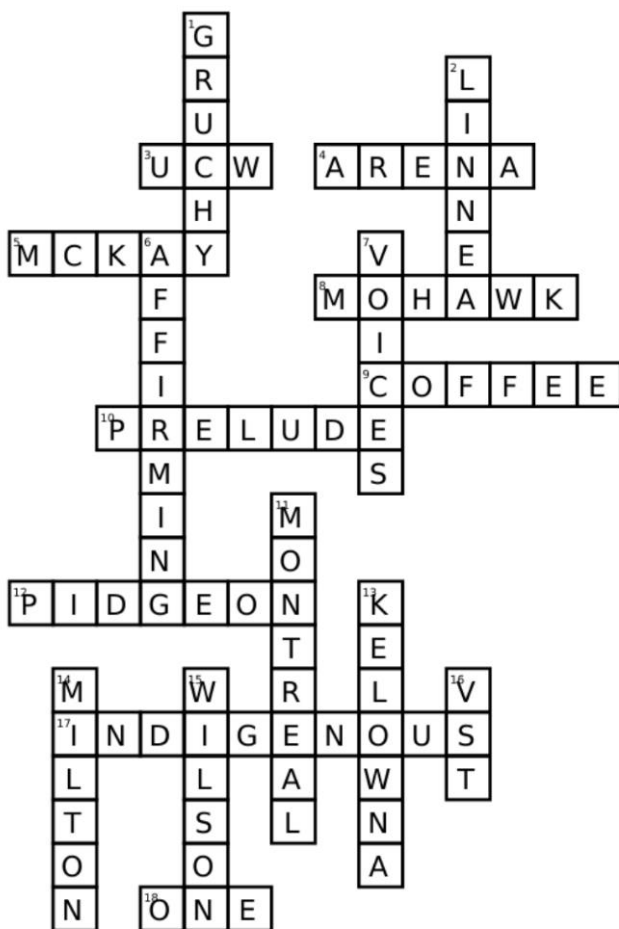


**100<sup>TH</sup>**  
1925-2025  
**ANNIVERSARY**  
Deep • Bold • Daring



# FUN & GAMES

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWER KEY



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# FUN & GAMES

## TRIVIAL PURSUIT ANSWER KEY

### *Answers*

G MANITOBA

E VISION TV

H ALBERTA BILLY

AL RALPH MILTON

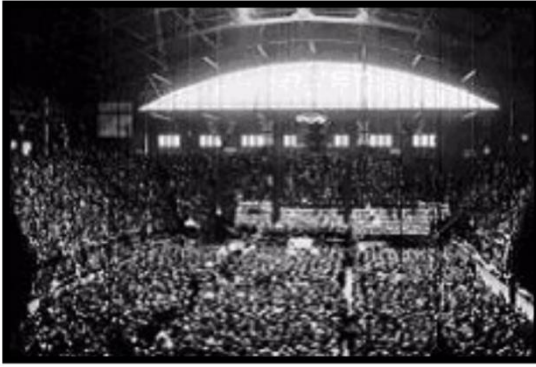
SN "TO LIVE WITH RESPECT  
IN CREATION"

SL A HOCKEY ARENA

## EARLY FORMATION OF THE UCC

The United Church of Canada (UCC; French: Église unie du Canada) is a mainline Protestant denomination that is the largest Protestant Christian denomination in Canada and the second largest Canadian Christian denomination after the Catholic Church in Canada.

The United Church was founded in 1925 as a merger of four Protestant denominations with a total combined membership of about 600,000 members: the Methodist Church (Canada), the Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec, two-thirds of the congregations of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and the Association of Local Union Churches, a movement predominantly of the three provinces of the Canadian Prairies. The Canadian Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church joined the United Church of Canada on January 1, 1968.



INAUGURAL WORSHIP JUNE 10, 1925  
MUTUAL STREET ARENA, TORONTO



INAUGURAL WORSHIP JUNE 10, 1925  
MUTUAL STREET ARENA, TORONTO

celebrating

# 100

YEARS OF THE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



**LET'S CELEBRATE!**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR WITH THESE DATES AND WATCH  
FOR MORE DETAILS OF THESE EVENTS TO CELEBRATE  
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY**

★ JUNE 10 - UCC NATIONAL 100TH  
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WORSHIP SERVICE, 6PM PST  
(WATCH PARTY AT BERNARD SITE)



★ JUNE 29 - ANNIVERSARY WORSHIP POTLUCK PICNIC  
IN THE PARK  
KNOWLES PARK (865 BERNARD AVE)

★ AUGUST 16, 7-8:30PM - PUB STYLE TRIVIA GAMES NIGHT  
PRIZES! SNACKS! COME AS A SOLO OR TEAM!

★ OCTOBER 26 - HISTORICAL ORGAN CONCERT 2PM

**100<sup>TH</sup>**  
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Deep • Bold • Daring



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