

2023 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Do good; seek justice (*Isaiah 1:17*)

SUGGESTIONS FOR CAMPUS MINISTRY

The 2023 WPCU international and Canadian resources are available to download at:
weekofprayer.ca/2023-wpcu-resources (English)
semainedepriere.ca/fr/ressources-pour-la-spuc-2023 (French)

General Introduction

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU) is an annual ecumenical celebration which traditionally takes place between January 18th (the Feast of the Confession of Saint Peter) and January 25th (the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul) in the northern hemisphere. In celebrating the WPCU, Christians around the world are invited to pray for the unity of all Christians, to reflect on Scripture together, to participate in jointly-organized ecumenical worship services and events, and to share fellowship.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Campus Ministry

We encourage you to check out the many Canadian resources, as well as further information on the international theme and materials for 2023 WPCU, available for free download on our websites: www.weekofprayer.ca / www.semainedepriere.ca.

Campus chaplains are invited to make use of these materials in a variety of ways to encourage greater awareness among students, faculty, and staff of the work of ecumenism in general and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in particular.

We encourage you to be creative in your use of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

resources! While the WPCU is normally celebrated in January each year (January 18-25 in the northern hemisphere), you may choose instead to have an event at another time that makes sense for your campus, or a series of events spread throughout the school year. This year's worship and Bible study materials focus on social justice and storytelling, and they may pair well with other events that your campus may host related to peace, justice, and reconciliation.

The following are three suggestions for using the 2023 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity materials in a campus chaplaincy context:

1. **“Eight Days of Prayer” resource**

We encourage you to use the “Eight Days of Prayer” resource, which provides materials for ongoing reflection on the relationship between justice and Christian unity, by offering worship, or Bible Study and discussion sessions, once monthly or twice a term, rather than daily over a single week.

2. **Ecumenical Worship Service / Ecumenical Celebration**

The WPCU worship service / ecumenical celebration itself may be organized for celebration on or off campus. We encourage you, if it suits your campus ministry, to reach out to your local parishes and congregations to see what WPCU celebrations are already being planned and what participation your campus ministry could have in these services and events! An *Abbreviated Order of Worship*, suitable for a campus context, is available on weekofprayer.ca/2023-wpcu-resources / semainedepriere.ca/fr/ressources-pour-la-spuc-2023 .

3. **Theology on Tap / Soup and Scripture / Informal gatherings**

You could invite a speaker or speakers* to share on the topics of ecumenism and justice to highlight the 2023 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in the informal, social gatherings you normally host, such as ‘Theology on Tap’ or ‘Soup and Scripture’. We recommend that your speaker(s) share their insights for 20-25 minutes, followed by questions, or better yet, group discussions! This may have the purpose of starting conversations about particular projects to undertake as a result of reflecting together on this year’s WPCU theme, or it may be directed simply towards raising the visibility of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the ecumenical movement overall.

**Please note that it often takes time to find the right speaker. We suggest reaching out at least 2 months in advance of your event. You may want to check in with your local ministerial group or contact Maria Simakova of The Canadian Council of Churches (simakova@councilofchurches.ca), who may be able to direct you to a speaker in your area.*