

THE WATERTON UNITED CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!!

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2017



**Summer Services June 18 to September 10
Sunday Morning Service, 10:30 a.m.**

Open A.A. Meetings Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., July & August

Special Gatherings for Peace, See Page 3

**Waterton United Church, Box 94, Waterton Park, Alberta
T0K 2M0; phone 403 859 2242. Year-Round Rentals.**

www.watertonunitedchurch.com

Secretary's email: caroluanne@gmail.com

***If you have received this letter by regular mail & have an email address, please help us to update our mailing list. Please let us know if you do not wish to remain on the list. Comments are more than welcome.**

2017 GUEST CLERGY SCHEDULE

****Note: some changes may occur.** Other choirs & guest musicians are most welcome to join us!****

MAY 21st	MR. BRYAN HUSTON, Certified lay leader, from Southminster U.C.
JUNE 18th	MRS. JOYCE TAYLOR with REV. HARRY TAYLOR, Pincher Creek And Mr. DARRYLL CROWSHOE, (Going Forward from TRC)
JUNE 25th	MRS. LISA WAITES, PhD., St. Andrew's U.C., Bow Island.
JULY 2 nd	REV. PAULINE BELL, Lethbridge.
JULY 9th	REV. DR. RANDY CROZMAN, New Minas, Nova Scotia
JULY 16 th	REV. DR. ALEX LAWSON, OUR MINISTER EMERITUS, Victoria
JULY 23rd	REV. JOYCE SASSE, Pincher Creek
JULY 30th	REV. NANCY NOURSE, Northminster U.C., Calgary
AUGUST 6th	PASTOR DR. GEORGE TAKASHIMA, Lethbridge
AUGUST 13 th	DARRELL REINE, D.L.M., Westminster United Church, Regina
AUGUST 20th	REV. GRANT DILLENBECK, Stittsville UC, Ottawa, Ontario
AUGUST 27 th	DR. ED BARDOCK, PASTORAL CHARGE SUPERVISOR and lay leader, With Milk River Choir
SEPTEMBER 3 rd	REV. DR. AUSTIN FENNELL, Lethbridge, with McKillop Choir
SEPTEMBER 10 th	MRS. MARIE BARR, D.L.M., Ogema/Bengough/Pangman Pastoral Charge, Saskatchewan (formerly of Cardston)

OPEN A.A. MEETINGS, THURS. AT 7:30 P.M. IN JULY & AUGUST.

CONCERT

JULY 15th. 7:30 p.m. Dale Ketcheson, and guests, classical and flamenco guitar and intricate jazz jam. This is Dale's 15th annual Waterton U.C. Concert! **Tickets are \$10 at the door; \$5 for students (College & University) * Refreshments. Please check web-site, Facebook, and/or watch for posters and news of other concerts, t.b.a.**

PEACE GATHERINGS: The Waterton UC Council is pleased to offer these special events again this summer, with deep appreciation extended to Mrs. Joyce Taylor, whose ideas and action made them a reality last summer.

June 18th: Going Forward from TRC (Truth and Reconciliation):

10:30a.m. Light Refreshments to follow.

Darryll Crowshoe, Joyce Taylor & Rev. Harry Taylor will lead this service. It will be an opportunity to explore issues of concern and relax together, sharing in faith and compassion. Do consider joining us, and help us spread the word!

July 8th, The Music of Peace!

Calling Local Musicians to come and jam

7:30 p.m..... Refreshments.....



Where Have All The Flowers Gone*Universal Soldier*Give Peace a Chance*Let It Begin With Me

We envision an “Open Stage” with singalongs celebrating our local musicians and our basic human yearnings for peace.



Sunday, August 13th
Japanese Taiko Drummers
of Lethbridge;
1:30 P.M. Refreshment following.

Come and hear these impressive drumming presentations in the tradition of Japan!

A BIG THANK-YOU TO ALL GUEST CHOIRS AND MUSICIANS. YOUR
MELODIES AND HARMONIES INSPIRE US!_ **And a toast of deep
appreciation is hereby extended to all accompanists!**

MESSAGE FROM PASTORAL CHARGE SUPERVISOR



Dr. Ed Bardock, Lethbridge,

(Lead clergy on August 27th with the Milk River Choir.)

Moving forward with the Waterton United Church, I am reminded of the passage from Ecclesiastes “For everything there is a season, and a time under heaven: a time to be born.....” Yes, there is a time and a season for each purpose—good news for those of us on the Church Board who often feel like we are always running short on time and there are so many things to do in making the church more inviting.

The author of Ecclesiastes helps us all to keep the events of the past several years of renovations in perspective, remembering that there were good times and challenging times and that our faith was with us and our congregational helpers through them all.

Our church was filled at our 2015 Christmas service and we saw the fruits of completing The kitchen overhaul with new cupboards, wiring and appliances. We enter 2017 with a goal of completing the renovations by improving the clergy living quarters, bathroom facilities and renewing our wiring to code standards.

What I find impressive in all of the work done for the church, both in its upkeep and contributions to the yearly services and activities, is the spirit of cooperation that exists among and between all who assist in these undertakings. As St. Francis of Assisi once said “*Remember when you leave this earth, you can take nothing you have received...only what you have given, a full heart, enriched by honest service, love, honor and courage.*” By holding to Christ’s principle of love, they demonstrate compassion for others and for the church; in upholding honor, they show respect for all who worship in a beautiful little Park church; and in courage, they give of themselves and their talents to build on what they so clearly value.

Finally, the fact that one project was completed at Christmas and a decision was made at the following Christmas, is simply a follow up to the message of faith that it is better to light one candle of hope rather than curse the darkness of despair that surrounds so much of recent global tragedies and misgivings.

For it is in the messages of the Christmas season, heard in all of our home churches, that out of a stable, out of the dry hills of Bethlehem, there comes a cry. It is the cry of a baby and it is the cry of God...the cry of every mother who has buried a child...the cry of the worker whose family suffers because of another layoff...the cry of a husband or wife whose arms are empty after years of companionship...the cry of a body in the throes of cancer or heart disease...the cry of every human heart that has suffered.

In December, when the sun is at its lowest, we may feel encumbered that we are losers of the light. But, as followers of our faith, we also know that in the revival of Spring, with all of earth's beauty coming forth, we have the assurance that we can behold the glory of God's creation and the truth of the words in our Creed...we truly are not alone.







In Faith

Dr. Ed Bardock

2016 -2017 WATERTON UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL

(Executive: Chair person: Barb Clay; Vice-Chair: Carol Cruickshank; Secretary: Carol Watt; Treasurer: Lynn Cameron-Thorpe; Presbytery Reps: Dave & Barb Colbeck; Property leaders: Dave Colbeck, Lauren & Brian Baker, Ben Hofer; Stewardship: Lou Niven.)

			
Lil Evanoff	Carol Watt	Aynsley Baker	Lynn Cameron-Thorpe
			
Doug Miller	Anne Miller	Carol Cruickshank	Lou Niven
			
Janice Smith	Mary Yvonne Hohm	Barb Clay	Barb Colbeck

	 		
Bob Clay	Dave Colbeck	Ben Hofer	Phil Ruppel
			Lettie Croskery Has graciously agreed To join our Council!!
Lauren Baker	Diane Rossetti	Dr. Ed Bardock	

Would you like to join our Council? We have a very informal structure, fewer than 5 meetings a year. Some do not attend meetings, but contribute time and talents in various areas. Each one is precious and valued for time and wisdom so freely given! Just let us know if you are interested!

AND SPECIAL THANKS to

Joyce Taylor for vision, time, & energy on the new peace gatherings; *** Jim Barlishen for reviewing the books; ***Lynn Cameron-Thorpe for taking on the Treasurer's position; Phil Ruppel for quality grounds-keeping;*** Brian Baker, Doug Miller, Dave Colbeck, Ben Hofer, Rob, and Roddy Watt for repair and care of the building; ***Barb Clay, Diane Rossetti & Aynsley Baker for on-going assistance with web-site & facebook page management; ***Lil Evanoff, Concert Pioneer and Hostess Extraordinaire;***Lauren Baker for taking the lead on the property upgrades; ***Lou Niven, for organizing the new Host/Hostess Scheduling, co-coordinating our beautiful new Honour Wall, and with Carol Watt, playing piano and/or organ; ***Bev Tilson, Lisa Lenz-Hofer, Cathy Millar, & Bob Clay, for pitching in when it comes time to clean and decorate; ***Dave Colbeck & Doug Miller for co-chairing the Property Committee; ***Doug and Anne Miller for joining so freely in the regular work; ***Christy Gustavison & Ted Harrity for their interest and support, and to all others too numerous to mention, for your generous gifts of time, counsel, and financial support. You know Who You Are!



JANICE SMITH RETIRING AS TREASURER At the AGM in January, 2017, Janice passed the Treasurer's role on to Lynn Cameron-Thorpe. We so very much appreciate the time and skill which Janice has given generously over the years, and are happy that she has chosen

to remain on Council. Happy Gardening Janice, and thank you!

In Memoriam: This year we mourn the passing of Bernie Weninger, husband of Council Member Lou Niven, and teacher, friend and mentor of so many, and of Ruth Attwell, a "keeper of the keys" for the Waterton UC for many years in the late '60s & most of the '70s.



Most recently, Rev. Dr. Cullene Bryant passed on after a very short illness. She was minister in Pincher Creek years ago, author of two of the books we have available, and one of our treasured guest clergy (you can see her message in the 2016 newsletter on-line).

We extend Love and prayer for peaceful healing to all those suffering illness and loss. May we not feel alone as we walk in the valley of the shadow. In the timeless words of Psalm 139: 10 -11: *"If I take the wings of the morning, and follow to the uttermost parts of the earth, still Thou art with me."*

Please let us know if we can help in any way!



OUR FIRST HONOUR WALL IS NEARING

COMPLETION.... Our special 2011, 50th anniversary project, a **Wall of Honour, Celebrating Friends of Waterton, past and present**, is so close to being full that we have purchased another wall for future use. We know that Waterton is beloved by many, many people. With this in mind, we have installed a wall of names (on plaques, \$100 each.) (Each plaque = approx. 2 inches by 5 inches, with black lettering on a gold background. One or two names can be on one plaque, or e.g. "The John Doe Family".) **If you know of someone you wish to honour, or wish to purchase a plaque for yourself, please email Lou Niven at mary3niven@gmail.com or call 403 628 2036 or 403 627 7963.**

We are also building a "Treasure Album" which will be kept on a table underneath the Wall. The album is intended to hold a record of bios/photos/memories, of the friends of the Waterton UC. (The pages in the album will be in alphabetical order, although the plaques on the Wall cannot be alphabetical.) If you have purchased one or more plaques, please send a **page for each plaque** at your earliest convenience, by email, or by regular mail to the Church address

(see page 1). We look forward to building this Album and send thanks to those of you who have already contributed.

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Weddings, meetings, occasional workshops, retreats and youth group sleep-overs are all part of the life of the church. Community use is welcome. We are happy to be available year-round. We can't guarantee fair weather outside, but inside, there is sanctuary!

CURRENT FEE SCHEDULE: Weddings, including "rain checks" - \$250
Workshops and Meetings - \$150/day or \$75 for a half day
Church Group Sleep-over - \$100
Study Leave stay over - \$20/person/night.
(Prices subject to change)

FINANCIAL HEALTH: We continue to manage to balance our modest budget, thanks to the help of generous supporters and the Mission Support Grant from the United Church of Canada, which is in the process of re-organizing and altering some ways of operating. One result of these changes will be that **the Mission Support Grant will no longer be available for us after this year.** We are also currently completing the up-grade in the suite. **Any donations that you have been able to provide in the past have been deeply appreciated. With your continued assistance, we hope to continue the welcoming work of this little church well into the future.**
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REMINDER OF BOOKS and CALENDARS FOR SALE: Check out:

- "HISTORY OF THE WATERTON UNITED CHURCH" was compiled so ably a few years ago by JIM GEORGE. This is a loose leaf binder "work in progress". If you have stories to share we would be very pleased to add them. For example, Ruth Attwell's recollections were added during the Anniversary celebrations in 2011.
(\$18 plus mailing costs if needed.)
- **OUR PERPETUAL CALENDAR:** Through the seasons in Waterton, photos donated by Council Members, \$10...works well for records, birthdays, recorded memories...
- **"TWISTS, TURNS AND TRAVELS IN MY WALK WITH GOD"**
by Rev. James Tyler,\$15.
- **"IN THE DRY WOODS" and "LLAMAS IN THE SNOW"**
by Rev. Dr. Cullene Bryant, \$15.

- **“LIGHT A PENNY CANDLE” by Rev. Dr. Alex Lawson**, a collection of Alex’s favorite Christmas and Easter sermons. \$17. Alex is now compiling C.D.s with additional favourite sermons...current email - dralexlawson@shaw.ca / ph.250 383 1880.
 - CDs of original music by Musician and Guest Clergy Lisa Waites, \$15
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Highlights of 2016-early 2017

*****GUEST CLERGY**** 2016 was the 15th summer of organizing our active season with a series of gifted and energetic clergy and lay leaders who each took a week or two to lead for us. The bookings came in early. We have a simple, transparent system in place: dates are recorded as the requests come in. **Special thanks are extended at time of this writing (May, 2017) to everyone who contributed last summer.** Each year sees some changes, some new leaders, several returning. **We appreciate the contribution that has been made by each guest clergy**, whether they are returning in a specific season or not. **Next year’s bookings are a work in progress: To Whom It May Concern: Call or email soon!**

******“MAY LONG WEEK-END” OPENING SERVICE, 2016,** For **the fifth year** in a row, we were pleased to have Bryan Huston return to lead our Sunday morning service on the May Long Week-end. A warm welcoming fellowship followed.

YOUTH GROUPS gathered to focus on outdoor winter activities several times. Many enthusiastic comments were reported about these rental activities.

UPGRADING: After installing new kitchen cupboards and appliances late in 2015, we took a break through 2016. The long envisioned suite renovations are currently a work in progress. (See Supervisor’s message, p. 4).



SEPTEMBER 18th, REV. HARRY TAYLOR, extra service: Because one of our peace gatherings was scheduled for September 25th (planned to coincide with the Waterton Wildlife Festival), Rev. Taylor graciously agreed to lead a Sunday morning service on September 18th. This provided continuity between September 11th and September 25th. (Traditionally the second Sunday in September is the last regular service of our summer season). Thank you for filling in, Harry!



2016 PEACE GATHERINGS

Mrs. Joyce Taylor, retired social worker, volunteered to help co-ordinate **three “gatherings for peace”**. These were envisioned and organized around special events.

1. Canada Day and **the International Peace Park** (Waterton-Glacier) (in early July). Local historian, Chris Morrison, reviewed the history of the Peace Park, which was followed by the singing of poignant songs of peace led by local musicians Roddy Watt and Bruce Madge. A small group of a dozen or so attended, leaving with smiles and positive comments.

2. In early August, **remembering the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki**, we sponsored a performance by the Taiko Japanese Drummers of Lethbridge with refreshments of sushi and Japanese desserts. The drummers performed outside the church, around two dozen were seated and dozens of National Park visitors stopped on their way by, joining in applause after each selection.

3. In late September, Joyce led a worship service featuring the **U N International Day of Peace and finding peace in Nature** with readings from our own and other Faith traditions. It was an honour to join the circle of peace created by Joyce.

Also last summer, we had the privilege of hosting a special service entitled **“Going Forward from Truth and Reconciliation”**. This was coordinated by Rev. Joyce Sasse of Pincher Creek, Anglican Archdeacon Sidney Black, and a dedicated committee of members and elders from the Pikani and Kainai Anglican Churches, (from Bocket, the Peigans and from Stand-Off, the Bloods), plus elders and members from the Springridge Mennonite Church. 80 people from the various groups and South Alberta Presbytery joined together for a powerful, poignant celebration, unified in their desire to seek progress and common purpose. In a spontaneous up-swelling of emotion and harmony during the final hymn, hands joined and bodies swayed in a huge double circle (reminiscent of *Auld Lang Syne*), in a profoundly moving time. Shared food, many smiles and much laughter ensued, along with a resolve to make this at least an annual event.

As we remember these special events, we are encouraged to go forward with similar ones in the up-coming summer season. We thank all of the generous leaders for their vision, time and energy. Note this summer’s dates on page 3. Watch for posters on the web-site (watertonunitedchurch.com), on Facebook, and at the church and around the Waterton town-site.....

CHRISTMAS SERVICE AND GATHERING: We thank Rev. James Grunden of Southminster United Church for returning as clergy leader. Many friends from

Lethbridge came on a bus again, and were joined by others who prize this annual seasonal gathering. Classic Waterton winds did not daunt the exquisite, timeless story, (but we extend thanks to Ben Hofer and Rob Watt for keeping the sidewalk access cleared, cleared, and cleared again!)..... Music, candlelight, abundant food and abiding love overflowed the sanctuary and lifted our hearts on the journey home.

The Southminster U.C. Chancel Choir, Photo by Jack and Wendy Sherman.



2017: MESSAGES FROM OUR SUMMER GUEST CLERGY

(The schedule may have occasional unavoidable changes...)



MR. BRYAN HUSTON, Licensed Lay Leader from Southminster U.C., Lethbridge, will lead the “Opening Service” on May 21st at 10:30.

His delight with the Park is reflected here, with Mount Vimy guarding the trail....For the newsletter he has written:

In 2001, I completed the Licensed Lay Worship Leader Certificate Program offered by St. Stephen’s College and since that time I have enjoyed providing pulpit supply to a number of United Churches in Southern Alberta.

This small and vital church is a sanctuary within the magnificent natural sanctuary that is Waterton National Park. Like the Park itself, the United Church of Canada welcomes all people, regardless of faith tradition. The Divine, felt in this special place, embraces all. I appreciate how a different congregation forms each week as we all are embraced in the purity of worship as people respond to the “open doors, open minds, and open hearts” of this place.

I have been fortunate to spend time in every season at the family cottage in Waterton. As life cycles along, Barbara and I now look forward to happily chaotic summers exploring the wonders of the Park with our six grand children. The legacy that we foster is a deep appreciation for this beautiful place.

Appreciation and blessing are one and the same. We sometimes say, “let’s bless the food now,” or “Bless you,” or “may this house be blessed.” Actually, we have no power to make anything more Holy than it already is. *Everything is already completely blessed*, and all the prayers in the world could not make it more blessed. We certainly could not imbue a loaf of bread or a person with more God than already lives within them. What we can do however, is to see, or appreciate the God-infused blessedness in the person or object, guaranteed by the Light that lights the world.

JUNE 18th: MRS. JOYCE TAYLOR, REV. HARRY TAYLOR **And DARRYLL CROWSHOE: *Going Forward from Truth and Reconciliation.***



On June 21st our Native neighbours spiritually celebrate the Summer Solstice (the longest daylight of the year). This calls us to reflect on the church’s relationship with Native people. One of the most significant actions of the church was the Doctrine of Discovery in the 1400’s. The Doctrine of Discovery talked about the relationship that European discoverers should have with people in newly discovered lands and the role of the church. The United Church of Canada and other churches now reject this doctrine and seek to make a new relationship with our Native neighbours. The June 18 worship service will provide information about the Doctrine of Discovery. We hope to explore the relationship between church people and Native people during the worship service and a pot luck meal after the service.

JUNE 25th: LISA WAITES, PhD, & UC Divinity Student



Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, the church is celebrating “the Great Fifty Days” of Easter. We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave (whether we understand the resurrection to be a literal or a metaphorical event), and the power of God’s self-giving love to rescue us from ourselves. But as marvelous as Easter Sunday is, it is just the beginning! The Scriptures take us on a journey of proclamation, of believing and doubting, of life-changing decisions that affected the disciples who lived in Jesus’ day, and also affect us in our place and time.

Through the cross, God invites us to participate in God’s own life. God invites us to join us on this grand

adventure of life *lived in Christ*: life lived in service to others, life spent working on behalf of God's kingdom. You see, in God's kingdom, there is true peace. No one goes hungry while others hoard their plenty. The church cares not just for neighbours, but for strangers, and even enemies. The earth is cared for, not destroyed by the greed of humanity. In God's kingdom, there is love and grace and peace enough for all.

Maybe this sounds like an impossible pipe dream, but if we look at the depth of love that God has for the world – love that was so overwhelmingly generous that God would even send his only Son to us, to teach us, and heal us, and forgive us, and show us the way back to wholeness and peace with God – then perhaps that kind of kingdom becomes a little more possible. As the famous German philosopher Goethe once said, “if everyone sweeps in front of their own house, then the whole world will be clean!” We have seen some very challenging and worrisome developments around our world in 2017, but all hope is not lost. I encourage you to do what you can to sweep the world clean through the ministry of beautiful Waterton United Church, and in the wider communities, provinces, and countries that you call home. Enjoy your time here, in these majestic mountains, and let the grandeur of creation point you to the Creator who made you, and delights in restoring your soul. May Waterton United Church be a place of solace and serenity, and may it encourage and strengthen you so that you are ready to be about the work of God's kingdom when you return home.

My family and I are so pleased that we will be able to return to Waterton United this summer. We plan to be with you the weekend of June 24-25th. Since our last visit, I completed my studies in theology and music at the Institute for Worship Studies, and I received my doctoral degree from IWS last June. I thought my studies were coming to a close, but the United Church has asked me to take a diploma in Denominational Studies, so I am back to the books, and will be heading to summer school at VST in July and August this year. I am a Candidate for Ordination, and I am presently serving as the student minister of St. Andrew's United Church in Bow Island.

Blessings, Dr. Lisa Waites and family



JULY 2nd , REV. PAULINE BELL, Lethbridge

As the strength and excitement of Easter give way to a time of wondering "what now" --- in this liminal time --- we know that we are, once again, being called to a new beginning.

As days lengthen, as air warms, as the world dresses in hues of green, we receive our spring reminder that renewal and new beginnings regularly arrive in our lives.

It is our time to search out new opportunities for our participation in the work of our families, of church families, of the wider world.

In our personal faith journeys, we pray that we are open and ready for the calls that will come our way.

However, it seems to me that the calls to new beginnings, often come quite softly --- like gently the flowing breezes of a warm late afternoon. These, I find, may well float past unnoticed. It is in the time to reflect, to be still and listen, that we hear again and heed.

So many times, our busyness hampers our very awareness of the Spirit calls.

The time and places which promote listening and reflecting are invaluable to us.

Waterton United Church is one such place. The spiritual presence radiates so strongly in Waterton, that the gentle calls appear to become much louder, clearer.

This, for me, is the special gift of time spent in Waterton United Church and Waterton community as a whole. The thought that leads to a "new beginning" seems to surface so readily when the regular demands of life are replaced with the vistas of field, mountain, and lake, with winds that blow away the habitual; we are left open and ready.

I invite you to consider the wisdom of spending time in Waterton this summer season. It may well lead to the renewal for which you long. At the very least, you will enjoy the scenery, the friendliness of the people that you meet, the break from everyday life.

At the most, you may find the liminal moment which guides the next steps of your faith journey.

"I know you will need my touch as you go; feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.

Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt, hold the hem of Jesus robe, then let it go." These words penned by Daniel Charles Damon and found in hymn 161 of More Voices, remind us that we all need renewal. They name the need to be intentional and ready for a new beginning.

What will you find in this liminal post Easter time?

JULY 9th , REV. RANDY CROZMAN, Nova Scotia. *As a Divinity student, Rev. Randy led services in the combined Waterton & Fishburn-Marr Pastoral Charge in 1975. He is the first from our history of that time to return as guest clergy, and we are honoured to welcome him "home" to Waterton, for this his third summer in a row.*



As a journeyer in Contemplative Spirituality, I am quite naturally drawn to the discipline of Mindfulness. Too many hours of too many days in my life have been spent remembering things that have happened – with way too much fretting and entirely too much regret! Similarly, I have done as much with thinking (or should I say worrying) about what's going to happen in the future. Oh, to have those sleepless nights back!! Too much stress – not enough joy! All of these thoughts seem to have taken control and 'run' my life!! Does this sound familiar to you?

Mindfulness, by way of contrast, is seeing things more clearly, and paying attention moment by moment. It is 'living in the now'. Living in the moment –or- the now is a state of active, open, intentional, non-judging attention on the present. When you are mindful, you notice what is happening – as it happens. Mindfulness creates a space, a pause in which you can respond considerably to situations, rather than react. Creative possibilities open up: new ways of *being with life's challenges* can present themselves.

I share this with you, because the practice of mindfulness has greatly enhanced the 'quality' of my life and that of many others. Research has determined also that mindfulness *shapes the brain* resulting in greater happiness, love, and wisdom and greater emotional balance in turbulent times, as well as healthier relationships, more effective actions, and greater peace of mind. Mindful people are more exuberant, more empathetic, and more secure. They have higher self-esteem, and are more accepting of their own weaknesses.

In the context of Waterton Lakes National Park, I invite you to practice, when in the park, what I call the two streams of mindfulness: interior mindfulness and exterior.

Exterior: Walking and or sitting, pay very particular attention to all that is around you (as though nothing else exists, including time). Gather it all in through your senses – sight, hearing, smelling, tasting, and touching. Do not be in a rush. Stay with each experience until it 'feels full'. . . . Next, turn your head in another direction, or walk along for a while. Take it all in again. Notice also your breathing and the sensation of mountain air in your sinuses, mouth, throat, and lungs. Note: even as you are walking take in all that 'is given'. I recommend that after your exterior mindful adventure, you spend time in silence, journal, and give thanks!

Interior: Find a reasonably quiet place, sit, be still, be comfortable . . . notice your breathing (don't judge it, nor try to change it). Just notice all about it. Feel the joy of your breath. Listen to your heart beat – its rhythm, speed and power as it sends life giving blood everywhere throughout your body. Again don't try to alter your heart's pace (you can, you know!). Just observe, just be glad. Feel the outerworld's sensations on those places where they touch your skin and hair: fresh mountain air, perhaps rain, wind, warmth of sun, or even cold temperature, the brush of a pine branch. Notice it all! Welcome it all. Be glad. Of most importance: take stock of how you're feeling . . . what is happening in your mind Recognize how is this experience speaking to your very spirit! ? ! ? Just remember: mindfulness is not a goal, it is the moment now before you. It is the awareness of *you being alive!* Enjoy! Give thanks!



JULY 16th: REV. DR. ALEX LAWSON

Minister Emeritus for Waterton United Church

Cast Your Bread Upon The Water'

In the middle of the coal mining village in which I grew up there was a rural slum called The Happy Land, a collection of rows of houses with communal dry toilets in the middle of the mud packed streets. In one of those small houses Johnnie Mackie held his Sunday School every Sunday afternoon. The kids who attended were the roughest, toughest kids in town and they ran the streets in rags. They wouldn't be welcomed in the local kirk, but on a Sunday they would go to Johnnie Mackie's Sunday School, especially on the Sunday before the Christmas Party or the picnic in the summer. The boys in the back row had a parody for every hymn that was sung. When we sang, "Follow, Follow, ...it wasn't Jesus but Rangers football team, and when we sang the old hymn, "At The Cross", it was: *"At the cross, at the cross, where we played at pitch and toss and the polisman he hunted us away, We ran and we ran till we met a polisman, and then we turned and ran the other way"*. And when we sang, "Jesus Loves Me", it was *"Jesus loves me, this I know, Johnnie Mackie tells me so"*. But we weren't being half as sacrilegious as we thought, because who else would tell us about the love of Jesus if not Johnnie Mackie? Did Johnnie Mackie ever think that one of the wildest laddies in that bunch would ever grace a pulpit in Canada? No, never on your Nellie Duff, but he cast his bread upon the water and trusted God, in his own good time, to give the increase.

One of the loveliest and most generous persons I ever knew, lived in a mining village in Fife. She was my Auntie Bell. She was everyone's Auntie Bell. When the Ice Cream man came round with his cart kids would appear from all over. Auntie Bell would say, "Give the bairns an ice cream". My mother, who was much more practical, would say, "Bell, Bell, you canny afford that. Your man isna making any more money than their faithers". But Auntie Bell would say, "Och, Nancy, I just gie oot wi the yae hand and tak in with the other". (I give out with one hand and take in with the other), and that was her philosophy of life. During the war when Canadian lads were leaving for the UK their parents would tell them, "When you go on leave, go to Scotland, and Auntie Bell will take care of you". They did. Rationing was severe, so Auntie Bell went up the street and bullied the grocer, the butcher, and the baker into giving her extra food because: "These laddies have come all the way from Canada and we need to feed them" and if they didn't help, Auntie Bell gave them her own meager rations. Those boys wrote home to Canada to say how bad the rationing was and the parents sent parcels and soon Auntie Bell had more food than anyone in the village. She gave out with the one hand and took in with the other.

It was Jesus who said, "It is more blessed to give than receive", and he told people that when they give they will receive full measure, pressed down and overflowing. He didn't say, "Give, in order to receive", he was clear about that, but nevertheless, one of the laws of God's kingdom is that the givers will receive. The generous people, the givers, will be blessed. They are the Kingdom dwellers, they are the harvest reapers, they are the children of God.

When a church has an open ministry where the ministry is offered without condition, that church will thrive and all will be blessed. Over the years I have seen narrow restrictive churches shrivel and die while the generous ones thrive: They Cast their Bread upon the Water and God, true to his promises, lets them reap the rich benefits of their sowing after many days.

May our little church in Waterton forever carry on its warm, loving, accepting ministry, as with open arms it embraces the wider community and welcomes all: Cast your bread upon the water and you will find it after many days.

Rev. Dr. Alex Lawson, Minister Emeritus



JULY 23rd, REV. JOYCE SASSE

is a retired United Church Minister who resides in Pincher Creek and does community development work and writing about rural communities and the rural church.

Her weekly Country Preacher's Notes (Blog) and Canadian Rural Church Network Newsletter can be seen at the following <http://circle-m.ca/blog> & <http://www.circle-m.ca/crcn>

There will be a time of spiritual reflection followed by fellowship and potluck lunch on Sunday, July 23, 2017, 10:30 am, at the Waterton United Church. Led by Rev. Joyce Sasse (retired minister from Pincher Creek)

Theme: "Annora Brown & the Blackfoot Connection"



“Horse – Travois”an exquisite example of Annora’s “Blackfoot Connection”

Annora Brown (1899-1987) engaged in a life-long study of the Blackfoot culture.

www.annorabrown.ca

- She was an artist (painter, illustrator and writer); an environmentalist, historian and educator; and a women’s rights champion who devoted herself to working in southwestern Alberta.
- Annora Brown worked closely with the Blackfoot people at a time when all Aboriginal cultures were being threatened with extinction by Canadian governmental policy. She preserved glimpses of their rich cultural heritage and advocated on their behalf.
- During the ‘30’s she gathered information for “*Old Man’s Garden*”, a book considered to be a classic by many conservationists and historians; the book was published a decade later.
- J.M. Dent & Sons brought Annora’s work directly into classrooms and homes with the books they published that featured her illustrations. It is estimated she completed 600 illustrations for 8 books.
- In preparation for this church service, Joyce is looking for persons who would like to discuss the background story, think about what Annora Brown’s legacy means within the context of our Christian Faith, and help plan our July 23 gathering. If you are interested, let Joyce know before June 1, 2017. jsasse@telusplanet.net

JULY 30th, Rev. Nancy Nourse, Northminster United Church, Calgary

Sabbath....when it comes to keeping the sabbath I am not very good at it. Yes I am in worship every week – and to be in community with folks is very important. But Monday – that’s my real Sabbath; intentionally taking time away from congregational responsibilities. It’s a gym day for me, and self care is important. But then, the groceries, other errands, cleaning the house, and other tasks seem to take over. What about that intentional time with God? Where does prayer and intentional reflection fit in?



Sometimes we are forced to stop. There are times when a tragedy like a death of a loved one, or a job loss, or a serious illness or disaster cause us to stop where we are and reassess things. What’s most important? Where is God in all of this? What do we need to move forward? Where is our hope?

Everything has a rhythm to it...the sunrise and sunset of each day, the seasons changing in the year, the one day of the seven day week that is for Sabbath. Work. Play. Work. Play...

I am blessed to be part of a denomination that makes space for clergy to have an extended Sabbath – a sabbatical. This summer, I will be taking three months away from my congregation to reconnect with myself, God, and my call. It will be a time to rest, reflect, play, and worship. It will be space for me to intentionally explore what’s most important in my ministry, expand my skills, and reconnect with the Holy One that give me roots and strength for all that life holds.

Waterton is part of my family’s rhythm – where we journey to annually for the same things: resting, reflecting, playing, and to worship. It’s a time to reconnect with each other, with creation, and with

God. I hope you find much value and wonder in the Sabbath time you make for yourself – whether it be in Waterton or in the rhythm of your life.

AUGUST 6th , PASTOR DR. GEORGE TAKASHIMA,: *Pastor George is retired in*



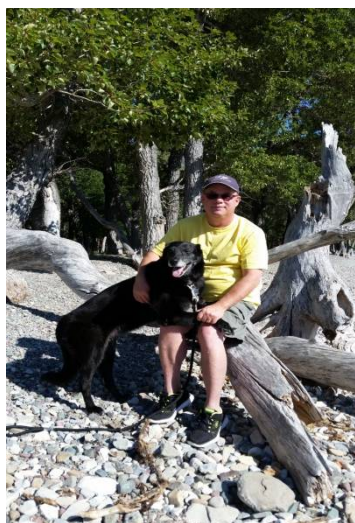
Lethbridge, most recently from Cardston-Magrath Pastoral Charge,
We live in a society where all kinds of words have been distorted . One word I think of is the word "LOVE" which has come in for a number of cheap shots. We pay lip service to the whole idea of "love" but people in general know you really cannot take it too seriously.

How desperately we need to hear again, that for people of faith, love is not simply one virtue among many others. For people of faith, love is actually the foundation, the basic yardstick for all norms of how we are to behave and act toward one another.

In my opinion, genuine love is not some kind of comfortable relationship between God and me. Nor is genuine love merely a sentiment. Genuine love is action, it is "DOING FOR OTHERS."

I think it was Matthew Fox who wrote in his book entitled "A Spirituality Named Compassion" ... "love has been exiled in the West. Part of the flight from love has been an ignorance of it, that at time borders on forgetfulness, at times repression, and at other times a conscious effort to distance it, control it and keep it down....Who can number the victims, living and dead, of the exile of love?"

For me the real question is how do we become, and continue, an authentic love in a world that has grown tired of love?



AUGUST 13th: DARRELL REINE, DLM in ministry with the people of Westminster United Church, Regina, Sask. (DLM = Designated Lay Minister).

Coming Home! As we think about coming to Waterton National Park and the Waterton United Church again this year, we feel as if we are going home. Even though we are prairie people, flatlanders we call ourselves, we find this beautiful park and the grace of the United Church here, home. The mountains, waterfalls, lakes, greenery, stones, wildlife and wildflowers, hiking trails all of this and more makes this place a sacred dwelling. The opportunity that Waterton United Church offers the few of us who are fortunate enough to provide worship leadership is a gift. A gift to be in a beautiful place where people from around the world come to enjoy not just the park but to be part of God's larger family who gather for worship.

Homes are a place of love, comfort, strength and family. We get to see familiar faces of those who work hard to keep the church's presence in the park and offering the service of worship. We get to see guests who come year after year. And we get to share in the laughter, the challenges of the world and the joy of being part of creation.

Our world is changing quickly and sometimes we don't feel even comfortable in our home communities. The factors that instill fear, discomfort, challenge and heartache takes a toll on us. We want to question everything: our governments, our neighbours, people of other cultures, our faith

communities, and even the family ethos at times. We have so many questions about life and what the rest of the world is up too, even to the point that can overwhelm us. So, sometimes, we just need to find that place we can call home. And that place is Waterton. So come home, come to the mountains, come into the deeper presence that can be found in this sacred place and rest, let go and just be.

As Karen and I along with Bella, our beloved companion come home to Waterton, our hope is to see you and share with you the life-giving hope and love that is found in the Mystery of God.
In peace, Darrell



AUGUST 20th, REV. GRANT DILLENBECK, Stittsville, UC., Ottawa

“It’s time to go to Waterton.” It has been a few years since my wife Ruth and I have been back for a visit to Alberta. We spent five very memorable and important years of our life together in Turner Valley and Black Diamond from 1985 to 1990. It was the first pastoral charge I served in my ministry and Ruth also calls it our “five year honeymoon”, as we arrived in Turner Valley just a few weeks after we were married. We are looking forward to seeing friends from the past and also to spending time in the mountains, especially Waterton, which is one of our favourite places. This will be the fourth time we have spent a part of our summer at Waterton United Church. We have many fond memories, and funny stories from past visits. (Ask Ruth about the deer in the church!) I just need to make sure I get in some hiking before we arrive so I can make it up Bears’ Hump without being too winded! We presently live in Stittsville, which is a fast-growing community in the west end of Ottawa. Ruth continues to teach Palliative Care at Algonquin College in Ottawa, and we both keep busy in our very active congregation. The gospel lectionary reading for the Sunday we will be in Waterton, August 20, is Matthew 15:10-28. It includes the account of the woman who challenged Jesus on the issue of prejudice. I hope you will take the time to read and think about this very powerful passage as I will be reflecting on it during the worship service. With all that is happening in our world today, this passage may help open some windows of wisdom for us. We look forward to seeing you in August. Many blessings.
Grant Dillenbeck.

AUGUST 27th, DR. ED BARDOCK, PASTORAL CHARGE SUPERVISOR, LAY LEADER, With the MILK RIVER CHOIR. (Please see his message on page 4.)



SEPTEMBER 3rd: REV. DR. AUSTIN FENNEL Lethbridge.
with the McKillop U.C. Choir

Rev. Dr. Bob Elliott, Superintendent of Home Missions for Southern Alberta, played an important role in helping Waterton United Church flourish. He enabled a student minister to be appointed to serve the congregation during summer months. While I was never appointed to the role, I was under his supervision while a student minister in Saskatchewan. The student arrived in the spring at the end of his/her semester in College and

remained until the fall when classes resumed. Bob expected the local congregation to provide some of the salary, travel allowance and means of travel plus housing. If the local church could not raise enough money to meet these expenses, he saw that the Home Missions Board would supplement the amount needed.. Bob was so committed to Waterton United Church, that he also saw that this church become a special case to provide funds for upkeep of the its building. Unlike many congregations, the number of families in Waterton that might be canvassed for support fluctuated with the seasons. Bob had quite a special love for Waterton United Church as was evident in conversations I had with him when I moved to Lethbridge where he was also living.

There is one incident with Bob of a personal nature that has a comic side to it. I was appointed by him to Dummer United Church as a student in the summer of 1956. At the same time, I was President of the Provincial Young Peoples Union, and Jean and I were married in June that summer. I was eligible to attend the national youth conference in St. Thomas, Ontario, so Jean and I used that trip to eastern Canada as our honeymoon. Our photo appeared in "The Observer" magazine. Bob was angry with me for being away from the Dummer charge for a two-week period. I was, he thought, behaving like other students who used their appointment as an opportunity to travel. Bob docked me two weeks' wages even though the Dummer congregation gave me leave to go to the conference. We spent the rest of the summer communicating over my misdemeanor. It was settled amicably!!



SEPTEMBER 10th MRS. MARIE BARR, Designated Lay Minister (D.LM) serving Ogema/Bengough/Pangman Pastoral Charge in Saskatchewan, (and previously a long-serving member of Cardston United Church).

"We cannot keep from singing"

"Finding ourselves in a world of beauty and mystery, of living things, diverse and interdependent, of complex patterns of growth and evolution, of subatomic particles and cosmic swirls, we sing of God the creator, the maker and Source of all that is."

From a Song of Faith

When I read our statement of faith called "A Song of Faith" and particularly the words above, I am reminded of Waterton Lakes National Park and all the gifts we receive from a visit to this jewel of nature. It is a place of renewal and rebirth. A place of quiet and contemplation. A place where Sabbath can happen. A place where one has time to be one with all creation.

God is Holy Mystery and as I move into a new stage in my life I am ever grateful for the gift this place continues to be. I retire at the end of June from paid-accountable ministry within the United Church of Canada. I will now go back to the pew and be a volunteer as I have been much of my life. I can only give thanks to all those who have walked my faith journey with me and those who will continue to do so.

As co-creators of this wonderful place we all have a responsibility to make sure it remains the jewel it is – mostly untouched and natural. As you walk the paths and climb the heights remember to leave it as you found it.

Working in Waterton for three summers before ministry, was a joy and a privilege for which I will always be grateful. Not only did I enjoy it, I was paid for that privilege. As a retired minister within the United Church of Canada, I count my time in Waterton as a definite perk. I hope to see you in the congregation during the final service this summer as we once again thank God and explore where that gratitude can take us.

"We sing of God the Spirit, faithful and untameable, who is creatively and redemptively active in the world. We sing of a church singing to continue the story of Jesus by embodying Christ's presence in the

world. We are called together by Christ as a community of broken but hopeful believers, loving what he loved, living what he taught, striving to be faithful servants of God in our time and place."

From a Song of Faith" From a Song of Faith

THE CHURCH AT LARGE

*****Have you considered subscribing to the **United Church OBSERVER**? It is the oldest, continuously published magazine in North America, and a lively way to be in touch with the United Church of Canada, from sea to sea to sea. **The Observer** is also an ideal gift for "non-church" friends who may be have questions of faith on their minds. **Subscribe@ucobserver.org** or write to 478 Huron St., Toronto, Ont. M5R 2R3.



A NOTE ABOUT THE UNITED CHURCH CREST: In 2012, the United Church Crest, which has contained symbols for the founding denominations of the United Church of Canada since 1925, was **up-dated in a tribute to aboriginal Canadians**. The traditional colours of the aboriginal medicine wheel, yellow, black, red and white, were incorporated, as were the Mohawk words for "All my relations:" *Akwe nia' tetewa : neren*. Aboriginal members of the U.C. General Council chose the Mohawk phrase as representative of them all. A long, spontaneous, standing ovation followed the passing of the motion.

More recently, **Blanket Exercises**, developed by the Ecumenical Organization, **Kairos**, have become increasingly popular across the country. They are primarily designed as educational for non First-Nations people, and are always led by a First Nations Elder. Two of the Waterton Council members were privileged to be able to attend a Blanket Exercise this April, sponsored by Blood Tribe Elders and the Mennonite Central Committee of Alberta. With prayers for peace and forgiveness, honouring the ancestors of everyone there, the exercise fostered a much deeper level of understanding that will never be forgotten. May we continue to go forward from Truth and Reconciliation in real, concrete ways, walking together with faith and compassion.

The Comprehensive review is a vital work in progress. At the last General Council in Newfoundland, various key topics were discussed, and since then a series of **Remits** have taken shape around them. Over the next year Presbyteries and/or Pastoral Charges will be discussing and ultimately voting yay or nay about each one. An example is the question of moving the church structure from a four court to a three court system, and just how that is best put in place. (Conferences and Presbyteries would be combined across the country in some way to be determined.) We look forward to being part of this re-organization as the United Church of Canada moves faithfully and prayerfully into the future.

Building and Maintaining Mission and Service Programs:

....."Please raise up the church's M&S programs and those who support them, in your prayers. People across this country and around the globe are praying, preaching, teaching, caring, healing, and creating because of your support and that of the people in your congregation. Thank you for inviting people to express their compassion, build community, and offer hope by giving to the Mission and Service of The United Church of Canada. Thank you!" (Excerpts from the Stewardship Office of the M&S Department of the United Church of Canada, Easter Message to all pastoral charges.

SBNR: The Spiritual but Not Religious: Have you heard of these folks? More and more people identify in this way. The advice of one Observer writer is to: engage with them and welcome them into community, expressing the love of Jesus Christ, and listening.

Have you heard of ***Eckhart Tolle T.V..?*** Eckhart is an academic and theological scholar who recommends learning how to live in the present moment. Quoting from the teachings of Jesus and of the Buddha and many other writers, he clarifies the common links between them, and helps countless people free themselves from anxiety and worry. By focusing totally on one's breathing for a few minutes, or the beauty of a flower or a sunset, beginners can start to acquire this freeing balance and tranquility. Try it, you might like it! Of course he has two main books available, *The Power of Now* and *A New Earth*, but to watch him in person is to be able to appreciate his delightful combination of wisdom, compassion, humility, and humour.

MESSAGE FROM WATERTON UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL:

We appreciate many people at all levels of the United Church of Canada for the on-going support and encouragement consistently offered to this “faith family” and to the visitors who pass through and find sanctuary. Heartfelt thanks are extended to all who have supported so generously in our goal of maintaining our finances as we undertook several up-grading projects. Each one of you is a blessing in this little church. May we continue to offer sanctuary and solace to all who enter in, and to those who cherish memories of doing so.

“What does the Lord require of us, but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God?” Micah VI: 8

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You, the Lord Make His Face to Shine Upon You,, and Be Gracious Unto You, the Lord lift up His Countenance Upon You, and Give You Peace.”The Aaronic Blessing, Numbers VI, 24 – 26

Be Still, and Know That I Am God!.....Psalm 46:10, King James Version.



Sofa & Vimy Reflection