

THE WATERTON UNITED CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!!

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2018



**Summer Services June 17th to September 9th
Sunday Morning Service, 10:30 a.m.**

**Open A.A. Meetings Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., July & August
Special Gatherings for Peace, TBA**

**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. Every Blessing to you!

2018 GUEST CLERGY SCHEDULE

2Note: some changes may occur.** Other choirs & guest musicians are most welcome to join us!****

MAY 20th.....BRYAN HUSTON, Certified Lay Leader, Southminster UC

JUNE 17th & 24thREV. DR. ALEX LAWSON, Victoria (pot luck lunch on 24th)

JULY 1stMRS. MARIE BARR, Retired DLM

JULY 8th MRS. EVA STANLEY, DLM, Japanese United, Lethbridge

JULY 15thREV. FRANK LEWIS, Kootenay Presbytery.

JULY 22ndMR. DARRELL REINE, DLM, Westminster UC, Regina

JULY 29thREV. PAULINE BELL, Lethbridge

AUGUST 5th CAROL MANY CHIEF, Certified Lay Leader, Kainai First Nation, leading the 3rd annual “Going Forward from Truth and Reconciliation” special service, including a pot luck luncheon.

AUGUST 12thREV. NANCY NOURSE, Northminster UC, Calgary

AUGUST 19th PASTOR GEORGE TAKASHIMA, Retired DLM & Japanese-First-St.Andrew’s Cardston, combined choir!

AUGUST 26thDR. ED BARDOCK, SUPERVISOR & LAY LEADER & Milk River UC Choir.

SEPTEMBER 2nd..... REV. DR. AUSTIN FENNELL, Lethbridge, & McKillop UC Choir

SEPTEMBER 9th MRS. MARJORIE LATIMER, Lay Leader, Pincher Creek

(DLM = Designated Lay Minister).

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

CONCERT!!! JUNE 23rd: 7:30 p.m. Dale Ketcheson, Sheena Lawson, & guests, classical and flamenco guitar and intricate jazz jam. This will be Dale’s 16th annual Waterton UC Concert, and Sheena has the voice of an angel! Tickets are \$10 at the door; \$5 for students (College & University) * Refreshments.

Please check web-site, (watertonunitedchurch.com) Facebook, and/or watch for posters and news of concerts & peace gatherings, 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 for her vision, time and skill.

July 7th, 3rd Annual “The Music of Peace, Musicians’ Jam”. Everyone Welcome to join in to play, sing along, or just enjoy... 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.

August 5th: 3rd Annual “Going Forward from TRC (Truth and Reconciliation)” Special Service 10:30a.m. Pot luck lunch will follow:

REFLECTIVE CIRCLES, with Certified Lay Leader Carol Many Chief Guest Trina Eagle Tail Feathers, Artist and Teacher, will present an exercise entitled “**Healing Dolls**”

Pot luck luncheon

and BLACK HORSE DRUM GROUP!

(Tyler Chief Calf, Mark Brave Rock, Jonathon Tallman, Chad Many Chief)

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

Moving forward with the Waterton United Church, I am reminded of the passage from Ecclesiastes “To 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 2017 Christmas service and we saw the fruits of completing the up-grade of wiring, insulation, and so on in the clergy living quarters. We enter 2018 with a goal of completing the exterior renovations, (replacing the cedar siding and the cedar shingles on the steeple. The colours of the new materials will be as close as possible to the existing colours.) 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, honour and courage.” By holding to Christ’s principle of love, they demonstrate compassion for others and for the church; in upholding honour, they show respect for all who worship in the 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

2017 -2018 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 CameronThorpe
			
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

			<p>Lettie Croskery Has graciously agreed To join our Council!!</p>
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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

*** Carol Cruickshank for leading the Open A.A. meetings all these years, putting up posters and providing access for various functions; *** Dave Colbeck for researching and co-ordinating options for this summer's exterior up-grades; *** Bob Clay for his work on our new "little free library"; *** Sheena Lawson for cleaning & care-taking; *** Joyce Taylor for vision, time, & energy on the new peace gatherings; *** Jim Barlishen for reviewing the books again; *** 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-ordinating our beautiful new Honour Wall, and with Carol Watt, playing piano and/or organ; *** Marge Latimer for filling in at the piano when needed. *** 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 being part of the team; *** 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!



In Memoriam: 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.

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!

2018 FEE SCHEDULE: Weddings, including “rain checks” = \$250; Workshops and Meetings = \$150/day or \$75 for a half day; Church Group Sleep-overs = \$100/day. Study Leave Sleep Overs = \$20/person/night. (Changes may occur.)

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 currently completing the up-grade, replacing 56 year old cedar shingles on the steeple and the cedar shake siding. **Any donations which you have been able to provide have been a vital part of the process and are very deeply Appreciated! With your continued assistance, we hope to continue the welcoming work of this little church well into the future.**

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, souvenir keepsakes of the Park.
 - **"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. Sadly, Dr. Cullene passed on last summer.
 - **“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, Rev. Dr. Lisa Waites, \$15
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Highlights of 2017-early 2018

*****GUEST CLERGY**” 2017 was the 15th summer of organizing our active season with a series of gifted and energetic clergy and lay leaders who each take a week or two to lead for us. The bookings come 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, 2018) 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!**caroluanne@gmail.com;403 308 6812 (secretary’s cell for texting too).
***”**MAY LONG WEEK-END” OPENING SERVICE, 2017,** For the sixth 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.

UPGRADING: The long envisioned suite reno became a reality in May and June.

Final painting has just been completed. Again, deep appreciation is extended to Lauren and Brian Baker, our “master contractors”.

2017 PEACE GATHERINGS



Retired Social Worker, Mrs. Joyce Taylor, volunteered to help co-ordinate “**gatherings for peace**”, offering outreach and fellowship to the community and to interested visitors.

On June 18th, we had the privilege of hosting our second annual special service entitled “**GOING FORWARD FROM TRUTH**”

AND RECONCILIATION”. Co-ordinators were Joyce Taylor, Rev. Harry Taylor, and Deb and Darryll Crowshoe. 30 attended, with both cultures well represented. We were honoured to have Anglican Bishop Sidney Black, of Blackfoot heritage, as our key-note speaker. Part of the focus of the service was learning about the Doctrine of Discovery, a 15th Century Papal Edict which formed the basis of much of the world-wide colonial exploration and exploitation which ensued. The United Church of Canada and other churches now reject this doctrine. We profoundly regret and have apologized for these decisions and practices. We are committed to the many ways now opening to us to help make amends and to be truly part of Reconciliation. We hope to make this special service a permanent annual event, one small step forward which we can take. **And Thanks to Rev. Joyce Sasse for her vision and co-ordination of the first such event two years ago!** SECOND ANNUAL MUSICIANS’ PEACE JAM: Early in July, several guitarists led us in singing the exquisite peace songs of the sixties and eras since then.....a dozen shared in relaxed and poignant music therapy. In early August, we sponsored a RETURN PERFORMANCE BY THE TAIKO JAPANESE DRUMMERS of Lethbridge. The drummers offered classical and heritage compositions just outside the church for an hour. Around two dozen were seated and dozens of Park visitors stopped on their way by, joining in applause after each selection and partaking of offered refreshments. **As we remember these special events, we are encouraged to go forward with similar ones in the future. We thank all of the generous leaders for their vision, time and energy. Please note 2018 dates on page 3.**

THE KENOW FIRE: Historic, devastating and unprecedented in scale, the fire which ravaged large sections of Waterton Lakes National Park made national news on September 11th.

Countless people across the country were deeply affected, calling for news and reassurance for weeks. It is a miracle that no lives were lost.



Bertha Mountain, mature forest to matchsticks Photo courtesy of Crystal Diamond.

We were overwhelmed with profound gratitude for the combined efforts of the Incident Command (Waterton Park and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Service Personnel Managers, and the M.D.s of Cardston and Pincher Creek), the professional crews from far and wide, and the tireless, valiant Park staff. Ultimately, the town-site and the historic Prince of Wales Hotel survived unscathed. About half of the buildings at Canyon Church Camp were lost. **Special Thanksgiving Service:** Our Minister Emeritus, Rev. Dr. Alex Lawson, gave our numbed consciousness the inspiration to plan a service in mid October. **Minister Judith Walker**, of the Pincher Creek Pastoral Charge, generously led a special service. The Colbecks provided up-dated information about our beloved Canyon Church Camp. Thirty were in attendance. The offering (\$600) was divided 50–50 with the Camp, and we concluded the evening with a pot luck ham supper. We were truly thankful.



Healing snowfall in October, photos courtesy of Crystal Diamond.

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 value this annual seasonal gathering. Classic Waterton winds did not daunt the radiant, timeless story, (but we extend thanks to Ben Hofer and Rob Watt for keeping the sidewalk access cleared!) 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 courtesy of Jack and Wendy Sherman.

2018: MESSAGES FROM OUR SUMMER GUEST CLERGY

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



MR. BRYAN HUSTON, LICENCED LAY LEADER from Southminster UC Lethbridge, will lead the “Opening Service” on May 20th 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 17th and 24th: REV. DR. ALEX LAWSON
Minister Emeritus for Waterton United Church , Victoria.

“You go to the Bible to find Jesus, and when you go to the Bible take Jesus with you”. I find this a good guide and when I use it the God I find through Jesus is very different from the God of much of the Old Testament. The God introduced by Jesus loves me with a love that is unconditional whereas the nature of the God in the Old Testament is one who’s caring and protection must be earned thus we have the Law and the Temple. The comic saying, “God will get you”, is all too real and in their pre-Newtonian view of the world, whatever happened, good and bad, blessings and curses, came from the hand of the Lord. If we believe that the nature of God is that portrayed in the Old Testament, all of our endeavors will be designed to appease God by adapting to his will by keeping the Law or Temple Sacrifices. In the New Testament God is portrayed as a loving Father whose love is not conditional and Jesus dispels any idea that God uses natural events to punish by stating that “Your Father in heaven makes the sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous” Luke 13: 4. No need to adapt to a God of this nature.

Naturally we who are Christians want our children to grow up in this faith but most of us reward and punish our children, we criticize and we praise, and call on our children to adapt to our will. So we give our children two messages - a God who loves us without condition and parents who praise us when we adapt. Now, adapted behavior is in theological terms sinful; “Striving to be what we think we are supposed to be in order to be loved, rather than being the person God created us to be”, and in psychotherapy, adapted behavior is the source of much unhappiness, - which many would classify as Mental Illness. I don’t. These adaptations are so pervasive that they are sometimes wrongly identified as Personality types e.g. Perfectionist, but that is not who we are but who we are not, they are adaptations. Surprisingly, the Spiritual but not Religious folks have much to teach us here. When ministers set up rules - I won’t baptize your baby unless... You can’t get married here until..... Or a minister is in any way critical or judgmental in a sermon, they do not stand in the Gospel and people reject them and walk away. The services of the church must be in keeping with the God we worship who accepts us the way we are; just as I am. The Church needs to teach people parenting skills in keeping with the New Testament. **Dr. Alex Lawson. Founder the Minto Family Life Education Centre, Moose Jaw. Chair, Family Life Saskatchewan. Pioneer Transactional Analysis in Canada. Minister Emeritus Waterton United Church**



JULY 1st: MRS. MARIE BARR, RETIRED DLM, now from Lloydminster (DLM = **Designated Lay Minister.**)

We cannot keep from singing! *“Finding ourselves in a world of beauty and mystery, of living things, diverse and i nterdependent, 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)

**JULY 8th: MRS. EVA STANLEY, DLM,
Japanese United Church, Lethbridge.**

In the early morning mist from the sea, I sit among the trees surrounding Rivendell Retreat Centre, and I think upon the importance of thin places in this world. It seems to me that Waterton International Peace Park is one of those thin places for many. Even in the unexpected and unfamiliar imperfections in this up-coming season, it will continue to be a place to wonder and a space to ponder the spiral of nature....pure and honest.

2018 will be my first year at Waterton United Church, and I am so looking forward to connecting and reconnecting with the residents and visitors during early July. What a gift for me, as this potential has persisted within my yearning list. I look with great anticipation to the moments of clarity, the flow of life, the beauty of nature, and the grandeur of the mountains. A gift for us all. Thank you!



**JULY 15th: REV. FRANK LEWIS,
Kootenay Presbytery.**

Reflection: Where Is Your Thin Place?

Here I am experiencing the great “I AM” again for the first time. Many liberal Christians may recognize the Marcus Borg phrase ‘again for the first time’ from his early writing of “Reading the Bible Again for the First Time.” And that’s what retirement has allowed for me, to experience God again from fresh perspectives. So much of my

working life had targeted ‘knowing’ a subject matter, making it concrete, making it certain, and this included God. Biblically, I’m a lot like Peter, James and John at the Transfiguration of Jesus, who tried putting Moses, Elijah and Jesus in a box. Thank God that didn’t happen.

I want to experience the God that is all around us....see God in the ‘body’ of water and the mountains that make Waterton Park holy Hear God rushing through the tamarack and spruce Smell God in the flowers and grasses ... and taste God in the wonders of all the abundance that grows for our use.

Cheers,

Frank Lewis, retired minister and loving it!

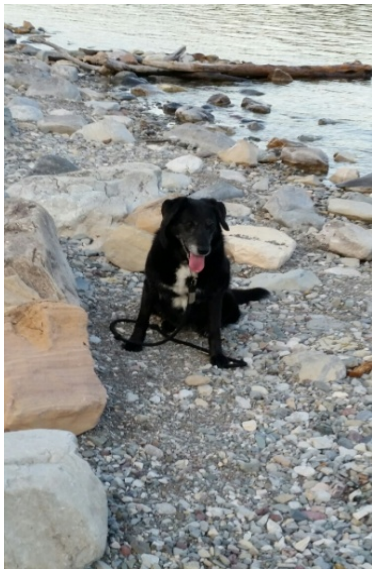
JULY 22nd : MR. DARRELL REINE, DLM, in ministry with the people of Westminster United Church, Regina, Sask. (DLM = Designated Lay Minister).



From Genesis 28:15 "Know that I am with you, and will keep you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land."

Last fall when the Kenow fire ravaged Waterton National Park, our hearts were torn and we were glued to the internet, Facebook and TV checking out how creation was surviving. At one point, I said, I almost wished I could take a Sunday off and go there, just to be there with this great landscape as it suffered the ravages of the fire. We were

extremely happy when the fire was brought under control and eventually put out. But we are anxious to see what this great park will look like as Mother Earth give birth to the newness of life.

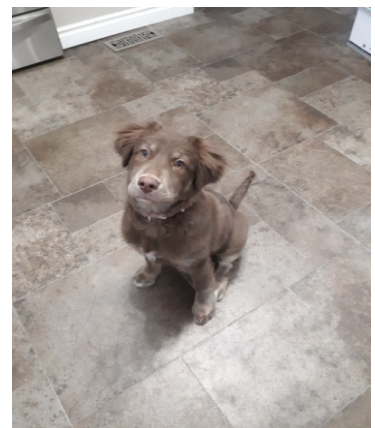


The Genesis passage reminded me that through this all, God was present with those who were fighting the fire and those supporting them. God was there with the residents and those who have summer places there. God was there with people like me who live far away but call this place home. And with anticipation, we will go back to this land, this place of wonder and beauty, this place of sanctuary and peace, to once again walk on this sacred land that has been blessed by the Indigenous peoples and by God.

Those of you who met Bella in the last three years that she came with us will find a new companion. Bella passed away from cancer on October 2, the day after she attended the *Blessing of the Animals* service. In late February, Grace

came into our lives as a 3 month old puppy and is filling the huge void left by Bella. We hope she will be as welcoming and comforting as Bella was and we welcome you to come and meet her.

We look forward to another week at Waterton, seeing the many people we have met over the 12 years we have been coming. We also give thanks for those who put their hearts and souls into maintaining and keeping this presence of the United Church there.



Blessings to All! Darrell



JULY 29th: 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?

AUGUST 5th: MRS. CAROL MANY CHIEF, Certified UC Lay Leader, Kainai (Blood) Reserve. And 3rd Annual “Going Forward from Truth and Reconciliation” special service.
See info, page 3.

As a student in waiting- for the United Church- I am honored to participate in this year’s *Living into Right Relations*. As always, nothing we can do is ever done under our own efforts, but of the Spirit, and lots of earthly angels. I would like to thank Carol Watt, and Trina Eagle Tail Feathers, who have been such a support to make this year a meaningful connection for the generations.



I work and live on the Kainai First Nation in Alberta Canada south of Lethbridge. My husband and I of 30+ years enjoy our grandkids and country living. (LOL -this year it meant lots of shovelling).

We both work, my husband drives truck and I am an RMT and proud owner of A Healthy Hope Integrated Healthcare, which helps women and families suffering from depression and the five biggest A's - abuse- addiction- anger -apathy and anxiety. We offer both residential and in-house treatment for women and the kids, and critters. As the boss I get to drive truck for fun, tend to my garden and chickens and various other critters and follow my heart to ministry. I serve clients and lead worship part time and in my transitioning I have been accepted as a discerning student to ordered ministry for the United Church of Canada. My home congregation is Southminster United in Lethbridge, and I actually worked one summer for the Serenity Spa here in the Park. I am so excited in taking this opportunity to serve in spiritual care, and only hope - God willing and the creek don't rise - to come back in the future.

I look forward to visiting and working with all of you.

Many Blessings,

Carol Many Chief.

(We give women the S>A>S>S> (Suicide Awareness Strengths and Strategies to kick life’s A.S.S (Altering Stuck States); to be B.O.L.D., B.R.A.V.E., A.R.M.D. (Addiction Recovery Massage Developments), H.O.N.E.S.T., and K.I.C.K., life back with a little P.A.I.N.T. and a lots of P.O.W.E.R. (Proving Other Women Empower Resilience).”

Carol Many Chief, RMT., HCA. & Certified UC Lay Leader

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AUGUST 12th, Rev. Nancy Nourse,

Northminster United Church, Calgary

Reflection: ...Finding the Balance

God is still speaking, and God has been doing this through creation since its dawn. There are many examples of this in the Bible...

God being a pillar of cloud in the day and fire at night in the desert.

God making the lilies even more beautiful than Solomon's robe.

The sun standing still for Joshua.

God in the thunder and wind, but also in the quiet.

The dove at Jesus' baptism.

The earthquake when Jesus died.



It's inspiring to hear these words and to then respond as Christians and as stewards of creation. Recycling, using reusable bags and energy efficient lights - examples of what many do each day.

But other times it doesn't feel so easy. Our congregation is walking distance of the oil and gas capital called downtown Calgary. We know people firsthand— some of you even – and many in your families who are financially struggling because of layoffs, and for many, your work place is stressful because of the constant threat of layoffs. Images in the news show devoted Christians protesting the expansion of pipelines as a means of caring for creation. And yet we know many faith-inspired folks who are supporting people through financial struggles due to job loss.

What is the faithful and pastoral response in this context? What is God calling us toward? How do we find the balance between care of creation, and supporting individuals in finding sustainable employment in our economy?

Just after the resurrection Jesus came to his disciples saying, "Peace be with you." He showed them his scars – visible marks of his pain and crucifixion. He invited them to touch his scars.

Creation bears the scars caused by humanity. Theologian Sallie McFague, calls the world God's body. At the very least, the world is a body that God loves. And it has its scars...clear-cut forests, plastics in the oceans, certain species disappearing. These are some of the many scars on the earth's body.

So, may we always live in awe of creation. And at the same time, may we not be afraid to touch the scars creation bears. As we discern the faithful response to preserving the environment, yet see firsthand the effects of economic challenges and the roadblocks to building oil and gas infrastructure, and as we move through the liturgical seasons and enjoy the re-creation of our changing seasons, let's respond to Jesus' invitation to pay attention to the body of God that we call the world.

What's next? Going out in hope, remembering that death did not have the last word at Easter. The new life of spring and summer comes after the coldness of winter. Healing comes to our scars – for all our bodies – and certainly with our help and faithful response, there is hope, healing, and resurrection of God's creation.

AUGUST 19th: PASTOR DR. GEORGE TAKASHIMA, with JAPANESE - FIRST UNITED - CARDSTON COMBINED CHOIR.



Pastor George is retired in Lethbridge, most recently from Cardston-Magrath Pastoral Charge.

In Paul's First Letter to the people in Corinth, he says "*for since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know Him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe*" (1Corinthians 1:21).

Ah yes, the foolishness of preaching....

God chose not to rest our salvation upon the wisdom of the world, and with good reason. Intellectual achievements only allow a person to see more of herself/himself, not more of God. "The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned." (1Corinthians 2:14).

When speaking to others about the Christian faith, Christians must resist the temptation to argue or debate about whether or not the message of the Holy Scriptures is true. Because I believe faith is a miracle, and thus we will never convince anyone to believe! We will only open for them the way of faith by speaking the divine Word to them by which the Holy Spirit enters into their hearts and minds and begins the work of faith.

Jesus said, "*Preach the good news to all creation*" (Mark, 15:15). He did NOT say "Argue the good news to all creation" or "Go and convince people that My Word is true." He told us to preach, to teach, to proclaim, to report what has happened. To many people the news of the gospel seems like foolishness. Nonetheless, this is the message God wants us to preach "*because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone.*" (Romans 1:16). Faith will never come by human wisdom. Faith comes by a miracle, carried along on "the foolishness of what was preached." By this divine foolishness, we make Christians and by this "foolishness" we ourselves are saved. Thanks be to God.

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



SEPTEMBER 2nd : REV. DR. AUSTIN FENNEL
Lethbridge. with the MCKILLOP CHOIR.

I asked the McKillop Choir in Lethbridge if they would like to help lead the worship service on September 2, 2018 again this year. Their conductor, Ken Rogers, was enthusiastic to say the choir enjoys coming to the church annually, and would be glad to come again. We never seem to quite agree whether to bring

pot-luck lunch to eat together after the service., or to share it with the congregation, or to go across to the hotel for lunch. This year that answer will likely be uncertain until about a week before we come.

The choir sang at the Christmas Carol Festival at the Salvation Army Church in December 2017, and the leader of the Carol Festival announced that the McKillop Choir would sing again September 2 at Waterton and all would be welcome to come to hear them!

It is a blessing, of course, that the church was untouched by the fire in the park last year. It means that services will be resumed early this year. It is a good thing for the services to be held. Local residents, park visitors and day visitors receive a warm welcome, and the local planning committee and the Board are dedicated to maintaining the church. Long may they be able to do so. All contributions are gratefully received. Remember to pray for the church's welfare.

SEPT. 9th: MRS. MARJORIE LATIMER, Lay Leader, Pincher Creek.

I was a lucky kid who was toted to church by my parents not long after my birth, and from then on, I snuck in under the baby boom wire which gave me scads of peers; a walloping percentage of them were church-goers. My closest friends attended church with me, or elsewhere. The "church habit" has been a good one to fall in to.

How lucky I have been, receiving gentle taps on the shoulder from God all my life. "Look around" has been the message. "See how blessed you are!" Ah yes. Every



morning I rise early. Sharing a tiny house with a German Shepherd has us both requiring space and activity as soon as possible. These mornings offer up stars or sun, depending on the season: and time to pay attention. To the south and west, there are mountains that change daily, fervent reminders that God is – sure as the dickens – with us; we are not alone!

Born and raised in Pincher Creek, I headed for the prairies and a teaching job after university. Two years ago, I returned to the foothills and mountains. Teaching at a Colony School this year has been challenging and delightful. My very ordinary life is quite extraordinary, and I remain cognizant of God's message: "How blessed you are!"

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 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 last 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 next General Council Meeting (the 43rd, in Mississauga), several significant changes in policy and structure will be ratified after the extensive process of having all Pastoral Charges (numbering 2400) and Presbyteries vote yay or nay. An example is that we will have Regional Councils replacing the existing Conferences and Presbyteries all across the country. 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 tranquillity. 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 ongoing support and encouragement consistently offered to this “faith family” and to the visitors who join us. Each one of you is a blessing in the life of this little church. May we continue to offer sanctuary and solace to all who enter in, and to those who cherish memories of having done so.

As of this writing, (May, 2018) there remains much to be learned about what will be needed in the Park in the aftermath of the Kenow Fire. For example, it may be months before it is known if some trees have survived or not. Some areas have been burned very deeply into the soil. Many are bursting with new spring growth. Some animals with impossible burn injuries had to be euthanized. Others thrive.

It should be noted that the colossal nature of the fire and its rapid advance into the near-by ranching community left the people, both there and in the Park, with feelings of post traumatic stress. Yet, before the snow flew early in October, large scale work bees, supported by the Twin Butte community and many Alberta ranchers from further afield, rallied and rebuilt as much lost infrastructure as was humanly possible. Astoundingly, no livestock were lost to the Kenow.

When communities gather like that, the unconditional love of God abounds.



Resilience and resurrection after the fire. Photo courtesy of Edwin Knox.