

**THE WATERTON UNITED CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!!**

## **ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2019**



**Summer Services June 23<sup>rd</sup> to September 8th  
Sunday Morning Service, 10:30 a.m.**

**Open AA Meetings, Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., July & August  
Special Gatherings for Peace, please see p.3.**

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

**Secretary's email: [caroluanne@gmail.com](mailto: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!

# 2019 GUEST CLERGY SCHEDULE

(2) **\*\*Note:**

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

**MAY 19<sup>th</sup> .....REV. PAULINE BELL, Lethbridge.**

**JUNE 23<sup>rd</sup> .....MRS. CAROL MANY CHIEF, DLM Divinity Student,  
Magrath.**

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual “Going Forward from TRC (Truth and Reconciliation) Special  
Service.**

**JUNE 30<sup>th</sup> .....MRS. MARIE BARR, Retired LPM, Lloydminster.**

**JULY 7<sup>th</sup> ..... MRS. ALLISON HOUSTON, Director of Music, Stittsville  
UC, Stittsville, (a Western suburb of Ottawa), Ontario.**

**JULY 14<sup>th</sup> ..... REV. BEV DIDUCK, Regina, Saskatchewan**

**JULY 21<sup>st</sup> .....EVA STANLEY, DLM, Japanese United, Lethbridge**

**JULY 28<sup>th</sup> ..... REV. PAULINE BELL, Lethbridge**

**AUGUST 4<sup>th</sup> ..... DARRELL REINE, DLM., Westminster UC, Regina**

**AUGUST 11<sup>th</sup> .....REV. NANCY NOURSE, Northminster UC, Calgary**

**AUGUST 18<sup>th</sup> .....PASTOR GEORGE TAKASHIMA, Retired DLM with the  
Japanese-First UC -St.Andrew’s Cardston, combined choir!**

**AUGUST 26<sup>th</sup> .....REV. MARION MARTIN, Diaconal Minister, Milk River  
and Raymond United Churches, with the Milk River UC Choir.**

**SEPTEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> ..... REV. DR. AUSTIN FENNELL, Lethbridge, with the  
McKillop UC Choir.**

**SEPTEMBER 8<sup>th</sup> ..... REV. FRANK LEWIS, Cranbrook, BC..**

**Please note, “DLM” stands for Designated Lay Ministers, leaders of faith who often  
come to ministry after a first or second career. Their divinity training is shorter,  
very intensive and practical, and they fill a key vital role within the UC of Canada.**

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

**CONCERT (S) !!! TBA.**

Tickets will still be \$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 and special gatherings..

**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.

**June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Annual “Going Forward from TRC (Truth and Reconciliation) Special Service** 10:30a.m. Pot luck lunch to follow. **Carol Many Chief**, DLM Divinity Student, and others, will lead this year. The Black Horse drummers will return.

**July 13<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Annual “The Music of Peace, Musician’s 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. Calling flower children of all ages....

**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*

Moving forward with the Waterton United Church, I am reminded of the passage from Ecclesiastes “To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to be born....” Yes, there is a time and 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.

We enter 2019 with major renovations and repairs completed. 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 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. We are reminded of 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.

It is the timeless message of our faith, 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, 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



















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### **2018 -2019 WATERTON UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL**

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



			
<b>Lil Evanoff</b>	<b>Carol Watt</b>	<b>Aynsley Baker</b>	<b>Lynn CameronThorpe</b>
			
<b>Rev. Pauline Bell</b>	<b>Anne Miller</b>	<b>Carol Cruickshank</b>	<b>Lou Niven</b>
			
<b>Janice Smith</b>	<b>Mary Yvonne Hohm</b>	<b>Barb Clay</b>	<b>Barb Colbeck</b>
			
<b>Bob Clay</b>	<b>Dave Colbeck</b>	<b>Ben Hofer</b>	<b>Phil Ruppel</b>



**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 peace gatherings; \*\*\* Jim Barlisen for reviewing the books; \*\*\*Lynn Cameron-Thorpe for continuing with the Treasurer’s position;\*\*\* Phil Ruppel for quality grounds-keeping;\*\*\* Brian Baker, 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 , resident guardian, \*\*\*Lou Niven, for leading the new Host/Hostess Scheduling, co-ordinating applications for our beautiful Honour Wall, and with Carol Watt, filling in as accompanist . \*\*\*Bev Tilson, Lisa Lenz-Hofer, Cathy Millar, & Bob Clay, for pitching in when it comes time to clean and decorate; \*\*\*Dave Colbeck for chairing the Property Committee;\*\*\*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 call us if you need us.** Just now, we are shocked and saddened with the loss of our Minister Emeritus, Rev. Dr. Alex Lawson, who

passed on April 30<sup>th</sup> after a sudden acute illness. There are several references in this newsletter, as we remember and honour his vital strengthening of the United Church in Waterton since 1990. We share the grief, and rejoice in his new freedom. We reach out to his family and also his vast extended “family”.



## OUR FIRST HONOUR WALL IS NEARING COMPLETION....

Our special 2011, 50<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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!**

**2019 FEE SCHEDULE:** Weddings, including “rain checks” = \$250; Workshops and Meetings = \$200/day or \$100/ half day; Church Youth Group Sleep-overs = \$100; 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. **Any donations which you have been able to provide have been a vital part of our upgrading 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.**

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**REMINDER OF BOOKS and CALENDARS FOR SALE: Check out:**

- **"HISTORY OF THE WATERTON UNITED CHURCH"** was compiled so ably some 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....( \$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.
  - "LIGHT A PENNY CANDLE" by Rev. Dr. Alex Lawson, a collection of Alex's favorite Christmas and Easter sermons. \$17.
  - CDs of original music by Musician and Guest Clergy Lisa Waites, \$15
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## Highlights of 2018-early 2019

**\*\*\*GUEST CLERGY\*\***: 2018 was the 16<sup>th</sup> summer of organizing our active season with a series of gifted and energetic clergy and lay leaders who each take a week 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, 2019) to everyone who contributed last summer.** Each year sees some changes, some new leaders, several returning. **We deeply 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](mailto:caroluanne@gmail.com); 403 308 6812 (secretary's cell for texting too).

**\*\*\*"MAY LONG WEEK-END" OPENING SERVICE, 2018,** For the seventh year in a row, we were pleased to have Bryan Huston return to ably 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:** 57 year old cedar shakes on the steeple and siding were replaced in June and July, (quality asphalt shingles on the steeple, hardieboard on the exterior walls. The dramatic event of the Kenow Fire in September of '17 raised the issue of the very high fire risk of the aging cedar.)

### **2018 PEACE GATHERINGS**



Mrs. Joyce Taylor, retired social worker, offers leadership to help coordinate "**gatherings for peace**", offering outreach and fellowship for the community and interested visitors. On August 5th, we had the privilege of hosting the third special service entitled "**GOING FORWARD FROM TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION**" DLM Student Minister, Mrs. Carol Many Chief of the Kainai First Nation, (Blood Reserve) led the third annual Special service. Carol had Educator and Artist Trina Eagle Tail Feathers as guest presenter of a healing exercise, and featured the Black Horse Drummers, (Tyler Chief Calf, Mark Brave Rock, Jonathon Tallman and



Chad Many Chief) several times, as well as her own original, Christian hymns in the indigenous style with her own drumming. There was an impressive display of art, and 40 people gathered for the service and visited and mingled at the pot luck lunch which followed.

\*\*\* The Council is committed to making this an annual event.



**Indigenous Art on Display in the Church at the TRC special service. Many thanks to the artists!**

**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. Sixteen smiling people shared in relaxed and poignant music therapy.

In September we were delighted to have the **Canyon Church Camp** host a **“Day Camp”** at the Church. Thanks to Karen Larter and several others from the Camp Committee. From many fun activities, devotion, and great food, to an “camp-fire” with music and marshmallows, it was a full, enriching day. The current status of the Camp is under discussion. Red Rock Canyon may be partly open this summer.

Our **Thanksgiving Service** was led this year by Rev. Aldeen McKay on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Another faith-affirming and happy gathering and pot luck feast in the mountains was enjoyed by 15 faithful supporters.

**Annual Christmas Candlelight Service:** Rev. Pauline Bell of Lethbridge took the lead beautifully this year. Guest musicians David Bell and Sheena and Hannah Lawson lifted our hearts with their music. 30 + attendees listened and joined in the singing as the grace and beauty of the timeless story unfolded anew, again. Pot luck fellowship and much laughter completed the gathering. The chartered bus from Lethbridge didn't happen this year, we do appreciate everyone who took part in that over the last three years. Some folks attended anyway!

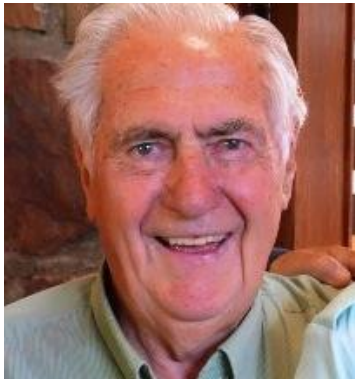
As we remember these special events, we are encouraged to go forward with similar ones in the future. **We thank all the various leaders for their generosity, wisdom, time and**

**talent shared.. Note 2019 dates on page 2.** Watch for on-going notices.  
([www.watertonunitedchurch.com](http://www.watertonunitedchurch.com) and Facebook, and around the town-site)>

**LOSING OUR MINISTER EMERITUS, REV. DR. ALEX LAWSON:** He was 93, vigorously writing his weekly “blethers” and still a healthy, active leader, when he suddenly became very ill on April 27<sup>th</sup>, and passed on the 30<sup>th</sup>. We feel bereft, but his incredible legacy will always inspire us. The number of people whom he has guided to healing and wholeness truly cannot be counted. We send our profound condolences to his family, and his many, many friends.

His obituary can be seen on the web-page of Martin Bros. in Lethbridge. A memorial in his home church in Victoria will occur on May 11<sup>th</sup>. On June 8<sup>th</sup>, at 2 p.m., Martin Bros. will host his Lethbridge Memorial. On September 8<sup>th</sup>, in the Waterton United Church, we envision a special service with Rev. Frank Lewis, in honour of Alex, to celebrate his life and legacy, his priceless gift of unconditional love to so very many, to the United Church and to the Waterton community. .

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**Photos courtesy of Cathy Lockerby, 2011.**

In April, Alex wrote:

Jesus was a radical, and nowhere was he more radical than in his portrayal of God. Until the coming of Jesus God was perceived as one who rewarded and punished his people depending on how they obeyed or disobeyed his laws. The good were rewarded with children, livestock, health, success and wealth, while the disobedient were cursed with the drowning of whole armies, the death of the first born of their families, famine, disease, and the drowning of multitudes. The people learned to adapt to the will of an all-powerful God. And in that pre-newtonian world, God controlled all of the natural elements. Along came Jesus and his disciples who taught that God was a God of love who loved us unconditionally. It was radical teaching and it launched the Christian Church with the profound message that God was a God of love. But the church wasn't ready for such a radical message. It held on to beliefs like hell, eternal punishment, the devil, and original sin and said that there was no salvation outside the Church. Salvation had to be earned. Parents also maintained the Rewards and Punishment method of child-rearing in which they had been brought up. A recent poll of Canadians showed that the majority want to be able to spank their children. A consequence of this is that children will strive for conformity and obedience which, as Virginia Satir says, “ is a fertile soil

for developing decisions and conclusions about oneself that are often detrimental". The Church needs to follow its declarations about the nature of God by teaching parents to parent their children in the image of God. God created a world of understandable laws which He does not break. It is a world of consequences, not of punishment and reward, and all family discipline must be likewise. As a Church we ought to teach our parents how to discipline by allowing consequences to have their effect. Thus, we will produce fully functional human beings who reflect the image of God.

Note. I introduced this form of parenting at Minto U.C. in Moose Jaw, in 1973 and followed it at McKillop. Thousands have attended. Dr. Alex Lawson, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **2019: MESSAGES FROM OUR SUMMER GUEST CLERGY**

**MAY 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m (Opening week-end!) REV. PAULINE BELL, Lethbridge.**



We read in Luke 24: 13, that two disciples, Cleopas and his friend, put their feet on the road to Emmaus. They just needed to walk and talk, to assimilate their understandings of what had happened to Jesus and themselves. They are bewildered, confused, hurt. They know not what to do.

When life threatens to overwhelm, sometimes one just needs to go for a walk. Whether literally or figuratively, one must reflect. From our moments of reflection come the

glimmers from the pathway of next steps.

The Emmaus journey, the time of turning away from chaos, the search for next-step ideas, is very much the journey of all who love and support both Waterton United Church, and the ministry which it offers.

When the traumatizing Kenow fire (September of '17) swept over the Divide and rushed down the Akamina and Blakiston valleys, the townsites and other key areas survived due to an incredible defence force organized by Parks Canada. When the smoke cleared away, we could see that we needed to remove the very dry old cedar on the steeple and the exterior walls of the church and install new steeple shingles and siding. This was accomplished last summer, thanks to Ed Bardock and the co-ordinated work by the Council and excellent tradesmen.

When Rev. Dr. Alex Lawson retired to Victoria, we knew that his love of Waterton and its people would be felt from afar rather than in person. Recently, we learned that we had to say good-bye to our good and faithful servant. We grieve, and send condolences to his family.

These alterations in the fabric of our life at Waterton United have very much directed us into our own Emmaus journey. We, like the disciples, need to put down our sadness and unease. We need to go for a walk. We must walk forward ... toward that which sits before us awaiting our awareness and recognition.

As we look forward, of course, we will see the face of Christ. That is our gift. The Unending Love, our Creator God, is our legacy, our companion, our destiny.



This Easter promise is our past, our present, and our future. Our connections, our relationships, will continue to be found along our pathways of ministry together. The future of Waterton UC will hold all that the Spirit can create through and with us. We are blessed! -- Rev. Pauline Bell, our Co-Supervisor.

**A very special thanks to Mr. Bryan Huston** who graciously led our Opening Service on “May Long” for seven years in a row. He also generously filled in as leader on several occasions when unforeseen cancellations arose. Bryan, a Certified Lay Leader, is retiring from preaching. We are sorry to learn this, and wish you and yours the very best, Bryan. May our trails cross frequently in Waterton. Thanks for the wonderful tradition and Blessings to you!

**JUNE 23rd: MRS. CAROL MANY CHIEF, DLM Student, St. Andrew’s, Saskatoon, Kainai Reserve. 4th Annual “Going Forward from Truth and Reconciliation” special service.**

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. &**

A Healthy Hope – Health and Wellness, a proud solution of  
Many Chief Consolidating Ltd.

403 737 2999: because hope is always healthy. [calendly.com/ahhealthyhope](http://calendly.com/ahhealthyhope)



**JUNE 30th: MRS. MARIE BARR, Retired LPM, now from  
Lloydminster (Lay Pastoral Minister.)**

**Held in Grace, touched to follow**

*God's grace holds us*

*God's love sustains us*

*God's call comes to us*

*We follow.*

Ten years ago marked a giant step in my road to ministry as I was recognized as a Lay Pastoral Minister within the United Church. At 19, I chose to look after my grandmother rather than answering God's call to paid-accountable ministry. At 37, I chose to remain as the editor/publisher of the two newspapers in Cardston and Raymond, rather than answering my call. But God does not ever give up on anyone so, at 55, I entered discernment and we decided Lay Pastoral Ministry was where I needed to be in this great church of ours. At 72, I am right where I want to be – retired and serving God in Lloydminster, AB.

Just prior to entering my three-year journey to being recognized on May 26, I worked downtown at The Evergreen on Main Street, Waterton. Answering God's call was very easy as I worked in this awe-filled park. Looking out the window daily at the lake and driving from Cardston into the park, I could not help being pushed in the direction I have always felt called. I have, for all my life, been held in grace and touched to follow – from a member and leader of Explorers and CGIT, to a Sunday School teacher, superintendent, curriculum consultant and lay worship leader – I have always been in ministry. Until entering this stream of ministry, however, it was never enough.

I had a stroke on February 19, 2019. It was a great wake up call, I can tell you I really found it eye opening! I have said I will use June 30 to see if I can do this again. I think I can to the same level but I must let you be the judges! I have the smarts and I have the voice, so I will try to show those who doubt me that I can do it again. It will be up to God! I will try my best to deliver what I did before. I think I can, so I will.

I am scared but I have been scared before and I was still able to function so I will again.

No matter what your call is – to motherhood, to store clerk, to account executive, to car mechanic – remember that God never gives up on any of us – not me, and certainly not you. I am looking forward to spending a week this summer renewing my soul among the people who live in and visit this wonder of God's creation. Please join us Saturday

night as well as Sunday mornings as we explore this wonderful journey God has placed before us.

*We are each given particular gifts of the Spirit for the sake of the world,  
God calls all followers of Jesus to Christian ministry.  
To embody God's love in the world, the work of the church  
requires the ministry and discipleship of all believers.*

*From A Song of Faith*



**JULY 7<sup>th</sup>, ALLISON HOUSTON, MUSIC DIRECTOR,**  
Stittsville United Church, Ottawa, Ontario.

**Allison is currently the Music Director, and occasional worship leader, at Stittsville United Church, (a western suburb of Ottawa.) Allison grew up in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, and is thrilled be able to lead worship close to her old stomping grounds.**

Allison grew up in the United Church of Canada, and her Grandfather was a UCC minister. Her main ministry, in church, and in life, has always been focused on the arts, and helping people find their voice in the world. Her years on CBC's Hymn Sing, as a soloist and chorister solidified her belief in the power of music as ministry, and her subsequent career has included church, school and choral direction. Allison's background in theatre has been put to good use at Stittsville United. There have been eight musical productions during her time there. Allison has brought a number of musical guests with her today, so we hope you enjoy our worship time together. Food for thought, and music for the soul. ☺



**JULY 14<sup>th</sup>: REV. BEV DIDUCK, Regina, Saskatchewan**

Rev. Bev, recently retired from Balgonie UC. Her plans are to feature the classic story of the Prodigal Son in a special service. The sermon is like a dramatic telling of the story in a western cowboy setting and wording, complete with some old Western hymns. An idea so fitting for us, in view of our ranching neighbours.





**JULY 21<sup>ST</sup>, MRS. EVA STANLEY, DLM, Japanese United Church,**

As I said last year, writing from my May retreat and having just returned home from my 2019 silent retreat, I feel the same: Waterton is a thin place.

And so I repeat myself...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 Lakes 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.

2019 will be my second year at the Waterton United Church. I am so looking forward to connecting and reconnecting with the residents and visitors during mid-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 28<sup>th</sup>: REV. PAULINE BELL, Lethbridge**

**We feel fortunate to be able to announce that Rev. Pauline has accepted our request to join our “Supervisory Team” with Dr. Ed Bardock.** Pauline has been able to assist with some extra activities and has the time and interest to be more involved with us...**This is good news!** Please see her regular message on page 11, as she is also leading for our

opening service on the May Long Week-end. Welcome to this Supervisory position Pauline....hopefully we will be easy to supervise! An extra bonus is that Pauline’s husband, **David Bell**, sings and plays guitar and is willing to act as Music Leader from time to time. Thank you, Pauline and David!



**AUGUST 4<sup>th</sup>, DARRELL REINE, DLM, in ministry with the people of Westminster United Church, Regina, Sask. (DLM = Designated Lay Minister).**

Woohoo! It’s soon to be that time of year when we can make the pilgrimage to Waterton National Park and meet friends and newcomers in a special place many of us have grown to love. I have been excited since about mid February! The truth be told, it is my second home. A place of welcome, comfort, mystery and intrigue. The board has made this little known United Church secret a place that welcomes not just visitors but guest minister and preachers of every stripe.

As I reflect back, I remember the time I wasn't invited to attend a board meeting, or the time we helped out at the garage sale or sidewalk sale. I remember the addition being built. I remember when we did some kind of faith study which then turned into a movie night. I remember a couple of potlucks, being invited to lunch or dinner, swimming with Carol in the cold lake....someone had to drag me in! I remember being able to preside at a couple of beautiful weddings and talking with folks about a much beloved member of the community who had passed away. I remember being told I did a good job even as a student and I look back thinking, really! Kind souls! I remember waking up or going to bed with 30 to 40 deer on the lawn in front of the church. I remember attending my first powwow just across from the church or having the drummers from Lethbridge.

The memories of Waterton United Church and the beautiful park it resides in, will always be central to my heart. Each year as we drive through Lethbridge we can hardly wait to see the mountains to know we will soon be there. And each year as we leave, some tears are shed, wishing it was already next year.

What I want to say this year, is Thank You. Thank you to the board for working hard to have this gem of a place of worship, community and **welcome**. And Thank You to the Creator whose gracious and sacred presence runs through the church and the park.

Thanks be to God!

### **AUGUST 11<sup>th</sup>: REV. NANCY NOURSE, Northminster United Church, Calgary.**

As I write this reflection, the Marvel movie “Endgame” has just broken box office records. It’s also two weeks after Easter, and our lectionary readings still have Jesus reappearing to his disciples after the resurrection. By its title, Endgame sounds like it’s the end. At least Marvel wants you to think that for now. But is it?

And so it is with story from John 21...it feels like the end – the end of the three years of ministry the disciples shared with Jesus. The end of Jesus’ life and teachings. And his death. It’s Endgame time – at least that’s what the disciples thought.

Instead of it being the Endgame, there is so much more to come!

In John, Peter goes back to old habits; he plans a late-night fishing trip with some of the other disciples. It was a distraction from everything else going on. But they didn’t catch one fish all night...another failure...just like that Friday night after Jesus’ death. More goals unachieved. And they are wondering what’s next. They are still trying to make sense of everything.

After Jesus appears to the disciples and tells them to fish with their net on the other side of the boat, they catch so many fish they worry their nets will break. Later, they gather for a campfire breakfast on the beach. And Jesus and Peter have a conversation. Jesus offers Peter two important things: belonging and purpose. How important these two things are...we all need to feel accepted by a larger group in order to have stability and a sense of self. And we all need a sense of purpose...the belief that what we do matters. It’s one of the greatest motivators in the world.



Jesus gives Peter good work to do: feed my sheep! Lead! Devote yourself to this community! This story is just one of hundreds in Scripture that do the same thing by granting us all a sense of belonging and purpose.

At the end of John 21, you'll find the very last verse of the whole gospel: "But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written."

Because, indeed, this story is not yet finished. It is not the Endgame. There are so many other things that Jesus did that John couldn't imagine writing them all. And there are so many things Jesus is still doing through us that the tale of them would fill all the books of the world!

Jesus reminds us that we belong. And we have purpose. We thank God for that! Amen.



**AUGUST 19<sup>th</sup>: PASTOR DR. GEORGE TAKASHIMA, with Japanese – First United – St. Andrew's Cardston, Combined Choir.** Pastor George is retired in Lethbridge, most recently from Cardston-Magrath Pastoral Charge.

**"Once Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God was coming, and He answered, 'The Kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed'. (Luke 17:20).**

**We, as the Body of Christ, need to continue saying and listening to Jesus' prayer for unity. The church, obviously, Remains divided in many ways and places. We are divided today over issues" homosexuality, abortion, the death penalty, et al. We square off over matters of liturgy and style. Building programs can become ugly power struggles, and the fighting is not always fair. Individuals leave churches in a huff over matters as trivial as the colour of carpeting or the length of candles. Whole denominations split acrimoniously over issues of Biblical interpretation.**

**The seeming assumption of the Church in such matters of doctrine, social obligation and liturgy, that we will then achieve the unity Jesus prays for. The idea is that once we "get it right", we will then be one in Christ. So this group squares off against that group in a game of ecclesiastical capture-the-flag. The focus and politics of the church are then lived out in terms of a mad scramble to get to the top of the hill, upon which "I am right and you are wrong." All of which puts the cart before the horse.**

**The truth is that we can share oneness only as we surrender our lives to Christ, at the bottom of the hill, from where we look up to Him. Such collective surrender, based on our shared belief that is impossible to look down on anyone when together we look up to Christ, unified by our brokenness as people and our belief that He is God. In the context of such shared belief, different styles of worship are no more important than different colours of hair. When unified by shared surrender to Christ's lordship, members of different congregations are no longer suspicious or**



**total enemies; they are more like different vegetables sharing the same bowl – each bringing different flavours and nutrients to a hungry world.**

**AUGUST 27<sup>th</sup>, REV. MARION MARTIN, Diaconal Minister, Milk River and Raymond, United Churches, with the **Milk River Choir.****



I have lived in southern Alberta for 22 years, and it was shortly after moving here that I visited Waterton National Park for the first time. Since that time, I have visited in every season and I am never disappointed at the tranquility, beauty and utter peacefulness. It is one of my most favorite places to visit.

I began my Diaconal ministry many years ago, as a nurse, serving and caring for the elderly in a long-term care facility. When I got an inkling to switch gears, I took on the role of a teachers aid on a Hutterite colony, working primarily with a hearing-impaired young fellow until he finished school.

At that time, I began exploring ministry in the United Church of Canada; starting with the Lay Worship Leader Course through St. Stephen's, a year of discernment, and 5 years ago I enrolled at the Centre for Christian Studies (Winnipeg) to become a Diaconal Minister. I have been the Student Diaconal Minister at Milk River & Raymond Pastoral Charge for the duration of my studies, and am very pleased to be able to accept a call from them to continue as their Diaconal Minister. I will complete this leg of my journey when I am commissioned into Diaconal Ministry in the United Church of Canada, on June 8, 2019.

The choir from St. Paul's United Church in Milk River has sung at the Waterton United Church for a number of years and this year I am able to join them leading worship. I am so looking forward to being there, and experiencing the Divine in one of the most tranquil places on earth. I look forward to seeing you and spending time with you. Shalom!



**SEPTEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup> : REV.DR. AUSTIN FENNELL  
Lethbridge. with the **McKillop Choir.****

You are invited to come to the Waterton United Church during the course of the summer services. To do so will give you a break from services in your own church, and it will be an encouragement to the Council of Waterton UC. Those of us conducting services regard it as a privilege. May I suggest that you invite a friend(s) to come with you, to experience a service in Waterton.

Among the mountains we are reminded of the words of Psalm 121: "Unto the hills do I lift up my longing eyes - from where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth." Seeing the majestic mountains from the church doors, one

is reminded of how mighty is our Creator, and that extends to being reminded how great and good God is to have raised Jesus from the dead. We are encouraged to realize His victory over death itself. - Rev. Dr. Austin Fennell.



**SEPT. 8<sup>th</sup>: REV. FRANK LEWIS, of Cranbrook will lead a Special Community Memorial for Minister Emeritus Rev. Dr. Alex Lawson.**

*Remembering Alex.*

Our dear friend Alex has passed on. There are legions of us who have been touched by Alex in our own unique way. While others have known Alex for a much longer time, I have had the good fortune in having this kind giant walking beside me in light of celebration and

in my darker moments. I am indeed thankful and grateful for his friendship.

We met in Waterton. My young daughters and I had borrowed my step mom's wee motorhome and found our way to the National Park there. Our morning was dedicated to exploring the townsite. But we were waylaid. Caught off guard by the sweet smell of muffins wafting from, of all places, the United Church. A big man speaking in a tongue familiar yet unfamiliar at the same time greeted us and bid us to enter. We did and so our friendship began on a grand summer morning over muffins and a cuppa.

Our paths crossed again when I was called to Southminster United Church in Lethbridge. Alex was retired then... maybe it is better said that he was not in 'full time paid accountable ministry'. It was through my good friends Jack and Wendy Sherman that I came to know the incredible work Alex did in the field of TA. Whenever Alex talks of TA he almost erupts. It was his passion as it brought health to many people throughout his ministry at Minto United in Moose Jaw and McKillop United in Lethbridge.

Alex was also there for me during a difficult relationship breakup. He mentored me but most of all he lifted me up in his love.

In 2012 Alex travelled from Victoria to Cranbrook to officiate at our wedding. My family met Alex that one time... and he was made 'family'. And farewell dear friend, I'm not sure if heaven is ready for you 😊.

Rev. Frank Lewis (retired)

Bio: Frank has been living in Cranbrook B.C. since 2012 with partner Suzanne Pederson. Waterton Lake National Park has been and continues to be Frank's 'thin place', my sacred place. What a gift it is to visit This United Church of Ours in September and capture the crimson and spice colours of the early fall. Again, thanks to the dedicated Board who give so generously and graciously of their time to this ministry.

## THE CHURCH AT LARGE

\*\*\*\*\*The **United Church Observer** has a new name and format: It is now called **Broadview**. 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. **Broadview** is also an ideal gift for “non-church” friends who may have questions of faith on their minds, Email **broadview.org** or write to Broadview, PO Box 38 STN K Toronto, Ontario M4P 9Z9.



**A NOTE ABOUT THE UNITED CHURCH CREST:** In 2012, the United Church Crest, which has contained symbols for each of 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 have been able to attend a Blanket Exercise in 2017, sponsored by Kainai (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 United Church of Canada has re-organized its structure.** Regional Councils now replace Conferences and Presbyteries all across the country. The south half of Alberta (from Hwy 13 south to the International border) has a new name: **Chinook Winds Region 3**. Our central office is in Okotoks. We have already experienced kind and perceptive outreach from our Regional Council, even in the midst of such a major transition. We look forward to the future as the United Church of Canada moves faithfully and prayerfully into this new structure.

### **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 on-going support and encouragement consistently offered to this “faith family” and to the visitors who pass through and find sanctuary. 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.

*May the Lord Bless You and Keep You... make His Face shine upon you, and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24 – 26)*



*Alex delighting in the Park a few years ago.*

*At Cameron Falls, photo by daughter Marla.*



*The pipes, the pipes are calling....*