

THE WATERTON UNITED CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!!

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2020



Our regular Summer Sunday services will be from July 5th to September 13th at 10:30 a.m. with Covid rules in place... Occasional special services may be at 2:30 Sundays. Please see section below on page 3, re exactly how we are able to be open safely. Our web-site and/or Facebook page will have timely updates as we go forward in regular connection with Alberta Health & Parks Canada.

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

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

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. Your comments/suggestions are more than welcome. Every Blessing to you!

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR PERSON BARBARA CLAY

Hello to all faithful friends of Waterton United Church. I write on behalf of our Church Council, which has been working diligently and faithfully to meet the challenges of 2020. It has been heartening to hear, over the years, how much people love coming to our little church in the mountains, how they have their faith uplifted upon entering our sanctuary and seeing Vimy Mountain framed in the cathedral window. Many see the Waterton United Church as a personal sanctuary. We are grateful beyond words to those who can join us for worship and/or support us in other ways. We are grateful also for the support of the Chinook Winds Region of the United Church of Canada, for their support and advice in all things.

I am so pleased to be able to be part of guiding the Waterton United Church Council as it moves forward in these challenging times. The wisdom of Council members and our Pastoral Charge Supervisor, Rev. Pauline Bell, will be key in determining our way forward. We welcome anyone who would like to contribute their time and energy by serving on our Council. We meet about four times per year.

With thanks and blessings,

Barbara Clay, Chairperson, Waterton United Church Council.



“Let not your heart be troubled.....”

“To everything, there is a season, and a time for every purpose, under heaven.”

“This is the day that the Lord has made: let us rejoice, and be glad in it!”

WATERTON UNITED CHURCH 2020 COVID SUMMER OPERATION

We know that we are the church, that the building and meeting in person is not required: but we, the Waterton United Church Council, feel called to have the church open in this new and limited way. With all of the rules, and with due care, we go forward in community, faith and love.

What CAN'T we do? (Might as well know that from the start, but going forward goodheartedly!!)

- No choirs or congregational singing.
- No food.
- No communion.
- **Don't come if you feel sick.**
- Bathroom for emergencies only (Park Firehall washrooms available – please “go” before you get here!)
- Only one entrance and exit (see below).
- **No hugging or touching!** (see below).
- No crafts or special area for children.

- **What CAN we do?**

- Provide masks for anyone who doesn't bring their own...the Alberta government is now requiring this to prevent Covid spread.
- Observe physical distancing of 6 feet **at all times**.
- Offer regular services from July 5 – September 13, 2020.
- Guest clergy may reside in the suite from Fri. until Tues. (modified this year).
- Open AA meetings continue on Thursdays at 7 pm for July and August.
- Maximum of 20 chairs available, in a circle.
- Soloists or solo instrumentalists allowed.
- Our guest clergy can offer a service which includes time for prayer and group discussion.
- Entrance on the north side of the church, exit on the south side (next to the playground).
- Contact information recorded (a requirement), sanitizer and masks provided
- “No touch” offering – offering plates at entrance and exit.
- Instead of hand shaking and hugging, we have the option of bowing and saying “Namaste”, meaning “the Divine in me salutes the Divine in you.”

2020 GUEST CLERGY SCHEDULE

Everyone is Welcome, All Faiths are Welcome!!*Note: some changes may occur.*****

Guest soloists, pianists, organists and guitarists are also welcome to join us!

*****THERE WILL BE NO GATHERING INSIDE THE CHURCH UNTIL JULY 5th, SEE p.3!**

JUNE 21st: MRS. CAROL MANY CHIEF, Divinity Student, Magrath. Special Video presentation on Facebook for National Indigenous People's Day.

JUNE 28th : REV. MICHAEL BROWN, Retired Presbyterian Minister, from Vancouver, Washington State). Special video meditation on Facebook.

JULY 5th: REV. NANCY NOURSE, Northminster U.C. Calgary.

JULY 12th: Mrs. Carol Many Chief, and the 5th annual, special "Living in Right Relations Service". 2:30 p.m.

JULY 19th: MRS. MARIE BARR, Lloydminster.

JULY 26th: MRS. EVA STANLEY, South Alberta Japanese U.C., Lethbridge.

AUGUST 2nd and 9th: Mr. DARREL REINE, Westminster U.C., Regina.

AUGUST 16th: PASTOR GEORGE TAKASHIMA, Lethbridge.

AUGUST 23rd: REV. DR. STEPHEN HARPER, Symonds Valley U.C., Calgary.

AUGUST 30th: TREENA DUNCAN, Executive Minister for Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain Regions.

SEPTEMBER 6th: REV. DR. AUSTIN FENNELL, Lethbridge.

SEPTEMBER 13th: REV. DR. JOHN PENTLAND, Hillhurst United, Calgary. Two gatherings, church at 10:30 a.m., and at 2:30, John will speak to "What's Next?" A church conversation on Covid 19 and Beyond.

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

CONCERT PLANS ARE UNDER DISCUSSION. If we can do these, Tickets will be \$15 at the door; \$5 for students (College & University) * Refreshments. Please check web-site, Facebook, and/or watch for posters and news of ANY special gatherings.

July 12th: 5th Annual “Going Forward from TRC (Truth and Reconciliation) Special Service 2:30p.m. Carol Many Chief, Divinity Student, will lead again this year. Stay tuned!

5th Annual “The Music of Peace,” will have to be re-scheduled for a later time. We may be able to offer a “Peace Concert” with musicians leading solo performances. Watch for word about it.



**Where Have All The Flowers Gone*Universal Soldier*Give Peace a Chance*Let It Begin With Me* The lyrics of all of these classic “peace” songs are as relevant today as they ever have been since the sixties. We Will Overcome, Someday.*

A BIG THANK-YOU TO ALL OF OUR GUEST CHOIRS AND MUSICIANS!
YOUR MELODIES AND HARMONIES HAVE INSPIRED US! And a toast of deep appreciation is hereby extended to all accompanists! **Sadly, SINGING, (both choir and congregational), is one of the key parts of our normal church life which CANNOT BE ALLOWED RIGHT NOW.** Singing in any group setting presents a much higher risk of Covid spread. **Piano, organ, guitar instrumentals, soloists and recorded music are allowed. Harpists welcome!**

Pastoral Charge Supervision

In April of 2019, Dr. Ed Bardock and Rev. Pauline Bell agreed to co-supervise our Waterton Pastoral Charge. This proposal was approved by the new Regional Chinook Council with the assistance of Pastoral Relations Minister Lee Spice. Now, in 2020, Rev. Pauline assumes the role as Dr. Bardock steps back completely from active church work. His advocacy of efficient and effective work for the life of the United Church of Canada, at ALL LEVELS, is stellar, and serves as an inspiration to everyone who knows him. We are, and always will be, deeply appreciative. We deeply honour him.

Although written last year, Ed's final message continues to resonate with us today. "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 a season for each purpose—good news for those of us on the Church Council 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 to 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



**REV. PAULINE BELL, WATERTON PASTORAL CHARGE
SUPERVISOR, AS OF FEB. 2020**

We thank Rev. Pauline for going forward with us as our Supervisor. She has been one of our guest clergy for a few

years now, and has also provided some of the seasonal special services for us.

What is it that we are called to do?

What are we, *the church family of Waterton United Church*, hearing?

Waterton United offers ministry from a special church home in a national park, where permanent residents are few, where summer residents and visitors are the norm of the community. This is true of both Waterton town and of Waterton United. Our ministry stands unique within our national church. We include ourselves with those who work to meet the needs of marginalized and often forgotten peoples in our Canadian society. We stand there firmly because we hear that our ministry of both Sunday services and outreach, to the summer visitors, residents, and park workers, is essential and valued.

However, in this covid-19 time, we find ourselves questioning our ability to deliver our “usual” form of ministry offered through a roster of volunteer ministers who freely share time and talent to ensure the continuity of services. Park closure / restriction is, in fact, church restriction as well. Beyond this, we hear about the requirements governing spacing, cleaning processes, and face and hand coverings – the conditions that will accompany us when our doors are ultimately open. We wonder, we hope, we pray; we want to be “up to the task” ahead of us. We intend to do our best, but we cannot walk this pathway alone.

The good news is that the Waterton church family has never walked alone. We have always walked in grace with the support of others both near and far away. This is our legacy and our guide for the trail ahead. Solidly entrenched in a series of changes, we hardly recognize ourselves these days. This statement applies to *us all* – wherever we are in our world. This is a time of monumental adjustments without any accompanying monumental guidelines. We can only stride out on our pathway hoping, trusting, believing every step of the way.

We read in the gospel of John 14 beginning at verse 1: *“Don’t be troubled. You trust in God, now trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s home, and I am going to prepare a place for you. If this were not so, I would tell you plainly I am the way, the truth, and the life The truth is, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works.”*

What is it that we are called to do?

First believe; then continue down the trail of next stages. While we cannot entirely control what we do, we *can* control how we will do it.

Second, trust that we will meet our unprecedented responsibilities.

We name the loss of “what was.”

We name the privilege of enacting our love of God and of each other.

We name the need of your continued support – support of prayers, of time and energy, of money. Our financial responsibilities continue. We ask for your support. From deep within our hearts, we thank you. The Waterton ministry is the work of a community; you are a part of that community.

Together, we walk forward into whatever comes. We walk and we listen for the messages that come to us. This is surely the greatest learning that we can find in this covid-19 time. We listen to each other and to Creator God for the messages reaching our hearts and minds. .

We must live with hope and trust. We see the promise of new life in the spring-time greening; we smell the blossoms that splash colour before us; we hear the promises trilled in bird-song; we savour the taste of bread and wine; we feel the blessing of Love Incarnate, present with and within us, each and every moment of our days. Thanks be to God for leading us so strongly into the newness of tomorrow.

Rev. Pauline Bell, pastoral charge supervisor to Waterton United

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; HonourWall Co-ordinator: Lou Niven.) Members at large: Aynsley Baker, Mary Yvonne Hohm, Lil Evanoff, Anne Miller, Anita Niven.

			
Lil Evanoff	Carol Watt	Aynsley Baker	Lynn CameronThorpe
			
Anita Niven	Anne Miller	Carol Cruickshank	Lou Niven

			
Janice Smith	Mary Yvonne Hohm	Barb Clay	Barb Colbeck
			
Bob Clay	Dave Colbeck	Ben Hofer	Phil Ruppel
 Lauren Baker	 Diane Rossetti	Dr. Ed Bardock retiring. 	 Joyce Taylor

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....

SPECIAL THANKS to Anita Niven, our newest Council member! And to
*****Joyce Taylor, for vision, time, & energy on the peace gatherings and the "Little Free Library" *** Bob Clay, for building our new "Little Free Library" *** Jim Barlishen, for reviewing the books; ***Lynn Cameron-Thorpe, Treasurer *** 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, 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**

donors 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



Over the last few months, four long time members of our extended faith family have passed on. Sadly, in the New Year, Rev. Harry Taylor, Mrs. Lynn Lowe, Mrs. Peggy Takashima, and Mr. Jim George all “moved on to glory”. We grieve with families, their many friends and loved ones, and honour and celebrate their lifetimes of dedicated work for the United Church of Canada, and their love and generous support for Waterton. Because they left us just before the days of Covid, thankfully, their memorial services were able to occur “normally”, (something never to be taken for granted again.)

We extend love and healing prayer to everyone who is enduring illness and loss. May none of us 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 do call if we can help.**



OUR FIRST HONOUR WALL IS COMPLETE: , Celebrating Friends of Waterton, past and present, this “Wall of Honour” was initiated in 2011 at our 50th Anniversary celebration. We have purchased and installed another wall for future use.

We know that Waterton is beloved by many, many people. This “wall” of names allows anyone to honour loved ones and/or the church by purchasing a name plaque , for \$100. (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 403 627 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. **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!

2020 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 = \$30/person/night. **(Changes may occur. For this summer, any Community use or rentals will be subject to Covid number and spacing restrictions.)**

FINANCIAL HEALTH: We continue to manage to balance our modest budget, thanks to the help of generous supporters and a small 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 outreach and service. **They are very deeply appreciated!** With your continued assistance, we hope to carry on the welcoming work of this little church well into the future. You might consider mailing a donation if you are unable to visit in this unique summer. Receipts are mailed in February. Thank you, again.

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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. These are available via mail...please advise if you would like to order one.
- **"MEMOIR BY LYNN LOWE": \$20, half donated to Waterton UC.**

* CDs of original music by Musician and Guest Clergy Lisa Waites, \$15

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019 –EARLY 2020

*****GUEST CLERGY**:** 2019 was the 17th 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. Note: 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, 2020) 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; 403 308 6812 (secretary's cell for texting too).

*****"MAY LONG WEEK-END" OPENING SERVICE, 2019.** Rev. Pauline Bell graciously led the service on the May Long Week-end, as Mr. Bryan Huston had retired. A warm welcoming fellowship followed.

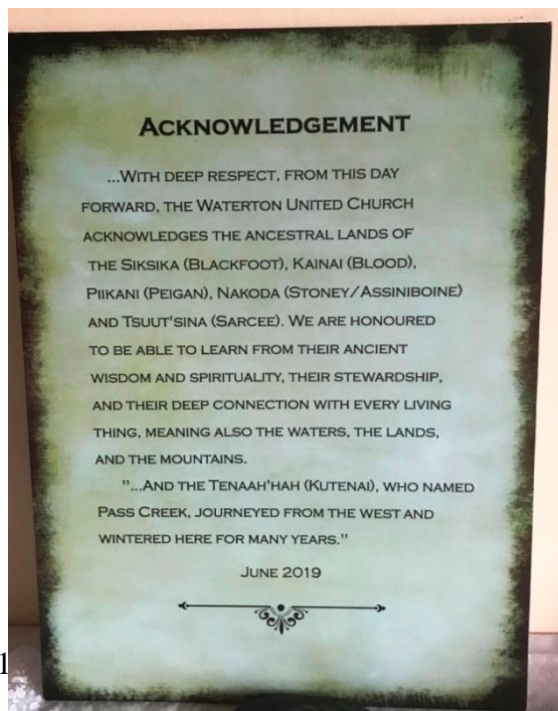
YOUTH GROUPS gathered to focus on outdoor winter activities.



2019 PEACE GATHERINGS

Mrs. Joyce Taylor, retired social worker, has offered leadership to help co-ordinate **"gatherings for peace"**, a dynamic part of our outreach and fellowship for the community and interested visitors.

On June 23rd, UC Student Minister, Mrs. Carol Many Chief of the Kainai First Nation, (Blood Reserve) led the fourth annual "Going Forward from Truth and Reconciliation" Special Service. Featured this year was a group of middle school drummers with their instructors. Carol's original, Christian hymns, with her own drumming, were a unique and powerful addition. The boys gave drumming lessons after the pot luck luncheon....there were many smiles during this happy time.



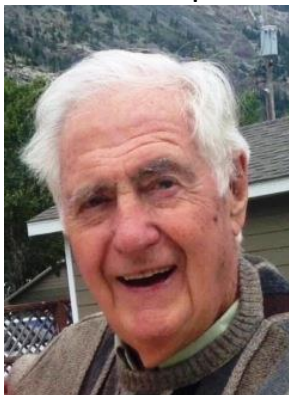
We are very pleased to announce that our new special sign honouring the territory of several Indigenous nations was completed before this service. It was carried into the sanctuary by a former Sunday School Teacher of ours, a Park Employee of Git'sa'an heritage (Hazelton, B.C. area), who happened to be visiting. As well, Young Alex Lawson, Indigenous grandson of Rev. Alex, (recently graduated from the Social Work program at U Vic), edited the wording. It will be a permanent addition to our sanctuary.

FIFTH ANNUAL MUSICIANS' PEACE JAM: In July, more than twenty smiling people shared in relaxed and poignant music therapy, singing the exquisite peace songs of the sixties. It seems that we must keep on singing those songs for a very long time, praying and working....and wondering when, indeed, we will overcome.



CONCERT: We were treated to a memorable evening of live music in August. Dale Ketcheson, world class guitarist, Sheena Lawson, gifted vocalist, Randy Paskuski, stellar bassist, and Joe Porter, percussioneer extraordinaire, played jazz and blues for a happy crowd of 38.

SEPTEMBER 9th, HONOURING THE LEGACY OF OUR MINISTER EMERITUS: Rev. Frank Lewis led us in a poignant healing time, with scripture, prayer and favourite hymns. Many friends shared stories, jokes and special memories of Rev. Dr. Alex Lawson, whom we lost on April 30th, 2019.



Over the first anniversary of his passing people have shared more memories. As minister, counsellor, and friend, he has touched so very many in life-affirming ways.

From his countless sermons his daughter Sheena chose these quotes for this newsletter. *"As I live in love, I live in Him. After all, the only religious activity for the Christian, the only true worship, is to love God, and our neighbours, as ourselves. And if I do that, so shall my walk be closer to God. 'Calm and serene my frame, so pure light shall mark my road, that leads me to the Lamb'. Go now. Go walking in the footsteps of the Master, reaching out to all with whom you come in contact. May God Bless You, now and forevermore."*



Our classic Christmas candlelight was originated by Alex decades ago.

Rev. Pauline Bell of Lethbridge presided over the service beautifully this year. Lou Niven joined Carol Watt as piano and organ led the joyful singing. 30+ attendees shared in the grace filled, timeless story. Pot luck fellowship and much laughter carried us home.

2020 GUEST CLERGY SUMMER MESSAGES

JUNE 21st: MRS. CAROL MANY CHIEF, DLM Student, St. Andrew's, Saskatoon, and Kainai Reserve. SPECIAL FACEBOOK PRESENTATION FOR NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY, NO GATHERING IN THE CHURCH UNTIL JULY 5th.

As a student in waiting- for the United Church- I am honored to participate in this year's **National Indigenous People's Day**. I look forward to being able to offer communion on-line as part of the service.

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. 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 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

JUNE 28th, REV. MICHAEL BROWN, Retired Presbyterian Minister from Vancouver, Washington. Special video service via Facebook for the Waterton United Church this year, due to Covid realities and restrictions.

Thanks to a mutual friend, The Reverend Frank Lewis, you are willing to let a stranger from the states preach for you. You are truly a welcoming congregation. To assure you, I am not a stranger to Waterton Lakes National Park. My wife and I spent one summer working at Lake McDonald Lodge in Glacier. We became engaged in



Glacier. On days off we explored the two parks, camped in Waterton a time or two. When I served First Presbyterian Church, in Helena we had a family reunion campout in Waterton.

I am no stranger to Alberta. My grandfather homesteaded and married near Kitscoty in eastern Alberta. My father was born in Westlock and graduated from the University of Alberta. As the family story goes, my father was on "some" soil research project in Lethbridge when I was born in Edmonton. My mother was from Ohio, had never been to Canada, and they had only recently moved to Edmonton.

I am no stranger to the United Church of Canada. I served as an interim pastor of a wonderful United Church congregation in Victoria a few years back. My wife and I are retired, living in Vancouver, WA. Now I have the opportunity to serve you and we hope and pray that a virus will not stop us from meeting one another. With great thanks to John Philip Newell, "May the light of God illumine the heart of your soul. May the flame of Christ kindle you to love. May the fire of the Spirit free you to live this day, tonight and forever." Blessings! --- Michael Brown

JULY 5th: REV. NANCY NOURSE, Northminster United Church, Calgary.

It's a few weeks after Easter as I write this. And we're about six weeks into our social distancing and isolating at home.

Our scripture this past Sunday was the Road to Emmaus story from Luke – where two of the disciples are walking along. And Jesus comes and meets them, walks with them, and they have a conversation about all the events of Holy Week and what had happened since. They don't recognize Jesus in that moment. I am sure those disciples were as exhausted as they are discouraged as they trudge the seven miles from Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus. Life had changed. Nothing was the same. Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

And Jesus meets them on the way. He doesn't come to them in Jerusalem. He doesn't wait for them at home.

He meets them where they are -- on the road, on their journey, right smack in the middle of all the pain, frustration, and hopelessness that threatens to overwhelm them.

This is about community: Jesus being recognized at the table when they sit down and break bread together at the end of that long walk. There's fulfilled promises, and there is hospitality that changes people. I think in a normal year it would be really easy to reflect about these themes. In fact this story of the road to Emmaus is one of my most favourite bible stories.

But this year feels different! There's not much as much joy in the air, - or there is but it's different - specially among those who are already struggling in economic misery, job loss, isolation, health.

So maybe you find yourself asking "where's the good news for us this year in this great story"? The challenge left with us is trying to recognize the risen Christ – just like the disciples did on that road - at a time when one of our key settings for doing so—a life in community—has been displaced for a while.

Sarah Bessey shared a poem that she heard at an event last October that has helped change her perspective on everything. It is written by Daniel Ladinsky, inspired by Francis of Assisi:

*I think God might be a little
prejudiced.
For once God asked me to join Him on a walk through this
world,
and we gazed into every heart on this earth,
and I noticed God lingered a bit longer
by any face that was weeping,*



*and by any eyes that were laughing.
And sometimes when we passed a soul in worship,
God too would kneel down.
I have come to learn: God adores God's creation.*

What a lovely message this poem offers us as we reflect on

the road to Emmaus story amidst our pandemic time – especially the visual of God lingering with any face that is weeping, any eyes laughing, any soul kneeling, with an intentional love and concern. That God meets us where we are at.

In times like these it's easy to feel like our cups are half empty...job loss, can't see our favourite people, can't hike trails or enjoy beaches in the parks, can't eat on a patio...But at the same time, maybe we just have to be intentional to see and recognize what is still in our midst. It takes practice – to see what is still there for us to love to look around for what might be a silver lining or a moment of gratitude. Those intentional moments or practices – a few times a day invite the presence of God (or at least our awareness of it).

Just like for the disciples – it took the practice of their breaking bread to recognize Jesus in their midst. They didn't see him on the road – they recognized him at the table breaking bread! It takes those practices and rituals and intentional acts for us to recognize or be aware of the presence of God in our midst.

It's in all of life's moments – when we pay attention – that we see God is also perhaps lingering near someone experiencing sadness, or laughing with someone who is laughing, or when a neighbour helps a neighbour, or holding us as we hold others in prayer.

So usually after Easter we are joyfully celebrating new life and resurrection. But as we experience right now –

Easter faith can be both a resurrection hope and a restlessness at the same time. But Jesus meets us there.

I'm so glad that Jesus doesn't reveal his identity on the road but waits. He is, literally, journeying with the disciples. He is present as they talk. He doesn't cut them off. He knows their understanding and recognition will take time. Because everything in life is so different.

That's our story too. The Gospel is amazing that way!
Our steps on this surreal journey might feel pretty heavy right now.
And sometimes it is the journey – those intentional practices and rituals – that lead us to recognition and new life.

That's the good news That new life walks alongside us,
patiently, whether we know it or not,
and will always be there for us to recognize in all that we do.

JULY 12th: MRS. CAROL MANY CHIEF, HOSTING THE 5TH ANNUAL “LIVING IN RIGHT RELATIONS” special gathering, “going forward from truth and reconciliation”. PLEASE NOTE THE TIME: 2:30 P.M. THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN AT 10:30 FOR FELLOWSHIP AND OPTIONAL CIRCLE CONVERSATION.

JULY 19th: MRS. MARIE BARR, from Lloydminster.

God’s grace holds us

Held in Grace, touched to follow, God’s love sustains us

God’s call comes to us

We follow.



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 as DLM, 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 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 on 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.

JULY 26th, MRS. EVA STANLEY, Japanese United Church. Lethbridge.



For Many of us, Waterton is indeed a thin place. The importance of thin places in this world is to be closer to a Divine Holy Presence, where great healing can take place, healing of mind, body and spirit. How fortunate that we have such a place so close to our homes. With our world's communal, unexpected, and unfamiliar troubling time, Waterton will continue to be a place to wonder and a space to ponder the spiral of nature pure, and honest. 2020 will be my third year at the Waterton

United Church, I do hope that the SAJUC and Cardston choirs will join us on Sunday! I am so looking forward to connecting and reconnecting with the residents and visitors at the end of July. What a gift for me, and 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.

This May I graduate from Pacific Jubilee as a Spiritual Director/Accompanier – the week I'm at the church I am most willing to deeply listen to anyone who feels the need to speak and be heard, or to small groups looking for guided meditation. Thank you to Carol, the Council, and those who help to keep this jewel open!

Eva Stanley eva.tom@telus.net

Fridays are my Sabbath. Work related emails will be read on my next working day.
When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed. - Maya Angelou

AUGUST 2nd & 9th DARRELL REINE, In ministry with the people of Westminster United Church, Regina, Saskatchewan.



Grace and Peace to you all! The world is certainly in a different place than it was at this time last year. I will not go on to describe it here for you as I am sure we all are pretty well caught up with the news. The world is different, it's strange, and even though almost everything has slowed down, we seem to be in constant change.

Take worship for example. Clergy and "tech crews" have had to learn how to do worship differently. From Zoom and Facebook to pre-recorded services loaded up into a cloud, we are doing worship in a way that most of us have never done or even thought of. Congregants have had a steep learning curve in how to access

these services. No more receiving your bulletin and sitting in the comfortable or uncomfortable pew and listening, singing, praying and all the other things that take place during our time together in worship. Now many of us sing along alone, we light our own candle and we mail in our offering or e-transfer it.

But the reality is, there are some 90 plus year olds learning to access Facebook and going on Zoom coffee parties. There are more phone calls made back and forth between parishioners catching up, checking on each other and sharing the news of the church and community. Throughout isolation we may have become more connected through other ways than we have in the past.

When thinking about what to write here, I was reminded of the only piece of scripture I really like in Revelation. Chapter 21, verses 1-4. *“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”*

Our old way of being has passed away. After all this is over, will we be living in a new way? I think regarding our health, safety protocols will stay with us for a long time. I thought I washed my hands a lot before this, but now I cannot count the times per day I wash my hands. My mom would be proud if I told her!

As churches, we have learned how to do worship and meetings in new ways. Will we discard these ways after this is all over with or will we use these skills and technology in order to enhance what we are going back to and perhaps use it to reach out beyond the walls of the church?

Will this time of isolation remind us of how precious community is? Will it enhance our need to be more compassionate, loving and caring to others including the vulnerable of our society? I have often marvelled how generous people are at Christmas time with the impoverished people of our community. And then I wonder why only then? Sure, a few people offer the time, resources, and skills, but it is nothing compared to the Christmas giving time. It makes us feel good. And that has bothered me that it only happens then for many people. But in the last few months, compassion has stepped forward with great generosity. People are stepping up to the plate making bagged lunches, helping their neighbours grocery shop, and doing all kinds of errands,

Will we be more ready to meet our neighbours and have meaningful relationships with them? I live in a community which was once predominantly white until more recent years. A Muslim school opened in a “retired” church building and many Muslim people have moved into the area. I find it so interesting to be out walking with Grace, my pooch, and come across families, groups of men or single people out for a walk and just saying hello to them. Often it seems that they are a bit shocked that I would greet them and then I can see their demeanor change when I ask them how they are. I think this is what Jesus meant when he said to love thy neighbour.

Many changes have happened over the last few months and many more will come I am sure. But in all of this we know of a very loving presence among us. Revelation reminds us of this. In this pandemic and more, we are not alone.

Friends, my hope is to see some of you this summer, but we know that may only happen with time. But we all have a connection to one another through Waterton National Park and the Waterton United Church. May the Spirit of this place hold us all in love until then.

Be well, be safe, wash your hands and may God's peace and love be with you!

Darrell



AUGUST 16th: PASTOR DR. GEORGE TAKASHIMA

"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.

REV. DR. STEPHEN HARPER, Symonds Valley United Church, Calgary

As I prepare for the summer and the time that I will spend with all of you at Waterton United Church, I am unsure that we will actually get to see each other. You see, as I write this, the pandemic has not yet been contained. Many in our country and province are out of work, many others are working from home and all of us have been separated from loved ones to some degree by shelter at home orders. And as we gaze at the horizon trying to discern what the future might hold, all we can see is the unknown.



This summer our Old Testament Readings will be from the book of Exodus; which seems somewhat appropriate. Though the main theme of Exodus is about God delivering his people from slavery and captivity in Egypt, there is also an underlying theme about a people following God into the unknown. That is where we are today. We are in the unknown.

Early in 2020, word got out that a virus was spreading in China. As concerned as we were for the people of Wuhan, I think many worldwide secretly hoped this would be an isolated illness that would not travel. However, as it started its move westward, it soon became apparent that this would not be something that is localized but something that would effect all of us as a global community. On March 15th, word came from the province that nonessential businesses would be closed, mass gathering were no longer allowed and we were to stay at home, isolated from family and friends as much as possible. The virus had asserted its grip on us too. If we had a crystal ball, we would have been shocked to see that a mere eight weeks later, the shutdown would be so catastrophic, that Canada would record its highest unemployment rates ever.

Like Israel, we are now living in the unknown. We do not know when this time in our history will be over, when there will be a vaccine, when life will return to what it was. It is an uncomfortable time, an upsetting time, a confusing time. But like Israel, we are not alone. God is with us in comfort, with us in provision, with us in care. We may not know when life will return to “normal” but we do know that through this time, through

all time, God is with us. It is at times like this that I often go the words of our *New Creed*, which begins and ends with:

We are not alone, we live in God's world...
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

AUGUST 30th



We are pleased to welcome Treena Duncan, who is Executive Director not only for the Pacific Mountain Region (B.C., Banff and Canmore) but also our Region here, Chinook Winds, (the south half of Alberta). Like all all Regional Directors, Treena also works with the General Secretary of the United Church of Canada as part of the Staff Leadership Team of the denomination.

A lifelong member of the United Church, Treena began serving as the Conference Personnel Minister for what was then B.C. Conference, in 2002. She had been responsible for enhancing and managing the innovative LeadershipShift program which supports Ministry Personnel through programming and coaching. She also led the implementation of the pilot projects for B.C. Conference in the Candidacy Pathway and Effective Leadership projects, which were foundational in the restructuring currently underway in the United Church. Through her work, Treena has also established valued working relationships with Indigenous leadership in the church in British Columbia.



Having lived in and served the church in what is now Pacific Mountain Region for many years, Treena is enjoying serving with her colleagues in Chinook Winds Region and working with them in the further development and operation of their new structures and processes. She resides in Surrey, B.C., but is present in Chinook Winds Region on a regular basis.

She is thrilled to be coming with her partner, Rev. Will Sparks of Highlands United in North Vancouver, to be among your community and worship together in Waterton this summer.



SEPTEMBER 2nd: REV. DR. AUSTIN FENNELL
Lethbridge.

Not only is this a beautiful location (mountains) in which to worship, the church is also a grand place to worship. Both mountains and church signal how great is the work of the Lord. Such incentives should be an encouragement to come to join us for the services. “Thanks” goes to those who serve on the Church Council, and to those who contribute to the upkeep and maintenance of the sanctuary. Psalm 121, *I lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help....*, invites you to look on the Lord who provides for our needs, who will guard us in the time of evil things, and will do so all the days of our lives.

Please come and join us for the worship service which is held on Sunday mornings at 10:30, (July 5th – September 13th) this year. Traditionally the McKillop United Church choir sings on this Sunday when I lead the service. This year, due to Covid, choirs are not allowed because of danger of viral spread.

Local folks are pleased to welcome visitors from many far places.

Guest clergy are in residence from Friday to Tuesdays this year, and will welcome anyone who visits. Both the Church and the Park have recently undergone renovations.

SEPTEMBER 13th: REV. DR. JOHN PENTLAND, Hillhurst United
Church, Calgary. 10:30 AND 2:30 P.M.



Through a connection with Rev. Alex Lawson, we are pleased to welcome Rev. John Pentland, who is known nationally for his work in the amazing growth and revitalization of Hillhurst UC. He will lead a service at the regular time of 10:30 a.m.. At 2:30 p.m, John will address *Fishing Tips and What's Next: Covid 19 and Beyond*. The extra gathering will allow as many as possible in our neighbouring churches to hear what he has to say. Inspired by the story of Jesus advising his disciples to “fish on the other side”, John published a book in 2015 entitled “*Fishing Tips, How Curiosity Transformed a Community of Faith*”.

The following quotes are from reviews of the book.

“Using an ancient story as inspiration, John reflects on how Hillhurst United said “Yes” to throwing the nets on the other side of convention. The result was innovative, invigorating and transformative.” “This book is for leaders, Councils, Boards, and small groups who want to invite true change that matters.” “John Pentland has the amazing ability to communicate workable ideas that will help your church grow. These are not just ideas he thought of, but things he has put into practice and seen that they really do

work. We need the Christian Church to be a vibrant alternative, and this book will show you a way to get there.” – Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes. “One of the great and revealing things about *Fishing Tips* is that for people implicated in the struggle to free the Church, this book can be aggravating, always a sign that something tender or precious is being probed....” The Very Rev. Dr. Peter Short, 38th Moderator of the United Church of Canada.

A few statistics illustrate the growth of Hillhurst United.

THE NUMBERS TELL THE STORY



2004

- 70 people on Sundays.
- Elderly – nice- intimate
- 0 kids registered.
- 1 Sunday service
- 120 families
- \$120,000 annual budget
- 45-50 people at Sunday lunches.
- No website activity
- No social media
- Traditional paid ad with Service times
- Formal – Traditional
- No real programming

2019

- 350 - 450 people on Sundays
- 705 people EASTER
- CHRISTMAS EVE 1608
- 257 kids registered/100 weekly
- 2 Sunday services
- Contemplative Services 7am Wed and 7 pm
- 435 + families
- \$956,000 annual
- 125-150 people at Sunday lunches
- 8000 website page views/month
- 3200+ Facebook friends
- Hillhurst is in the news OPINION
- 1/3 ; 1/3 ; 1/3 UCC/Catholic or Evangelical/Atheist or Agnostic
- Evangelical spirit Progressive Theology

We do hope you will be able to join us on September 13th at 10:30 a.m. or 2:30 p.m.

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. **Subscribe@broadview.org** or write to 478 Huron St., Toronto, Ont. M5R 2R3.

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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 **updated 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.

The United Church of Canada has re-organized its structure. Regional Councils now replace Conferences and Presbyteries all across the country. The southern half of Alberta (from Hwy. 13, South to the 49th Parallel) 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 we move faithfully and prayerfully into this new structure.

We are also asked to remind everyone about the vital and widespread work of the UCC's **Mission and Service**, and **to support it financially if at all possible**.

CONCLUDING MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL:

In these turbulent days, still living with Covid, we have been witness to a horrific tragedy: in Minneapolis, George Floyd was systematically murdered by a City policeman. Three other officers stood by. The electrifying fact that the murder was videoed and circulated immediately has led to world-wide outrage and countless protests calling for justice. The anguished cry, "Black Lives Matter" is motivating millions to examine their own biases and work to defeat systemic racism everywhere. Please God, may it be so.

Meanwhile, our faith family needs to thank so very many people everywhere, in the United Church and beyond. 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 remember doing so. *May the good Lord Bless and Keep you, 'til we meet again.*



Photo by Ryan Peruniak, Waterton Lakes National Park.

