

THE WATERTON UNITED CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2021



Our Summer Sunday services will be from June 20th to September 12th at 10:30 a.m. Given covid realities/uncertainties, we know that the services will all be available online. We hope they might be safely in-person, but this is yet to be determined.

Occasional special services may be at 2:30 Sundays. Please see section below on pages 3-4, re exactly how we may be able to be open safely. Our website 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.**

watertonunitedchurch.com; Secretary's email: caroluanne@gmail.com

[Waterton United Church of Canada on Facebook.](#)

Please note: 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.

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRPERSON 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 these pandemic times.

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 2021 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 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 can be served. We may bring our own refreshments.
- 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 requires this to prevent Covid spread.
- Observe physical distancing of 6 feet **as much as possible, and when seated.**
- Offer regular services from June 20th – September 12th, 2020.
- Guest clergy may reside in the suite from Fridays until Wednesdays. (modified this year).
- Open AA meetings continue on Thursdays at 7 pm for July and August.
- Maximum of 15 chairs available, spaced in pairs, in a circle.
- Soloists or solo instrumentalists allowed. Not wind instruments or drums.

- 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,”, air hugs and elbow bumps, etc.

2021 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!**

MAY 23rd: HONORARY ASSOCIATE MINISTER, Mrs. Eva Stanley, Calgary

JUNE 20th: Mrs. Carol Many Chief, Divinity Student, Magrath. **Special service honouring National Indigenous People’s Day.**

JUNE 27th: Ms. Kim Holmes-Younger, Student Minister, Hillhurst U.C., Calgary, Alberta.

JULY 4th: Rev. Dr. John Pentland, Hillhurst U.C., Calgary, Alberta.
Morning service at 10:30; Extra presentation, 2:30 p.m.

JULY 11th: Rev. Taylor Croissant, Southminster U.C., Lethbridge, Alberta, and Rev. MiYeon Kim, Fort MacLeod/Granum Pastoral Charge, Alberta.

JULY 18th: Ms. Treena Duncan, Executive Minister, Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds Regions, United Church of Canada.

JULY 25th: Rev. Nancy Nourse, Northminster United Church, Calgary, Alberta.

AUGUST 1st: Rev. Dr. Stephen Harper, Symonds Valley U.C., Calgary, Alberta.

AUGUST 8th: Minister Tony Snow, Indigenous Lead, Chinook Winds Region, and Hillhurst U.C., Calgary, Alberta. **Special service for the United Nations World Indigenous Day. 10:30 & 2:30 p.m.**

AUGUST 15th: Minister Darrell Reine, D.L.M., Westminster United, Regina, Saskatchewan.

AUGUST 22nd: Minister. Eva Stanley, D.L.M., retired.

AUGUST 29th: Rev. Marion Martin, D.M., Milk River and Raymond Pastoral Charges, Alberta.

SEPTEMBER 5th: REV. DR. AUSTIN FENNELL, Retired, Lethbridge.

SEPTEMBER 12th: Minister Glenda Wert, D.L.M., Prairie Spirit Pastoral Charge, Alberta.

D.L.M. (Designated Lay Minister); D.M. (Diaconal Minister)

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

CONCERT PLANS: If we can do these, Tickets will be \$15 at the door; \$5 for students (College & University) Please check website, Facebook, and/or watch for posters and news of ANY special gatherings. We can only, safely, hope for the best!

July 4th: Special Presentations by Rev. Dr. John Pentland of the thriving Hillhurst United Church in Calgary. 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

6th Annual Musicians' Peace Jam and Singalong: We hope for this, but date will be announced if we can go ahead. Solo musicians would be permitted.



**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.*

AUGUST 8th: TONY SNOW, INDIGENOUS LEAD FOR CHINOOK WINDS REGION IN THE UNITED CHURCH, WILL LEAD TWO SESSIONS, 10:30 AND 2:30. HE CALLS THEM “RIGHTING RELATIONS IN DIFFICULT TIMES”.

A BIG THANK-YOU TO ALL OF OUR GUEST CHOIRS AND MUSICIANS! Guest musicians last summer were JESSA LAVENNE, CHERYL NELSON, and MAHALIAH PEDDLE, VIOLINIST. YOUR MELODIES AND HARMONIES HAVE UP-LIFTED 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!



WATERTON PASTORAL CHARGE

SUPERVISOR: We thank Rev. Pauline Bell for continuing as our Supervisor!

FROM THE DESK OF REV. PAULINE

May 2021

The Spirit is moving in Waterton United!

I saw it for myself, yesterday, when I visited the “spring-cleaning bee” at the church. The doors wide open, the air flowing through, the walls

already freshly painted, the rest --- woodwork, baseboards, corners, counters, bedroom, bathrooms, kitchen, pulpit, and communion table – all washed, gleaming. Those dedicated souls, somewhat tired, somewhat proud, but determined and committed, left at the end of the afternoon, knowing that they were ready to offer a warm welcome to all who will arrive at the church doors this season.

This dedicated preparation stems from the understanding that the summer season is short; that the opportunity to worship, relish the peacefulness, hear the Holy One speaking to hearts *is* the great gift that Waterton United can and does offer.

Sanctuary appears to be tangible inside as one gazes over the communion table at the mountain peaks beyond the glass.

For all who can make their way to Waterton United this summer, the opportunity continues. Whether one arrives literally through the door, or virtually through a worship time shared electronically, the warmth of welcome and the vistas are a constant.

In these covid-19 days, this is an amazing feat. But to be fair, I would have to say the depth of welcome evident this year is but a continuation of years of warm welcomes. Waterton United offers a unique ministry to the wealth of summer visitors who flock happily into the national park, and then find this gem of a United Church of Canada.

Within whatever parameters are applicable to churches this summer, Waterton United maintains a presence enveloped in Grace for all.

As we say during Communion, once the prayers and blessings have been offered, “Come, for all is ready.” Similarly, Waterton United is blessed and ready.

I say to you, “Come, share, feel the Grace of Creator God in this sanctuary.”

2021 -2022 WATERTON UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL

(Executive: Chairperson: Barb Clay; Vice-Chair: Carol Cruickshank; Secretary: Carol Watt; Treasurer: Lynn Cameron-Thorpe; Property leaders: Dave Colbeck, Lauren & Brian Baker, Ben Hofer, Anita Niven; Honour Wall

Co-ordinator: Lou Niven; Special Events Planning: Joyce Taylor. Members at large: Aynsley Baker, Mary Yvonne Hohm, Lil Evanoff, Anne Miller, Lettie Croskery, Ashley Niven-Sharpe.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |
| Lil Evanoff | Carol Watt | Aynsley Baker | Lynn Cameron-Thorpe |
| | | | |
|  |  |  |  |
| Anita Niven | Anne Miller | Carol Cruickshank | Lou Niven |
| | | | |
|  |  |  |  |
| Lettie Croskery | Mary Yvonne Hohm | Barb Clay | Barb Colbeck |
| | | | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |
| Bob Clay | Dave Colbeck | Ben Hofer | Phil Ruppel |
|  |  |  |  |
| Lauren Baker | Diane Rossetti | Ashlee Niven-Sharpe | 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

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 *** Brian Baker, Dave Colbeck, Ben Hofer, Anita Niven and Ashlee Niven-Sharpe, 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

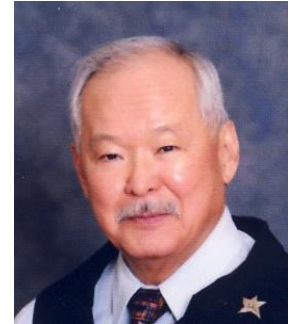
all others too numerous to mention, for your generous gifts of time, counsel, and financial support. You know Who You Are!

IN MEMORIAM

Sadly, less than a year after the loss of his beloved wife Peggy, Pastor George Takashima passed on October 14th.

His years of leadership and support for the Waterton United Church are only a small part of his vast life work and legacy. A child of a WWII internment camp, he became a teacher, principal, and Education

Administrator, then ministered to many congregations across the prairies and was a powerful pioneer/advocate for multiculturalism within the United Church and in Lions' International. We will miss his lively presence and baritone voice. We offer condolences and loving prayer for comfort to his family and many, many friends.



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 are with me."* In the words of the old Gospel hymn, *One Day at a Time, Sweet Jesus....." Lord help me today, show me the way, one day at a time....."*

Please let us know how we may help.



Mid-April Evening Reflection.



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 are beginning to mount
 plaques on our second wall.

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 is 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 background page for each plaque** at
 your earliest convenience, by email, or by regular mail to the Church address. We look
 forward to building this Album and send thanks to those of you who have already
 contributed.

Weddings, meetings, occasional workshops, retreats, and youth group sleepovers 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 Sleepovers = \$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. We were so thankful to realize that our financial report for 2020 did not show any covid diminishment! (We do expect rentals to be negatively affected this year. Livestreaming of our services has necessitated some new equipment, as well). Your continued generous support, even when you were unable to attend, is the reason for this good news.** We are inspired to realize that, together, the welcoming work of this little church will continue well into the future.

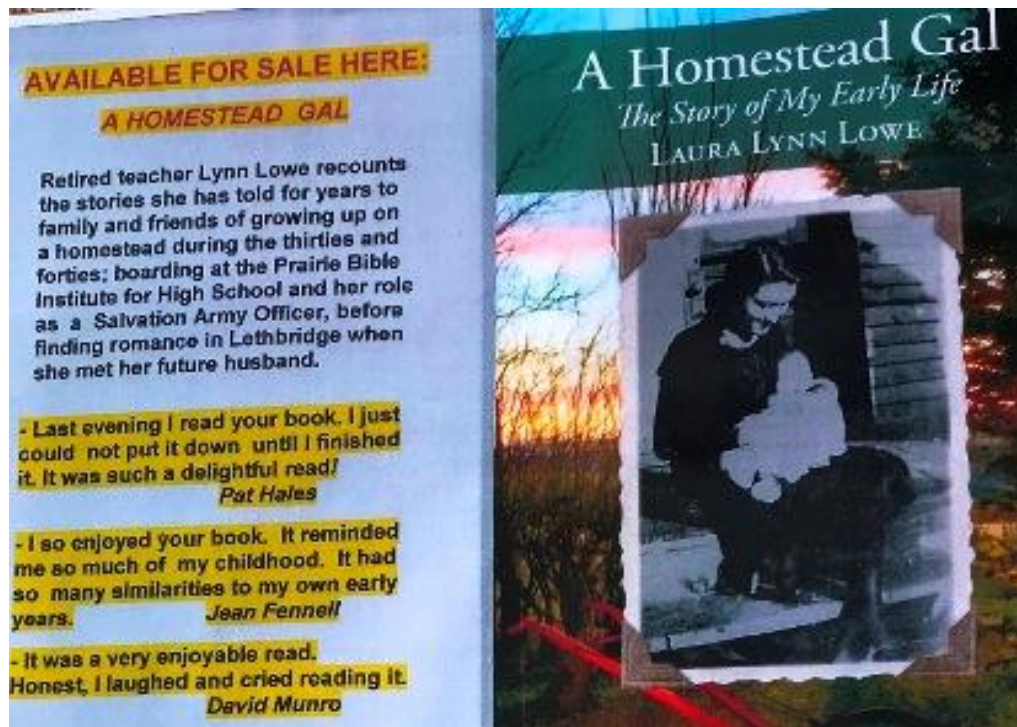
We now also have etransfer availability, at watertonucc@gmail.com. Receipts are mailed in February. Thank you, again.

.....

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.
-
- * CDs of original music by Musician and Guest Clergy Lisa Waites, \$15
-
- "MEMOIR BY LYNN LOWE": \$15.00, \$5 donated to Waterton UC.
-



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020 –EARLY 2021

*****GUEST CLERGY**": 2020 was the 18th 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 2021) 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**

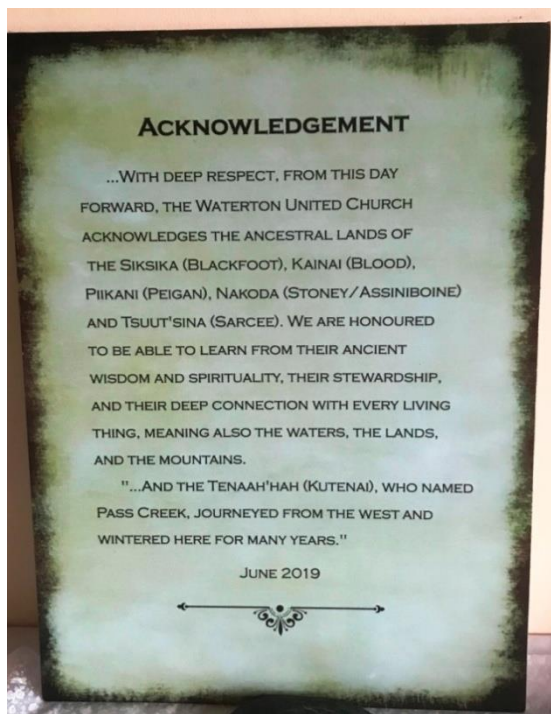
returning in a specific season or not. Next year's bookings are a work in progress: To Whom It May Concern: Call or email soon!
caroluanne@gmail.com; 403 308 6812 (secretary's cell for texting too).

****" MAY LONG WEEK-END" OPENING SERVICE, 2020: Cancelled due to covid uncertainty at that time.

YOUTH GROUPS gathered to focus on outdoor winter activities prior to covid.

2020 PEACE GATHERINGS were also covid cancelled.

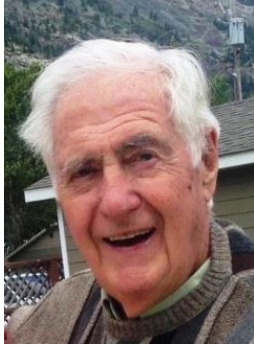
Mrs. Joyce Taylor, retired social worker, has generously offered leadership to help co-ordinate "gatherings for peace", a dynamic part of our outreach and fellowship for the community and interested visitors for several years. These programs will joyfully resume after covid.



We are very pleased that our new special sign honouring the territory of several Indigenous nations is a permanent part of our sanctuary. In 2019, Angelene McIntyre, a former Park Employee of Git'sa'an heritage (Hazelton, B.C. area) and a former Sunday School Teacher here, happened to be visiting. She carried the sign into the Church. As well, Young Alex Lawson, Indigenous grandson of Rev. Alex, (recently graduated from the Social Work program at U Vic), edited the

wording. We are committed to on-going action in Right Relations.

April 30th, 2020 marked the first anniversary of the passing of our Minister Emeritus, Rev. Dr. Alex Lawson. Friends and family shared many



memories. As minister, counsellor, and friend, he has touched countless friends in life-affirming ways. He had an unlimited definition of family.

From his countless sermons his daughter Sheena chose these quotes for our 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.”*



Major thanks to Brad Lavenne, our newly engaged IT advisor/consultant. With his guidance we have been able to be available online during this trying year of covid realities and restrictions. All services can be viewed at any time at Waterton United Church of Canada on Facebook, and the Christmas one is also linked to the website and to YouTube. We have been able to connect with so many more people.... surely this is a covid silver lining quite common to many churches!

On June 21st, **UC Student Minister, Mrs. Carol Many Chief of the Kainai First Nation, (Blood Reserve)** led an on-line service celebrating National Indigenous People’s Day and Communion. Her drumming accompaniment to her original Christian hymns enrich her services.

On June 28th, **Rev. Michael Brown, Retired Presbyterian Minister from Vancouver, Washington,** presented our first International service via the wonders of the internet. Michael knows Waterton well. During his service, he offered voice and guitar guest music. In closing, he said, *“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.



Later, on July 12th, **Carol Many Chief** returned, and **Tony Snow**, Indigenous Lead for Chinook Winds Region and for Hillhurst United Church, joined her to co-lead the **fifth annual “Going Forward from Truth and Reconciliation Special Service**. Tony called it **“Righting Relationships in Difficult Times and** included an enriching afternoon session.

Rev. Dr. John Pentland, of the thriving Hillhurst UC in Calgary, wound up our summer season with a morning service and an afternoon Q and A session on September 13th. He spoke of meeting needs on the “edges”, of asking people, including non-church goers, what the church should be doing and what the focus of sermon topics should be. He emphasized the emerging importance of internet outreach, and clearly stated that churches need to be financially prioritizing and hiring experts in the field. Council has heard and acted on this wisdom.



Thanksgiving Service: Mrs. Joyce Taylor, retired Social Worker and widow of Rev. Harry Taylor, led our in-person post-Thanksgiving Service on October 17th. 5 in-person attendees were joined on-line with many reasons to give thanks.

Annual Christmas Candlelight Service: By December, legally, we could have held an in-person service, but the covid stats were increasing daily

and there was prominent media focus on the behavior of a few churches which steadfastly refused to follow the covid restrictions. We decided to produce a totally on-line service. On December 19th, the warm results of our combined efforts were offered on Facebook, with links to the website and You-tube. Minister Eva Stanley, IT professional Brad Lavenne, and Rob and Carol Watt worked together to provide Christmas Blessings to countless viewers. We were truly thankful again.



Covid spacing, July, and for the Candlelight service in December.



**We were so pleased that anyone watching at home could sing carols as they chose.
We have heard from several of our extended faith family that the service was a
source of faith-affirmed and of peace.**

2021 GUEST CLERGY SUMMER MESSAGES

MAY 23rd: MINISTER EVA STANLEY: It is a pleasure to announce that Eva is joining us in a new formal role, as **Honorary Associate for Waterton U.C.** She will be available from time to time when off season needs arise and will be able to offer more continuity for us. Thank you, Eva,



Eva's Message:

What is a slice of paradise? Yes well of course it's Waterton! I am so grateful to be part of the Waterton United Church and their summer schedule. I hope we are soon able to travel and enjoy the park to its fullest! Some of you already know I retired as a member of the UC clergy on December 31, 2020, after 16 years. I had the honour to serve the church in many capacities in the three western provinces, starting with Fernie B.C. and crossing through Alberta to Maple Creek Saskatchewan and back to Lethbridge, Alberta. Each Pastoral Charge taught me about relationships and community, and I hope I left them with something to ponder in life, knowing I loved each congregation in its own way.

I came to ministry in my early 50's. I pushed away that call for decades – with all the usual excuses. Finally, the Divine persisted enough that I was unable to say no. I remember my minister (when I was a teenager) telling me not to be a minister but to go be a teacher. I didn't understand that in the 60's women were still a minority, and he was one unable to see women in the pulpit. The funny thing is that is exactly what I became as a minister. I loved the opportunities at Calling Lakes Center to be in leadership with their Licensed Lay Worship Leaders and later with the DLM program while it moved to St. Andrews College. Also, for the many workshops and study groups we lead.

I have often been told I'm a good listener – that I really listen during my life. And so, answering another call, I have graduated from the Pacific Jubilee Program in Spiritual Direction or Accompaniment. With humility I accepted the call to be part of the next intake of students as a Companion, with three others. To be part of such a program is amazing and to see 21 students

blossom and grow into Spiritual Directors is a privilege, as is walking with those who have asked me to journey with them.

And so is the opportunity to be part of Waterton United Church. Thank you so much for the trust and faith that the WUC has for all their guest clergy.

What a pleasure it is to be part of this history.

**JUNE 20th: MINISTER MRS. CAROL MANY CHIEF.
FACEBOOK PRESENTATION FOR NATIONAL
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY.**

I have been on a journey with you these three years. You saw the excitement for my discernment and call; and cheered me on for all the schooling that has followed. I completed the first step earning my diploma and enough of the Designated Lay Ministry program and have been accepted towards the ordination path in the Master of Divinity of Vancouver School of Theology in January. God willing, and the creek don't rise, this journey takes about three years or more. Learning with Christ is truly a lifelong goal and commitment. I look forward to sharing all our future years, and hope to seek placement in southern Alberta, but might have to go anywhere the wind and God's spirit may blow.



I wish everyone the best for the summer ahead and hope to pass on some cheery waves that will soon turn to hugs again.

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 lot 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/ahealthyhope



JUNE 27th, KIM HOLMES-YOUNGER. Student Minister, Hillhurst United Church, Calgary.

As I write this, I am sitting in my office dreaming of escaping. Escaping from Covid, escaping from my house, escaping from Calgary. I am trying to remember what I need to bring with me when I finally get to escape, get away, retreat, vacation... it has been too long since we took a road trip or even stayed in a hotel.

Over the past four years as a seminary student at the Vancouver School of Theology, I did most of my learning online. However, four times a year I travelled to Vancouver - sometimes for three days but sometimes for as long as fourteen days. At first, I was terrified, leaving my family behind, leaving my church behind. How would they survive? How would I survive? Giving up control is not easy.

The more I traveled, the more I came to see my trips to Vancouver as retreat. A chance to escape from everyday life, a chance to slow down and breath. A chance to be by myself and chance to renew my love for my family and church. I would return from these trips with a sense of renewal. I would return refreshed and ready to face teenage drama, papers, sermons, and everyday stressors.

Like most people this pandemic has taken a toll on me. I haven't had much of a chance to step back, breath or retreat. So, as I write this I am dreaming of escaping, getting away to Waterton an opportunity to retreat, renew and refresh a change from the ordinary.

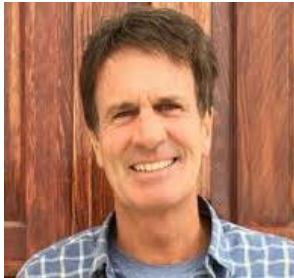
Lamentations 3:22-33 is full of expressions of hope and other spiritual feelings that represents the poet's desperate attempt to coerce a response from God. Perhaps that is exactly what we all need a response from God There could, perhaps, not be a more perfect lectionary passage as I wait to escape the burdens of this pandemic to a land of endless beauty.

Perhaps we need to hear from our Creator that their intentions are caring and that, in times of distress, the best course consists of waiting quietly for

God's recovery to arrive. I can't think of a more perfect place besides nature to wait for God to renew my soul, to wait for revival to be refreshed.

As I write this, I pray that you too will find retreat this summer whether it be in your backyard, in the mountains, by a lake or in your home.

JULY 4th: 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. and at 2:30 p.m, John will lead a Q and A session. 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.

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

JULY 11th: REV. TAYLOR CROISSANT, Southminster United Church, Lethbridge, and REV. MI YEON KIM: Fort MacLeod / Granum Pastoral Charge.



Taylor and Mi Yeon recently moved to southern Alberta to begin new pastorates at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. They are a clergy couple who met while studying together at St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon and have been married for six years. Taylor is originally from Medicine Hat, Alberta and MiYeon from Seoul, South Korea.

After their wedding, they moved to South Korea to each serve very large congregations with the United Church's global partner denomination, The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea. After 2 years, they returned to Canada and MiYeon was admitted to the ministry of The United Church of Canada.

During worship on July 11th, they will share some things we can learn from our partners in Korea to revitalize our faith here in Canada. They are very grateful for the opportunity to come worship with you.



JULY 18th

TREENA DUNCAN, Executive Minister
Pronouns: she/her/thers

Pacific Mountain Regional Council Office
4383 Rumble Street, Burnaby BC, V5J 2A2
T: 604-431-0434 or 1-800-934-0434 Ext. 6347
C: 604-312-4909

Chinook Winds Regional Council Office
T: 403-306-0192 or 1-833-762-0192 Ext. 6347

We are pleased to welcome Treena Duncan! Treena is part of the Senior Leadership Team of the United Church of Canada, serving as Executive Minister for Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain Region. She has been serving in this role for the last two years. Treena lives in B.C. but has an apartment in Okotoks to use when she is working in Chinook Region. Treena is a life-long member of the United Church. She began serving as the Conference Personnel Minister for what was then B.C. Conference, in 2002. She has been responsible for enhancing and managing the innovative Leadership 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. This experience serves her well as she facilitates the implementation of the new National structure in the Regions. Through her work, Treena has also established valued working relationships with Indigenous leadership in the church.

Treena has appreciated working with the people in the Chinook Winds Region and is excited about the community and connections that have occurred since she began serving in this role. She has been focused on the Regional Priorities which include supporting Communities of Faith and their Leaders and developing a robust justice and children, youth, and family

ministry throughout the Region. All programming and committee work has been on-line this year, and the regional staff have been working hard to both make this shift at the regional level, and to offer resources to support this process.

This pandemic is a strange time for all of us, but we are lucky to be part of a loving, cautious, and connected community. As I write this, I see signs of flowers breaking through and lovely sunshine. Somehow these signs of new life are a bit at odds with our life experience at the moment in time. However, we are an Easter people, and we know that a different reality awaits us. Calgary Mayor Naheed Neenshi's words are a great summary of our call to be church during this time. "Clean hands, clear heads, and open hearts."

If you are interested in the work of the Region, please visit our website at <https://chinookwindsregion.ca/> and sign up for our weekly newsletter.



JULY 25th: REV. NANCY NOURSE, Northminster United Church, Calgary.

REFLECTION

There are so many stories in our Bible of Jesus offering healing to the people around him. Some reach out to Jesus on their own and advocate for themselves. Others are brought to Jesus by others. These stories speak to us of our own need for healing.... whether it is physical healing or moving forward from the end of a difficult relationship, or the feeling of grief from all the losses the pandemic has created. Like those receiving healing, we too are reminded we are God's beloved.

In Matthew 9, there is a story of a father who reaches out to Jesus in panic because his daughter was dying, and Jesus goes with him to offer healing. On the way, however, a hemorrhaging woman reaches out for help and Jesus stops to assist. In both cases these women were restored to life so to speak...the young girl brought back to physical life, while the woman was restored to life in community – something her hemorrhaging would have prevented her from knowing.

I am sure it was a stressful and concerning moment for the father of the girl when in this urgent moment, Jesus stops and pauses and focuses on the woman instead of continuing on to where his daughter was. What if this "interruption" of meeting the woman on the way to the girl was part of a plan? So, here are two stories that have been deliberately woven together into one for us.

Perhaps – and especially, it's meant to show us that – in the midst of taking us along to meet our need – God may stop us and show us something that God does in the life of another. God may give us what the theologian Spurgeon called "a wonder on the way" to strengthen our faith for something even greater than we expected. God's ways are interwoven. And maybe what God does for one of us...is also for everyone else who witnesses such things.

How might this be important for us today? I don't believe a pandemic is part of God's plan. But perhaps these interruptions in pandemic times might be the pause we need to pay attention to what God is doing in each other's lives...to learn to rejoice together in the things that God does. Going forward things might have to be different. And without paying attention to these interruptions – what might we miss out on? In what ways is Jesus calling us to new life? What is being re-awakened in us and in our communities? What is being saved? And for what purpose? What will we do with our new found healing? What will we leave behind and what new things will we usher into our lives and communities?

AUGUST 1st: REV. STEPHEN HARPER, Symons Valley United Church, Calgary



We get some pretty crazy weather in southern Alberta. Which is fun for me, because I am a weather nerd. I love the weather! I am fascinated by record temperatures, either highs or lows, and I am also fascinated by how storms form. I love to watch thunder clouds form. Now don't get me wrong – I wouldn't want to be caught outside. That's why I rely on individuals like David Spence and

Dory Rossiter, to give me an accurate forecast so that I can avoid the worst of the storm, and instead watch it pass by, from the safety of my home.

We are currently in a storm, but instead of thunder and lightning, we are experiencing a massive 1 in 100-year viral storm. The trouble with these kinds of storms is that they are much more difficult to predict.

Early in 2020, we learned a virus was spreading in China. As concerned as we were for the people of Wuhan, I think that many, worldwide, secretly hoped this would be an isolated illness that would not travel. However, as it started its move west, it soon became apparent that this would affect all of us in the global community. On March 15th, word came from the province that non-essential businesses would be closed, mass gatherings 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 had a crystal ball, we would have been shocked to see that well over a year later, the shutdown would be so catastrophic, that Canada would record its highest unemployment rates ever, many businesses would be shuttered, many would get sick, and most churches would still be closed to public worship.

However, as hard as the year has been, the work of the Church has continued. We have done this through a determination to continue to be the hands and feet of God. Using an inspiring amount of creativity, we have figured out new ways to provide pastoral care, worship, and connect. Even though we have not been able to meet and connect in the ways that we are used to, we have continued to provide a shelter in the midst of the storm.

Waterton United Church has been one of these shelters. We all know what a special place that Waterton National Park is, and during this dark time in our history, Waterton United has been a beacon of creativity, compassion, and love. The last church service that I attended was in Waterton last summer. I am looking forward to being with you again as we watch the rest of the storm pass from the shelter of our beloved “Church with a View”. See you soon!

AUGUST 8th: TONY SNOW, INDIGENOUS MINISTER FOR CHINOOK WINDS REGION, United Church of Canada. Morning, 10:30; Afternoon, 2:30



Tony writes: The United Church of Canada, in majestic Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta, Canada. Welcome to our beautiful church in the mountains!

On August 8th, we observe the United Nations' World Indigenous Day at Waterton United. It is a chance to recognize the contribution of Indigenous people and their struggles for equality and autonomy as we live out our Truth and Reconciliation, Commission Calls to Action at *Wi'casta Mni'*. *The Stoney name for Waterton.

Tony Snow, Indigenous Minister, Treaty 7 Territory, Chinook Winds Region, United Church of Canada. 403 870 780

AUGUST 15th: MINISTER DARRELL REINE, In ministry with the people of Westminster United Church, Regina, Saskatchewan.



Last year while in Waterton I filmed a service for my home congregation back in Regina as many of them have never been here. It was a great experience for me and for them as they got to see the place that I have come to love, call a second home, and talk about all the time.

In John's gospel this week, Jesus commands his followers to love one another as he has shown love to them. It's pretty hard right now to even shake a hand with a person let alone give someone a loving hug. I see my parents at their doorway and have not had my children and grandchildren over for a family gathering since Christmas 2019. It leads me to think, how does one show their love? Even before Covid, it was hard to love some people. You know the unlovable, those people that get under your skin at every chance there is, or someone who used to be in power of another country, or the rival football team in another province.... GO RIDERS! I realize during this Covid time how judgmental I can be or have been. I judge those who don't use hand sanitizer or who wear their mask below their nose. I judge when I see

several cars parked outside of someone's house that I know only have a few people living there. How loving are my judgmental ways?!?!

Another thing I have been somewhat judgmental about is the community fridge that is across from my office. I see people drive up in some nice cars, wear nice clothes and drive away with bags of free food. I am not convinced it is the right concept for helping others because I don't think it's equitable. They have apps where people can post what is in the fridge and first come, first served. Those who don't drive often leave empty handed. Again, I am judging those who drove to get their food.

But Jesus called me to love others, he actually commanded his disciples to, so perhaps that commandment is for me as well. How can I love others if I am too busy judging them?

I was feeling bad about this, so I actually talked with a colleague who works in an anti-poverty ministry. And she helped me to put something into perspective. Is loving our neighbour actually doing just charity stuff or is loving our neighbour doing charity work in addition to advocating for a living income for all the citizen of community, province, and country? Feeding people is important. We all know, in the United Church, how important potlucks are and how we have not been able to have them for over a year now.

And perhaps those in nice cars and clothes are picking up for others who cannot get there to get food. Maybe they are doing what Jesus commanded, loving their neighbour. For someone in his fifties and who has been in ministry for almost 18 years now, I am still learning and will continue to learn.

I hope as we gather in Waterton this summer, we can do what Jesus called us to do. Love one another by being careful, wearing our masks and all that stuff. And maybe down the road someday we can have a potluck. I can hardly wait to be in that Sacred place called Waterton and to see the folks that I love and meet those who I haven't met yet. May the continued blessing of spring be in your hearts and minds as you love one another.
Darrell

AUGUST 22nd: MINISTER EVA STANLEY. Please see her message on p.17 as the leader for our "May Long" opening service.

AUGUST 29th: REV. MARION MARTIN, Milk River and Taber United Church.

I have lived in southern Alberta for 24 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.



Serving humanity and caring for all of God's creation, is my calling. To help me fulfill this calling, I made the personal choice to enter ministry. I studied at the Centre for Christian Studies (Winnipeg), to become a Diaconal Minister. Diaconal Ministry focuses on Social Justice, Pastoral Care and Christian Education, and works towards a world where all are treated equally and fairly, cared for and valued, where the Kingdom of God is found in the here and now.

I presently serve the Faith Communities of St. Paul's United Church (Milk River), and Knox United Church (Taber, AB) and the surrounding areas.

I am so looking forward to hopefully spending a bit of time at Waterton, and worshipping with you, in however that might look, and of course experiencing the Divine in one of the most tranquil places on earth.

I look forward to seeing you and spending time with you. Shalom
Marion Martin, Diaconal Minister.



**SEPTEMBER 5th: REV. DR. AUSTIN FENNEL
Lethbridge.**

We wish to express our thanks to the members of the Waterton U.C. Council, who meet and plan and ensure that the Church prospers: Carol Watt, Barbara Clay, Dave and Barb Colbeck, Mary Yvonne Hohm, and so many others.

It is gratifying that people from out of the province and out of the country come to attend the services of worship.

It was sometime after 1949 that Rev. Dr. Bob Elliott, the newly appointed Superintendent of Home Missions, gave enthusiastic support to the prospering of the Church. He made sure that student ministers would come to conduct summer services, and that the National Church office would provide financial support, support that continues. The setting of the church in the Rocky Mountains is quite beautiful and reminds us of the greatness of God's creation. "My help comes from the Lord Who made heaven and earth." (Psalm 121: 2).

Any support that you can give, monetary or personal attendance, is much appreciated.

SEPTEMBER 12th: MINISTER GLENDA WERT, Prairie Spirit Pastoral Charge.



It is with great hope that I anticipate this coming summer, and the opportunity to offer worship for the final Sunday of the season on September 12.

I minister to the people of Prairie Spirit Pastoral Charge; Barons Memorial, St Andrew's Cardston, Coaldale United, First United in Lethbridge, and Trinity Picture Butte. Across our prairie charge the mountains are visible on our horizon.

We are so fortunate to have Waterton National Park in our own backyard.

I am a daughter of the Prairies. I was born in Lestock, Saskatchewan, where the hospital was, but the CN train station in Quinton Saskatchewan was my first home. We also lived in the station in Semans before moving to Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, Saskatoon, and back to Winnipeg in 1972 where I lived until we moved to Lethbridge in 1992. As a child, and then as an adult working for Via Rail Canada for twelve years, I treasured my pass and have criss-crossed our beautiful country by train many times.

I am the proud mother of three adult children, who are my greatest joy. Since I entered the LPMIT program in 2004, as a single parent, they have kept me humble, grown with me, and help me recognize that love is truly the greatest gift.

It is impossible to know how things will look come September. We will be offering the service from Waterton United Church via Zoom, but we in Prairie Spirit are always happy for a good road trip. Cheryl Nelson, the pianist from First, will join me, and if Covid restrictions are lifted and the

weather is good (we can always get snow!) we are hopeful many from the Charge will make it a day and join us.

I write this as the May Long Weekend and our unofficial start to summer is days away. May this be a season of re-birth, re-opening, re-connecting, and may the end of our summer be marked by a joyful worship in our beautiful corner of creation.

I can't wait!

Peace

Glenda Wert DLM Prairie Spirit Pastoral Charge

(Photo by Marnie Houle, St Andrew's United Church, Cardston, AB)

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.



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.

The United Church of Canada has re-organized its structure. Regional Councils now replace Conferences and Presbyteries 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 received kind and perceptive outreach from our Regional Council, and we thank all concerned.

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:

The realities of persistent systemic racism, uneven distribution of resources, greed, and environmental damage, and innumerable covid tragedies, seem some days to surround and overwhelm us.

Yet, there are glimmers of hope, and solid examples of progress. In Black Lives Matter, Truth and Reconciliation, protection of Alberta's Eastern slopes, vaccine advances and countless other areas of endeavor, we shall overcome. We go forward in faith and in hope, and we know that we are not alone.

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.