

THE WATERTON UNITED CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2022



Summer Sunday services will run from June 19th to September 11th at 10:30 a.m. They will be in-person with masking encouraged. They will be live, on-line via Facebook with a link from the web-site. (Please see page 3 for the current guidelines for in-person gatherings during this stage of covid.) There will be occasional special events. Our web-site and/or Facebook page will have timely updates as we go forward in regular connection with Alberta Health, the UCC, and Parks Canada.

Open A.A. Meetings Thursdays, 7:00 p.m., July & August

Special Gatherings TBA

Waterton United Church, Box 94, Waterton Park, Alberta

TOK 2M0 Year-Round Rentals. watertonunitedchurch.com; Secretary's email: caroluanne@gmail.com Waterton United Church of Canada on Facebook. Etransfer option, watertonucc@gmail.com. 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 very 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 this pandemic time.

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 on-going support and advice.

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. In 2022, we welcomed a new Pastoral Charge Supervisor, Rev. Dr. Stephen Harper.

As Covid-19 wanes, and becomes another of our public health challenges, we look forward to continuing in-person worship (while continuing to livestream on FaceBook), and to gathering for musical and other events in our church building.

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 to all,

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!"

SUMMER OPERATION GUIDELINES

To minimize covid risk, we will provide masks and sanitizer and observe some physical distancing if unmasked.

Guest clergy may reside in the suite from early Fridays until late Wednesdays, or whatever time within those days works for them.

- **Offering plates will not be passed...they are located at the back of the sanctuary. This policy was a covid-safe solution, but one which many churches will continue to follow, in the interest of anonymity. Dedication of the offering continues. We were interested to learn that this was routine for our Methodist forefathers and mothers!**
- **Air hugs, elbow bumps, bowing and saying "Namaste" or "the Divine in me salutes the Divine in you", were covid-safe practices which will remain as**

options, even as shaking hands, hugging, and sharing refreshments become POSSIBLE OPTIONS again.

2022 GUEST CLERGY SCHEDULE

Everyone is Welcome, All Faiths are Welcome!!*Note: some changes may occur.
Guest musicians are always welcome to join us!**

May 22nd: **Honorary Associate Minister, Mrs. Eva Stanley, Calgary.**

June 19th **Minister Carol Many Chief, UCC Divinity Student & Member of
The Kainai First Nation, Celebrating National Indigenous
People's Day, with Drummers.**

June 26th **Licensed Lay Leader, Mr. Bryan Huston, Waterton & Victoria.**

July 3rd ... **Rev. Grant Dillenbeck, Stittsville UC., Ontario (+ "Forest
Church" at 2 p.m.)**

July 10th: ... **Rev. Taylor Croissant, Southminster UC and
Rev. Miyeon Kim of Fort MacLeod/Granum Pastoral Charge**

July 17th: ... **Minister Eva Stanley, Calgary.**

July 24th ... **Mrs. Allison Houston, in Music Ministry at Stittsville U.C.,
Ontario**

July 31st ... **Minister Tony Snow, Indigenous Lead for the UCC, Treaty 7,
Chinook Winds Region and Hillhurst U.C., Calgary. (+ Second
Presentation, 2 p.m.)**

August 7th **Minister Darrell Reine, Westminster United, Regina.**

August 14th **Rev. Nancy Nourse, Northminster United, Calgary**

August 21st **Rev. Dr. John Pentland, Hillhurst United, Calgary (+
Extra Presentation, 1 p.m.)**

August 28th **Rev. Marion Martin, Milk River and Taber United
Churches, with Milk River Choir.**

Sept. 4th **Rev. Dr. Stephen Harper, Calgary, Supervising Minister.**

Sept. 11th ... **Minister Glenda Wert, Prairie Spirit Pastoral
Charge (1st United, Cardston, Magrath, Picture Butte, Barons U.C.s)**

Thanksgiving and Christmas Services, Dates TBA: Minister Eva Stanley.

OPEN A.A. MEETINGS, THURS. AT 7:00 P.M. IN JULY & AUGUST.

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

6th Annual Musicians' Peace Jam and Singalong: JULY 9th, 7:00 p.m. (No charge, donations welcome.)



**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!*

EXTRA SUNDAY AFTERNOON SESSIONS:

July 3rd: Rev. Grant Dillenbeck and Mrs. Ruth Richardson will lead “Forest Church”, a chance to connect in Nature with gentle walks, readings and quiet meditation, 2 p.m.

July 31st: Minister Tony Snow, Indigenous Lead for Chinook Winds UCC Region, at 2 p.m. “Righting Relations in Difficult Times”: Tony ‘s cross-cultural wisdom and compassion are a beacon for us.

August 21st: Rev. Dr. John Pentland of Hillhurst United Church in Calgary, 1 p.m.: How Hillhurst continues to thrive downtown, welcome newcomers and move safely with covid and other lessons.

A BIG THANK-YOU TO OUR GUEST CHOIRS AND MUSICIANS! Your Melodies and harmonies are a lovely inspiration for our ministry. Guest musicians last summer were Ruben Big Sorrel Horse, Betty Baldwin (Milk River) and Cheryl Nelson (First United.)

We look forward to the return of choir activity with all due care for safety.

RETIRING SUPERVISOR: Rev. Pauline Bell:

Please receive my congratulations!

As a congregation, you have weathered another year of challenges, particularly the covid presence, with grace. Waterton UC has continued to modify processes, re-evaluate needs and wants, and still maintain the welcome to any and all who want to worship with you. Without doubt, a daunting task.

Also, without doubt one quite readily managed by the determined and dedicated church family of Waterton United. Day by day, you have supported each other as you have provided a United Church presence to the Waterton residents and visitors. The United Church of Canada is truly fortunate to have both Waterton Church and its church family offer this unique ministry.

It has been my immense pleasure and privilege to serve as pastoral charge supervisor for the past few years. I thank you for including me in the Waterton church family: it's a place of warmth and appreciation for any who are privileged to enter the fold. I am richer for having travelled alongside you. Hopefully, you, too, have gained some insights from our association.

Please know that I will continue to hold you in my prayers, as I move into retirement, yet again.

May Grace continue to follow you all,
Blessings always, Rev. Pauline



And to you Pauline! Thank you for your years of time, energy, gifted reflections and support! David too! Thank you for wanting to stay connected.... all the very best!!



WELCOME TO OUR NEW SUPERVISOR, REV. DR. STEPHEN HARPER, CALGARY.

Hello! For those of you who might not know me, my name is Stephen Harper. No, not that Stephen Harper, but the former Pastoral Relations Minister for the Chinook Winds Region. And now ... drumroll please.. the new Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Waterton Lakes United Church. I am so excited!

I first experienced the church and the National Park in 2020, and recognized immediately that this was a very special place! Not only is Waterton one of the most beautiful places in the world but it is, what I call, a soul place; one of those unique locations that speaks to you on a spiritual level.

So I am thrilled to have the opportunity to minister at Waterton with our amazing leadership team. We have a very special church that has some exciting times ahead!













If you are able, come visit us for a service this summer, we have many exciting guest ministers lined up. You won't be disappointed!

See you soon! Blessings, Stephen

2021 - 22 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, 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, Ashlee 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, Chair, 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, now retiring as Chair of the Property Committee; (many extra thanks, Dave !) ***Christy Gustavison & Ted Harritty, 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, we lost Dr. Ed Bardock at Thanksgiving. He was a life-long servant of the UCC at all levels. And, for 18 years, he was a faithful advocate, Supervisor and lay leader for Waterton. Thanks to his guidance, we have been able to complete several much-needed upgrades in the physical building, even as he has kept us on the radar of the UCC in Toronto (which owns the building and manages the Park lease). His 90th birthday party had been planned for November.

Then in January, Julie Winkler passed quite suddenly, 8 days after her 93rd birthday. Julie was a faithful “keeper of the keys” for Waterton. With her Chief Warden husband, Max, she resided in the Park from the early seventies until '87, when they retired to their nearby ranch. She then joined the Pincher Creek United Church, but never left her love and care for Waterton. As a young woman, she had trained as a deacon in Toronto. Her life's church work included everything from lay leadership and Presbytery rep, to building and repair. She created an exquisite carving, a Madonna and child, which circulated for years as an annual prize going to the congregation with the highest attendance at the South Alberta Presbytery picnics. They were held at and around the church and later at Canyon Church Camp. She designed our permanent sign (see page 1) with the bequest from Margaret Cristall, in 1992. In July she reinforced and hung the portrait of Rev. Dr. Alex Lawson which is a gift from his family. We celebrate and honour these two faithful servants in the faith community: we grieve with and extend loving prayer to their families. Their memorial services will likely take place during the summer.



We well know that many others have gone on to glory, that countless people are grieving, walking in the valley of the shadow. Please let us know how we can help?

May love of Jesus and faith family reach and sustain you. 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."*

And, 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.....”



Mid-April Evening Reflection.

HONOUR WALLS CELEBRATING AND REMEMBERING FRIENDS OF THE WATERTON UNITED CHURCH: HONOUR WALL # 2 BEGINS!



Celebrating Friends of Waterton, past and present, the first “Wall of Honour” was initiated in 2011 at our 50th Anniversary celebration and completely filled in 2020. We are pleased to establish our second Honour 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, though the wall cannot be). 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.

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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!

2022 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). Attention to current covid safety requirements are on-going.**

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 2021 did not show any covid diminishment. 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. The address for etransferring donations is watertonucc@gmail.com. Receipts are mailed in February. Thank you, again.

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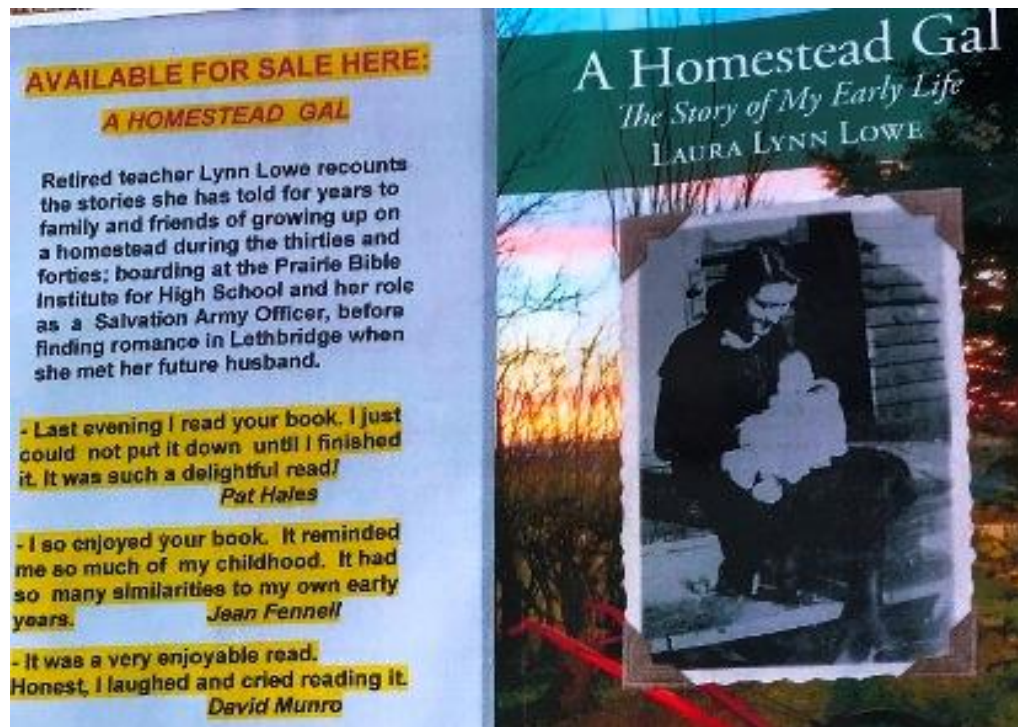
REMINDER OF BOOKS and CALENDARS FOR SALE: Check out:

- "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, and as a souvenir keepsake 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.
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HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020 –EARLY 2021

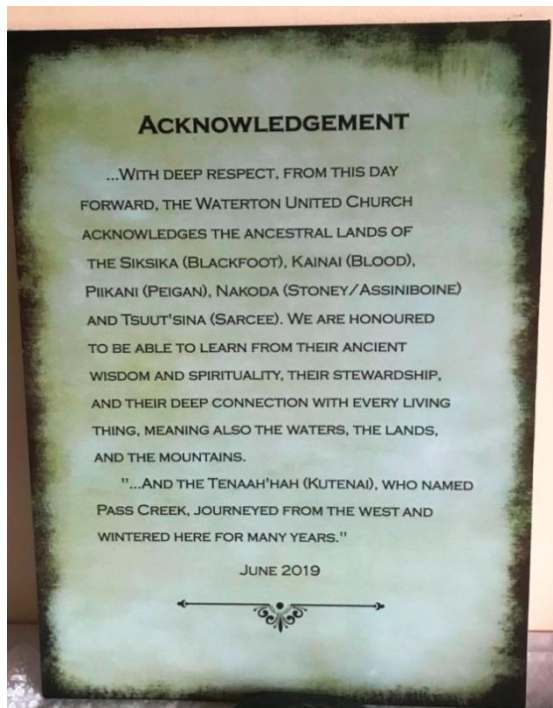
*****GUEST CLERGY**": 2021 was the 19th summer of organizing our active season with a series of gifted and energetic clergy and lay leaders who each take a week to lead for us. Note: bookings come in early: we have a simple, transparent system in place: dates are recorded as the requests come in. **Special thanks are extended at time of this writing (May, 2022) 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 2021 LONG WEEK-END OPENING SERVICE** ably led by our Minister Eva Stanley. We welcomed her as our new Honorary Associate, she will be available to officiate for weddings when requested, and to lead the 3 off-season services.

YOUTH GROUPS: None this past winter, due to covid precautions. We hope they resume soon!

2021 PEACE GATHERINGS were cancelled.

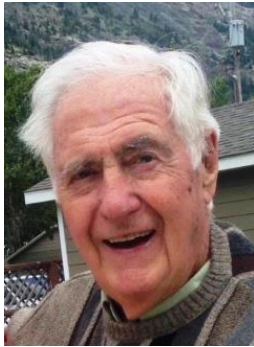
Mrs. Joyce Taylor, retired social worker, has generously offered leadership to help co-ordinate **“gatherings for peace”**, a dynamic part of our outreach and fellowship for the community and interested visitors for several years. These programs will joyfully resume as soon as possible.



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 learning about Right Relations.

April 30th 2021, marked the second 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 beautifully recorded 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 skilled IT advisor/consultant. With his guidance we have been able to be available on line during these two years 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 web-site 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!

In April we held a special "Zoom" meeting in which we brainstormed ideas for "futuring" our church. These are being prioritized and carefully considered as we move towards a possible freeing up of covid restrictions. We would love to have our concerts back, for starters!



At our spring work bee, we also began the process of itemizing routine property care and concerns. You have heard the phrase, "a work in progress": that is surely us!

On June 20th, 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. Her drumming accompaniment to her original Christian hymns enrich her services. She was joined by Ruben Big Sorrel Horse and his family. Ruben is a singer and drummer who graced us with stories and songs, and drummed for a circle dance for the 16 happy people who joined us.

On July 4th, Rev. Dr. John Pentland led a morning service and an afternoon Q and A discussion group. We talked about what we have learned during covid times, what we

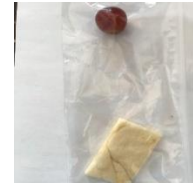
will be glad to be rid of, and what adjustments and creative solutions may well become a permanent part of our future service.

An example is the adaptation of keeping the offering plates at the back of the church. Dedication of the offering continues, but there is an appealing anonymity in “not passing the plate”.

On July 25th, Rev. Nancy Nourse added a covid creative solution to her Communion service, by pre-packaging a grape and a bite of pita for each participant. The human spirit and ingenuity will not be daunted for long!

On August 8th, Minister Tony Snow, Indigenous Lead for the UCC Chinook Winds Region led morning and afternoon services celebrating the United Nations World Indigenous Day. Tony offered traditional smudging and we listened to original Christian hymns sung in the Stoney language. We talked about the heart-breaking findings of hundreds of unmarked childrens’ graves around several Residential Schools recently. We have so much work to do going forward.

Thanksgiving Service: Honorary Associate Minister Eva Stanley led 12 of us in a heartfelt service of Thanksgiving on October 16th. We packed our own supper lunches and only unmasked when sitting safely in our “bubbles.” It was wonderful to be able to find a way to break bread and gather for extended fellowship. Thankful indeed!



30th Annual Christmas Candlelight Service

Minister Eva Stanley returned on December 21st to lead. Covid numbers were worrying once again. Fourteen were in attendance, but once again we had careful, quality visiting time and our own packed lunches. And our extended faith family had the option of enjoying the service either live or at their leisure.



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 peace and faith affirmation.

2022 GUEST CLERGY SUMMER MESSAGES

MAY 22nd : MINISTER EVA STANLEY is the Honorary Associate for Waterton U.C., which means she is available from time to time when off season needs arise, and is able to offer more continuity for us. Thank you, Eva!

Eva's Message:

As I type this my heart sings of Waterton United Church, the congregation and their volunteers, especially their Council. A place I call 'home', what an honour to be their associate minister. There is much love and peace between and outside the walls of this building.



A year into retirement – well you know ministers and retirement, a year in and I've been appointed to a short term (less than a year at this point, but in the 7th month) appointment with the good congregation of Foothills United Church in Calgary, as they await the call with an effective, kind and loving pastoral relationship. At this point in my life – 3rd third of life, I am enjoying the ¼ time ministry, lovingly working with Pacific Jubilee leadership as a Companion until October and in September stepping onto the Candidacy Board for our region. What an honour to serve!

I am very much into 'clarifying the scriptures' from the pulpit into contemporary life and to bring a sense of silence and being in the world. So easy to be silent and be in the world while in Waterton. I am also a great advocate of relationships. Speaking of which:

Thank you to the Waterton United Church Board for all they do to keep their presence known in Waterton, an open and inviting congregation – come join them any Sunday this summer. Find a new summer church home no matter how often you attend. The people and the views are outstanding!

JUNE 19th: Minister Carol Many Chief

I am so pleased to be back this summer and am pretty sure “fingers crossed” we will have a youth drum group to enjoy, from the Sik Ooh Kotoki Friendship Center for the National Indigenous Peoples Day, and Fathers Day.

Our relations continue to grow and expand as we have seen the national church step up, as much as we have tried on our congregational basis, and it makes us proud to be United. It is so exciting to see the changes starting to bear fruit in many ways.



The year has flown by and by the time I have the weekend service I will have finished my provincial proficiency exam for the Counseling Diploma and will be set to go to Vancouver for the summer school semester. Then in December I will be completing my Master of Divinity and hoping “fingers crossed”, that ordination might follow by next summer. I am also pleased to be able to do some student practicum in the Lethbridge Chinook Hospital and at the Lethbridge Corrections, as I have decided to pursue chaplaincy. The move to the Indigenous Candidacy Board has proven to be wonderful as it allows me to continue to be home at Kainai and help with the kids, the critters, and this corner of heaven on earth. Thank you for having me and I wish everyone a beautiful summer.

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
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Many Chief Consolidating Ltd
403-317-5703 because hope is always healthy.
<https://ahealthyhope4u.as.me/>

JUNE 26th: Licenced Lay Leader, Mr. Bryan Huston, Waterton Lakes National Park.



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

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

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

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

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

July 3rd: Rev. Grant Dillenbeck, Stittsville U.C., Ontario.



Greetings from Rev. Grant Dillenbeck and Ruth Richardson!

Grant and Ruth are very excited about being in Waterton in early July. They first became familiar with Waterton while they lived in Turner Valley from 1985 until 1990. Grant was the minister for the United Churches in Turner Valley and Black Diamond and Ruth worked as a palliative care nurse. Ruth's nursing background provided her with the opportunity one summer to be the nurse at Waterton United Church Camp. Over the years they have visited Waterton many times and have lead worship there in previous years. Grant also has very fond memories of hiking in the area, including the Crypt Lake trail and a multi-day hike from Many Glacier in Montana to Goat Haunt. For the last 30 years Grant has served four United Church congregations in Ottawa, while Ruth has worked as a palliative nurse educator. For the past few years Grant has led monthly Forest Church experiences, with participants spending time in nature to enhance the spiritual dimension of their lives. Grant will be retiring from full-time ministry in October 2022 and they both plan to continue to pursue their love of camping and travel, having previously visited places like Nicaragua, India, Israel, Jordan and many countries in Europe. We hope to see you in worship on July 3, 2022 and will be lead a Forest Church experience while we are in Waterton.

Forest Church

As a child growing up on a farm, Rev. Grant Dillenbeck remembers feeling a sense of God's presence in nature. As an adult Grant still has a deep sense of spiritual well-being while canoeing on a lake, walking in a forest, or hiking a mountain. If you also feel that nature is sacred and that the Creator is present in creation, then plan to come to the Forest Church experience Grant is hosting on Sunday July 3 at Waterton United Church at 2:00 pm as a way to enhance our spiritual lives while in nature.

So what is Forest Church? Simply put, Forest Church is a group of people getting together outside to connect with nature, with each other and with the Divine.

For most of human history people worshipped outside. Eventually buildings were constructed in which people gathered for worship, and corporate opportunities to experience the sacred with others in nature decreased. People came to think of "church" as a building, rather than as a group of people who gather (as the United Church's "A New Creed" states) believing in the "God who has created and is creating", to "celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation", and "to love and serve others".



In many ways today people are in disconnection from nature. Some have even described the negative effects of rarely being outside as a "Nature Deficit

Disorder”. Being in nature can increase a person’s mental, physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. Connecting with nature can also increase our desire to take care of our planet which sustains all life.

We hope to see you for our Forest Church experience.

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

Rev. MiYeon Kim is the minister at Fort Macleod-Granum pastoral charge. Originally from the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK), MiYeon was admitted to the ministry of the United Church in 2018. She has previously served in two pastoral charges in Northern Spirit Regional Council: Edgerton-Paradise Valley, and Spirit River (where she did her internship). Currently, MiYeon serves on the Admission's Board for the national church, which interviews ministry personnel from other denominations seeking admittance into The United Church of Canada. She is also passionate about music in the church, leading the *United We Dance* children's music project, and recently she has begun writing her own hymns.



She met her spouse, Rev. Taylor Croissant, while they trained for ministry together at St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon, SK. Taylor grew up in Medicine Hat and currently serves in ministry at Southminster United Church in Lethbridge. He is the editor of *Building God's Beloved Community*, a new confirmation book which will be released by United Church Publishing House in June. Taylor is an avid golfer and enjoys watching hockey and football.

The Rev. Taylor Croissant
Southminster United Church: Lethbridge, AB
<https://southminsterunited.org/>
The United Church of Canada

JULY 17th: Minister Eva Stanley, Calgary.



Please see Eva's message on page 18 for the May Long Weekend Service.

Eva's Musician daughter, Liz, joins her Mum in Waterton as accompanist and playmate. This photo was taken the day of our 30th Annual Christmas Candlelight service in December. Welcome, and thank you, Liz!

JULY 24th: Mrs. Allison Houston: in Music Ministry, Stittsville UC, Ontario..

I am very much looking forward to a second chance to worship with people at Waterton United Church. I am the Music Director at Stittsville United, a suburb of Ottawa. In the summer of 2018, I had the opportunity to lead worship for you, along with my musician sister & brother-in-law, and also my Dad. Our family ties to the United Church run deep. My Mom's father was a UCC minister, my sisters and I grew up in the church, and I have been working as a church musician and sometimes worship leader since 2013.



Combining my love of music, community involvement and spiritual development makes working with the UCC very fulfilling. This summer, my sister (Music Director at Stonewall United Church in MB) and my Dad will again be joining me to offer the service on July 24th. We are very excited for it, and also to be able to see the differences in post-fire rejuvenation from four years ago. It is such a unique experience and place. I grew up in Swift Current, Sask, and having the chance to head West again fills my heart. See you soon!

JULY 31st Minister Tony Snow, Treaty 7 Territory, Indigenous Lead for Chinook Winds Region, United Church of Canada.

Tony is from the Stoney Nakoda First Nation west of Calgary, and is the son of Alberta's first Indigenous UC minister and Hereditary Chie, Rev. Dr. John Snow. Tony is a key leader, helping to guide us in concrete action in Truth and Reconciliation. He has explained how the first missionaries in the Stoney community learned the language, emphasized education and offered genuine respect for the culture and ways of the people. Thus, the unconditional love of Jesus flourished in harmony with Stoney traditions. We are honoured that Tony will join us again, leading the morning service and an afternoon gathering at 2 p.m. Tony includes his phone #, 403 870 780.



VIRGIN 9:18 AM

Minister Tony Snow. Mondays at 7 pm MT on Zoom during Indigenous History Month:

- June 6: Identification – You as a Treaty Person
- June 13: Learning – Building Awareness and Understanding
- June 20: Self Reflection – Internalizing your Learning
- June 27: Moving to Action & Ongoing Commitment

A Zoom link will be sent to you after registration. Register HERE <https://chinookwindsregion.ca/2022/05/25/journey-into-indigenous-allyship-workshop/>

JOURNEY INTO Indigenous Allyship

A four-part series, Mondays in June | 7 pm MT on Zoom

CHINOOK WINDS REGION
hillhurst united church

Congratulations to Minister Tony Snow, here attending his Graduation in achieving his Masters of Divinity at the Vancouver School of Theology! His ordination will follow next year. The nfo graphic on the right illustrates only one example of his leadership in this most basic of human rights. We are truly thankful.

AUGUST 7th: Minister Darrell Reine, In ministry with the people of Westminster United Church, Regina, Saskatchewan.

Whispers by Thom M Shuman

It was only whispers at first, people averting their eyes, gossip trickling out the sides of their mouths about her “problem”: the years filled with laughter, ridicule, rebuke.

Telling stories to his friends, trading jokes with lawyers, asking riddles of preachers: she heard the whisper of his robe’s hem as it brushed the streets of the kingdom.

If I could only touch it, she whispered, and did.

In the silence, no one heard the whispers of grace flowing through her soul, making her whole.

In the silence, Jesus tenderly lifted her to her feet: ‘You are well, daughter of faith, go in peace’ was the benediction he whispered.



Healing. At this point in the world, do we ever so need healing. So much is going on.

- The criminal acts that Russia is perpetrating on the people of Ukraine.
- People worry “What if Putin doesn’t end his warmongering with Ukraine, what could happen to the world.”
- The worry and fear of millions of people being bombed, fleeing for their lives, or taking up arms to defend themselves. Elderly left behind as they are unable to leave and then face the realities of war.
- dangerous drugs in our communities that were not really around ten years ago to this extent, but hundreds of people are dying from them yearly.
- The cost of living is skyrocketing and no end in sight to when it will end.
- The uncontrollable climate change that many of us are ignoring.
- High rates of suicide especially among Indigenous peoples and youth.
- Over two years of covid, the isolation and fear of catching it, families that have lost loved ones and the long-term effects of folks who have had covid.
- Political unrest across the country pitting the west against the east.
- Our inaction of reconciliation and injustices.
- Lack of affordable housing and even sustainable assistance to the poor of our society.
- The lack of support for people living with mental health issues.
- The fatigue that many workers in the world are facing because of the covid pandemic.
- And, and the list goes on.....sadly!

In this time the church needs ever so much now to offer healing to the wounded spirits of the world. We need healing within and healing to go out into the world. My hope is that those who arrive in Waterton this summer will find a place of healing and of peace. Of letting go and letting the beauty of the park and church come in and restore the hearts and souls of the wounded. As the resurrected Jesus said to the disciples, "Peace be with you."

Darrell Reine DLM - Regina



AUGUST 14th: Rev. Nancy Nourse, Northminster UC, Calgary



REFLECTION: RESURRECTION STORIES

As I write this, we are about halfway through the Easter Season. Leaves are just now emerging on our trees thanks to late snowstorms that brought moisture. My garden is ready for planting! And the dandelions are way ahead of the perennials emerging from the thawing ground. It is a time of celebrating all the ways in which resurrection is possible in our lives.

And why should that ever end? Ongoing in our lives and throughout the year, there are moments where we yearn for healing, renewal, and hope. We can be in need of rising out of the depth of things that imprison us: addiction, poverty, illness, or being held back because of our gender or age or ability. What holds us back from the joy of life? What binds us, keeping us from the fullness of who God created us to be? What keeps us down?

Our faith offers us a strong message that there is hope beyond every circumstance we feel weighed down by. And in the summer we move beyond the Easter Season spiritually. But opportunity for hope and new life still abound. Perhaps on a quiet afternoon, or an early morning when you are watching the sun come up, you might turn to the scriptures – to discover or rediscover the places and people where resurrection has been found in life. They might just inspire you to your own rising up!

Acts 16: 16-34

...About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills — from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 84

...Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Genesis 28:13-20

... Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I wasn't even aware of it!" 17 But he was also afraid and said, "What an awesome place this is! It is none other than the house of God, the very gateway to heaven!"

Exodus 3: 1-15

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the sorrows of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them.

...Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God... Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. — Philippians 4: 4-9

Pentecost — Resurrection Spirit

...All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability... — Acts 2: 1-21

...be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God... For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individual we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ... — Romans 12: 1-16.

The Spirit is alive and moves among us as it did in the early church! The end of our series will offer us an opportunity to commit ourselves to some important and concrete goals for our mission in the world. We are a church that can mobilize to alleviate suffering and proclaim resurrection hope through power of the Holy Spirit!

**August 21st: Rev. Dr. John Pentland, Hillhurst UC, Calgary. Extra event:
(Q and A) at 1 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. John's 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.

May 11th, Greetings:

We have lived through a challenging two years!

Many are feeling exhausted and have expressed a sense of disorientation in this liminal time.

Everyone has experienced loss: loved ones, work, connections, and normal life in general.

It has been challenging for everyone and we have missed each other.

I look forward to reconnecting in August and hope that the environment is safe for all. We trust that we can connect and share in worship.

I hope spring is life giving and we see each other in the flesh in the summer!

Peace
John

**AUGUST 28th: REV. MARION MARTIN,
Milk River and Taber United Church.**

I have lived in southern Alberta for 25 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. Working towards a world where all are treated equally and fairly, cared for, and valued, where the Kin-dom of God is found in the here and now, is a challenge at times, but I look forward to that challenge and work every day to try to meet that challenge.

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, 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



A SPECIAL NOTE OF APPRECIATION: Personal message to Rev. Dr. Austin Fennell and



Mrs. Jean Fennell! For more than a decade, you have led worship on the Labour Day weekend and brought the McKillop Choir for a celebratory Waterton Sunday and summer reunion. Now you are retiring.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you both for your years of dedicated service, for Waterton and the UCC at large. All the best in your retirement! Maybe you will return with the vibrant McKillop Choir...we hear that might be

happening next year!

SEPTEMBER 4th, Rev. Dr. Stephen Harper, UCC Chinook Region, Calgary.

When I was younger, much younger, there was a song on the radio by an artist named Bobby McFerrin. The song, 'Don't Worry Be Happy', was released in 1988 and became a mega hit for him. I remember at the time thinking, "That is a great message! We should all do that! How hard can that be?"



What I didn't know then as a teenager, is that the idea of NOT worrying, is much easier to say, than to do.

Life seems to carry with it many stresses and worries. If we aren't careful, we can become consumed with the worries of life.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus counsels us against letting worry get the best of us. He says ultimately, it is not worth it, because you can't change a thing.

That's very true, and life will usually unfold as it is meant to, not always as we want it to. However, there are many things we can do that will help put worry behind us.

The first, and maybe the most important, is to put ourselves in a place that helps foster an attitude of peace. Sometimes that is a mental space, but sometimes it is a literal space. Waterton is one of those places. There is something about being in this park that never fails to put my soul at peace. When I am here, the concerns of the world outside the park gates seem to become a bit more manageable.

This summer I invite you to come and experience the peace of the Park. Enjoy nature, breathe in the mountain air and soak up some goodness. Let Waterton massage away the stresses of life, if only for a weekend. Give yourself the gift of this beautiful space. You deserve it!

Stephen

SEPTEMBER 11th: MINISTER GLENDA WERT, Prairie Spirit United Churches



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 11th.

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 have helped me recognize that love is truly the greatest gift.

We will be offering the service from Waterton United Church via Zoom. Cheryl Nelson, the pianist from First, will join me. If the weather is good (we can always get snow!) we are hopeful that 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)

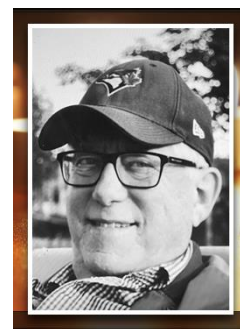
THE CHURCH AT LARGE

*****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. Broadview continues to win awards with its "broader" view, extending its ecumenical coverage well beyond the UCC.

The United Church of Canada suffered an exceptional loss in the spring. Former Moderator Right Reverend Bill Phipps passed with pancreatic cancer. He was 80 years old. His legacy is profound.

Quoting from his obituary, "He was an outspoken advocate for Earth and human rights." He was beautifully honoured at Hillhurst United in early March; the Memorial Service is on YouTube.

To quote his words in an historic statement in 1998, *"I wish to speak the words that many people have wanted to hear for a very long time. On behalf of the United Church of Canada, I apologize for the pain and suffering that our church's involvement in the Indian residential school system has caused..... We are the bearers of many blessings from our ancestors, and therefore, we must also bear their burdens."* --The Globe and Mail, March 8th, 2022.



Please remember the vital and widespread work of the UCC's **Mission and Service** and **support it financially if at all possible.**

CONCLUDING MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL:

Some days, Injustices threaten to overwhelm us. Since February we are seeing daily heartbreaking war news from Ukraine. Yesterday, another horrific tragedy: a troubled Texas youth fatally shot 19 young school children and two teachers. He was killed himself. The American President spoke to the devastating heartbreak being felt by parents and loved ones whose lives are forever changed. He pleaded for the return of commonsense gun laws.

It is a time of extended mourning. True, 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 so many areas of endeavor. Allied countries around the world are working together in support of Ukraine and the millions of resulting refugees. And in our southern neighbour, there is new resolve for these devastating massacres to be fully addressed at long last.

We are heart sick, but we have faith, hope and action. And we know that we are not alone, even though it seems to be a very long walk in the shadow.

Here at home, our faith family sends thanks to all friends and supporters in the United Church of Canada, and well 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 of you who remember doing so. *May the good Lord Bless and Keep you, 'til we meet again.*



Photo by Ryan Peruniak, Waterton Lakes National Park.