

THE WATERTON UNITED CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2023



In-person Summer Sunday services will BEGIN ON JUNE 18th AT 2 P.M., and will THEN RUN FROM JUNE 25th TO SEPTEMBER 10th at 10:30 A.M.. They will be recorded live, on-line via Facebook, with a link from the web-site. If changes are required, our web-site and/or Facebook page will have timely updates as we go forward.

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

Special Gatherings TBA

Waterton United Church,

Box 94, Waterton Park, Alberta T0K 2M0

watertonuedchurch.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 always 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

We will continue to provide masks and hand sanitizer as personal options.

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, for several reasons. We were interested to learn that this was the tradition of our Methodist ancestors!**
- **Dedication of the offering continues.**
- **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 real hugs may be resumed.....**

2023 GUEST CLERGY SCHEDULE

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

- May 21st **Honorary Associate Minister, Rev. Eva Stanley, St. Davids's U.C., Calgary.**
- June 18th **Minister Carol Many Chief, UCC Divinity Student & Member of
The Kainai First Nation, Celebrating National Indigenous
People's Day, with Drummers. **Special Time: 2 p.m.!!****
- June 25th **Rev. Marion Martin, St. Thomas UC & Foothills UC, Calgary**
- July 2nd **Rev. Lee Spice, Okotoks, Retired.**
- July 9th . **Rev. Taylor Croissant, Southminster UC and
Rev. Miyeon Kim of Fort MacLeod/Granum Pastoral Charge, with choirs!**
- July 16th **Rev. Eva Stanley, St. David's UC, Calgary.**
- July 23rd **Rev. Andria Irwin, Hillhurst United Church, Calgary.**
- July 30th **Rev. George Ward, Retired, from Unity, Sask. (formerly of Cardston UC.)**
- August 6th **Minister Darrell Reine, Westminster United, Regina.**
- August 14th **Rev. Nancy Nourse, Northminster United, Calgary**
- August 21st **Rev. Dr. Karen Medland, Pastoral Relations Minister, Chinook Winds
Region.**
- August 28th **Rev. Dr. Stephen Harper, Springbank UC, Calgary. Supervising Minister
for Waterton UC.**
- Sept. 3rd **Rev. Tony Snow, Indigenous Lead for the UCC, Treaty 7, Chinook Winds
Region and Hillhurst UC, Calgary.**
- Sept. 10th **Minister Glenda Wert, Prairie Spirit Pastoral Charge.
(1st United, Cardston, Magrath, Picture Butte and, Barons U.C.s)**

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

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

CONCERT PLANS; 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.

6th Annual Musicians' Peace Jam and Singalong: Saturday, AUGUST 5th, 7:00 p.m. (No charge, donations welcome. Refreshments.)



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

A BIG THANK-YOU TO OUR GUEST CHOIRS AND MUSICIANS! Your Melodies and harmonies are a lovely inspiration for our ministry. Guest musicians last summer were Garrett Many Chief, Liz DiMarino, (daughter of Rev. Eva Stanley), Allison Houston and her sister from Music Ministry in Ontario, Betty Baldwin (Milk River) and Cheryl Nelson (First United UC). We look forward to the return of these musicians and other choirs and, really, to all guest musicians! You are so welcome to join us and share your gift of music!

MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPERVISOR, REV. DR. STEPHEN HARPER, CALGARY



Greetings! I hope that all of you who love Waterton United are well and enjoying the end of Winter and the first blooms of Spring!

For me, one of the best things about winter coming to an end is the fact that the summer season at Waterton United is that much closer! Our summer guest minister program has become very popular in our region and it fills up quickly each year. I am eagerly looking forward to my week this August! (The 27th).

We are blessed to have come out of the pandemic in a very strong position. Sadly, not every community of faith in our region can say this.

We enjoy this momentum thanks to all of you who are passionate about our little church, and serve by offering your time, talents and treasures for the continued and vital ministry that is provided through you in the park.

I can't wait to see you all again. Until then, please keep our church in your prayers.
Grace and peace to you all. See you soon! **Rev. Dr. Stephen Harper**

2022 - 23 WATERTON UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL

(Executive: Chairperson: Barb Clay; Vice-Chair: Carol Cruickshank; Secretary: Carol Watt; Treasurer: Lynn Cameron-Thorpe; Property leaders: Dave Colbeck, Ben Hofer, Anita Niven, Lauren & Brian Baker; Honour Wall Co-ordinator: Lou Niven; Special Events Planning: Joyce Taylor. Members at large: Aynsley Baker, Lil Evanoff, Anne Miller, Lettie Croskery, Ashlee Niven-Sharpe. And we welcome new volunteer Council Member, Rev. Nancy Nourse of St. David's and Northminster United Churches in Calgary!

 <p>Lil Evanoff Honorary Elder.</p>	 <p>Carol Watt</p>	 <p>Aynsley Baker</p>	 <p>Lynn Cameron-Thorpe</p>
 <p>Anita Niven</p>	 <p>Anne Miller</p>	 <p>Carol Cruickshank</p>	 <p>Lou Niven</p>

			
Lettie Croskery	Mary Yvonne Hohm	Barb Clay	Barb Colbeck
	Honorary Elder		
			
Rev, Nancy Nourse	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. 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, Honorary Elder, Concert Pioneer and Hostess Extraordinaire;***Lauren Baker , resident guardian, ***Lou Niven, for 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 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! **Special Thanks to Lisa Lenz-Hofer this year, for picking up the mail, managing winter access, and general hands on checking!!**

IN MEMORIAM

Rev. Dr. Austin Fennell passed on just before Christmas, a month before his 90th birthday. He had a long and varied career serving the United Church at all levels. He served many communities and organizations, such as the University of Lethbridge Campus Ministry and the Lay School of Ministry in Western Canada. He came to Waterton UC for his regular guest clergy Sunday since we began this system two decades ago. He took great joy in also bringing the McKillop Choir, of which he and his wife Jean were members. Thank you, Rev. Austin! Condolences, Jean, and to all your family.

Recently, and very close to home, we lost **Bob Clay**, beloved husband of our honoured Chair, Barbara. For many years, Bob was a constant presence at our services and gatherings. Unfailingly, he pitched in in so many ways: from making coffee and dealing with miscellaneous repairs, to the creation of our Little Free Library. We will remember him, his laughter, good humour, and genuine interest in the faith family.

Bob's own family gathered on November 18th last year for his 89th birthday, a comforting memory now for his loved ones. It is a tender time, learning to go on without him.

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."*



"One day at a time, sweet Jesus".

I had my own notion of grief.
 I thought it was the sad time
 That followed the death of
 someone you love.
 And you had to push through it
 To get to the other side.
 But I'm learning there is no other side.
 There is no pushing through.
 But rather,
 There is absorption.
 Adjustment.
 Acceptance.
 And grief is not something you complete,
 But rather, you endure.
 Grief is not a task to finish
 And move on,
 But an element of yourself-
 An alteration of your being.
 A new way of seeing.
 A new definition of self.

Author unknown.

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!

2023 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).**

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 that our financial report for 2022 did not show any covid diminishment. Your continued generous support, even when you were unable to attend, is the reason for this good news.**

NOTE: We have just learned that upgrading the cathedral windows may be needed fairly soon. Researching Green grant funding and working on ways to meet this new challenge has become a priority.

We now have etransfer availability. The address for etransferring donations is watertonucc@gmail.com. Receipts are mailed in February. Thank you, again.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022–EARLY 2023

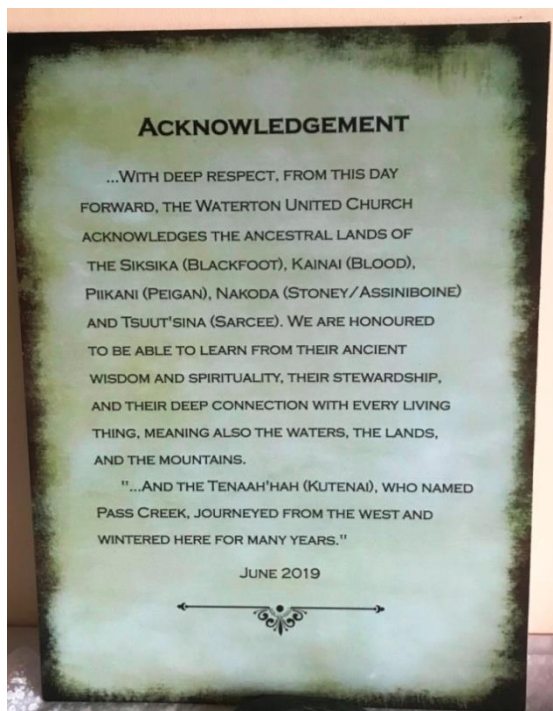
*****GUEST CLERGY**:** 2022 was the 20th summer of organizing our active season with a series of gifted and energetic clergy and lay leaders who each take a week to lead for us. Note: bookings come in early: we have a simple, transparent system in place: dates are

recorded as the requests come in. **Special thanks are extended at time of this writing (May, 2023) 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 2022 LONG WEEK-END OPENING SERVICE** was ably led by our Minister, Rev. Eva Stanley. Last year she became our new Honorary Associate. She will be available to officiate for weddings when requested, and to lead the 3 off-season services.

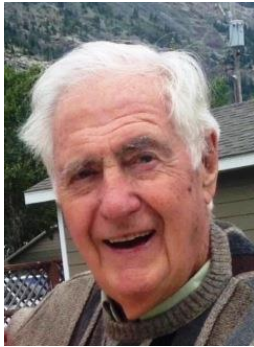
YOUTH GROUPS We had two groups come and stay a weekend this year.

Our Musicians' Jam and PEACE GATHERING was able to resume on July 9th last year. A vibrant and joyful time. Thanks to the hosts and all who attended! **This summer's is planned for August 5th.** Thanks to Mrs. Joyce Taylor, who has generously offered leadership to help co-ordinate these **"gatherings for peace"**.



We are very pleased that our 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 when the sign was ready. We were honoured to have her carry 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. May we all continue learning to be allies.

April 30th 2022, marked the third 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 recorded sermons, his daughter Sheena chose these quotes for the 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'. And Benediction: "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 initiative and guidance we have been able to be available on line during these three years of covid realities and restrictions. Services can be viewed at any time at Waterton United Church of Canada on Facebook.

There is also a link to view the services on our website. 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 Rev. Dr. Stephen led a special "Zoom" meeting in which we learned about ways the UCC has developed for "futuring" churches. **In a nutshell, we are advised to focus on more ways of networking with the local and regional community. So: How can the Waterton United Church serve you? What would you like to see happen? Your ideas and comments couldn't be more welcome!**

SUMMER OF 2022...

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 enriched her service once again. She was joined by her son Garrett and his daughter, who added drumming and singing to the service.



In late June, Mr. Bryan Huston, Retired Licenced Lay Leader and permanent Watertonian, graciously presented a lively service (at the last minute when we had a cancellation). Thank you Bryan!! It is a pleasure to have your on-going support now that Waterton is your permanent address! And Barb, thanks for your wise counsel and help with the poster run!

In early July Rev. Grant Dillenbeck and Mrs. Ruth Richardson returned to lead from Stittsville United Church in Ottawa. In the afternoon they offered "Forest Church", a gentle hike around town with pauses to appreciate the surrounding beauty, and time to talk about feeling close to the Divine in nature and time to just be still.

Rev. Taylor Croissant and his wife, Rev. MiYuan, brought many congregants with them from Southminster, Fort MacLeod and Granum United Churches. Pot luck luncheons have been able to return, and we are thankful!).

Honorary Associate Minister Rev. Eva Stanley and her musician daughter Liz DiMarino led next, a lovely service, and shared some quality time hiking and resting....a good part of what it's all about.

Allison Houston, Music Minister from Stittsville United Church, brought many family members for a service of stellar music, including piano and organ in duet.

On July 31st, Minister Tony Snow, Indigenous Lead for the UCC Chinook Winds Region, led morning and afternoon services. We talked about the tragic discoveries of the unmarked graves of hundreds of children, lost in the Residential School system. We are heart-broken. We have so much work to do. To go forward, before real healing can begin, we need to listen and acknowledge the tragedies and injustices of the past.

In early August, Rev. Nancy Nourse and Brad Lavenne suggested some ways in which we could address the issue of our front "lawn" area, which had become a desert forming the base of a village of Columbian ground squirrels. We are discussing options of possible improvements.

However, we have an issue that requires more immediate action. The soffit and fascia underneath the steeple and surrounding the cathedral windows has not received regular upkeep since the building was dedicated in 1961. Estimates and approval from

the UCC have been obtained, and this necessary work will be completed before the summer season. The window frames have been maintained.

The Waterton Lakes Leaseholder Association held their own Memorial afternoon, in honour of loved ones who had passed during covid when gatherings were so restricted. There was candle lighting and sharing about grieving. Mrs. Elizabeth Martin, of Martin's Funeral home in Lethbridge, led the event. We send condolences to all who have suffered losses, and seek ways to network in the future.

When Rev. Darrell Reine and his wife Karen were here, they helped a wedding couple decorate and then restored order afterwards. Darrell was not required to officiate, but certainly went well beyond the extra mile to welcome the wedding party!

In late August, we welcomed back our first post-covid concert! People remembered, 30 folks attended the singular event! Many thanks to Sheena, Randy, Sophie and Neil!!
We know you are planning to return!!



Rev. Dr. John Pentland had an unavoidable conflict, and his colleague from the blossoming Hillhurst United Church, Rev. Andria Irwin, was able to take the lead in that space. She was enthusiastic in her observations of Waterton, the church, and the part

of the family whom she met...so much so that she told us she totally re-wrote her sermon on Saturday night. She has booked to come back!

Rev. Marion Martin and an able colleague, both of whom are Diaconal Ministers, led a joint service on the last Sunday in August. The Milk River Choir and many folks from Milk River and Raymond United Churches attended the Celtic-themed service.

The Labour Day Long Weekend found Council Executive conducting the service. Rev. Dr. Stephen Harper was taken ill shortly before, but sent the Meditation, so we could fill in without difficulty. Dr. Harper has been very supportive and positive in the months since he has assumed the position of our Supervisor.

Rev. Brenda Wert and many of the folks from Cardston, First United, Magrath, Picture Butte and Barons, did the last service, complete with pot luck and visiting. Brenda's tender words about our recently late Queen and her legacy were fitting and welcome.

Thanksgiving Service: Honorary Associate Minister Eva Stanley led 12 of us in a heartfelt service of Thanksgiving on October 1st. While still being careful, we are thankful indeed, for this season of emergent rebirth from covid.

Chinook Winds Youth Rally: As October drew to a close, we were delighted to host the first youth rally that Chinook Winds was able to organize, (yes, covid negated youth rallies too). The group also visited the Buffalo Jump Interpretive Site near Fort MacLeod. Below, led by Chris Mah Poy, they are learning about blanket exercises...another way we can move towards truth and reconciliation....



31^s Annual Christmas Candlelight Service

On December 17th, Rev. Eva Stanley and musician daughter Liz DiMarino drove from Calgary to lead our joyous candlelight service. We were also blessed to have Sheena Lawson return as guest soloist. There were many happy memories and much joy going forward! 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.



2023 GUEST CLERGY SUMMER MESSAGES



MAY 22nd: REV. EVA STANLEY is our Honorary Associate. We welcome her dedication and vital support!

Can you believe it is 2023? Such changes and growth since the idea of building this United Church was but a dream! Many of us were just children, baby boomers filling Sunday Schools, youth groups and churches across the country and beyond.

The Dream of Waterton United Church has continued through harsh winters and cold winds, hot summers and fires, buds of spring and the colours of autumn, embracing monumental decisions around who and what the United Church is in this country. Dreams of how this church could serve in a National Park, it's homeowners and guests. The church has been a welcome for searchers and members of the broader church. Present for destination weddings and private retreats, the doors have always been open.

All this has been done with volunteers, no paid staff on salary, it has been the heart of those who believe in what the United Church stands for and is about. These volunteers work tirelessly all year round for their love of God, the Divine, the Holy, and what it means to be open and welcoming to all who need the solace of Christ, the heart of God, and refuge in the Spirit. They do this work for Love.

Thank you, each volunteer and those who donate time and energy for this building. You are a gift to the United Church of Canada, a gift for those visiting the Park, a gift for those who excitedly wait for their week in this gift of nature. I see you. You who made sure the building has enough for their guest ministry, to provide comfort and cleanliness, safety and warmth. I see you welcoming brides and grooms looking for a meaningful place to have their ceremonies. I see you value each other in long

relationships. I see you celebrate and grieve. You are not a part-time church, you are the church.

I don't feel that I've said enough, for how can words express the passion you show? So, quite simply my friends, thank you. Thank you and thank you.

May the blessings of the Great Love we serve together be present with you in all your work, and your faith in this ministry. Your ministry, your ministry to the wider community. You are a blessing. Thank you.

JUNE 18th: Minister Carol Many Chief

NOTE: SPECIAL TIME: 2 p.m.

Hello, I am so happy to be included once again in this beautiful church. After a long journey of training I am pleased to announce I graduated from the Vancouver School of Theology with my Master of Divinity this May. I look forward to my ordination July 30th in Edmonton and moving forward I will be continuing on into the chaplaincy CPE clinical pastoral education through Saskatoon. With the continued support of Southminster United, Lethbridge Corrections, and Indigenous Ministries, we will support Kainai and urban Indigenous needs, through outreach and pastoral care. Wishing every one many blessings and a safe summer.

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)."

Holistic Care and Coaching - Heart / Soul / Mind Because hope is always healthy think AHH Carol Many Chief student minister, 403-317-5703

<https://ahealthyhope2create.as.me/>

JUNE 25th th: REV. MARION MARTIN, St. Thomas and Foothills United Churches, Calgary In photo below, Marion (right) and her Deaconess Colleague lead their Celtic-themed service last August, with Milk River congregants.

I lived in the deep southern part of Alberta for 25 plus years, and it was shortly after moving there 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. Last fall I moved a little farther north to the city of Calgary, a huge and adventurous move for me, since I have never lived in a city before. I now serve the Faith Communities of St. Thomas United Church and Foothills United Church. I am absolutely loving my call to the city and am soaking up all the new learnings and new connections.

I am so looking forward to returning to Waterton, to worship with you, and of course experiencing the Divine in one of my favorite places.

I look forward to seeing you and spending time with you. Shalom

Marion Martin, Diaconal Minister

July 2nd: Rev. Lee Spice, Retired, from Okotoks. (shown here with her 1st grandchild!)



I think I was getting used to having a tidy and settled life. Our last dog died about three years ago, I retired (well, mostly), and the house was uncluttered at last! (Well, mostly).

My husband continued with gardening and hunting. I took up knitting again, and we were able to camp and hike and travel and go to football games without worrying about leaving the dogs for too long.

It seemed reasonable to adopt a cat, so along came Simon. He is awesome – friendly and loveable, and we only have to find someone to watch him if we're gone for

more than a day.

But we kept hearing about the numbers of dogs in the shelters that needed adoption. Pictures of them floated across the computer screen, and one day there was a pair of little black 4-month-olds named "Harper" and "Lee." We found ourselves at an RV show, knowing that they were going to be shown off there.

The rest, as they say, is history. We have a 4 ½ month old pup, formerly named "Lee," who now goes by the name, "Keeley."

Life is not uncluttered anymore.

Perhaps The Holy never means for us to have tidy lives. I mean, we don't have tidy societies or tidy institutions. Or, if we think so, we're missing something. The growth, the questions, the changes, and the very life of everything happens at the margins – at the edges, where it is messy.

Often, when folks enter the wilderness, like the wilderness at Waterton, it is to escape the messiness of the rest of life. But nature, as intricate and wonderful as it is, is not always “neat.” Things die. Things get eaten. Forests grow up and burn and grow again. It's not that it's not amazing. It's not that things don't work together in tandem and harmony. I mean, photosynthesis! And the life cycle of insects!

It's not that the beauty of Creation is not in every living thing. It's just that it is often not tidy.

I am learning, again, to find beauty and fulfillment amongst the clutter, every bit as much as I see beauty and majesty in the seeming untidiness of the Universe. As always, if you look to where things are going on, where things are begging questions – if you look to the messy margins, God is there. May it be for you, too.

Rev. Lee Spice (retired), Okotoks, Alberta

**JULY 9th: 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 16th Honorary Associate, Rev. Eva Stanley,



Please see Eva's message on page 17 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. Of '21. Welcome, and thank you, Liz!

JULY 23rd Rev. Andria Irwin, Hillhurst United Church.

I am so looking forward to this. Below is my message, attached is a photo. Edit as you see fit!

Rev. Andria Irwin is the Associate Minister of Hillhurst United Church in Calgary, Alberta and was introduced to the summer series last year by colleague and friend of Waterton UC, Rev. Dr. John Pentland. She has previously served as a church planter, a church consultant, and is an advocate for the faithful building and planting of digital communities (secular and faithful alike!) In 2020 Andria authored a book alongside Rev.

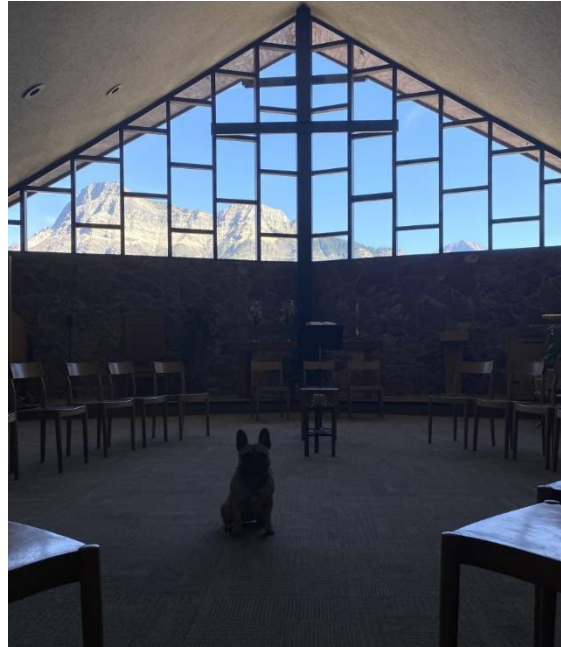


Dr. Jason Byassee titled "Following: Embodied Discipleship in a Digital Age." Her passion for sharing the gospel in online spaces has labeled her a progressive evangelist and a digital missionary.

This time last year I was a new Albertan after having just moved to Calgary from Vancouver. Pulling into Waterton was an experience unlike any other, and one glimpse of the church had me hoping I would be on this list of guest clergy forever! My french bulldog, Eugene, and I slept in the middle of the sanctuary during a magnificent thunder and lightning show, and experienced the thinness of the space so many had told me about. The congregation on Sunday, made up primarily of tourists to the area, was brilliantly diverse and magnificent conversation.

It astounded me that on a beautiful summer day, in the midst of people's summer holidays and the spectacular beauty of the surrounding land, that people were coming to church. It astounds me every Sunday, truthfully. The courage it takes to walk into a church building, especially a newcomer, is something immense — and yet I witness it week after week. People hungry for the good news.

The community of Waterton has heard that call. By inviting a multitude of voices to share what the Spirit is speaking to the church it offers an invitation to those seeking bread for the journey and it hosts those people with sacred hospitality. With blessing & anticipation, Andria



Andria's companion Eugene feels at home.

JULY 30th Rev. George Ward, Voluntary Associate Minister at Unity United Church in Saskatchewan, formerly of Cardston-Magrath United Churches.



George and Roselis (Rose) were married in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the summer of 1968. They had met at the Presbyterian seminary there where George was ordained. Rose (a German citizen) was having visa problems, and they decided to move to Canada.

For five years, they served two congregations in Ontario near Hamilton and Niagara Falls. During this time, George served his parishes, took a

postgraduate program at McMaster University and volunteered with an early regional crisis-counselling agency. Rose, (educated as a minister but not yet ordained), led worship *auf Deutsch* (in German) at an ethnic United Church congregation in Hamilton.

A big change came when George enlisted as a padre (a military chaplain) in the Royal Canadian Army. George retired in the rank of Major, and then plunged back into Parish Ministry.

Rose was ordained in Manitoba in 1987, after which they preferred to work together in Team Ministry.

George retired in 2009. By then, their older son Ricky had died in Calgary. Their younger son Chris and his wife Tammy call Unity, Saskatchewan their home. With great delight, George welcomes his three grandchildren when they visit. George now lives in Parkview Place, an Assisted Living facility in Unity. (He became partially disabled when osteoarthritis invaded the site of an old military injury.)

Sadly, George lost his beloved wife Rose in April of 2020. He carries on, volunteering at the Royal Canadian Legion, enjoying target shooting and composing letters and short articles for newspapers and magazines (a few of which are actually published!)

George looks back at a long and varied career: in his time he has also worked as a telephone installer, a program Director and Chaplain for Boy Scouts of America, Canadian Armed Forces (Regular Forces Chaplain, Licenced gunsmith and firearm repair, house painter and Instructor for Canadian Forces Officer Cadets.

He calls himself a theological conservative with a strong social conscience, and his recreation includes swimming, firearm repair, writing letters to the editor, reading, writing on the military topics, and target shooting.

Note: George served as Waterton U.C. Supervisor for several years and is looking forward to this return journey to southern Alberta!

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



Darrell is Convenor of the Living Skies Region (Saskatchewan), here conducting a Praise Service at the Annual Meeting.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. Oh, it's that time of year again when many folks head to Waterton to enjoy the mountains, lakes, hiking trails and the sights. As we enter into this season when the park opens its doors wide to cabin dwellers, campers, day users, clergy, and families, it is a great time



to rejoice. My name is Darrell, and I will travel from Regina in August with my partner Karen and our sweet four-legged girl Grace to this great place. Again, I say rejoice! With the world in such turmoil,

Waterton is a place to relax, let go of those things that weigh on our hearts and just soak in the feeling of being held by God's love in this wonderful park. Again, I say rejoice! Last fall we traveled back to Waterton for a study leave and we enjoyed fall, rain, fog, winter, and a foot or so of snow. But still enjoyed our time there. May your travels and stay be safe, may you enjoy the company of your neighbours and those you don't know and many thanks to those at the church who make this possible! Again, I say rejoice!!



August 13th: Rev. Nancy Nourse,
REFLECTION FROM REV NANCY
NOURSE
Coordinating Minister for Northminster
and St David's United Churches in Calgary

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth,
and the life!" ...*John 14:6*

C. S. Lewis in 1945 wrote "Meditation in a
Toolshed." He tells the story of entering a
toolshed and coming upon a beam of light
shining through the otherwise darkened

room. At first he paid attention to the light and the specks of dust floating in that light (sounds like my house), but then his perspective changed and he focused on what that beam of light was highlighting. Lewis said that his perspective changed and suddenly he was paying attention to the leaves on the branches and the blue sky beyond the door of the toolshed. Instead of looking at the beam, he focused on how the light transformed what he saw through it.

When Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life," we often hear him say these words with strictness in his voice. But through a different lens and light perhaps this is a more hopeful message. When we are searching, there is relief when we follow the way of Jesus. When we are seeking understanding, Jesus provides an answer. No matter what we are facing, Jesus offers life. Looking to Jesus is, indeed, transformational.

What if we looked along the beam, stepped into it, experienced it? No doubt we would see God's light in a new way and appreciate God's beauty more than we do now. Our perspective on a lot of this would change. If we looked along the beam, it would help us see and love the blue sky beyond the door.

As verse two from "This is God's Wondrous World" says...

*This is God's wondrous world: the birds their carols raise;
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world: God shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass or mountain pass, God's voice speaks everywhere.*

August 20th: Rev. Dr. Karen Medland Pastoral Relations Minister, Chinook Winds Region.



Hi my name is Karen Medland (Rev. Dr.) the regional minister for pastoral relations in Chinook Winds. I was born and raised in Scotland in a smallish town of about 16000 people. I attended the Presbyterian Church of Scotland as a child and youth.

When I moved to Canada with my husband and daughter, I became involved with the United Church of Canada. After some discernment I began my studies at Vancouver school of Theology and was granted my Master of Divinity in 2002.

My first pastoral charge was in British Columbia in the North Thompson, from there I went to First United in Kelowna. After 9 years there I moved to Carman United in

Chilliwack.

While in Chilliwack I began studying for my Doctor of Ministry in Preaching at Chicago Theological Seminary. I graduated from that program in 2019.

In late 2018 I became the Office of Vocation Minister for Northern Spirit, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regions and moved to Edmonton to do that work. Last year I discerned that the role of Regional Minister for Pastoral Relations was a better match for my gifts and skills and so when the vacancy came up in Chinook Winds I applied. I am excited to be in this new role and look forward to being with you all in August for worship.

August 27th: Rev. Dr. Stephen Harper, Calgary

Superhero movies are very popular these days. Whether it's Spiderman fighting crime in New York City, Batman patrolling the mean streets of Gotham, or one of the many superhero teams like The Avengers helping to keep the universe safe from malevolent super villains, we cannot seem to get enough of these stories.



Why we are captivated by these types of movies is an interesting discussion piece. However, what really fascinates me, is the back stories of these fictional heroes

You see, one of the universal elements of these story arcs, is that these individuals never wanted to be heroes. They all came to this life reluctantly or by accident. Batman became a hero to avenge his parents who were murdered before his eyes. Spiderman was bitten by a radioactive spider and then counselled by his Uncle Ben, "with much power comes much responsibility."

It might surprise you to know that, in the Bible, those individuals who we would deem to be “heroes” all came to that life by accident as well.

One of the best examples of this was Moses, the one time “Prince of Egypt” who became the deliverer of Israel. On August 27th, we are going to look at this reluctant champion and find out why he was a hero. I hope that you can join us.

SEPTEMBER 3rd Rev. 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 Chief, 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.

Tony includes his phone #, 403 870 7801.

Congratulations to Rev. Tony Snow, in the photo below, attending his Ordination at the Vancouver School of Theology last summer. The info graphic on the right illustrates only one example of his leadership in this most basic of human rights.

Tony’s work involves vital outreach with many other denominations. Through this most reason Lenten season, he led many successful blanket exercises , designed to educate and inform the allies....that’s us! Thank you, Tony!



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/>

SEPTEMBER 10th: 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 10th.

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.

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

Celebrating our new Moderator, Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne!



Ordained in 20007, she is the second Indigenous person to be elected Moderator, following the Very Rev. Stan McKay in 1992. A member of the Heiltsuk First Nation, she was born in Alert Bay, B.C., and has been a lifelong member of the United Church. She is committed to an Indigenous way of being in the world. She speaks of a church committed, "To build new connections and rebuild old ones. To work towards social change that sees a world cared for, and human dignity honoured. To walk together every day in repentance and reconciliation. To march and fight and change unjust systems together. To pray together. To sing together. To discern together."



Rebuilding Canyon Church Camp, one day at a time. Children modelled versions of the Camp at a special gathering on the Saturday of May Long, celebrating and participating in camp activities. Thanks to Karen Larter and the resilient Board of CCC! Repair and reconstruction work begins very soon!!

ANNOUNCEMENT: OUR LITTLE FREE LIBRARY HAS BOOKS AND READING CHAIRS FOR YOUR COMFORT!!

On the lee side of the church, we have created a place for reading and meditation. The handiwork of the recently passed (and dearly missed) Bob Clay, the “library” has been another victim of covid delay. Now, please come, sit a spell, take a book if you choose. We have a substantial reserve, thanks to generous donors.

Concluding Word from the Council.

Though our world seems fraught with division and turmoil, we still believe in faith, hope and action for justice. And we know that we are not alone, even though it seems to be a very long walk in the shadow. We have resilience, we are allies, and we have the unconditional love of Jesus alive in the world, among us and within us.

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.*



This tissue paper campfire was the centrepiece for the closing of the recent “Camp Day” in the church. The light shines on.