

THE WATERTON UNITED CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2024



Summer Sunday services will BEGIN ON JUNE 16th AT 2 P.M., and will THEN RUN FROM JUNE 23rd TO SEPTEMBER 8th 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, 108 Clematis.

Box 94, Waterton Park, Alberta T0K 2M0

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

Call or text 403 308 6812.

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 friends of Waterton United Church. I write on behalf of our Church Council, which works hard to keep our little church open and functioning as “the open doors of Jesus Christ”.

It is heartening to hear how much people love coming to our church in the mountains, how they have their faith uplifted upon seeing Vimy Mountain framed in the cathedral window. Many see the Waterton United Church as a personal sanctuary. We are grateful beyond words to those who can join us for worship and/or support us in other ways. We are grateful also for the support of the Chinook Winds Region of the United Church of Canada, for their support and advice in all things.

I am so pleased to be able to be part of the Waterton United Church Council as we move forward guided by our Pastoral Charge Supervisor, Rev. Dr. Stephen Harper.

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 Guidelinew

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

Guest clergy may reside in the suite from early Fridays until later on 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.

2024 GUEST CLERGY SCHEDULE

Everyone is Welcome, All Faiths are Welcome!!***Note: some changes may occur. Guest musicians are always welcome to join us! Sundays, 10:30 a.m. (except June 16th, @ 2 p.m.).

- May 19th Honorary Associate Minister, Rev. Eva Stanley, Calgary.
- June 16th Rev. Tony Snow, Indigenous Minister for Chinook Winds Region. **2 p.m.**
- June 23rd Rev. Eva Stanley (filling in due to a cancellation).
- June 30th Rev. Marion Martin, St. Thomas UC & Foothills UC, Calgary. With Milk River Choir!
- July 7th Rev. Kim Homes-Younger, Parkdale United, Calgary.
- July 14th Rev. Dr. Stephen Harper, our Supervising Minister, Springbank U.C.
- July 21st Rev. Eva Stanley with musician daughter Liz DiMarino.
- July 28th Minister Darrell Reine, Westminster United, Regina.
- August 4th Rev. Tracy Robertson, St. Thomas U.C., Calgary. With Western musicians!
- August 11th Rev. Nancy Nourse, Northminster United, Calgary.
- August 18th Rev. Taylor Croissant, Southminster UC and
Rev. MiYeon Kim of Fort MacLeod/Granum Pastoral Charge, with choirs!
- August 25th Ms. Treena Duncan, Executive Minister for Pacific Mountain and Chinook Winds Region.
- Sept. 1st Rev. Andria Irwin, Calgary.
- Sept. 8th Ruth Pelletier, Lay Leader at Trinity United (Picture Butte.) With combined choir! Prairie Spirit Pastoral Charge includes 1st United, Cardston, Magrath, Picture Butte and, Barons U.C.s
Rev. Glenda Wert is on Sabbatical this summer.

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 \$20 at the door; \$10 for students (College & University) Please check web-site, Facebook, and/or watch for posters and news of special gatherings.

6th Annual Musicians' Peace Jam and Singalong: Saturday, JULY 20th 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 included Rev. MiYeon Kim, (Fort MacLeod and Granum), Liz DiMarino, (daughter of Rev. Eva Stanley), Betty Baldwin (Milk River), Cheryl Nelson (First United UC), Lou Niven, Cowley Foothills U.C. and Alex Chisholm, Pincher Creek United Church, bagpipes and several other instruments! 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, SPRINGBANK U.C.



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 July! (July 14th).

Thanks to the leadership on our AMAZING Church Council we are blessed to enter the new year in a very strong position. Sadly, not every community of faith in our region can say this. We are small but mighty!


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

2023 - 24 WATERTON UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL

(Executive: Chairperson: Barb Clay; Vice-Chair: Carol Cruickshank; Secretary: Carol Watt; Treasurer: Lynn Cameron-Thorpe; Property leaders: Barb Clay, 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, Lettie Croskery, Ashlee Niven-Sharpe and Rev. Nancy Nourse of St. David's and Northminster United Churches in Calgary!

			
Lil Evanoff Honorary Elder	Carol Watt	Aynsley Baker	Lynn Cameron-Thorpe
			

Anita Niven	Ashlee Niven - Sharpe	Carol Cruickshank	Lou Niven
			
Lettie Croskery	Lauren Baker	Barb Clay	Barb Colbeck
			
Rev. Nancy Nourse	Dave Colbeck	Ben Hofer	Phil Ruppel
			
	Diane Rossetti	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" *** " *** 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,

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 for pitching in when it comes time to clean and decorate; ***Dave Colbeck ***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, for picking up the mail, managing winter access, and general checking and care!! And to Kimberley Meehan, from the Kilmorey, who joined the faith family wholeheartedly, hands on all summer, and sadly, has moved on. And to Phil Ruppel for years of grounds care, joined last summer by Barb and Bryan Huston. What a fine team we have!**

IN MEMORIAM



One of our long-standing “Honorary Elders”, Mrs. **Mary Yvonne Hohm**, has passed recently. She was 98, and until a few years ago, attended regularly and continued to contribute in any way she could. It was Mary Yvonne who finessed the meetings and the many requirements of the development process with Parks and with the architects for our additional entryway, accessible washroom and storage space. Construction was completed in 2007, but the process for planning, approval and fund-raising evolved for several years before that. Eric Hohm was Master Contractor for the project but also installed flooring, and Mary Yvonne joined in the painting bees.. They were stalwart supporters of Magrath United Church, and also of Waterton for many years. You might notice the small plaque in the entryway which states

“Welcome to Your Hohm Room!”

We send condolences to the Hohm family and their many friends, with heartfelt appreciation and thanks: her legacy is inspirational!

Dr. Brian Reeves, (Barney), well-known archeologist, Waterton community leader and life-long Watertonian, passed in mid summer and his Memorial service was held in the church. We extend our condolences to the family, colleagues, and friends. His leadership was steadfast and unique, his legacy of bridge building within the various community sectors is to be appreciated and used as a model going forward. Many from the traditional

lease-holder/cottage community, as well as from the Parks and Business communities, attended. Martin Brothers Funeral Home presided. We were pleased to be able to provide this service for the broad community.

(Some of our “future” planning goals focus on meeting needs and improving outreach and awareness.)

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 art with me."*

An unknown author has written words of truth about grief:

"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 am learning, there is no other side. There is no pushing through. But rather there is absorption, adjustment and acceptance. Grief is not something you complete, but rather, you endure. Grief is not a task to finish and move on, but rather an element of your self, an alteration of your being, a new way of seeing, a new definition of self."

HONOUR WALLS CELEBRATING AND REMEMBERING FRIENDS OF THE WATERTON UNITED CHURCH:



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!

2024 FEE SCHEDULE: Weddings, including “rain checks” = \$250; Workshops and Meetings = \$200/day or \$100/ half day; Church Youth Group Sleep-overs = \$100/day. Study/retreat sleep overs = \$30 /night. **Please note: Fee schedule is under review and there will be some increase beginning in the New Year.**

_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 2023 did not show any decrease. Your continued generous support, even when you were unable to attend, is the reason for this good news.**

NOTE: We have learned that upgrading the cathedral windows will be needed fairly soon. Researching Green grant funding and working on ways to meet this new challenge have become a priority. A UCC approved energy audit has been done this spring.

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

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023–EARLY 2024

*****GUEST CLERGY****: 2023 was the 21st 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, 2024) 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).

YOUTH GROUPS We had four groups come and stay (for a night or two) this past winter.

Our Little Free Library has books and comfortable chairs! On the lee side of the church, we have created a place for reading and meditation. It is the handiwork of the late and dearly missed Bob Clay. Please come, sit a spell, take a book if you choose. We have a substantial reserve, thanks to generous donors. **The bench in memory of Dr. Ed Bardock enhances the site.**



We are very pleased that our special sign honouring the territory of the Treaty 7 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, graduate of the Social Work

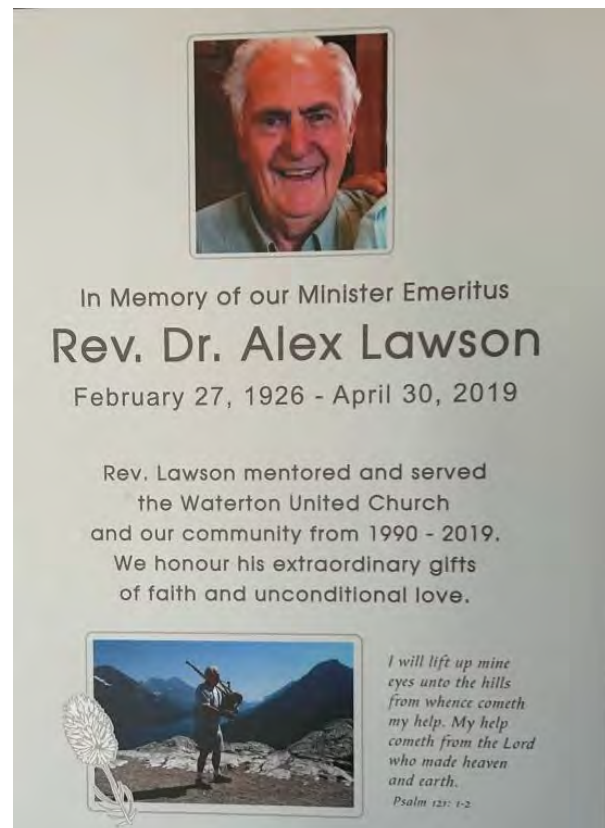
program at U Vic), edited the wording. May we all continue learning to be allies.

April 30th 2023, marked the fourth anniversary of the passing of our Minister Emeritus, Rev. Dr. Alex Lawson..

Since 1990, As minister, counsellor, and friend, he has touched countless people in life- and faith-affirming ways. He had an unlimited definition of family.

This plaque in his memory is now a permanent feature of the sanctuary.

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 I T advisor/consultant. With his initiative and guidance we have been able to be available on line during these years of covid realities and restrictions, now going forward more freely.

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!

“Futuring our church”..... 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!

Please see our survey on the web-site.

*****MAY 2023 LONG WEEK-END OPENING SERVICE** was ably led by our Minister, Rev. Eva Stanley, our Honorary Associate. She will be available to officiate for weddings when requested, and to lead the 3 off-season services. We are truly thankful for her interest in helping us build continuity in the community.



On June 18th, UC Student Minister, Mrs. Carol Many Chief of the Kainai First Nation, (Blood Reserve) led the service celebrating National Indigenous People's Day. Her drumming accompaniment to her original Christian hymns

enriched her service once again. She was joined by members of a Kainai Family who added drumming and singing to the service. A few months later Carol was ordained by the UCC. Congratulations, Rev. Carol Many Chief!

June 25th, **Rev. Marion Martin** had moved to Calgary from Milk River in the last year. The St. Thomas United Church Choir joined her from Calgary and accompanied her lively service.

July 2nd: Retired Minister Lee Spice brought Communion for her first service with us. She also welcomed guest musician, bagpiper Alec Chisholm from Pincher Creek United Church.

July 9th: **Rev. Taylor Croissant and Rev. MiYeon Kim**, returned with their congregations from Southminster in Lethbridge, Fort MacLeod and Granum, and a large combined choir. The gathering was enriched by a baptism, and the dedication of the family-donated memorial bench for Dr. Ed Bardock..



July 16th: **Honorary Associate Rev. Eva Stanley** presented a unique cowboy/ranchland themed service, with daughter Liz as accompanist.

July 23rd: **Rev. Andria Irwin** of Hillhurst U.C. in Calgary shared her delight in the “thin” or deeply spiritual place that many have perceived here, and thanked us for our “sacred hospitality”.

That afternoon, jazz music by Sheena Lawson, Neil and Sophie Sheets and Randy Paskuski (aka “**Vimy Mountain Jazz** or “The Love Cats”) was featured in their spectacular **live concert**.

July 30th: **Rev. George Ward**, retired, and previously from Cardston U.C., officiated at a Cardston family memorial on Saturday the 29th for Joan McArthur. On Sunday he welcomed back a good number of his previous parishioners for his morning service, and rounded out the day with a lunch and extended time of fellowship.

August 7: **Rev. Darrell and Karen Reine** returned for their 18th summer. They refer to the suite as a home away from home. They brought with them a portable **meditative labyrinth** which was spread out on the green space (the old school yard) on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, and attracted several passersby who tried out the experience.

August 14th: **Rev. Nancy Nourse and her I.T. consultant husband, Brad Lavenne** began their summer guest clergy time in the early 2000s as well. Nancy has volunteered to join the Council, and is researching ways in which we may eventually improve our green space in front of the church.

August 21st: **Rev. Dr. Karen Medland, Pastoral Relations Minister for Chinook Winds Region**, spoke of ways of decolonizing the church. That evening a **live concert: Dale Ketcheson, classical guitarist, and Alec Chisholm, master of several kinds of bagpipes** and other instruments, presented a stellar concert of music and comedy.

August 28th: **Rev. Dr. Stephen Harper** chose to talk about reluctant heroes, and we learned more about the story of Moses. The one time “Prince of Egypt” became the deliverer of the Israelites.

Please Note: Stephen’s consistent and positive support as our Supervising Minister is an uplifting blessing for us, and we thank him wholeheartedly.

His life partner, Tara Nelson, of CTV Calgary News, says she is thinking of donning a badge that says “Yes I am”, to simplify things during coffee hour!

On the Labour Day Long Weekend, **Rev. Tony Snow**, Indigenous Minister for the UCC Chinook Winds Region, led an afternoon service. Tony is the son of Stoney-Nakoda Hereditary Chief, and United Church minister, Rev. John Snow. Tony has taught us how the original Christian missionaries to their area 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 tradition.

September 10th: **Rev. Glenda Wert** and many of the folks from Cardston, First United, Magrath, Picture Butte and Barons, completed our regular summer season. Brenda links scripture, world events and our daily lives with skill and empathy.

Thanksgiving Service: Honorary Associate Minister Eva Stanley led 12 of us in an early service of Thanksgiving on September 17th. We do indeed have much for which to be thankful, including that pot luck feasts and fellowship are back to normal!



32nd Annual Christmas Candlelight Service On December 16th, Rev. Eva Stanley and musician daughter Liz DiMarino drove from Calgary to lead our traditional candlelight celebration of the birth of Jesus. 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 our extended faith family that

watching this Christmas service on-line has become a traditional treasure. Here, Emma Bintu-Watt assists with prep before the service.

Renewed Lease Agreement between the United Church of Canada in Waterton, and Waterton Lakes National Park!



On March 26th, Carol Watt and Barbara Clay signed the legal document of our new 21 year lease agreement with the Park. Shown here with Cathy Yee, Realty Officer.

Interestingly, Park Superintendant Locke Marshall signed this new agreement, and also the previous one, 21 years ago, in his capacity as Assistant to Superintendant Peter Lamb! Locke retired on March 31st, after close to 5 decades working for Parks Canada. We wish him well, and thank Cathy and other staff for the cordial reception and team work which met us in their offices.

2024 GUEST CLERGY SUMMER MESSAGES MAY 19th : Rev. Eva Stanley is our Honorary Associate. We welcome her dedication, her gifted, lyrical messages, and her vital support!



Can you believe it is 2024? 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. Eva.

JUNE 16th: Rev. Tony Snow: NIPD National Indigenous Peoples' Day. Please note unique time: 2 P.M.



Indigenous Day of Prayer - 47 years later. Reflect with us on the legacy and meaning of the 1971 Morley Indian Ecumenical Conference Elders Circle and their call for a June 21 Indigenous Day of Prayer, which later became Indigenous Peoples Day. Hosted by Rev. Tony Snow, Indigenous Minister, Chinook Winds Region, Treaty 7 Territory. – 403 870 780

JUNE 23rd: Rev. Eva Stanley (Filling in due to a change in plans). Please see her message on page 17.

JUNE 30th: Rev. Marion Martin, St. Thomas and Foothills U.C.s, Calgary.

I have lived in southern Alberta for 25 plus years, and it was shortly after moving to this region that I visited Waterton National Park for the first time. Since that time, I have visited the park in every season, and I am never disappointed at the tranquillity, beauty, and utter peacefulness. It is one of my most favourite 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 Kingdom 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 as I serve the Faith Communities of St. Thomas United Church and Foothills United Church in northwest Calgary.

I am so looking forward to returning to Waterton, to worship with you, and of course experiencing the Divine in one of my favourite places. I look forward to seeing you and spending time with you.

Shalom,

Marion Martin, Diaconal Minister

JULY 7th: Rev. Kim Homes-Younger



My name is Rev. Kim Homes-Younger. I am currently working as a minister at Parkdale United Church in Calgary. I am passionate about building community and church stability! During my time at Parkdale our church has gone from surviving to thriving. The past almost three years at Parkdale has been a challenge and a blessing!

I am excited to return to Waterton United Church to connect with the church community and the great outdoors. I am looking forward to sharing my hope for the United Church of Canada and the World-Wide Church.

Many blessings on a great summer. -- Rev. Kim.

JULY 14th: Rev. Dr. Stephen Harper, our Supervising Minister, of Springbank United Church, Calgary. Please see his message on page 4.



JULY 21st: Honorary Associate, Rev. Eva Stanley (please see her message on page 17).

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 28th: Rev. Darrell Reine, In ministry with the people of Westminster United Church, Regina, Saskatchewan.

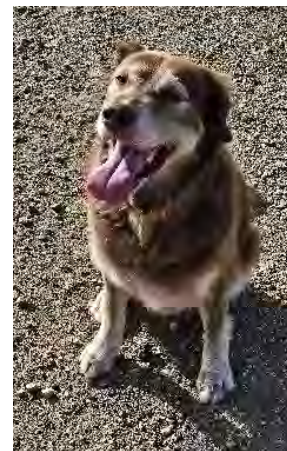


Greetings and welcome to the Waterton United Church. This is a second home for us, coming here now for 18 years. It's a place of spiritual growth, rest, and a place to relax.

As I ponder my place in creation I acknowledge that I am not always a good steward of the gifts we receive from the Creator. Observing Earth Week, I am

reminded so much of what we have done to Mother Earth and yet she still brings forth all this beauty and resources for our use.

When I come to Waterton I am so amazed how the park people have taken care of this wonderful place and have maintained most of its beauty despite the devastating fire. It reminds me that I can do better as well. As the convenor/president of the Living Skies Regional Council (Saskatchewan) I am also amazed at the work our church does both locally and internationally along with the work of many volunteers who give of themselves for their faith community and the broader church. A prime example is those who make this church a place of welcome for all who come here. So, thank you to all.



I invite you to join us on Sunday morning and feel free to drop-in and say hi anytime. You will be welcomed by Grace, our six-year-old pooch who also comes to the office with me at Westminster in Regina. Blessings to you and enjoy your summer! Darrell



AUGUST 4th: Rev. Tracy Robertson, St. Thomas United Church, Calgary. 403 870 3930.-

Tracy has held various ministry positions in the UCC and is currently the Minister for Nurture, Education and Outreach at St. Thomas, an Affirming church that models Open Hands, Open Hearts and Open Minds.

Tracy is planning a Western service, complete with cowboy poetry and Musician leaders Ron and Diane French. Tracy has chosen words from Psalm 8: *“When I behold your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon, and the stars which you set in place, what is humanity that you should be mindful of us?”*

Music will feature favourite classic hymns, and traditional Western songs, like *Back in the Saddle Again, Home on the Range, Git Along Little Dogie.*



August 11th: Rev. Nancy Nourse, Coordinating Minister for Northminster and St David’s United Churches in Calgary

REFLECTION:

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.

AUGUST 18TH: 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*

AUGUST 25th: Ms. Treena Duncan



Executive Minister for the Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain Regions. With nearly 23 years of service in various roles within the United Church, she has developed a deep passion for supporting and empowering church leaders. Treena actively collaborates with her colleagues in the Chinook Mountain Region to advance their shared objectives of cultivating effective leadership, fostering healthy communities of faith, and ensuring a faithful public witness. Based in Surrey, BC, Treena frequently travels to the Chinook Winds Region, maintaining a strong and supportive presence. She is excited to join the Waterton community this summer, looking forward to the opportunity to worship and connect with the congregation.

Treena Duncan (she/her)

Executive Minister to Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain Regional Councils

Contact details at these links:

PacificMountain.ca | ChinookWindsRegion.ca

Or to book an appointment go to <https://calendly.com/tduncan-ucc>

SEPTEMBER 1st: Rev. Andria Irwin *is a United Church of Canada minister living in Calgary, Alberta and was introduced to the summer series when serving Hillhurst United Church 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. In 2020 Andria authored a*



book alongside Rev. Dr. Jason Byassee titled "Following: Embodied Discipleship in a Digital Age."

Two years ago 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**

SEPTEMBER 8thth: Lay Leader Ruth Pelletier, for Prairie Spirit United Churches

Ruth has been privileged to share her joy as pulpit supply with Prairie Spirit Pastoral Charge. She dives into the scripture and is regularly pulled out by the Spirit, with better understanding. Nature is a basis for much of her creative outlook on life, love and being a Child of God. Ruth pours her heart into the kids' time at church, because if she can reach them, she has done her work. Through her appreciation of music, everyday miracles, and her church family, Ruth is humbled to share her gifts – but knows how important it is to always make time to play! God delights in our joy!



THE CHURCH AT LARGE

*****The **United Church Observer** 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 Moderator, Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne! Her term as Moderator is from '22 – '25.

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.”*

Significantly, in our walk towards reconciliation, **every pastoral charge in the United Church of Canada was asked to vote on “Remit 1”.** The issue, **“Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization” was approved.** The National Indigenous Council, 16 Regional Councils, and 80% of the pastoral charges in the UCC participated in the vote.

In response, the National Indigenous Council of the UCC shared their vision statement with the whole church. They offer words of thanks for all who have brought the church to this moment, and state their commitment to moving forward together on the path of Right Relations.

We, the National Indigenous Council, are a diverse group of Indigenous Peoples, rooted in distinct innate values and wisdom. We:

. carry a common vision and dream

. respect everyone's story

. care for one another

. uphold community

. build positive relationships

We thank our Ancestors and All Our Relations who have brought us to this moment.

We are all spirit first.

The work of Right Relations continues.

We commit to moving forward together in a good way.

- Announcement by the UCC, April 9th, 2024.

Rebuilding Canyon Church Camp! Thanks goes to Karen Larter and the resilient Board of CCC chaired by Christina Whittmire. A vast team of involved churches and broader communities has contributed to fund-raising and repair. Now reconstruction work begins. **If you would like to contribute to this huge and vital project, the etransfer address is campcanyon@gmail.com, and the mailing address is Canyon Church Camp Association, 210A – 12A St. North, #418, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1H 2 J 1.**

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 may seem 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 extends thanks to all friends and supporters within 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 a “Camp Day” in the church. The light shines on.