

THE WATERTON UNITED CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2025



Summer Sunday services will BEGIN ON JUNE 22nd at 10:30a.m., and will run to SEPTEMBER 14th at 10:30 A.M.. They will be recorded live, on-line via Facebook, with a link from the web-site. If changes arise, 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. We are

grateful beyond words to those who can join us for worship and/or support us in other ways. We are thankful also for the support of the Chinook Winds Region of the United Church of Canada, for their support and advice in all things.

Waterton United Church is unique in many ways, which we celebrate. One way in which we share the experience of many other United Churches is that our building is aging. Opened in 1961, it is sturdy and in excellent shape, thanks to the diligent work of many volunteers, and the steadfast financial and advisory support of the General Council of the United Church.

However, our beautiful cathedral windows, installed with wooden frames, caulking and single pane glass, are a heat loss area in winter, and a heat sink in summer. We have been advised that the caulking will not last much longer, and that measures must be taken to remediate these problems, which could include replacing all of the windows.

The opportunity of using solar energy to alleviate utility costs has also arisen (installation of solar panels). Both of these projects will be a big challenge for our small council, but we have plans, detailed elsewhere in the newsletter. It goes without saying that we will be grateful for any way in which our faith family can provide support.

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. Eva Stanley. 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 Zoom options.

With thanks and blessings to all,

Barbara Clay, Chairperso

“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 gloves 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.

2025 GUEST CLERGY SCHEDULE, 10:30 a.m. Summer Sundays.

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

May 18th: Honorary Associate and Supervising Minister, Rev. Eva Stanley, Calgary.

June 22nd Rev. Tony Snow, Indigenous Minister for Chinook Winds Region.

June 29th Rev. Tracy Robertson, St. Thomas United Church.

July 6th : Rev. Grant Dillenbeck, Retired, from Ottawa and Alberta.

July 13th: Rev. Robin Galey, Diamond City United Church.

July 20th: Rev. Eva Stanley with musician daughter Liz DiMarino.

July 27th : Rev. Darrell Reine, Westminster United, Regina.

August 3rd : Rev. Marion Martin, St.Thomas and Foothills United Churches.

August 10th: Rev. Kelley Warner, Diaconal Minister, Calgary

August 17th Rev. Nancy Nourse, Northminster United, Calgary.

**August 24th Rev. Taylor Croissant, Southminster UC and
Rev. MiYeon Kim of Fort MacLeod/Granum Pastoral Charge, with choirs!**

August 31st: Rev. Shane Goldie, St. Andrew's United Church, Spruce Grove.

Sept. 7th: Rev. Carol Many Chief. Kainai (Blood) First Nation.

**Sept. 14th 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 has recently retired.**

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), \$40 for family of 4. Please check web-site, Facebook, and/or watch for posters and news of special gatherings.

This is a very significant year: the United Church of Canada celebrates 100 years since it formed and was validated in Parliament, in 1925. The founding denominations were Methodist, Presbyterian, and Congregational, and the road to union was faced with many obstacles as our forefathers and mothers wrestled with differences in doctrine and liturgy. This year, most Pastoral Charges are celebrating somehow...plans for a wide variety of projects, gatherings, and events are afoot.

PARTY WITH US!! THE UCC IS CELEBRATING ITS CENTENNIAL!!!

We in Waterton UC have set a date, **WEDNESDAY, JULY 23rd**, and we know that we will host a **birthday party at 1:00**, and our **Peace Jam/Open Stage at 7 p.m.** with pot luck desserts. We envision cupcakes, live music, a speech or two, some displays, much fun and laughter. We hope you will **SAVE THE DATE**.

7th Annual Musicians' Peace Jam, Open Stage and Singalong: Wednesday JULY 23rd 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 Sheena Lawson and Ethan Bintu-Watt at Christmas. 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!

**THANKS AND DEEP APPRECIATION TO
OUT-GOING PASTORAL CHARGE
SUPERVISOR, REV. DR. STEPHEN**

Stephen has guided and supported us in patient and kind manner that has us through the covid years and this “recovery” time. We extend Stephen Nelson our very best wishes as they celebrate their silver wedding this summer in the beyond. We look forward to their return next summer as guest clergy.



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**WELCOME TO OUR NEW SUPERVISING MINISTER,
WHO IS ALSO OUR HONORARY ASSOCIATE, REV. EVA
STANLEY!**

How often can one say how dedicated the volunteers are as they work for Waterton United Church? They meet in person, via the internet, Chat, Zoom and consult after worship services. They are always aware of their individual and collective responsibility plus their individual affection for WUC. They make sure hospitality is essential, we certainly enjoy their coffee/tea/treats after the service.

Their love and appreciation come from decades of service and their shared history of the past as they look to the future. Well done!

Other volunteers come and fix the odd job, old buildings (just like people) begin to creak as fatigue sidles with the years of sun, snow and wind. These are often the unseen volunteers. I want to say to these husbands, friends, neighbours, community partners, and ministers/partners a huge thank you. We see what you do and we certainly appreciate your time and many talents and gifts.








Some have actual jobs with the church, cleaning staff who keep the building tidy and clean. We appreciate your dedication to keeping the church clean and safe. It also goes without saying, what would we do without Brad’s skill and dedication with all things

technological ! Thank you Brad Lavenne. We all appreciate and acknowledge your commitment.

To the clergy who come to share their gifts of preaching and ideas for the church; the musicians that accompany their ministers and for those local Waterton area pianists who come to play. Choirs attending WUC with their ministers significantly boost the musical experience, supporting those in the building and on line to sing with more gusto. These gifted folks, ministers and musicians, drive south in Alberta, west from Saskatchewan and fly east and west from across Canada to be in this corner of peace and steadfastness we call Waterton National Park and Waterton United Church. ---Eva.

Evastanley2004@gmail.com

2024 - 25 WATERTON UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL (Executive: Chairperson: Barb Clay; Vice-Chair: Carol Cruickshank; Secretary: Carol Watt; Treasurer: Lynn Cameron; Property leaders: Barb Clay, Dave Colbeck, Ben Hofer, Lisa Lenz-Hofer, Lettie Croskery, Lauren & Brian Baker; Honour Wall Co-ordinator: Lou Niven; Special Events Planning: Joyce Taylor. Grounds: Phil Ruppel, and Barb and Bryan Huston. Members at large: Aynsley Baker, Lil Evanoff, 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
			
Joyce Taylor	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		

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, Treasurer; *** Brian Baker, Dave Colbeck, Ben Hofer, Lisa Lenz-Hofer, Barb and Bryan Huston, Phil Ruppel, 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 Phil Ruppel for years of grounds care, joined in '23 by Barb and Bryan Huston. What a fine team we have.**

IN MEMORIAM

In August we lost **Caron Kozachenko**, a vibrant member of the old Waterton community. Caron led the “little” ones in Vacation Bible School days, crafting a banner with Jesus the children which still hangs in our entrance way. She was 67.



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Simmons, of neighbouring Mountain Mill Church, was, among many other things, a musician. She passed on March 25th, at 90. Here she is at last summer's Peace Jam/Open singing *Give Peace a Chance*



stage,



Mrs. Lenz was the mother of Lisa Lenz and Mother-in-Law to Ben Hofer. Ben and Lisa are our local care-takers and guardians. Mrs. Lenz lived a full life of loving and giving, and managing everything from family, farm and garden to the “Harry Lenz Auction Service.”

Lois Cameron passed on last week, 3 days before her 97th

birthday. She is the mother of our dedicated Treasurer, Lynn Cameron. Lois has been connected with the Waterton United Church ever since Lynn moved to Waterton in the early 90s, visiting and supporting frequently over the years. At her long-time church in Ottawa, she organized the annual bazaar for years. *To all the loved ones who have suffered losses this year, we grieve with you, and offer our love and prayers for solace in these tender times.*

We well know that many others have gone on before, 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 connect 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.*

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 Lou at 403 627 7963.

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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 Lou at 403 627 7963. We are also building a “Treasure Album” which will be kept on a table beneath the Walls. 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!

2025 FEE SCHEDULE: Increased this year. Weddings, including “rain checks” = \$300; Workshops and Meetings = \$240/day or \$120/ half day; Church Youth Group Sleep-overs = \$120/day. Study/retreat sleep overs = \$36 /night.

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 2024 did not show any decrease. Your continued generous support, even when you were unable to attend, is the reason for this good news.

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



Property improvement

Our beautiful installation of cathedral windows frame Mount Vimy as per the vision of our architect, George Watson in 1961. For 64 years, they have provided beauty, inspiration and joy to anyone who views them upon entering the building.

However, we need, urgently, to identify financial resources to repair or replace these windows, because of their age and condition. Also, we have an opportunity to improve our energy footprint with an installation of solar panels on the south-facing peak of the church roof. A granting opportunity is available to help with these projects through Faithful Footprints, a funding arm of the United Church of Canada.

We have received 3 quotes to remediate/replace the windows, and quotes are being sought for solar panel installations. If we are able to obtain a grant to partially fund

these projects, we still need to pay for them first and will then receive 2/3 of the cost in a grant.

After much thought and deliberation, Council has decided to conduct a campaign to help raise funds for these projects. Our operating and capital budgets, in their entirety, would not fund these, and personal loans are out of the question.

A number of initiatives are being discussed. The first is to ask each guest clergy officiating at our summer Sunday services to mention the need, and ask for donations earmarked specifically for this project. Other ideas are being developed by Church Council and will be publicized widely when finalized.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024–EARLY 2025

***** Guest Clergy:** 2024 was the 22nd 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, 2025) 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 have had two 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.** Last summer we tried locating the library on the "Valley" side of the church, which definitely increased the comings and goings around it!

We are very pleased that our **special sign honouring the territory of the Treaty 7 Indigenous First 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 2024, marked the fifth anniversary of the passing of our Minister Emeritus, Rev. Dr. Alex Lawson. Since 1990, As minister,

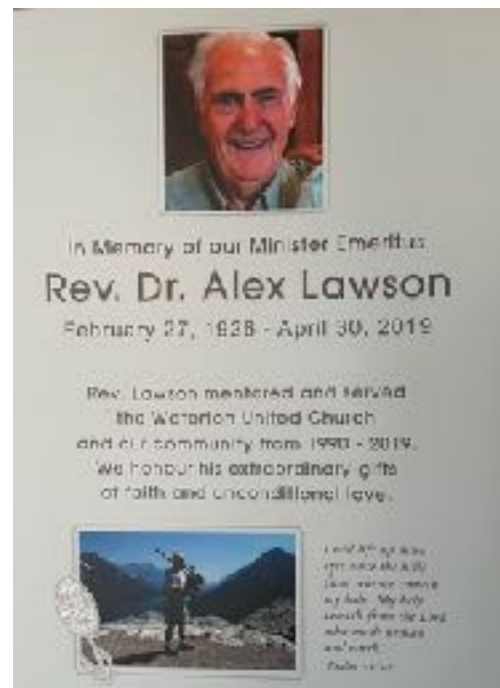
counsellor,

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. all, the only religious activity for the Christian, the only true worship, is to love and our neighbours, as ourselves. And if I that, so shall my walk be closer to God. 'Calm and serene my frame, so pure Light mark my road, and lead me to the Lamb."*

Benediction: "Go now. Go walking in footsteps of the Master, reaching out to with whom you come in contact. May God Bless You, now and forevermore."



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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
and on Facebook. . We

have been able to
connect with so many
more people...surely this
is a covid silver lining
quite common to many



churches!

Plus Brad has designed striking new cards
and large posters to help us with
outreach and awareness. This card is for
distribution in the businesses in the
village, beginning in June of '24.

“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 2024 Long Weekend Opening Service** was ably led by **Rev. Eva Stanley, our
Honorary Associate Minister.** 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.

June 16th: Rev. Tony Snow, Indigenous Lead Minister for Chinook Region of the
UCC, led a service and discussion towards Truth and Reconciliation.

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. The Stoney-Nakoda word for the Waterton area translates as *the place of the people*.

June 23rd: Rev. Eva Stanley, graciously leading due to a cancellation, gave us a Celtic-themed service, quoting from the traditionally spiritual Scottish Island community of Iona.

June 30th: Rev. Marion Martin from St. Thomas United Church in Calgary was joined by The Milk River Choir which provided accompaniment for her lively service.

July 7th: Rev. Kim Holmes Younger of Parkdale United spoke of her passion for building church and community and of how Parkdale United has gone from surviving to thriving in the last few years.

July 14th: Rev. Dr. Stephen Harper, Supervising Minister, from Springbank United Church, addressed the need for rest: how even the most enjoyable things in life can be exhausting. In our Creation story, God took a rest on the 7th day, and we have the model of a pause as an essential part of the rhythm of our week.

July 21st: Rev. Eva Stanley, presented a cowboy/ranchland-themed service, a natural fit for Eva, with her prairie roots and years of teaching and then ministering in southern Alberta. **Musicians Liz diMarino and**



David Smith often travel with Eva and accompany her services. Here in this photo, they sing *Four Strong Winds* at our **Peace Jam/Open Stage event** that weekend. Dave is also a carpenter, and has generously attended to various small needy issues, plus together, Liz and Dave did a major overhaul of the storage shed. We are thankful for their time, energy and above all, their music!

July 28th: Rev. Darrell and Karen Reine returned for their 18th summer. They refer to the suite as a home away from home. Darrell introduced extra candles for lighting with the Christ candle. White, for peace at all levels, orange,

honouring the Residential school tragedies and survivors, and green for our treasured and threatened planet. He left us those candles for on-going use and meditation.

August 4th: Rev. Tracy Robertson, St. Thomas United Church with the St. Thomas “Strummers”, musicians who accompanied the service with its ranching/western theme. *Last Round-Up, Home on the Range, Peace in the Valley*. The circle was indeed unbroken!

August 11th: 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. Nancy spoke of the many times Jesus referred to himself as “*I am*”... *I am the Good Shepherd, the Bread of life, the true vine, the Way, the Truth, and the Life.*

This year several Northminster congregants attended the service and created a bountiful pot luck luncheon.

August 17th: Canyon Church Camp Special Anniversary Gathering!



Park Superintendant John Festerini raises the CCC Flag to open the ceremony.

Karen
for for



Christina Whittmire and Karen Larter, Executive members, turn the sod the first rebuild cabin.



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Alumni
staff Rev.
Chelsea



Masterman on drum, Jay Bright and Rev. Brent Woodard, lead *I'm Walking on Holy Ground*. Revs. Taylor Croissant, MiYeon Kim, and Brent Woodard lead with *Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God*



A light-hearted crowd sang and reminisced, truly present, honouring the history, mission and resilience of Canyon Church Camp. Here, **Dave and Barb Colbeck**, veteran campers and CCC Committee members, savour the moment.

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.

August 18th: Rev. Taylor Croissant and Rev. MiYeon Kim of Fort MacLeod/Granum Pastoral Charge returned with many of their congregants (100+!) and their combined choirs. Taylor has edited a new UCC book, "Building God's Beloved Community", to be used particularly for those seeking Confirmation in the Church. A very large pot luck meal followed the service!

August 24th: We hosted a new concert entitled "Encounters", "a captivating mix of classical favourites and hidden gems". Pianist Elizabeth Clarke and Violinist Lindsey Herle deeply impressed their audience. **The duo is returning on June 29th at 2 p.m., and we have decided to pre sell tickets to boost the attendance. Tickets will still be available at the door. Watch for posters very soon.!**

August 25th: Ms. Treena Duncan, Chief Executive for Chinook Winds Region, and Pacific Mountain Region: Treena has developed a deep passion for supporting and empowering church leaders. She travels extensively across the country, keeping in touch with faith communities along the way.

September 1st: Divinity Student Robin Galey hiked to Crypt Lake on Saturday and in the morning led a thoughtful exploration of the complex meaning of "The Word", mentioned in several settings in the Bible. She suggested that a new and illuminating meaning is "conversation"....

September 28th: **Lay leader Ms. Ruth Pelletier** and many of the folks from Cardston, First United, Magrath, Picture Butte and Barons, completed our regular summer season. Rev. Brenda Wert was on sabbatical, and Ruth led a vibrant service. And yes, yet another pot luck luncheon!

Thanksgiving Service: Honorary Associate Minister Eva Stanley led a dozen of us in an early service of Thanksgiving on September 28th. We do indeed have much for which to be thankful. *To everything there is a season.....*

33rd Annual Christmas Candlelight Service On December 16th, Rev. Eva 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.

We had two very special musicians who sang “O Holy Night” with power joy. The duet by Sheena Lawson and Bintu-Watt was received with gratitude, line as well.



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2025 GUEST CLERGY SUMMER MESSAGES :For the second year in a row, we were able to add in a service near Easter Sunday. (This was discontinued years ago when the weather was inclement, and has been replaced, until now, with the “Opening, May Long” Sunday Service.) The UCC has a new tradition of marking the Sunday after Easter as “Holy Humour Sunday”, and Eva developed this theme beautifully, complete with genuine and hearty laughter. Guest

Musicians were Liz diMarino and David Smith. We had our average dozen of us, attend again. **MAY 18th : Rev. Eva Stanley.** We welcome her dedication, her gifted, lyrical messages, and her vital support! Please see her message as our new Supervisor on p. 5.

June 22nd: Rev. Tony Snow: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

The red dress symbolizes the tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women, still happening even with more and more light being shed on the appalling situation,

June 29th: Rev. Tracy Robertson:

Tracy spent 15 years in the corporate banking world before being Commissioned into Diaconal Ministry in 2012. Her first call was as Chaplain of the Calgary Young Offender Centre. She has proudly served the affirming St. Thomas United Church in NW Calgary for the past 11 years and currently as their Lead Minister for Worship, Nurture, & Family Ministries. St. Thomas models Open Hands, Open Hearts, and Open Minds in all they do and believe.

Tracy will be leading the service in Waterton on June 29. The scripture is Galatians 5:1, 13-25 from The Inclusive Bible and we will celebrate our Canadian Pride in splendid Waterton National Park with the theme "Elbows Up Canada!" All hymns and music chosen are by Canadian artists. You're invited to come to worship wearing your Canadian shirt, hat, tie, or other fun thing!

Tracy (she/her)

Rev. Tracy Robertson, DM100 Hawkwood Boulevard NW, Calgary, AB T3G 2S9
403-241-0366 Cell 403 870 3930 Lead Minister for Worship, Nurture, & Family Ministries
St. Thomas United Church

"We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird



names and all are different colours, but they all have to live in the same box."



In the spirit of respect, truth and reconciliation, I acknowledge that I live, work, and play on the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney). This land is also the Métis Homeland, Districts 5 and 6.

JULY 6th Greetings from Rev. Grant Dillenbeck and Ruth Richardson.

We are very excited to join you for worship on July 6th as we have done several times in past years. We first became familiar with Waterton when we lived in Diamond Valley from 1985 until 1990, where Grant was the minister at the United Churches there and Ruth worked as a palliative care nurse. Ruth was also the nurse at Canyon Church Camp for one summer. Grant is presently retired, and Ruth continues to work in Palliative Care. In the summer of 2024, we spent nine weeks in ministry with the United Churches in Banff and Canmore and look forward to spending time in the Rockies again this summer. The gospel reading in the lectionary for July 6th is the very familiar parable of Jesus often called “The Good Samaritan.” Though we may have heard this passage many times before, I hope we can take a fresh look at it in the context of significant issues that we face in our world today, and to seek guidance in responding to them. See you in July!



July 13th Rev. Robin Galey, Diamond Valley United Church



Robin Galey first preached as guest clergy at Waterton United Church in September 2024, between hikes to Crypt and Bertha Lakes. She is excited to be bringing her wild church practices (and hiking boots) to Waterton again in July 2025. Robin currently ministers to the people of Diamond Valley United Church, guides Wild Church gatherings along the Bow River, and facilitates Water as Life Workshops. She seeks to bring the book of Nature into worship alongside the book of Scripture, through reflections and prayer practices contemplating Creation.

Robin answered the call to ministry while supporting spiritual formation and communications at Hillhurst United Church in Calgary in 2019. Following a 20 year career in communications, and while parenting four children on the precipice of adulthood, she returned to seminary, earning master's degrees in theology and divinity. Her thesis explored the role of light in 20th Century theology. She served as a student minister at St. Thomas United Church in Calgary and Gaetz United Church in Red Deer. Robin integrates teachings in buddhism, yoga, contemplative dialogue and permaculture design in her ministry. When not reflecting on the wonders of Creation, Robin enjoys walking in the wild and spending time with her children. She is the occasional custodian of many pets, an unpublished poet, and environmental and social justice advocate.

JULY 20th Rev. Eva Stanley (please see her message on page 5).



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 27th: **Rev. Darrell Reine**, In ministry with the people of Westminster United Church, Regina, Saskatchewan.



As we celebrate the one hundred years of being the United Church of Canada, and live into the next hundred years, I am reminded of a scripture reading. Revelation 21: 1-6. In these troubling times for the Church, as many denominations have experienced, the first is disappearing and now we await the second, a new heaven and a new earth. What will our church look like in the next five or ten years? There are many aspects of what that could be. We may see a more diverse church, a church that will take all we have learned and experienced and build up a church that will be less about honouring buildings and more about being what Jesus has called to be in our ministry. But saying that, I still feel buildings are important. They are our history, where we celebrated, honoured, made mistakes, experienced pain, and shared God's love. What will Waterton United Church look like in the next five to ten years? There is a group of dedicated volunteers who have kept the church going for many years so that many could come and experience the love of God in the mountains and by the lakes. They have honoured God by bringing hope, peace, and acceptance into the park for all to enjoy and a place to worship when there. I give thanks for them all.

When you come to the park this year, I hope you take some time to ponder your experience of the United Church in this beautiful place and give thanks to God. I will be.

Darrell da.reine@sasktel.net



**Rev. Darrell and
Karen Reine, Carol
Evanoff Clifford,**

Honorary Elder Lil Evanoff, Wes Clifford, and Carol Watt, July 24th/24.

August 3rd: **Rev. Marion Martin**: St. Thomas and Foothills United Churches, Calgary.



I lived in southern Alberta for 25 plus years, and it was shortly after moving to the 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 Kin-dom of God is found in the here and now, is a challenge at times. However, 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, to experience the Divine experience the Divine in one of my favourite places.

Shalom, Marion Martin, Diaconal Minister marionmartin2727@gmail.com

August 10th : Rev. Kelley Warner: Diaconal Minister, Calgary.



Kelley embraces her call to Diaconal Ministry as a person who loves stories. In the capacity of many roles, she heard stories from many individuals and communities through which she developed an awareness and understanding of the power of story to define and motivate individuals and communities in both beneficial and/or harmful ways. Kelley embraces the role of story “catcher” and storyteller in her ministry and volunteer work.

Kelley continues with her passion for Reconciliation through volunteering her time in organizations committed to this justice work. She also continues to nurture her spirit by spending time with family, reading, painting, singing and gardening. She remains open and excited to the God nudges and where they may take her in the future, grateful to be part of the story.

August 17th: Rev. Nancy Nourse,

There's something deeply restorative about away from the relentless pace of daily life finding stillness in the mountains. It's something my family and I look forward to year as we prepare to make our way to Waterton to connect with the church community and all who find themselves



stepping
and
each
there.

Surrounded by the grandeur of the mountains, the noise within begins to quiet in that place, and if you are like me, it's a place where I find my soul start to calm and breathe again. In these moments, the words of Psalm 121 rise gently to the surface: "I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from God, the Maker of heaven and earth." These sacred pauses remind us that our strength and renewal come not from constant striving, but from resting in the presence of the One who made us.

As summer unfolds and paths lead us to remote and beautiful places, we may find ourselves encountering others who are also seeking renewal—fellow travelers, hikers, or

families escaping the noise. These seemingly chance meetings are often gentle reminders of the community God weaves into our journey, even when we think we're stepping away from everything. There is a unique kind of fellowship that forms in these spaces, where stories are shared over an ice cream cone or morning coffee, and everything feels lighter simply because they're spoken in a place where the sky feels closer—a thin place as the Iona Community says.

Opportunities like these are more than vacations—they are gifts, treasures to be anticipated and received with gratitude. They invite us to slow down, reflect, and be refreshed in body, mind, and spirit. As Psalm 23 beautifully declares, "God makes me lie down in green pastures, leads me beside quiet waters, and restores my soul." In the hush of the mountains and the company of kindred spirits, we taste that restoration—and carry it with us long after we return.

Rev. Nancy. revnancy24@gmail.com

**AUGUST 24TH: 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 31ST: Rev. Shane Goldie.

A bold-hearted trailblazer, Rev. Shane Goldie is the youngest ordained minister in the United Church of Canada — and no stranger to turning pain into purpose. Indigenous Cree/Métis and Two-Spirit, Rev.



Shane is a fierce advocate for justice, whose ministry is as much about truth-telling as it is about healing. Whether crafting powerful poetry that weaves together land, spirit, and resistance, or preaching sermons that leave souls stirred and seen, he brings both fire and compassion to the pulpit.

With a theology rooted in radical inclusion, Rev. Shane is a walking revolution: queer, kind, deeply pastoral, and not afraid to call out injustice — even in the Church. He's survived the storms, challenged the systems, and is building affirming sanctuaries where every person knows they belong. He's a theologian, a poet, a prophetic voice, and a Minister

with deep roots and even deeper love. He doesn't just carry a rafting powerful poetry that weaves together land, spirit, and resistance, or preaching sermons that leave souls stirred and seen, he brings both fire and compassion to the pulpit.

He's a theologian, a poet, a prophetic voice, and a Minister with deep roots and even deeper love. He doesn't just carry a cross, he carries a cause.

Love and Blessings,

The Reverend Shane Goldie Ordained Minister

St. Andrews United Church, Spruce Grove AB

B.Th.; Minor in English - MDiv - St. Andrew's College

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1A Fieldstone Drive, Spruce Grove. AB T7X 2Z3

SEPTEMBER 7th: Rev. Carol Many Chief, Kainai First Nations/Blood Reserve
Because Hope is Always Healthy, a proud solution. Hope - Integrated Can 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 BOLD (Behavioural Ongoing Lifestyle Developments), BRAVE, (Blended Recovery .Abuse and Violence Empowerment) ., A.R.M.D.(Addiction Recovery Massage Developments) , H.O.N.E.S.T.,(Humour Overcomes Negative Emotions and Spirit Triumphs) and K.I.C.K.(Kainai Individual Cessation Keys) life back with a little P.A.I.N.T.,(Personal Assessment of Individual Needs and Targets) and a lot of P.O.W.E.R (Proving Other Women Empower Resilience). to address depression and the big A's: abuse, addiction, anger, anxiety, avoidance and apathy, acceptance, allowance, and action."



since 2008. Healthy Hope - Integrated) ,

Carol Many Chief OM., RMT., RTCc., HCA 403-317-5703

www.ahealthyhope.ca info@ahealthyhope Since last we met I received my ordination with the Indigenous United Church of Canada, and now serve as chaplain on reserve, in community with the new K.I.C.K. Chapel and Outreach, Kainai Ika'kimaa (Perseverance) Circle of Kimohpipito'okoyi (self-Responsibility). I have been pursuing my CPE, as well as a Bachelor of Social Work as our main outreach is focusing on women with kids and critters, in need of shelter care from IPV, a budding youth group, food insecurity, and continuing Kainai Enuskii (small shawl) reconciliation and history. Oh yes and our family welcomed not one but two baby girls, and they have all of us wrapped around their little fingers. I am so pleased to be home and rather settled, chickens/ducks/2 laying turkeys/ and more to come, as I am serving my community as was the plan all along. I continue to commit to serving chapel worship on the rotation for the Lethbridge Corrections Center. As we grow from online weekly services, it is such a joy to be part of the practical exploration of what our Indigenous United Church of Canada will evolve into, while maintaining our love of all that Creator has blessed us with.

Many Blessings, Rev. Carol.



SEPTEMBER 14th: Lay Leader Ruth Pelletier, for Prairie Spirit United Churches

"Rejoice always!" "Rejoice and be glad!" "Rejoice in hope!" "Rejoice in the truth!" And one of my very favorites - "Rejoice at your festival!" Doesn't that just make you want to plan a festival?

We rejoiced yesterday with a trip to Waterton Park with some of the kids. It seemed only right to be there, as I contemplated what to write for this newsletter. I packed a picnic lunch but forgot half of it at home. And yet, we were fed and we rejoiced! One of the kids slipped and fell into the water at Red Rock Canyon. He was cold and wet but also refreshed. He was able to laugh at the situation, and we rejoiced! Cameron Falls? Rejoice! Deer in the shadows? Rejoice! People of all languages? Rejoice! The Big Scoop? Rejoice! Sprinkle-colored lips? Rejoice again! Achy bones? Still rejoicing that we are able to play! Many of these rejoice snippets from scripture are followed up with words like "Pray without ceasing". We were almost to Cameron Lake yesterday but were turned back at the last minute because of an emergency. The park warden did not say what was happening, which makes the imagination go wild. But it also invokes prayer. I still don't know the details, but God does. So in that, we can rejoice.

Amidst fields of buffalo beans and one-eyed-susans, we were blessed and we rejoiced. Who can believe that the God who created such a place, also created us?
God is ever good.

The Church in the World

*****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.

Leaders who leave lasting legacies: giving us very real hope for this world!



Justice Murray Sinclair

Francis

Dec. 17th, 1936 – Nov 4th, 2004

Former Canadian Senator.

He led the 3 year TRC inquiry.

His legacy extends across generations and communities, leaving an indelible impact on Indigenous rights and Truth and Reconciliation.



Pope

Jan. 24th, 1951 – April 21st

He was known for his humble demeanour, his emphasis on social justice and environmental protection, and his efforts to open up the Catholic Church to diverse perspectives.



And Hope is alive in very real ways.

Pope Francis paved the way for the selection of **Pope Leo XIV**, who chose his name because a Leo was an assistant to, and mentored by, St. Francis, centuries ago.

Pope Leo has already made strong statements in support of immigrants and has offered the Vatican as a place for negotiations to end the wars in Ukraine and Gaza.

Concluding Word from the Council.

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, till we meet again.