

NEWS FROM OLDS UNITED CHURCH

Update on returning to worship at the church...



COVID 19 continues to leave us with uncertainties and the need to be cautious around gatherings of large groups of people. For now, we must follow the guidelines of both our provincial health officials and of the United Church of Canada, for the safety and well-being of our communities. Although the province has declared that places of worship may open up again, there is still great concern about gatherings indoors, particularly for populations in the over 60 age group. We are also still being advised to maintain social distancing, and not to sing. There are so many factors in the guidelines that make it difficult to think that we will ever return to "the way we were". For now, we are moving with great caution and will not be resuming regular worship this month, and most likely not until the end of the summer, providing we don't find ourselves in a second wave.

The Olds Leadership Team along with the Sundre Leadership Team have supported this decision, holding the conviction to keep our most vulnerable members safe.

I will continue to post Sunday reflections to both the Olds and Sundre websites. The Olds site is www.oldsunited.ca.



I and others are calling folk and checking in, and I welcome phone calls and emails to me as well. I am open to visits, either here at the church, or outdoors, where we can safely distance. Just call the church (403-556-3052) if you'd like a visit.

David Birch, our organist, and I are talking about posting some video reflections and music to our sites or to the Facebook Group, [Olds-Sundre Pastoral Charge](#). This is a learning curve for me but something he has talent for! I'll keep you posted on that.

For now, know that we are the church – in spite of not being in the building. Hold fast to that, and be the church in Olds as you follow the way of Jesus, and share your love wherever you go.

*Blessings and Peace,
Tammy*

With gratitude from your Leadership Team...

We are grateful for your connection to the Olds United Church. As the time of COVID 19 distancing progresses, know that we are still striving to serve you and the community. Our ability to do that requires financial support, and we are so very grateful for those who are

able to continue supporting us in these challenging times. We also are aware for some, this time of pandemic has created hardship, and we pray for peace and hope.

If you already give to the church with PAR (Pre-Authorized Giving) things will carry on as usual, unless you need to make a change. If you'd like to start PAR, just give Maureen a call in the office (403-556-3052) and she'll point you in the right direction. We are grateful that many who give through envelopes have been dropping by with their offerings or mailing them in to us. If it helps, our church mailing address is:

Olds United Church
4810 50th Street, Olds AB
T4H 1E4



We have been able to take advantage of the federal government wage subsidy program and to date we have received financial support of March. We must reapply and requalify each month, so are unsure as to how many months we will be able to receive that support. It helps make up for the loss of rental income we have experienced however, and we really appreciate the above and beyond work of our treasurer Patsy Ehrmann. Who knew that things would change so drastically for the role of treasurer when she agreed to take on that ministry! Maureen also has put in extra time and effort with Patsy getting the applications in.

In short, we are doing all right and we are so very grateful for the ongoing support of you – our community – with your prayers, your phone calls and greetings, the notes we've received in appreciation of the ministry of Olds United Church, and your ongoing financial support.

*From your Leadership Team,
God bless you all!*



Update from The Olds United Futures Team

At the March 15 Congregational meeting, the dire financial picture continued to be at the forefront of discussion and concern. An ad hoc committee, titled the United Future Team (UFT), was empowered to explore and study possibilities for sustainable mission and ministry at Olds United Church. The COVID 19 pandemic was then declared which did not allow our team of eight to meet physically. Though not ideal, we did correspond by email, and many ideas were presented; a basis was formed to progress.

In mid-May we did meet face to face (socially distancing, of course!) and have since continued to meet weekly. We are working on the pros and cons for a number of options and a current, financial statement with projections for the future is being prepared. We plan to meet soon with Joel Den Haan, who provides congregational support from the Chinook Winds Region, to help us answer some more questions. We want you to know that the UFT is working together for our Olds United Church.

As always, we appreciate any ideas from our church community. If you wish to provide your ideas, please be in touch with Addy Johnson by email at johnsonaddy13@hotmail.com, who is one of our team members.

*Respectfully, your
Olds United Futures Team*

Some on line worship sites in Chinook Winds that you might like to visit.

I have personally enjoyed the opportunity to see what other congregations are doing in worship, and experience the leadership offered on line by some of my colleagues. I make a nice coffee, get comfortable in my living room or out on the deck, and receive one or two of these offerings each week. They are listed below. Enjoy!

Tammy

- Bashaw- Ponoka (AB) United Churches — Rising Spirit 10:30 am MT.
- Brooks (AB) United Church 10:30 am
- Knox United Church, Drumheller
- St. Andrew's United Church & Regional Ministries, Calgary
- McKillop United Church, Lethbridge, Alberta 10:30 am
- Northminster United Church, Calgary
- McDougall United Church, Calgary
- Knox United Church, Calgary 10:30 am & 12:30 pm
- Gaetz Memorial United Church, Red Deer
- St. Thomas United Church, Calgary
- Rimbey (AB) United Church
- Robert McClure United Church, Calgary
- Scarboro United Church, Calgary 10:30 am
- Fifth Avenue United Church, Medicine Hat 10 am
- Hillhurst United Church, Calgary
- Innisfail (AB) United Church
- Southminster United Church, Lethbridge, AB 10:30 am
- Stettler (AB) United Church. Happens via Zoom & then uploaded to YouTube
- Red Deer Lake United Church, Calgary 10:30 am
- Crossfield (AB) United Church – Search for Crossfield United on Youtube
- Ralph Connor Memorial United, Canmore
- Acme (AB) United Church 10 am
- Southwood United Church, Calgary
- Sunnybrook United Church, Red Deer 10:30 am
- Symons Valley United Church, Calgary

