



Salisbury United Church

*"Connecting hearts, minds and lives
in community with God"*

*"You
are my
witness."*

Luke 24:48

APRIL 15, 2021 ENEWS

SOMETHING TO PONDER BY REV BRITT

This past week, I put a small "greenhouse" on my deck. You know, the kind which is like a shelf with a plastic cover to shelter a few bedding plants or seeds. It was a beautiful day on Saturday with a warm sun. Yet within a few hours of assembling my so-called greenhouse, we were in the middle of a spring snowstorm. Saturday was a day of both real warmth and the disappointing reality of a sudden downturn.

Easter Sunday has come and gone. We have declared that "Hallelujah, Christ is risen." Easter is now! And yet you may be asking how, if it *is* Easter, why do we still have sudden downturns, ongoing or new? The tension between our declaration of the new creation in Christ that is resurrection, and the reality that we remain entombed in the pandemic, in human tensions around race and religion and political mismanagement, in natural disasters and human made destruction, is the obvious reality we all cope with. We are Easter people, yet we are not fully able to experience the extraordinary reality of Easter in real life.

This tension between natural reality and the extraordinary view of reality through the lens of faith always exists, even when we are not declaring the Easter message. Yet we feel it most keenly when we declare Easter in the face of the powers that oppose Easter in the world. In this we join the pre-Easter Jesus, who wept at the world's mismanagement of its own affairs, but who also said that the affairs of God will ultimately prevail in a disordered world. Easter is the promise and the declaration of what God is up to. To live Easter now, in our lives may seem like foolishness ... to celebrate resurrection while our tombs stubbornly remain sealed may seem like a big ask. Yet we must adhere to bold and hopeful acts if we are to be more than people of death and despair.

In the name of the God who loves us, in the name of the Spirit who comforts us, in the name of the Christ who raises us to new life, the spirit of Easter is alive in the world. The earth is renewing itself with fresh bursts of life as we move into springtime, even in the presence of sudden snowstorms. Do not be afraid to let Easter life be fully yours. Plant seeds. Till the soil. Make room in your flowerbeds or flowerpots for new growth. Put up greenhouses. Walk along trails and watch for leaves budding on cold stems. Watch nature and reacquaint yourself with the living world. Be bold enough to say that our



Send us your springtime pictures of bulbs, sprouts, and new growth. Email them to salisburyminister@telus.net

confused reality is not permanent, that the pattern of life is toward rebirth and growth and abundance.

And then with your church and with people of faith let Easter into your heart and say the words, "Hallelujah! Christ is Risen!"



THANK YOU FOR THE DONATIONS TO THE M&S FUND!

In the Lent Calendar that many of you have been following along with we asked for donations to the Mission and Service fund at the end of the Lent Season. We are happy to say that this special request has resulted in \$2,065 in extra M&S donations received in the month of March!

UPCOMING DATES:

- April 21: Worship Committee Meeting
 - April 26 – May 3: Rev. Britt will be away on Study Leave.
 - May 12: Board Meeting
 - June 16: MCT Meeting
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REOPENING PLANS

The Salisbury United Church Board along with the Ministry Coordination Team (MCT) continue to hold off on any plans of reopening for in-person worship until the fall.

As the number of cases of Covid-19 and its variants continue to increase, and now that we are once again in a Stage 1 lockdown, we feel that it is safer for everyone to wait until more people are fully vaccinated and the cases of Covid-19 are consistently lower.

A first step to re-gathering, if any, will likely be a drive-in worship in our parking lot. We will let you know when that is likely.

Thank you for your patience and support!



ONLINE MEDITATION CIRCLE

Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am for morning meditation led by Rev. Britt Aerhart. Everyone is welcome to attend. We will gather online, with the links posted on our website.



WE'RE ONLINE

Find us online for the latest news, worship links and donation information at www.salisburyunited.ca.

NEXT BOTTLE DRIVE

Our next bottle drive dates will be announced soon so please be sure to save your returnables for this next fundraiser.

Half of the proceeds will be donated to Basically Babies, a non-profit organization that outfits infants in the Edmonton and Calgary areas. They have been in operation for 25 years, providing families in need with a layette for newborns to one year of age. Salisbury United Church has been helping to support Basically Babies for the past few years.



CHURCH STAFF & VISITORS ENTRANCE

Just a reminder that **all Salisbury UC staff and visitors should be using the Sanctuary entrance (north door)**. While Covid-19 is a factor, the south entrance is reserved for the daycare staff and families only. The Sanctuary entrance doors will be locked so please phone the office when you arrive, and someone will open the door for you.

Thank you for your support of Salisbury United Church and congratulations for helping your church to meet ongoing ministry obligations.

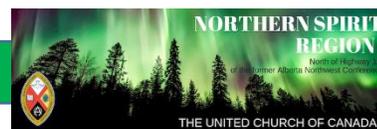
[Click Here](#)

TO DONATE ON-LINE WITH CANADA HELPS



We are now set up to accept Interac ETransfers. If you are familiar with Etransfers, just use our email address salisburyuc@telus.net to send your donation. As our church is set up for automatic deposits no password will be needed.

NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWS



NORTHERN SPIRIT WEBSITE

Northern Spirit has a website! Go to www.northernspirित्रc.ca for more information. The Regional Council has been posting updates to the web site: <https://northernspirित्रc.ca/covid-19coronavirusnews/>. Please visit the web page frequently as information and changes to information are shared. The General Council web page for COVID-19 matters and resources is also helpful and is updated frequently: <https://www.united-church.ca/covid-19>. And, please don't forget to keep checking the federal and provincial or territorial government websites: [Health Canada](#) [Alberta](#)

I want to acknowledge that living through this pandemic is a trauma.

As a trauma specialist, i think there are a few things that are helpful to know:

- Parts of our brain have shut down in order for us to survive
- As a result, we are not able to fully process a lot of what is going on around us
- Feeling somewhat numb and out of touch with our emotions is normal, especially if you have lived through trauma before
- Some people are also more apt to feel hypervigilant or anxious, while others become hypoactive or depressed. Neither means anything other than indicating your predisposition to dealing with extreme stress
- In-depth processing of trauma happens years later, when we feel emotionally safe to deal with it.
- When in the midst of trauma, just getting by emotionally and functionally is okay. Lowering expectations and being kind to yourself and others is vital.

-Jennifer Yaeger, LPC



UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA GENERAL COUNCIL NEWS



CHURCHES ADAPTING TO TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE



The decision to hold General Council 44 online is the fulfillment of a long dream for early adapters of technology in the church.

The announcement was short and brief but exciting to read. A dream I have had for 30 years will be fulfilled in the summer of 2022.

Back in the late 1980s I was one of the early adopters of computer technology in the church. I bought my first computer in 1989. I discovered the on-line world of computer community. In those early days, personal computers were not for the faint of heart. The operating software, known as DOS, required you to know some fairly complicated commands. And the wrong command could wipe out all your storage and everything you were doing.

Fortunately, my purchase had included a day-long course in computer system language. Like any unfamiliar tongue, I became more fluent the more I used it. I did wipe out my program and my work once, but never again.

The computer came equipped with a device called a modem. Plugged into a telephone line, it allowed my computer to talk to other computers in Canada, the U.S., and on the other side of the world. I was hooked. Watching the characters crawl across the screen in an amber on a dark background was mesmerizing. I was doing something more exciting than I had ever dreamed of. Soon I had friends and colleagues across Canada, the U.S., and Europe. It became a hobby and then an increasingly important part of how I did my work.

I started to use my computer to prepare my worship services and write sermons. I found resources for church work and new ideas. I heard, firsthand, about natural disasters, and discovered the perils of speaking truth.

When people wanted to send their stuff to hurricane-ravaged Florida, I suggested people send money to relief agencies instead. I had read, via computer, directly from workers on the ground assisting the victims, they wanted what was needed as not used clothing or shoes or furniture, but money. That way they could buy things locally and really help people in need. I heard stories of piles of relief goods unloaded from trucks, dumped in fields, and left to rot in the mud and rain because there was no storage space and no use for 1000 pairs of lady's slippers.

In 2021, the use of computers in this way is almost universal. The power of a smart phone dwarfs the capacity and processing power of my first desktop. With the Internet I can connect to anywhere in the world and speeds I never even dreamed of in 1989.

Back in the early days of computer use on the church, my colleagues and I wondered how church meetings might be held if everyone had access to a device and were connected online. What would be different and what would be the same?

But we dreamed of the possibilities, not even knowing the technology which would be needed.

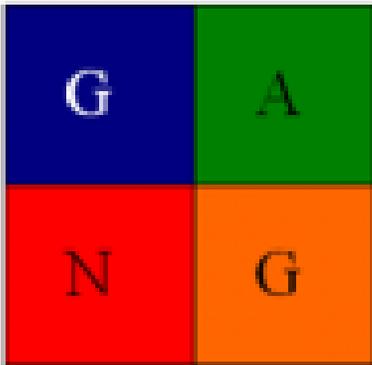
COVID-19 changed all that. Churches have, by and large, adapted to this new reality. One church I serve has said very clearly that they like church meetings on Zoom. It's efficient, it's safe and as we become more comfortable with the technology, it becomes easier to use.

We have also adapted to worship online, learning new ways and becoming adapted to what we do and how we worship.

And my dream? In 2022, the General Council of the United Church, the denomination's largest governing body with members from across Canada and Bermuda, will meet, not in person in Calgary as was planned, but online. Virtually. For the first time in 97 years.

What we dreamed in 1990 has come to fruition. Our dreams have been made real. And in all honesty, I have to pinch myself.

—David Shearman is an active, retired United Church minister living in Owen Sound, ON and serving Highland and Dundalk United Churches in Western Ontario Waterways Region.



CELEBRATE WITH THE GANG

Fifteen years ago, The GANG (Grandmothers of Alberta for a New Generation) joined the newly formed Grandmother to Grandmother campaign of the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF). Since 2006, Edmonton Grandmothers, with others across Canada, have raised awareness and funds for the SLF to support grandmothers in Africa raising their AIDS orphaned grandchildren while rebuilding their communities.

On April 15 at 5:30 pm, please join **Together In Concert: In Solidarity with African Grandmothers.**

Treat yourself to a delightful 2 hours of Canadian talent and truth about African grandmothers' resilience...a touching, unique tribute to grandmother love.

To register for this free concert (donations are most welcomed) and to preview trailer, go to: <https://www.cdngrandmothers.com>

RESTRICTIONS FOR STRATHCONA COUNTY

Strathcona County continues to align its COVID-19 response with the Government of Alberta.

For up-to-date information on the Strathcona County guidelines go to: <https://www.strathcona.ca/council-county/news/covid19/>

For up-to-date information on the Government of Alberta health guidelines go to: <https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx>

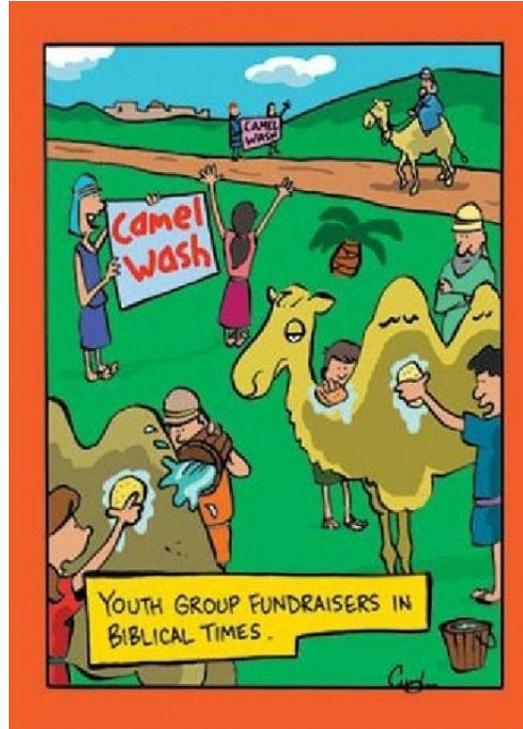
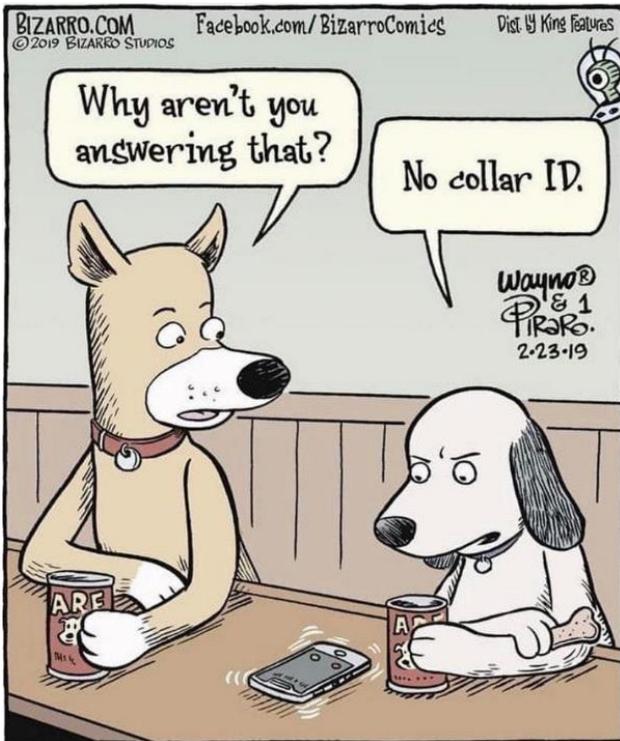
Please be kind to each other. Remember to stay two metres apart, wear a mask and wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water.

If you have COVID-19 symptoms or require testing, please visit albertahealthservices.ca/testing, or phone Alberta Health Services at 811 to book.



SUPPORT

If you are struggling, or have financial, housing or parenting concerns, call 780-464-4044 for assistance in connecting you to support.



RECOGNITION OF LAND



We worship with respect on land where people have lived, prayed and held ceremonies since long before Canada was a nation. This is Treaty Six Territory, and we affirm the traditional relationship of the Cree, Blackfoot, D ne, Assiniboine, Nakota and later the M tis people with this land, along with our ongoing treaty relationship with each other.

Following are the email addresses that are from Salisbury United Church:

salisburyuc@telus.net – from Roxanne, our Church Office Administrator

salisburyminister@telus.net – Rev. Britt's church email

revvedtoo@gmail.com – Rev. Britt's personal email



Contact Us:

2 Mission Street, Sherwood Park, T8A 0V3

Church Office: 780-467-7310

Church Office Hours: Noon to 5pm

Mondays - Thursdays

Minister: Rev. Britt Aerhart

Children's Church Coordinator: Lynne Wilson

Music Coordinator: Lucienne Holzman

Church Office Administrator: Roxanne Prytula