



Salisbury United Church

*“Connecting hearts, minds and lives
in community with God”*



APRIL 1, 2021 ENEWS

SOMETHING TO PONDER BY REV BRITT

Holy Week always comes to me with a sense of both heaviness and hope. It has never been just another week in my life of faith. Years ago, an important person who influenced me, a minister, committed suicide a few days before Good Friday. In that year, I experienced something very close to the anguish and shock that Jesus' own disciples felt when he was arrested and executed. It made Easter that year even more poignant and difficult. How do you shout "Hallelujah" when your heart is breaking?

This whole year has been in many ways like a prolonged pre-Easter Holy Week. It has been hard on all of us, and it looks to be continuing for the foreseeable future. It may seem hard to get past this whole year to a day like Easter, and proclaim "Hallelujah, Christ is risen" while still struggling. Can we do it? Should we do it?

Why not?

Resurrection lies at the heart of our faith ... not a reanimation of a once living body. That would place the matter in the realm of magic or miracles. But the complete transformation of one form into another, like a seed laid in the earth that disappears and then appears again with a completely different form. Such things seem like unbelievable mysteries to our scientific minds, mostly because we imagine that resurrection is referring to the bodily reanimation of a once dead human being. God's resurrection is all about, however, the rising up of the new form out of the finality of death.

Isn't that what we all long for. For the new form to arise that will end this pandemic? Or the new 'normal' to arise that will replace the old one we have left behind. Easter is our reminder that God's real business with us is not reanimation and thank goodness for that. There are some things that we simply don't want reanimated, ever! God's business is better than reanimation. It is resurrection, transformation, the start of a new creation. If you doubt, look to the seeds you might plant this year, or have planted in the past. Look at how they transform themselves, hidden out of sight in the earth, until the time is at hand for them to rise up, completely changed.

“Forgive.”

“You will be with me...”

“Behold your son, your mother.”

*“My God,
why have you forsaken me.”*

“I thirst.”

“It is finished.”

“I commend my Spirit.”

∞ Jesus' seven last 'words' ∞

Moving through the recollection of the events of Holy Week, I do remember seeds planted, seeds of love, seeds of promise, seeds of hope. These kernels of hidden life remind me that my perceptions are not all that is going on in this world. In pain, in fatigue, in loneliness, there is a green shoot and tender roots moving in life's soil. Resurrection is around the corner. Thanks be to God!

HOLY WEEK

You are invited to join us online for the following Holy Week services:

- Today, Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7 pm - have a small dish ready with something bitter (celery, parsley), something sweet (apple, grapes, raisins or craisins), a piece of bread or cracker, a cup of grape juice or drink, and hand sanitizer or a moist towel.
- Good Friday, April 2, 7 pm - have a seed and a small pot ready to plant. Use the seed pod and nasturtium seeds from your Lent-to-Go kit, or use a pot, soil, and seeds close at hand. If you do not have seeds or pots handy, find a small silk or paper flower and have it with you.
- Easter Sunday, April 4, 10:30 am - have a cup of juice and bread for communion ready for Easter Sunday communion.



BOTTLE DRIVE

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Bottle Drive Fundraiser last week. We made over \$1400!!

Half of the proceeds will be donated to Basically Babies, a nonprofit 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. Unfortunately, last December 2020, a trailer full of baby items was stolen despite the removal of one of the trailer wheels. This setback did not deter Basically Babies from moving forward with their mission.



Keep saving your returnables and for our next Bottle Drive!!!

UPCOMING DATES:

- April 5-12: Rev. Britt will be away on her holidays as per her usual Easter week off after Easter Sunday.
 - April 11: We will join the congregation of Robertson Wesley United Church in Edmonton, via a provided link on our website.
 - April 26 – May 3: Rev. Britt will be away on Study Leave.
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ONLINE MEDITATION SQUARE

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.



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



FREE 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](#)

HOLY SATURDAY PRAYER SERVICE

An online Ecumenical Service of Prayer and Meditation will be led by The Right Rev. Susan Bell, Bishop, Anglican Church of Canada; and the Rev. Dr. Connie denBok, The United Church of Canada. The service will be conducted via Zoom on Saturday, April 3, 2021 at 4:00 pm (MDT). To register and receive the Zoom Link, please visit: [Holy Saturday Service | Vancouver School of Theology \(vst.edu\)](https://vancouver.vst.edu/holy-saturday-service).

3rd ANNUAL REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

The Regional Council will meet, online via Zoom, the evenings of Tuesday and Thursday, May 4 and 6, 2021. As further details unfold, they will be shared in this newsletter, on our website (<https://northernspiritrc.ca/news/regional-council-meeting>), and/or directly to Communities of Faith, Ministry Personnel, and Lay Representatives.



UNITED CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA GENERAL COUNCIL NEWS



MODERATOR'S EASTER MESSAGE

This year, United Church Moderator, the Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, offers a unique take on the Easter story after Mary Magdalene's visit to the tomb. You are invited to eavesdrop on a conversation between Mary and the disciple Peter on what she saw, or didn't. (Script by Richard Bott, with appreciation to Alydia Smith for her participation!) You can access the video at this link: <https://united-church.ca/news/moderators-easter-message-2021>.

GENERAL COUNCIL 44 COMMISSIONERS

As some veterans of General Councils past have noted (we won't say who ...), times have changed. Being a Commissioner to General Council can no longer involve being elected weeks before the General Council meeting and hopping on a plane. Instead, it's a three-year commitment, with "recall" meetings that make decisions for the entire church, and opportunities to keep reflecting and deciding on a wide range of concerns. [Have a look at the full details here](#). Our Nominations Committee is seeking a lot of good names, spanning the full range of identities and church experiences. Please help them by spreading the word, and directing yourself and other interested persons to the [Nominations Form](#).



An important planning note: General Council 44 was moved back to July 2022 in light of pandemic uncertainties and has now been moved to an entirely online meeting. But: even if you, or a good candidate you know, have limited internet or older equipment, do not let that keep you from applying or from encouraging others. General Council planning will include accessibility for a video meeting.



UNITED CHURCH MEMBERS' REFLECTIONS ON RACISM

This series continues with a reflection from the Rev. Sun Young Kim, who calls White people to listen to racial and ethnic minority people, saying that, "As an ethnic minority, I should confess that it is more difficult to deal with well-meaning progressive White people than with blatant racists. I am not afraid of the latter because they know where they stand on the issue, and so do I. It is more difficult to deal with progressive White people because their racism is so subtle that only ethnic minorities can feel it. That is why I need humility from my White siblings. I don't want them to be discouraged that they sometimes hurt us without realizing it. However, I need them to be humble enough to ask for guidance. When in doubt, ask." [Read her full reflection here.](#)



Credit: Photo by Tim Mossholder

A [reflection from Executive Minister Shannon McCarthy](#) on dismantling White privilege notes, "Like many White people, I would not label myself as racist. It has taken time for me, however, to realize that by not being actively anti-racist, by not recognizing my White privilege, by not understanding how White supremacy affects so much of who we are as an institution and country, I am also not doing my part to dismantle racist systems that are so rooted in our church. What I have tried to do as I came to these understandings is not let it immobilize me in inaction, to not throw up my hands and say, 'this is too big of a problem', and hide my head in the sand."

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION NEWS



The Children Remembered

Residential School Archives Project

School Locations School Images

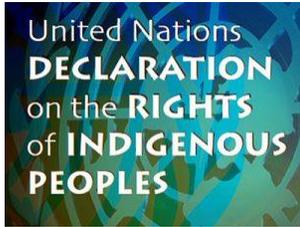
THE CHILDREN REMEMBERED WEBSITE UPDATE

The United Church Archives has recently redesigned its website detailing the United Church's history of residential schools, [The Children Remembered](#). It includes narrative histories of and photo archives from the schools and serves as an important memorial. (If you are a residential school survivor and viewing this site causes you or someone you know distress, please call the Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line at 1-866-925-4419.)



NEW BLOG POSTS ON RECONCILIATION AND ANTI-RACISM

Check out The United Church of Canada's "Round the Table" blog for a couple of new posts from within the Indigenous Ministry and Justice community. One deals with the need for settler colonials to understand and [accept their place in history and ongoing colonization](#) if they are truly committed to reconciliation. Another is a powerful statement for what it would take to [truly confront White supremacy](#) as we seek to become an anti-racist church.



CHILD WELFARE AND UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Both child welfare and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples were key components of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action. They are key components of reconciliation, and both are currently on the political agenda.

Parliamentary hearings into [Bill C-15, An act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) are set to get underway. You can follow the Bill's progress through the [Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs](#). As this legislation to implement UNDRIP moves forward, so does the [Canadian government's opposition to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's decisions](#) from 2016 to 2020 that Canada discriminates against Indigenous children in its provision of services. Canada is appealing a [CHRT decision on eligibility for First Nations kids off reserve](#) who are recognized by their Nations. Hearings will take place in June.

STRATHCONA COUNTY & OTHER MISC. NEWS



RESTRICTIONS FOR SPRUCE 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.



ADVENT MUSIC FESTIVAL

When: Dec. 3, 2015 at 7pm

Where: Liberty United Church, Seattle, Washington

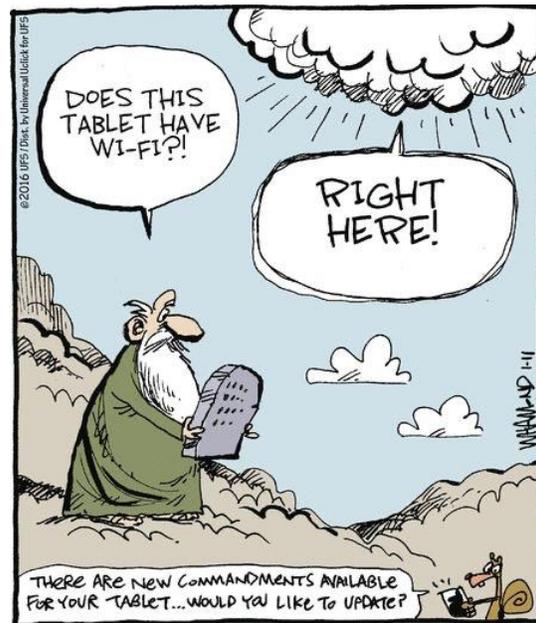
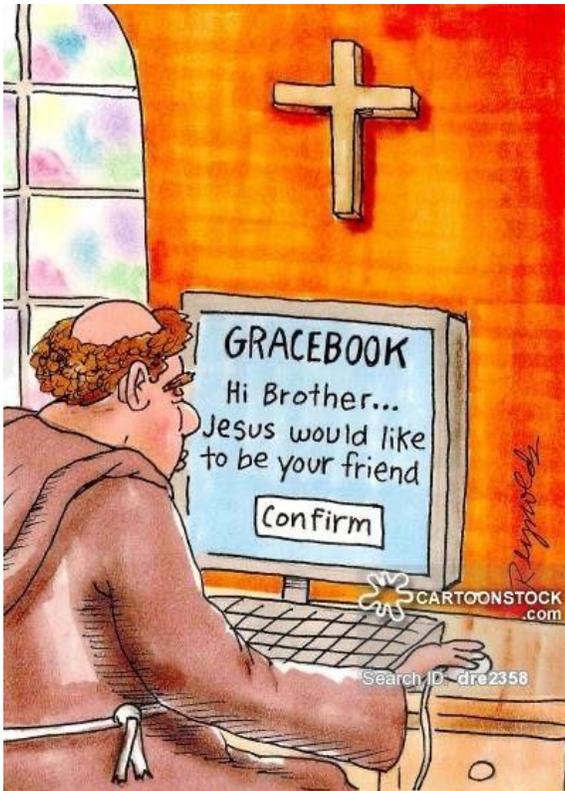
Tickets: \$500 per person

Join us at Liberty UC for our annual Advent Season Music Festival. We have many up and coming talent joining us for this special event such as Mariah Carey, Drake, Lady Gaga, and last but not least, Taylor Swift!

Call 111-222-3333 to register for this fantastic event.



TODAY'S FUNNIES



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

With today being April Fool's Day – keep your eye out for some questionable pieces (10 in fact) in this particular edition.