

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

April 2023



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GREEN TEAM

"To live with respect in creation"

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CELEBRATING EARTH DAY!

A new team has "sprouted" here at St. Andrew's, the Green Team! The Green Team is a group dedicated to education and action to "live with respect in creation" as our creed says, and to seek climate justice. The Green Team led our Earth Day Service on April 16.

The Green Team has joined Faithful Footprints, undertaken a Do-It-Yourself Energy Audit, an Energy Analysis, and has plans to do a Building Use Inventory. The Green Team participated in the Eco Fair at St. Cyprian's Anglican Church on April 22. Future planning has begun for a Pollinator Garden here at the church!



Gratitude

WONDER



GRATITUDE



SERVICE



REFLECTION

A little while back, in the February newsletter to be exact, I quoted from Rev. Susan Lukey's book *Adventures in Faith and Families* the following: "Within every faith tradition, and beyond any faith tradition, there are four treasures: wonder, gratitude, service, and reflection. A family faith practice can reflect these four treasures, like points on a star, shining in blessing for the world." I then reflected on wonder.

Today it's gratitude's turn. One of the many ways of living in gratitude is to give thanks before a meal. I love the expression of "saying grace". Again, giving thanks before a meal is practiced in every faith tradition and beyond any faith tradition. We have this grace from the 16th century:

May God be praised that all things be so good. (John Donne)

And this one from the 20th century:

Thank you, God, for the rain and land.
Thank you, God, for our working hands.
Thank you for food for body and soul.
And if we keep thanking it's gonna get cold.
It's gonna get colder and we're gonna get older,
so we'd better get bolder and eat!! (Linnea Good)

In the spirit of fun – and keeping the food from getting cold – you may like to pray a really short grace as a family:

Rub a dub dub, thanks for the grub.

Invite your children to come up with their own prayer: thank you God for... Alternatively, you may take a moment of silence, or hold hands around the table. Whatever way of giving thanks for our meal we practice, "gratefulness is a measure of our aliveness" (David Steindl-Rast)

Blessings
Barbara



EASTER EGG HUNT!

We had another successful turnout for our Annual Egg Hunt! Fun was had by all! A special thank you to all of the volunteers who made this event possible!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

St. Andrew's will once again be hosting a Vacation Bible School program the week of August 21. Children from ages 4 to 11 learn stories from the Bible through crafts, storytelling, and music. Vacation Bible School relies on volunteers. Last year a combination of 28 teens and adults assisted with the program. If you are at least 12 years old and interested in helping, please contact the church office. office@lacombeunitedchurch.ca



TRUSTEE REPORT

The Trustees of St. Andrew's are responsible for looking after all assets which includes property as well as investments. The Trustees are the following: Monique Vermegen (Board Chair), Hans Haefliger (Finance), Gary MacDonald (Property), Lawrence Hrycan (Chinook Winds Regional Rep), and Reverend Dave Holmes.

Chinook Winds Region recently held a Trustees seminar in Calgary where topics discussed included responsibilities of trustees, insurance, and how churches fit into the fold of the United Church of Canada. HUB International of the United Church of Canada recently took over being the broker for church insurance across Canada. This eliminated broker fees and reduced insurance premiums. In 2022, the insurance premium for St. Andrew's was \$13,713 annually. In 2023, the annual insurance premium dropped to \$10,810. St. Andrew's had an appraisal done on the property in 2021. Our insurance covers the building, including our stained-glass windows, contents, the shed, and liability insurance for those who serve on the board and committees.

On April 28 a webinar was held for interested trustees and board members on church insurance. This was a follow-up to the session held for trustees in Calgary on March 18.

GARAGE SALE HELP NEEDED!

St. Andrew's Annual Garage Sale will be held **May 12, 3:00 - 7:00 PM and May 13, 10:00 - 2:00 PM**. We are in need of volunteers, if you might be able to volunteer any days during the week of May 8, please contact the office! office@lacombeunitedchurch.ca



Garage Sale
Volunteers Needed!
May 10, 11, 12, 13

If you can help out please
contact the office 403-782-3148

The image shows a collage of items for a garage sale, including a table with a sign that says "GARAGE SALE", a chair, a table with various items, and a sign that says "Garage Sale Volunteers Needed! May 10, 11, 12, 13". The items are arranged on a lawn in front of a brick building.

Flowers

Supporting Kasota East Camp.

Spring Flower Sale

Pre-order by May 2nd
Pick up May 11th

Contact Teri Lynn Amundson
to pre-order:
terilynn.amundson@wolfcreek.ab.ca
403 872 2167

Facebook:
Teri Lynn Woodrow Amundson



Hanging Baskets \$25



Planters \$35



Additional
flowers will be
available during
the Church
Garage Sale
May 12th & 13th

CENTRAL ALBERTA FOODGRAINS PROJECT

In May, we will seed 85 acres of canola on a field on the south edge of Bentley adjacent to Highway 12.

This is Year 28 for our growing project in partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, a registered Canadian charity.

At this time, we are arranging for inputs of seed, fertilizer and spray and have already arranged for crop/hail coverage with AFSC.

We need your help with sponsor-an-acre donations to offset some of our costs such as the insurance and any inputs not donated.

We have had great support from St. Andrew's in the past, and please contact Doug Maas at 403-782-1860 for more information on our growing project and how our work helps feed hungry families throughout the world.

Doug Maas
Central Alberta Foodgrains Bank Committee Member

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
EMAIL: OFFICE@LACOMBEUNITEDCHURCH.CA
OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM-1PM [403-782-3148](tel:403-782-3148)

WEBSITE: WWW.LACOMBEUNITEDCHURCH.CA
[YOUTUBE](#)
[FACEBOOK](#)

Why Go To Church?

HYBRID DISCUSSION GROUP



TOPIC: CHURCH
WHY GO TO CHURCH?

WEDNESDAYS IN MAY,
STARTING MAY 3, 3 PM

JOIN HERE IN PERSON OR
ONLINE WITH ZOOM! PLEASE
CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR
MORE INFO.

4 EASY TIPS TO BE "MORE GREEN"



RECYCLE AT HOME & ON THE GO!



WASH CLOTHING IN COLD WATER INSTEAD OF HOT



PLANT A GARDEN TO BE MORE SELF-SUSTAINABLE



SPEND MORE TIME IN NATURE & LESS TIME "PLUGGED IN"