



The Fish Rapper

Beaverlodge United Church

November 2020



Judy Bremner welcomes
all to BUC

“Come on in, the
gates of holiness are

open wide! “Our doors are open! Regular Sunday services began on September 13 at Beaverlodge and Wembley United Churches, with appropriate physical distancing and infection prevention protocols in place. It is so great to have our homes of worship available to us again. Thanks to all who have worked so hard to make sure we have met all requirements of reopening. We’d love to see you in person on a Sunday morning.

As you know, the fall is generally an extremely busy time for us. This year things are very different. Both the Roast Beef Dinner and Bethlehem Market are cancelled because of current Covid-19 restrictions. At this time, plans are being made for a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Again, it will be very different

from what we are used to.

The Service of Nine Lessons is always the start of the Christmas season for me. There is such joy and excitement. Seeing friends and neighbours, singing the hymns and listening to the stories that honour the reason for this celebration just make my heart happy. Coming out to see the stars shining. There is just something truly magical and joyful to this evening.

December 6th is the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. It will be hosted by the Beaverlodge Alliance Church at 7PM with no in person attendance. There are two ways for us to see the service. First, local churches including Beaverlodge United will be open to present a screening of the service as it takes place. Attendance will be limited at each church with COVID-19 measures in place. The other is that the service will be live streamed on YouTube so you can watch it at home. how to tune in?? If you watch from home, you can sing! which is something we can’t do in church right now.

November/ December Calendar of Services:

November 22: Communion at both Beaverlodge and Wembley, Rev Harold Imes leading

November 29: Advent 1 Hope

As a sign of our hope for a better tomorrow, White Gift Sunday donations for the Food Bank will be gratefully received. This is a year when the need is very great. If you have items of non-perishable food and/or unwrapped gifts to donate but can’t bring them, please contact the following for porch pickup:

Judy Bremner: 780 887 2931

Cathy Given: 587 298 3648

November 29: C.A.K.E. We haven’t served C.A.K.E. for a long time and in the spirit of Advent we want to start again. For those of you who don’t know or need a refresher, C.A.K.E. stands for **C**ontinuing **A**cts of **K**indness for **E**veryone. It is a program that began two years ago during Lent. On the last Sunday of every month we send a bucket around to collect donations of cash. These are not part of our regular giving and are not receipted. This money is given to a member of the congregation whose name has been drawn. That person

selects a group, organization or individual to donate the money to. Past causes have included shoes for students at the elementary school, winter coats for students at Hythe Regional School, Angel Flights, Stars Air Ambulance, Canadian Cancer Society. It is a blessing to be chosen to distribute these funds. What a joy it brings to your heart. If you want to participate but can't be in church that Sunday, donations can be dropped off at the church office or done as an e-transfer. Please mark these funds as C.A.K.E.

December 6: **Advent 2: Peace**

December 13: **Advent 3: Joy**

December 20: **Advent 4: Love**

Blue Christmas Service December 21 at 7 P.M. This is a service for all who find facing the Christmas season difficult. Led by Faris Atkinson

Christmas Eve service will be held at Beaverlodge starting at 10PM. Covid-19 restrictions apply.



Keeping It Clean

Covid-19 didn't stop Highway Clean-up!

Postponed, yes, cancelled, no!

Here are the statistics for the 3 cleanups we did. The County ones were on very short notice. Thanks to everyone who helped. So much appreciated, and fun to be with everyone again!

County of Grande Prairie:

June 11 near Hythe: 8 adults and 1 child (Yay, Brinley!), 6.4 km. A beautiful day! It took less than two hours to complete, including lots of visiting time (physically distanced, of course!). We received \$150/km plus \$200 for taking the garbage to the landfill (thank you, Darrell Hommy)! \$1160

July 15 near Hythe: 9 adults and 1 youth Ryan Nichols (who at 6'4", is hardly a child)! 5.5 km. We got a bit of rain but finished in 1.5 hours. Thank you to Eldon and Lorraine Cage who were our shuttle drivers, and who treated us to ice cream sandwiches when we were done! We received \$1025.

September 19. Alberta Transportation Highway Cleanup from Highway 43 near Wembley to La Glace. 25 km. We had 33 people out, with 18 from Beaverlodge and 15 from Wembley. A great turnout! We received \$2500 which we share with Wembley United Church. Once again, thank you to Eldon and Lorraine Cage, our shuttle drivers, for spoiling us and for encouraging us even through the 40 minutes of rain. We were done in under 4 hours.

Thanks to all who participated in these fundraisers, that help us carry on the work of our churches.

Special thanks to Donna Lewis who organizes these events and keeps us on track!

Keeping Connected

Judy Bremner and Judy Carrell have been busy coming up with ideas to connect with our members during these days of isolation. Meet the Beaverlodge United Church Dancing Bear aka Judy Carrell! Judy and Judy made the Easter rounds at Amisk and various other local spots to bring a bit of cheer to residents during the



beginning of our pandemic response. Thanks to them for the imagination and dedication to bring some laughs.

There have also been floral and popcorn deliveries to brighten our days. Even though our doors have been closed, we have managed to remain connected and that is such an important part of our life as a church community.

New Minister

Dr. Dorcas Muketha will be coming to us from Kenya. This is such exciting news! We are waiting for immigration work to be completed and of course Dr. Muketha and her family will have to isolate on arrival in Beaverlodge. It's going to be a gift we can't wait to unwrap! It's like those parental words of wisdom, "Just wait, you have to be patient!"



Above is a photo of Dr Muketha and her family. Left to right: Rev. Dr. Kaberia Isaac Kubai, Rev. Dr. Dorcas Muketha' Theophilus Mwiti, called Theo, Eliezer Muthethia, called Eli

The whole family will be making their first trip to Canada with Rev. Dr. Kaberia Issac Kubai returning to Kenya to continue his teaching position at the university.

Dr Muketha enjoys walking and connecting with her community. Eli likes football (I suspect this means soccer!) and singing; he also likes playing guitar though he is still learning. Theo enjoys basketball, football (soccer), badminton, tennis, singing, cooking, dancing and playing video games.

New and exciting directions for all of us.

Calendars Available

United Church calendars will once again be available. Contact the church office at 780 354 2016 or bwhpastoralcharge@gmail.com \$10.00 each

Laptop Needed

Beaverlodge United is looking to purchase a gently used laptop capable of running Microsoft Office. If you have one that would suit our purposes, please contact Neva Hanson at the church office 780 354 2016 or bwhpastoralcharge@gmail.com

A Message from Brent Cage, Beaverlodge Board Chair

As 2020 draws to a close we all look forward to a new year and hopes of better times. We know what the challenges of 2020 were as we all experienced them. But we also had some positives. First, we were able to secure a minister in the middle of a pandemic. The Rev. Dr. Dorcas Kanana Muketha will soon (we hope) be joining us from Kenya. We are all looking forward to her and her family's arrival to our communities. We pray for their safe travels.

Second, as the Board made the difficult and unprecedented decision to close the church's doors in March, we learned of new ways to communicate and worship together. Cathy started weekly musings by email to keep

the church community connected, and we also got the opportunity to hear what some of our church families were up to during the summer of COVID-19. Many other churches launched services on social media which we were invited to partake in. Through the Easter season we could watch services led by the Moderator of the United Church of Canada. First United Church in Bathurst NB also broadcast their weekly services online giving us an opportunity to tune into Rev. Neal Palmers services again. Thirdly, the Worship, Stewardship and Outreach committees came up with innovative ideas to stay connected with our congregants. Visiting door to door, delivering treats, and in some cases performing with dancing and singing in driveways and at windows. I want to thank all of you for making an effort to maintain contact with one another through phone calls, visits, emails, zoom calls, and messaging.

We are thankful that we are now, at least for the time being, able to meet and worship together in person following physical distancing guidelines. While fellowship after services has been temporarily suspended, we look forward to resuming that important aspect of our Church life when it is safe to do so.

Since March, the Boards of both Beaverlodge United and the Beaverlodge-Wembley-Hythe Pastoral Charge have continued to meet, initially through Zoom and now in person as well as through Zoom for those who do not feel comfortable meeting in person. The Boards have been dealing with the challenges of meeting financial obligations while having to cancel most of our fundraising activities. We decided that we could safely carry out highway clean-up campaigns and took on two with the County of Grande Prairie, and in September cleaned our usual La Glace highway stretch with Wembley United Church. Unfortunately, we are not able to hold our two large fundraisers being the Roast Beef Supper and Bethlehem Market in a safe manner which has significantly increased the financial struggles of the Church.

I want to thank all of you for your financial commitment to Beaverlodge United Church. Your support is critical to our sustainability. I hope your circumstances will enable you to continue your usual contributions and if you find you are able to make an additional gift beyond your normal amount, that would be wonderful.

Beaverlodge United Church is a charitable organization so your cash donations are tax deductible. Please mail your donation to the Church office at Box 387, Beaverlodge, Alberta T0H 0C0, attention Envelope Steward or if you prefer to give weekly through the offering envelopes or monthly through Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR), please contact Lorraine Cage at 780-354-2379. PAR is a great way to give to the Church as your contribution is made even if you are not in attendance. COVID-19 has also introduced us to on-line giving. It is possible to donate using a credit card at CanadaHelps.org. There you can search for Beaverlodge United Church to be linked to our donation page. Or you can use etransfer directly from your bank account to the email: envelope.steward@gmail.com.

Thank you for being a part of the Beaverlodge United Church Community of Faith. I hope to see you soon in our pews or at one of our rescheduled events in 2021.

With gratitude,
Brent Cage

Find us on Facebook!



Search for “Beaverlodge United Church” and you’ll find us. Be sure to “Like” us so that you get notifications of upcoming events. And invite your friends to join as well!

We’re on the internet

Google “Beaverlodge United Church” to find our home page and you’ll find lots of information as well as each Sunday’s bulletin and announcements.

Ways to Give

Our church is working to make giving easier for all. Even in these difficult times, the work of the church goes on. We must continue to maintain our buildings and provide salaries for our employees. With two of our most successful fund raising events cancelled this year, I’d ask you to think about the money you would spend at these events and consider making a donation to Beaverlodge United Church for that amount.

Donations can be mailed to:

Beaverlodge United Church
Box 387
Beaverlodge, AB
T0H 0C0

OR

Dropped off at the church office on Thursday or Fridays between 10-2

OR

Etransfer-

envelope.steward@gmail.com

OR

CanadaHelps.org

Search for Beaverlodge United Church

Beaverlodge United Church
Box 387
Beaverlodge, AB T0H 0C0

Street Address: 403 10th Street Beaverlodge, AB

Website: <http://www.beaverlodgeuc.ca>

Email: bwhpastoralcharge@gmail.com

Church office – Neva Hanson – 780-354-2016

Office hours: Thursdays and Fridays
from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Board Chair – Brent Cage – 403-988-4067

Thank you all for your continued caring support of Beaverlodge United Church and its family members. Each and every one of you is a valued and prayed for member of our community.

May the coming Advent season shower each of you with the blessings of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

