

Minute for Mission: Grandmothers whose children have died of AIDS are often left to care for their grandchildren.

In the Rift Valley of Kenya, 7 percent of the people who live there are HIV positive—nearly 900,000—and many will not survive. Grandmothers whose children have died of AIDS are often left alone to care for their grandchildren, and to add insult to injury, their church community condemns them, leaving them without support as they raise their grandchildren.

Some pastors in the Rift Valley, as in many other places, believe and teach that faithful Christians cannot contract the disease and that it is a judgment from God—a disease for sexual sinners.

“The pastors had little information about HIV and AIDS; to them, and others in the community, it was a strange disease.... [They believed] HIV was a result of sexual sin and was a judgement from God for the sexually immoral,” writes Esther Mombo of the World Council of Churches.

In partnership with the United Church, Mombo and Pauline Wanjuru of St. Paul’s University in Limuru, Kenya, led a series of workshops in one Rift Valley community that has been hit especially hard by HIV/AIDS. They invited grandmothers and pastors to connect and learn from each other.

One grandmother who attended the workshops was 70 years old. She had lost both her daughter and her son and was left to raise three grandchildren on her own. Instead of stepping up to help, her neighbours refused to visit her because they said her daughter and son had been sexually immoral. Her pastor wouldn’t even attend her children’s funerals because he didn’t want to be seen associating with her family. When she went to church, the pastor preached about the punishment for sexual immorality.

At the workshops, this woman bravely told her story to the pastors who attended. She also shared with them how it felt to be shamed for loving her children and grandchildren. Another grandmother explained that her grandchildren were born with the virus and couldn’t have been involved in any sexual immorality. Yet another spoke of God’s love for everyone. Pastors listened and learned, and ended by making a commitment to extend compassion and offer pastoral care to the grandmothers.

Your [Mission and Service](#) gifts gave these grandmothers the opportunity to help their pastors learn to do better by connecting their love for their grandchildren to God’s love for all. Thank you.

**BEAVERLODGE-WEMBLEY-HYTHE
PASTORAL CHARGE
PHONE: 780-354-2016
March 03–Third Sunday in Lent**

Scripture Readings for those who would like to read them in advance:

March 10 – 4th in Lent

Numbers 21:4–9

A bronze serpent heals the people.

Psalms 107:1–3, 17–22 (VU p. 831 Part One and Two)

God’s steadfast love endures forever.

Ephesians 2:1–10

We are not saved by our own doing, but by grace.

John 3:14–21

For God so loved the world.

Minister information

Please contact Rev. Dr. Dorcas Kanana Muketha

- **Cell phone 780-876-7042**
- **Email dokamu2003@yahoo.com**
- **Day off – Mondays**

Beaverlodge-Wembley-Hythe Pastoral Charge

Bible Study: Regular Bible Study, in Wembley, every Wednesday, 12:00 to 1:00, bring a bag lunch and a friend.

Cold Weather Policy: When the temperature and wind chill is -35 or lower or the temperature alone is -35 or lower, church services are cancelled for both churches.

Worship Meeting: Tuesday, March 5, at 2pm in Beaverlodge.

Pastoral Charge Annual General Meeting: Sunday, March 10,

2024, Beaverlodge United Church, Church **Service at 10:00 am, AGM at 11:00 am**, potluck lunch to follow. Beaverlodge brings for the main meal, Wembley for dessert.

Confirmation Course: Confirmation enrollment kicked off on Saturday, March 2, and the next meeting will be Wednesday, March 6th from 4pm in Beaverlodge Saskatoon room. We will keep updating you in case of change of the venue because we have Wembley too. Those that are willing to have their children or adults baptized too may register with Neva as well.

Tea on Tuesday is returning. We are grateful to the Cultural Centre for holding our time and date space for us. Tea on Tuesday began in 2018 so this is the 6th year of outreach. **Tuesday, March 5, 10:00 am** **All are welcome** to join an informal gathering of fellowship, tea, coffee, and art enjoyment at the Beaverlodge Cultural Centre from 10 a.m. to noon on the first Tuesday of each month. Feel free to bring a friend. (A small donation to the Cultural Centre is always appreciated.)

Lent: Lent is here! Think about giving something up and instead give up 1 dollar or extra coins every day for 40 days, starting from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday then bring your savings on Easter Sunday for Blessings. The saving is meant for charitable domination and church needs.

Prayer: Those who need prayer and support may visit the Minister on Thursday at 1 pm or call for face time prayer.

Wembley United Church

- Wembley Sunday Service 9:30am
- **Wembley Thrift store:** Thrift store hours - **Second Saturday** of each month from 10:00am to 1:00 pm in

the Church basement. Facebook Page is **Wembley Thrift Store**, check out our page for updates and specials.

Mailing address: Box 534, Wembley, AB
Street address: 9711 100 Street Wembley, AB T0H 3S0
E-transfer Offerings: unitedwembey65@gmail.com

Web page : <https://wembleyuc.ca/>

Facebook pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/406148680279467>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1552615295042898>

Beaverlodge United Church

- Beaverlodge Sunday Service 11:15 am
- All are welcome to come for refreshments downstairs after the worship service. Thank you to the Ushers for helping with the Ushering and kitchen duties. Much appreciated.
- **Fabric Sale: March 2**, 10 am to 3 pm. Dispersal of Fabric, lace, buttons etc. Everyone welcome, invite crafters, sewers, friends.

Mailing address: Box 387 Beaverlodge, AB T0H 0C0
Street address: 403 10 Street Beaverlodge, AB
E-transfer Offerings envelope.steward@gmail.com

Web page : <https://beaverlodgeuc.ca/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/BeaverlodgeUnitedChurch>

