



# The Vine



## STRATHMORE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

INSIDE  
THIS  
ISSUE:



### Minister Musings Rev. Maria Szbone Berces

“And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.” (Romans 8:11)

Even if you receive this newsletter after the Easter fanfares stopped, and you are back to your busy, everyday lives, I wish you all the joy and renewal of Easter.

Because this joy and renewal meant to be ours beyond the span of Easter long weekend. As Christians, we are reminded that we are an “Easter People” all the time.

The cycles of the year bring different celebrations and festivals, and in my view, they are connected. They remind us over and over again the gifts and blessings of our Creator. God hasn’t abandoned us, but calls us back into a close relationship with our Beginning and End. God came to us in Jesus the Christ in human form. And as we remembered this past Sunday’s Holy Communion: **“Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.”**

And Christ promised to send the Holy Spirit **“to help [us] and be with [us] forever.” (John 14:16)** We will have a special celebration to remember the first Pentecost at the beginning of June. My point is, however, that although we have different celebrations of the milestones of our faith, the blessings of these festivals are to be with us all year round.

Do you feel and experience the excitement and gifts of our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer God?

Have the words of the New Creed of the United Church of Canada been engraved into your heart and mind? **“In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.”**

Meeting the risen Christ had changed the disciples forever. Because Christ lives, he has the capacity and power to be with them always. As the late Founder of the Sermon Writer resources put it: “They would often face danger again, but they would never again cower in a locked room, afraid for their lives. ... because they knew that God was with them. God is with us too. We need to remember that.” (www.sermonwriter.com)

It’s probably always been a human experience, but I feel it’s true more than ever: “we live in uncertain times.” In the stress and challenges of these uncertainties, the living Jesus offers us peace, just as He offered peace for his disciples the aftermath of Good Friday.

A German mystic by the name of John Tauler wrote these words long ago: **“Be sure of this: there is no creature ever made by God, who can set you free or help you; only God can do it.”**

God has done it in Easter, and continues to do it through the Holy Spirit each and every day. In life, in death, in life beyond death. This gives us a solid reason to be a hopeful “Easter People”. Thanks be to God.

Ministers Musing	1
Finances	2
Stewardship	2
Guatemala	3
Funerals	3
Book club	3
Thank You Johnny	3
Property Team Report	4
UCW Report	5
Arts on 817	5
Photos	5
Office hours contact info	6
Upcoming events/ Ongoing Events	6



**Finances for January to March 31/25**



**As of March 31/24 we are in deficit to the total of (-\$16,096.92) The work of our church is so important in our life, our community, and our world. We have been richly blessed by God so we need to pass those blessings on.**

**Please consider generously giving to our church to help the blessing continue. LJ**

**Stewardship Minute**

As April gently moves along towards spring, we are filled with the anticipation of hope and new life Easter brings. As we soberly think of the crucifixion and subsequent resurrection of Christ, we realize that through his sacrifice, we have been richly blessed. Thank you to all our wonderful members who have contributed so much to the life of our church. Many hours have gone into practicing for the special music that was presented on Easter Sunday. Such a beautiful sound. It was SO inspiring and uplifting! Thank you to all who have shared their talents to make this happen. We also thank everyone who has actively taken part in church services leading up to and after Easter. Everyone’s efforts enhance the life of the church. Thank you to all who have financially contributed to our church as well. At the Strathmore United Church, we are encouraging one of the spiritual practice of generosity in order to promote God’s work in the world. We encourage you to prayerfully consider if you are able to Increase your financial donation so that we can better support ourselves and

other missions. We would also encourage you to consider making your donations through the Pre-Authorized Remittance program (PAR) which allows your donations to be made automatically each month. A constant flow of income allows us to better plan for programs and activities throughout the year. Information of how to sign up for PAR can be found by calling the church office at 403-934-3025 or by searching the United Church of Canada/PAR Authorization form on their website. We thank you for your contributions to the mission of the Strathmore United Church. We thank you for your prayerful consideration of how you will contribute to God’s mission in the world, we know this is important to you! Thanks to generous people like you, the work of our church **WILL** make a difference for Christ!

**Yours in Christ, Laura on behalf of the Stewardship team**





### Guatemala Mission

A.M.E.S. is a mission project that as we the United Church of Strathmore community chose to in part communicate with, aid with financial support, and pray for. Rosa Escobar is the director of the “Women in Solidarity Organization” (A.M.E.S.) Every Sunday women attend workshops in gender equality, labor, and human rights. A.M.E.S. gives training to women as LPNs. A small hospital gives the women basic health service and there are mobile clinics that tour the communities where the families live and work. Once graduated the LPNs go back to the own communities as a health advocate. This gives these women a better life, their families a better life and their communities hope for a more healthier life for their children.

We as a community hosted a shrove pancake Sunday with donations supporting the LPN program. Our net monies totalled \$410.00. Also as a “coin for cookie” Sunday our net coins totalled \$179.50. Thanks to everyone involved for your time and generous gifts.

God Bless Linda & Ellen



We said a sad farewell to our long time treasurer Linda Stead who passed away on February 23, 2025.

Our thoughts and Prayers to her family and friends.

### A Message from the Book Club.

We meet in the church library on the first Tuesday of the month. We are a mixture of different tastes in our reading material. We bring books that we’ve read and share with the group what we like (or not) about our books. We share the books around the group and take what interests us. We learn about different authors and styles of writing. There are between 5 – 10 people who attend. This is a great group to belong to.



A huge thank you to Johnny Sanden on all his work in creating the new banner hangers . Previously the banners were all draped over rods one on top of each other. At the change of the church season the banners had to be laid out along the pews to find the right ones for the new season. Johnny spent many hours designing, building and installing the banner hangers. He has made and anchored each hanger to the wall to support the weight of the heavy banners. These hangers will make a huge difference and so much easier in retrieving the proper banner.

THANK YOU JOHNNY



## Property Report

The property team had a work bee on April 04 & 05 to work on the projector and change the ceiling fans. It went very smoothly completing all jobs by 11:00 AM Saturday. We used that day as our April meeting as well. This is what was completed.

### 1. Business arising from the Minutes:

- A. Front ceiling fan in Sanctuary not working needs new remote installed. Don is looking into renting the scaffolding to reach the fan & projector.
  - \*We will repair remote control when we have the scaffolding.
  - \*We ordered a new ceiling fan in case fan is not working. If fan is good, we will change the fan in the Narthex which has been making noise.
  - \*We will have a work bee on April 04 evening 7:00pm to 9:00pm and April 5 10:00am to 4:00pm. To install the fans and service the projector.
- B. Banner hangers installed in closet. John worked on the hangers Friday evening and completed the installation.
- C. We set up the scaffolding and changed the ceiling fan in the Narthex with a new one. Disassembled the scaffolding and reassembled up to change bulb and service the projector.
- D. Saturday, we started at 9:00 AM and finished installing the 3 remaining fans in the Sanctuary and all tasks were completed by 11:00 AM. I returned the scaffolding Saturday afternoon. The total cost for renting the scaffolding was \$183.14 for the day. Next time we rent scaffolding we only need to get 3 section to reach the peak of the ceiling.
- E. Kitchen back splash to reglue. We will get to that before spring.
- F. Wheelchair accessible sidewalk approach for front entrance of church. We will need to get a cost on what materials are needed and how the task will be completed.
  - \*We will set up a date in the spring/summer to get a work team together and remove broken concrete sidewalk and pour new concrete and form the wheelchair access into the curb.
- G. North side windows in Sanctuary replacement. Need to cost out windows and see if it is feasible to complete. We may look at other options.
- H. Caretaker supplies to find new supplier SEP has moved to Edmonton.
  - \*Will make sure all supplies for cleaning and dishwasher soap will be in one location in the church basement.

### New Business:

- A. What is needed to be done to lower the background noise from the YOUTUBE recording microphone?
  - 1. Don will need to talk to Allen Buckingham of the United Church about what we need to do or if we need to improve equipment and if there is a better system for the hearing impaired so they can hear better with their hearing aids?
  - 2. I called Allen and he had no information that we could use so we will investigate other systems such as blue tooth etc.
  - 3. Also, will need to get someone to look at the sound system and background noise on YouTube recordings. As for the sound system, we would have to have the mics directly connected to the recording system by using adapters. With that we would not hear any other sounds as well such as people singing, the piano and organ etc.
- B. West side light is on continuously may need new light sensor?

**Submitted by Don**

**Thank You to everyone that attended our final 2 concerts of season 7 for Arts on 817.**

**We were blessed with Remix and Steve Pineo and group!**

**Thank you for your support! Please watch for our exciting upcoming Season 8!!**



### UCW Report

The UCW has had 2 meetings since the new year began. We planned dates for the Vintage and Treasure Sale – April 11th & 12th then later changed it to April 25th & 26th as previous dates conflicted with a number of other events in the community. We planned the Fall Thrift Sale for Sept. 21st to 27th. We hosted the Chinook Winds Regional meeting on March 1st. The attendance was quite small but was enjoyed by all who came. We also hosted the World Day of Prayer on March 7th. This was a very nice service. There were about 35 people in attendance. Our next meeting date is May 12th.

### Gentle Reminder:

If you have a complement, concern, or complaint can you please make sure that you put it in writing, and sign the note so that it can be addressed and you can be contacted with results. Thank You



**Easter Sunday  
Happy Easter**

**Vision Statement**  
*Strathmore United Church lives out our faith through worship, music, fellowship and outreach.*

# STRATHMORE UNITED CHURCH

410—Fourth Street, Strathmore, Alberta T1P 1B4

Phone: 403-934-3025

Fax: 403-934-3081

Website: [www.smoreuc.com](http://www.smoreuc.com)

E-mail: Office

[smoreuc@gmail.com](mailto:smoreuc@gmail.com)

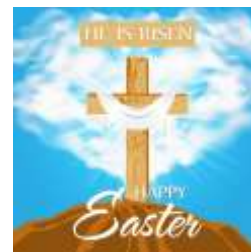
[minister.smoreuc@gmail.com](mailto:minister.smoreuc@gmail.com)

**Church Office Hours:**  
The office is open 9—12  
Wednesdays and Thursday mornings.



If you have questions, concerns or wish to contribute to The Vine please contact Karen W. at 403-934-3579 or email at [ckwilkie@shaw.ca](mailto:ckwilkie@shaw.ca)

## Ongoing Events



## Upcoming Events



**Our Mission Statement**  
Strathmore United Church is a community of faith, striving to make a difference for Christ.

◆ If you wish to sign up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) or to receive envelopes, please contact Susan in the church office—403-934-3025 or Karen— 403-934-3579

- ◆ Set up for Vintage and Treasure Sale April 21—24/25
- ◆ Vintage and Treasure Sale—April 25 & 26th
- ◆ May 6—1 pm Book Club meets in the library
- ◆ May 6— SMORE UC is hosting a game event 3:30—6 pm at the church as part of FCSS Youth Week
- ◆ May 13—Agape Gathering 7:30 in the church library, all Ladies are welcome.
- ◆ May 15— Mary Martha Unit meet in the library at 2 pm.
- ◆ May 17—Property team meet 10 am.
- ◆ May 27—Council Meets 7 pm
- ◆ June 21 & 22 Strathmore United Church will Celebrate the United Church of Canada's 100th Anniversary.



Congratulations Derek and Nicole Warrack

April 19 /25 wedding & reception at Strathmore United Church.

- \*Quilting group—Wednesdays 10 am meet in the basement until the end of June. Bring a lunch.
- \*Book Club—1st Tuesday of the Month 1 pm in the Church Library
- \*Agape Group—Meet Second Tuesday 7:30 pm watch for where and when. No meetings July and August
- \*Council Meet—4th Tuesday of the Month.
- \*Mary Martha UCW Group—Meets 3rd Thursday Contact Peggy
- \*Property Team Meet—3rd Saturday at 10
- \*Last Sunday of the month there is old time music before church at 10 am followed by soup and a bun after church.
- \*Food Bank—Donations are gratefully accepted in the bin in the foyer.
- \*Ongoing Bottle drive—There is a bag in the foyer to put all refundable beverage containers. All proceeds are given to the Guatemala Project.