

Big Country United Churches  
www.bigcountryunitedchurches.ca



Sunday Worship



Loving  
Our  
Neighbours...  
God says we should!



**We worship together...**

**Just because we aren't meeting in a building does not mean that we should stop worship. Indeed, I believe that it is more important that we do.**

**Each week we have multiple choices for worship:**

**11 a.m. we share a Zoom worship together. You can attend by video or phone.**

**Bulletins and a recorded reflection are on our website.**

**Printed Bulletins can be mailed or delivered to you.**

**Chinook Winds Region posts United Church churches for livestreaming services. You can find that info on their Facebook page and Newsletter.**

### **When are we coming back to church?**

I have heard that question many times. It is so hard for us to be away from our church and the friends that we meet there.

But coming back to church is not going to be easy, nor will it look like church used to.

On June 12th, Stage 2 of relaunch began and the Alberta Health Officer said that there is no limit to the number of people who can be at worship any more. Some folk got very excited about that. BUT... we still need to practice social distancing, sanitize in and out, clean the building before and after use, we can't sing, we can't have coffee time together. We are also still not supposed to have vulnerable folk (over 65, health compromised) join us.

So, if we opened up our buildings for worship, you can't sit beside your friend, you may not be able to sit in your favourite pew, you have to come in one door and exit through another, you can't sing your favourite (or Helen's new) hymns, you get to go home directly after the service without hugs, handshakes or coffee.

How would it feel to be told you can't get into the church because we've already reached our number limit? How would it feel if you were told that you weren't allowed to come to church because you're over 65 years old but your child can because they are only 59 and they don't want to go anyway :) ?

I am missing you in church... but I show up every Sunday to lead worship online and we deliver bulletins to folk too. I look forward to seeing your faces back in our buildings, but not yet. I want to welcome you back without reservation but not until it is safe. Not until we can **all** be together. *Helen*

**Look for the Helpers.**

**Be one of the Helpers.**

If you are in need of support, resources or services, please ask.

If you have something to offer, work is being done to coordinate all of the generous offerings of time and services.

Our local municipalities are putting together Community Support Resources and the plan is to make these easily accessible for those who want to offer to help and those who need help.

If you need church support, please contact Helen and we will, to the best of our ability, find what you need.

Pray... a lot! Never underestimate the power of prayer and positive thinking.

Together we will get through this.

Church phone # 403-664-3987

**Big Country United Churches: Cereal, Oyen, Alsask, Acadia Valley**

**A little good news...**

We have received our Financial Statements for the end of May and, you amazing people, we are doing much better than we anticipated.

**Oyen United Church** is starting to catch up. You are keeping up with your M&S donations and the envelope folk are coming back... Thank you! Even though we will soon be missing our fundraising opportunities of song and sandwiches we have done very well so far.

**Cereal United Church** is doing well too. Your M&S donations are ahead of last year too. Some donations that occurred during this time last year, are not available to us this year but you are doing well and your spring fundraiser was right on time!

**Alsask United Church** is holding it's own. You have paid your allocation and Insurance in full for the year, your M&S contributions by PAR are right on target. We would be grateful for a few more envelope donations or people to join PAR to keep us on track.

**Acadia Valley United Church** you, too, are patiently waiting through this time of Sabbath. You have also paid your allocation and Insurance for the year, and you are able to keep up with your other costs.

**Giving thanks for the helpers...**

There are many people who are helping and offering hope in our community. Please make it a priority to take a moment often and offer prayers of gratitude for everyone who are working to keep us safe.

Those who work in hospitals and health care.: Doctors, Nurses, Food Preparers, Cleaners, Administrators., Home Care workers.

Those who are First Responders: Police, Fire Departments, EMTs, EMRs

Those in the essential services: Grocery Stores, Banks, Food Providers, Municipal offices and Services, Pharmacy, Fuel Providers., Truck Drivers

Those who are involved with Education: Teachers, Aides, Administration, Cleaners.

**Thank you for all that you do.**

*Moments to remember. Loving our Neighbours and lifting our spirits.*

**Protecting our friends... the mask project.**

As the initial lockdown was released it became apparent that having face masks was going to be a priority for many folk as they returned to doctors, hairdressers, stores.

One of the ways that our churches have shown care for the community has been in the gift of masks.

We have 5 ladies who have sewn masks for us of varying styles and sizes. Word has spread and we have people coming in for a mask that have been told that the church is offering this. The sewers also responded to the request of MacLean's Funeral Home by making masks that can be used by staff and mourners.

While the masks are a gift, with no charge for those who need them, we have received some donations in gratitude for this service.

All donations are being deposited for M & S.

Thank you for your care of our communities.



*Baskets of masks:*

*Choices of styles and sizes:*



A little bit of Team work and we're looking pretty!  
The Oyen United Church received a donation for flowers, one person went shopping, another did the planting and ta-da we're looking awake again! Thank you!



United Church of Canada

95 years old

June 10, 1925

Happy Birthday!



## Keeping in Touch:

### Facebook Page:

Big Country United Churches

### Website:

www.bigcountryunitedchurches.ca

### Email:

pioneerpastoralcharge@gmail.com

**Instagram:** Big Country United Churches

**Minister:** Rev. Helen Reed

403-664-3987 (office)

403-664-9266 (cell)

9 a.m.—8 p.m. or emergencies

**To support the work of the church** in your community, donations may be sent to Box 392, Oyen, T0J 2J0.

Thank You.

Big Country United Churches: Cereal, Oyen, Alsask, Acadia Valley,

### Financial support for the Church in unusual times.

In all of our four Pioneer Pastoral Charge churches, we have dedicated supporters who offer not only their time and talent for the work of the church, but also are our source of financing to keep our doors open and our Minister paid, general building costs like power, water and heat still need our attention.

**Some folk have chosen to give by PAR.** This means that their offerings will still come to the church regularly. Thank you for this support.

**Some folk are much less comfortable with electronic funds and prefer to give their offerings by writing cheques or giving cash.** When we are not gathering for worship, the contributions from this group are being affected. We are asking you to think about how you can continue to support your church.

1. You can mail cheques to the office. These can be deposited by our Envelope Secretaries or Treasurer according to your schedule.. Post-dated cheques are also welcome.
2. You can arrange an automatic deposit from your bank during this time.
3. You can join the Pre-authorized Remittance (PAR) program, ensuring that your support continues to be received on a monthly basis. You can receive a form for this by contacting Helen at the office or picking up a form at the Oyen United Church West Entrance.

### Contacts— Board Chairpersons

#### Oyen United Church—

Georgia Sullivan 403-664-3942

#### Cereal United Church—

Shari Muzyka 403-326-3752

#### Acadia Valley United Church—

Bert McFadyen 403-664-0816

#### Alsask United Church—

Lorraine Wilke 306-968-2673

#### Pioneer Pastoral Charge—

Bill Kolkman 403-664-3905

### Supporting your church... every little bit helps

**Bottles:** We are still collecting bottles for recycling at the Oyen United Church. Just drop them off in the blue bins at the church, or let the Bottle Depot know to send the funds to us.

**Baking:** If you're baking because you are bored, consider getting ahead on your contributions to our Bake Sale tables (it's better than eating it all now :) ). You can freeze your cookies, cakes squares and bread so that they are ready when our bake tables can resume.