



Rev. Heather Carlson will be officiating this Easter Sunday's Communion Service.

The volunteers for this week:

Elder in Charge: Linda Kisell

Scripture Reader: Marilyn Taylor

Sound Operator: Pat Evans

Greeter: Jennifer Oster

PowerPoint Operator: Debi Hoefling

Lenten Reading: ?

A Good Friday service will take place at Westminster tomorrow March 29th at 7pm with Marg McCulley officiating.

The office of Westminster United Church will be closed March 29th in observance of Good Friday

Gordon Memorial would like to invite you to their SONRise service being held at 7 a.m. on Easter Morning in Lion's Park in Redcliff. Rev. Kristy Reimers-Loader will be leading the service. There will be a

campfire, so please bring a lawn chair and something warm to wear. After the service there will be breakfast served at Gordon Memorial United Church as usual.

Westminster United Church and producers' /directors' Debi Hoefling & Marg McCulley will be hosting a spring dinner theatre! The dinner theatre will take place on May 10th and 11th from 6pm -9pm. Volunteers are required to help serve food and complete clean-up. The dinner will be buffet style with volunteers serving. Please be available to commit to both evenings. Contact the church office by email: reception@westminsteruc.com or sign up on sign up sheet in Memorial Hall.

The Medicine Hat College Chaplaincy Fundraiser "Pasta with a Purpose" will be held on April 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Christian Reformed Church 300 Primrose Dr. S.E. Medicine Hat. The silent auction will follow dinner. Some of the items for auction include a Davis Dealership \$500 vehicle spa package, \$200 Tupperware set, gift certificates for London Drugs, Mexican Hat Restaurant, Dairy Queen, Dee-Jays Pub and baked goods, stepping stones by Shirley etc. Tickets are \$20.00. For tickets please call Shirley Greenfield @ (306) 314- 9016

HOLY WEEK IMAGES FROM GUATEMALA



As we embark on this journey through Holy Week, I find myself reflecting on the parallels between the Lenten Season and the challenges we face today. It feels as though we are caught in a perpetual Holy Saturday moment, straddling the familiarity of the past and the uncertainty of the future. In the midst of contemplating the future of our church, grappling with diminishing resources, navigating challenging politics, and bearing witness to the atrocities of war in our news feeds, it can be difficult to grasp onto the hope of the resurrection.

Joan Chittister beautifully reminds us that, "Hope is not optimism, which expects things to turn out well, but something rooted in the conviction that there is good worth working for." These words resonate deeply with our current struggles and call us to live into the abundance of future possibilities.



A number of years ago I had the opportunity to be in Guatemala during Lent and Holy Week. Lent is a big deal in Guatemala. Hours are spent (sometimes in the wee hours of the morning) decorating the streets with intricately designed carpets of multi-coloured sawdust, flowers and fruit that are beautiful and vibrant. Families and communities gather together to create these works of art. Then Easter processions made up of large floats, pass through the streets. Some floats are so large they require 120 people to carry them. The processions walk on those carefully constructed carpets, a symbolic reminder of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a path of Palm branches.



Despite facing generations of trauma and scarcity, the people of Guatemala demonstrate unwavering faith and hope, pouring out their love and devotion into the world. Witnessing their dedication reminds me of the inseparable connection between faith and hope: when we nurture faith, we nurture hope; when we nurture hope, we nurture faith. There is resurrection going on.

As the calendar moves from Lent into Easter, may you, like the Guatemalans, avidly dig into the Holy Week acts and rituals of our faith with your families and communities. These Holy Week acts, that we prepare for and experience in community, help us to be deeply connected to our faith and to draw strength from the hope of the resurrection. Let us remember that even in our most challenging moments, there is always the promise of new life and renewal.

May this Easter season be a time of profound reflection, spiritual growth, and the rediscovery of hope. Together, let us journey towards the light, embracing the transformative power of faith and the boundless possibilities of resurrection.

Treana Duncan, Executive Minister for Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain Region

<https://chinookwindsregion.ca/2024/03/26/a-holy-week-message-from-treana-duncan/>