



**FIFTH AVENUE MEMORIAL  
UNITED CHURCH**

## FAMiLy News

**Fifth Ave Memorial United Church**

**476 4 Ave SE**

**Medicine Hat, AB T1A 0K6**

**Office: 403 526 2237**

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As we enter this season of Lent, many of us are wondering and asking: How is Dave? When will he return? The simple answer is, we don't know; we honestly do not know. This remains a confidential matter being handled by Chinook Winds Region, and we must trust the processes that are in place.

We recognize that not knowing can feel unsettling. Lent is, in many ways, a wilderness season. It is a time when we walk by faith and not by sight. It is a time of waiting, of reflection, of trusting God's presence even when the path ahead is unclear. This may indeed be our wilderness moment. In wilderness spaces, however, God is never absent. We hold onto that promise now.

So, in the meantime...

We ask for your trust — trust that your church leadership is tending carefully to worship, pastoral care, and the ongoing life of this faith community. Ministry continues. Prayers continue. The Spirit continues to move among us.

We ask for your patience — with the process, with one another, and with yourselves. Together, we will hold each other up knowing that God's work takes time. And we ask for your grace — grace that resists speculation, grace that protects confidentiality, grace that remembers we all share the same information and that nothing is being withheld. We are walking this road together. Unity, compassion, and prayer will serve us far better than conjecture.

Let us continue to pray — for Dave, for his family, for one another, for our leaders, and for the Spirit's steady guidance in the days ahead.

Lent teaches us that the road through uncertainty leads toward resurrection. So, we hold fast to hope. We care for one another gently. We trust that even here, especially here, God is at work; we are not alone.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this situation, please feel free to discuss this with Geoff or with me. Please know that any information we may receive in the future will be shared with the congregation.

**Carolyn Freeman (Ministry & Personnel)**

**Men's Luncheon on  
THURSDAY March 12, 11.30  
Argo's Restaurant  
3065 Dunmore Rd.  
RSVP to Gary at 587-936-1430**

**Ladies' Luncheon on  
THURSDAY March 19, 11.30  
Homesteader Restaurant  
(Clarion Point Hotel)  
1100 Redcliff Dr. SW  
RSVP to Launa at 403-502-3419**



**Check out  
MRS RIVERS' GUIDE TO  
CHURCH ETIQUETTE  
at the end of this issue**

**21 ladies at the Feb lunch, we challenge the men to beat that number!**



**VERY IMPORTANT DATE**

**FAM Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Rev Bob Wallace, our Chinook Winds Pastoral Charge Supervisor will lead the service that day, including communion.**



**We will have a potluck lunch after the service, then the meeting will be held, followed by dessert. In preparation, the FAM annual report will be available in early March and after the service on March 15<sup>th</sup>, you are invited to a budget discussion with the board.**





Annual World Day of Prayer  
will be held on  
Friday March 6<sup>th</sup>  
at 7pm at  
at St Peter's Lutheran Church

Many thanks to Piehl and the crew for  
cooking pancakes and sausages for  
Shrove Tuesday and Sunday.  
DELICIOUS!!!

**SPRING INTO SUMMER  
Tea & Fashion Show**  
*By Elizabeth Rose Modelling*  
*& Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church*

Fashions by:  
Annie McGuire  
Home & Lifestyle  
&  
Phase II

Tickets available at:  
FAM United Church  
Phase II

Fifth Avenue  
Memorial United  
Church  
476 4 St. SE  
403-526-2237

Saturday,  
April 11th  
2-4  
Tickets \$15

Includes  
dessert,  
Refreshments  
& door prizes

*Prize for best Spring or Summer Attire*

Mother's Day Brunch - May 10th after Sunday Service. Looking for men volunteers to flip pancakes

Pies For Guys Father's Day June 22

**FAM Choir Garage Sale - May 22 & 23, 2026**

Its time to clear out your closets  
and donate your gently used trinkets  
and treasures to the church.  
Shelves are marked just inside the door  
for your donations,  
on Sundays or during office hours.



**FAMily Camping Weekend** last weekend in May at Camp Shagabec people needed to sit on the committee – please contact the office.



Triangle Rewards

Rewarding Real Life

Consider giving FAM your **Canadian Tire dollars** by using the **church phone number (403-526-2237)**



Use the

**FAM membership**

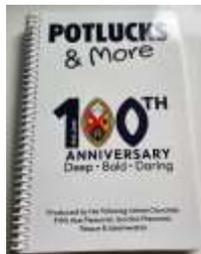
**number 2501** at any

South Country Co-op location

FundScrip

When you buy gift cards through FAM, we receive a commission from each card purchased. Since starting this program FAM has made over \$4,000. Orders will go in the third Wednesday of every month. To see the full list of partners and get an order form visit our webpage or stop by the church office or the office can email you the form.

**Church cook books**



for sale \$20

Don't forget

Mrs Rivers



**Can you help by donating some much-needed food items**



Always needed: peanut butter, Jams, pancake mix, granola bars, juice boxes, ground beef, canned foods and more. Bring your items to the church and place in the wagon in the foyer.

**FAM Office hours**

Monday to Thursday 11am to 1pm

Or by appointment (call **403 526 2237**)

Medicine Hat  
**Rotary** Ignite

**Fabric, Yarn & More Sale**

Saturday, April 18, 2026  
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Medicine Hat Curling Centre  
880 2<sup>nd</sup> St SE, Medicine Hat

entry \$2

Funds raised will benefit local projects that promote Community Connection & Wellness

For further information or pick up of donations call:  
Michelle 403-952-9041  
Pam 403-580-9033

Facebook @ Rotary Ignite Medicine Hat

**Our Sacred Service team** model, where everyone in the congregation is invited to partake in Sunday morning responsibilities, has been very successful since its inception in May 2024. A big thank you to all those who lead and volunteer.

**Thank you to our March leader Geoff Coley and his team**

Mrs Rivers  
coming up  
soon

**Reminder that we need to keep our contact list current, please make sure the office has your current address, phone and email details.**

Check out the FAM webpage for updated information about happenings going on at FAM and the Community. The calendar is updated daily. Also, make sure to like our Facebook page, Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church, and please share our events.

## FAMILY Calendar

March 6	World Day of Prayer	7pm	St. Peter's Lutheran Church
March 8	Daylight Savings starts		
March 12	Men's luncheon - Argo's Restaurant 3065 Dunmore Rd.	11.30am	RSVP Gary 587 936 1430
March 19	Ladies' luncheon - Homesteader (Clarion Point Hotel) 1100 Redcliff Dr. SW	11.30am	RSVP Launa403 502 3419
March 20	"Pasta with a purpose" dinner & auction <i>M. H. Ecumenical Campus Ministry</i>		Living Hope Church <a href="mailto:chaplain@mhc.ab.ca">chaplain@mhc.ab.ca</a>
March 22	Bottle Drive	10am	FAM
<b>March 22</b>	<b>Annual Congregational Meeting Communion, lunch &amp; meeting</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>FAM</b>
March 24	<i>AGM M. H. Ecumenical Campus Ministry</i>		Chaplain George 403 878 0803
March 28	Midwynter Murder Mystery \$20		FAM -tickets from the office
April 11	Spring Tea and Fashion Show \$15	2-4pm	FAM -tickets from the office
April 18	Fabric Yarn & More Sale	9am -2pm	Medicine Hat Curling Centre
April 19	Hymn Sing Sunday Service	10am	FAM
April 25	Spring Fling dance		FAM
May 10	Mothers Day breakfast		FAM
May 22-23	FAM Choir Garage Sale		FAM
May 29-31	Family Camping weekend		Camp Shagabec
June 22	Pies for Guys (Fathers Day)		FAM

<b>Sundays</b>	<b>Service and Church School</b>	<b>FAM 10am</b>
Mondays	Morning Coffee 10am	FAM Memorial Salem Room
Wednesdays	Bible Study 10am	Chinook Village
Wednesdays	Prayer Shawl Crafters 1-3pm	FAM Memorial Salem Room
Wednesdays	Hand Bell Ringers 1.15pm	Wesley Hall
2 <sup>nd</sup> THURSDAY of each month	Men's Luncheon 11.30am	Gary 587 936 1430
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	Funscrip orders submitted	Order at FAM office
3 <sup>rd</sup> THURSDAY of each month	Ladies Luncheon 11.30am	Launa 403 502 3419

**Now make a coffee, sit back and learn**

## **MRS RIVERS' GUIDE TO CHURCH ETIQUETTE**

**by Mrs Pauline Rivers, Head Server (since before most of you were born, and certainly before the carpet)**

### **1. Arrive early.**

Not “bursting through the west door during the second hymn” early. Early enough to sit down, compose yourself, and locate the correct page in the order of service without visible panic.

### **2. The bells are not feedback.**

If they ring for twenty minutes before the service, this is not a complaint about your punctuality. It is a courtesy reminder that time, like salvation, waits for no one.

### **3. If you ask, “Is this my seat?” it probably isn't.**

But if you've sat there for thirty-seven consecutive years, you may defend it gently, with dignity, and a well-placed hymn book.

### **4. Pray first. Always pray first.**

Before chatting. Before adjusting flowers. Before enquiring why the curate has chosen that stole.

### **5. Coffee exists.**

It is not a sacrament. You may survive ten minutes without it.

### **6. The kneeler is not a footrest.**

Nor is it a percussion instrument during the sermon.

Creating Connecting Caring

**7. Candles are devotional.**

They are not birthday accessories, mood lighting, or something to “have a little blow at”. Wax on church linen is to be avoided at all times. It's REALLY annoying.

**8. The organ voluntary is not background music.**

It is not the soundtrack to your catching-up session about your hip operation. Lionel did not spend all of Friday afternoon serving Bach during a quinquennial inspection for you use it as background to your bunions story. Appreciate his act of worship, please. Peasants.

**9. The Peace is warm, not vigorous.**

A handshake is sufficient. A full family reunion involving three generations and weather reports is excessive.

**10. Children are welcome.**

If they make a joyful noise, we rejoice. If they dismantle the credence table, we intervene.

**11. If you drop the collection plate,**

we will all pretend it was meant to happen. Dignity is a shared project.

**12. Hymns are sung.**

Murmured reflections upon them are not the same thing. Imagine you're on the terraces at Havnot FC, and give similar enthusiasm to worship.

**13. Notices are brief.**

They are not an opportunity to recount the entire history of the Bring & Buy Sale of 1987.

**14. Incense is not smoke.**

It is theology you can see.

**15. If you are unsure when to stand,**

watch Mrs Rivers. (This has been reliable since 1958.)

**16. Do not correct the reader mid-lesson.**

Even if they pronounce Habakkuk like a Scandinavian furniture range.

**17. The sermon is not a referendum.**

You may disagree internally. Externally, you may look thoughtful. Written feedback to the preacher has been known to elicit a carefully calibrated response from the Vicar.

**18. Silence is not awkward.**

It is rare and should be treated with respect.

**19. After the blessing, remain seated.**

We leave together. This is civilisation.

**20. Go home faintly scented of polish and prayer.**

**If you feel slightly unsettled, slightly comforted, and unexpectedly grateful, you have done it properly.**

**I would like it noted that following these rules will not eliminate all confusion, but it will reduce it to a manageable, Anglican-adjacent level.**

**And if in doubt, dear friends, simply sit up straight, sing out, and remember: Someone is always watching. Usually me.**

**Pauline Rivers, Head Server**

**"Only trying to help"**

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**Disclaimer**

**St Faithful's is fictional. The affection is real.**

**Books by Canon Tom Kennar (including 'The Parish Life' - about St Faithful's) are available in print and e-book. Merchandise lurks online. See <https://tomkennar.blogspot.com/p/st-faithfuls-authors-resources.html> for more details.**

**AI may assist. The responsibility is entirely human.**