



# St. Albert United Church

an Affirming Ministry within the United Church of Canada

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## We Are Still Here!

Though it may not seem like it, the calendar assures us that Holy Week is upon us again. The global health crisis has been at the center of our daily lives for several weeks now, and for many of us, it has felt like life has been put on pause. Our routines have been drastically changed and as we tune in to listen to the daily news updates, it has been difficult to find the glimmers of hope amidst the stories of tragedy and suffering. But hope **is** there if we look hard enough. We see signs that the self-isolation and physical distancing that we have been practising are beginning to make a difference.

Isolation is hard on all of us so let us all commit to staying connected and remaining optimistic. And what better season for hope than Easter? It's a time of rebirth and resurrection. We cannot share the Passion story in person this year, but we can all share in the hope of Easter Sunday by staying connected as a church family.

Even though our building has been closed, the work of our church continues, and our ministry team has been very busy. Rev Mervin and Rev Deborah continue to be available to help with any pastoral care needs you may have and they have also been busy learning how to navigate technology because St Albert United has its own YouTube channel now!

[https://www.youtube.com/results?sp=mAEB&search\\_query=st+albert+united+church](https://www.youtube.com/results?sp=mAEB&search_query=st+albert+united+church)

Links to their video messages will be posted on the church website at:

<https://stalbertunited.ca/pastoral-support/>

As the work of the church continues, so do our obligations and commitments. The finance committee has discussed the budgetary outlook for the church for the next three months and believe we will qualify for the federal wage subsidy. Between this program and your continued financial support, St. Albert United Church will be able to weather this crisis. Many of us are facing uncertainty in our own work lives and it is understandable if you do need to suspend your offerings in light of this. For those who are able, we graciously appreciate your continued support in this time of increased need.

For those of you who are not on Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) but would like to be, please contact Laurie Symbaluk at: [office@stalbertunited.ca](mailto:office@stalbertunited.ca) and she will walk you through the enrollment.

One-time donations can also be made electronically by sending e-transfers to:

[sandy2sauc@gmail.com](mailto:sandy2sauc@gmail.com)

or by clicking on Canada Helps at:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/st-albert-united-church/>

Physical donations can still be dropped off into the secure mailbox at the church. Those of you who would like to support us by purchasing Safeway/Sobey's Gift cards can contact Ken Hutchinson: [kdhutchkenson@gmail.com](mailto:kdhutchkenson@gmail.com) or 780-217-6961.

We will continue to share more information about the continuing work of the church as it becomes available; please visit <https://stalbertunited.ca/covid-19-news/> or the SAUC Facebook page for updates. We know that not all of our members have access to email, so we will be sharing this message through our phone tree as well.

We pray that you and your loved ones stay well, and we welcome any questions or feedback.

St. Albert United Church Council

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