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# JUDY'S JOURNAL

## COVID-19 / Round Lake First Nations

### No Pow Wows

Saskatchewan summers are celebrated with pow-wows. First Nations people gather to dance, sing, eat and visit with far-flung family and friends. A summer with no pow-wows...in Indian Country? It's never happened in our lifetime. No traveling to Alberta or Manitoba (although some places *might be* hosting them). Driving to the States is off limits...even with the Jay Treaty. Sakimay & Kahk's pow-wow weekends have already come & gone; reminding us that this Summer is very different.

An Ochapowace band council member posted this "stay home" image as Covid-19 was beginning



March 15th was our last normal service at Jacob Bear. On that Sunday, we had no idea of how quickly things were changing. At our Wednesday Bible Study (March 18th), there were many questions and much confusion about the information coming out of Ottawa and Regina. On March 22, Jacob Bear experienced a silent Sunday. Our scheduled Board Meeting for the following week never happened. Brig talked with leadership and it was decided to hit pause for now and see how things would develop. We discovered Zoom and the 12-15 people that found their way on March 29th liked it. Two offered to pay for the monthly subscription! With several prominent church members working in the health field and others staring down surgeries, cancer, diabetes, and age related concerns Jacob Bear has continued to meet online. The Church Board will meet again in early August and discuss regathering. Our Zoom meetings have proven to be dynamic & encouraging for those that attend. Our Wednesday evening gatherings are well attended with only average attendance coming on Sundays.





## Weathering Covid

Many of our First Nations' friends are cowboys. Early spring is always calving season and as Summer begins, friends and family come back to the ranch to round up cattle and sort out the calves for branding and castrating. Hard work, serious fun but life goes on, even in this new age.

We are so grateful to each one of you who have given so generously during this difficult time. Our basic needs have been met and we so grateful to the One who sees and responds to your needs as well as to our own.

*In all circumstances...give thanks!*

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## Life, Death & Life Again

Fields were seeded. And yet the farmers fretted. No Spring rains and Summer began just as dry. People were asking us to pray. Eventually, the thunder clouds stalled over our area long enough to drop some rain. Places to the east and west of us have seen significant flooding but this area has been fortunate. The fields are bright yellow, green and blue.

Jacob Bear Services have moved online for about four months and we have acclimated and developed a rhythm to the meetings. Zoom has afforded us the opportunity to continue with our congregational sharing/prayer times as well as our singing. Folks are opening up, excited that sharing online feels easier than talking in a public setting. A newcomer to our meetings, did not realize his mic was still on as he exclaimed, "I can't wait until Wednesday!" Zoom has been entertaining as well as a life boat to some of our folks who are housebound.

No one on the four First Nations near Broadview have tested positive for the virus, as most of the Reserves posted strict security checkpoints at every entrance for at least two to three months.

Brig has not conducted one funeral service in the midst of covid, although a dozen or more folks had died (the longest break we have experienced). Sadly, that ended last week. Chris & I are grateful to be going thru this time together.

