

**Any Questions?**

Feel free to ask a greeter or welcome host for assistance.

**Enhanced Audio** headsets for the hard of hearing are available from the sound person.

**Washrooms** are located in the foyer, one in the nursery and two more near the church office.

**Can't find it in the bulletin?**

Check out our website for all the latest on our upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, detailed information on our core values, and much more!

**Sermon:** Our sermons for each week are uploaded on our website.

**Congregational Care:** Our Congregational Care Team invites you to reach out for our confidential spiritual and compassionate care, contact [okcongregational-care@telus.net](mailto:okcongregational-care@telus.net) or the church office at 403-938-4357.

**Stay connected!** Sign up for our weekly emails - keep in touch throughout the week through our website. E-mail Diane Willis at [okunited@telus.net](mailto:okunited@telus.net) to sign up for our weekly e-mails.

**Healing Ministry - Healing Ministry** - the Healing Ministry Healing Session take place the first and third Monday of each month from 1:00 - 4:00. Please contact Gisela Dyck at 403-938-2506 for more information or to book an appointment.

**OUR WELCOME HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP TOO!!**

You can find them in the entryway

This bulletin is sponsored by Heather & Richard Puttee:

**In loving memory of Todd Spence**

**Information Session for 2020 Mission Possible Trip to the Dominican Republic**

- Gary Dzurka will be holding a 45 minute information session on January 12th, 2020 immediately after Sunday service for anyone interested in joining the Mission Possible Team to travel to the Dominican Republic in 2020. Come learn more about past adventures and expected costs for the trip. We've got several youth committed to the 2020 trip with a mid-August departure date. The session is open to anyone interested in joining the team - previous travelers have ranged from 7 to 70 years old. Everyone is welcome.

**OUC Pilgrimage to the Holy Land April 25<sup>th</sup> - May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

From a cultural, political, and historical perspective, there's probably no country on Earth as interesting as Israel. Sacred ground to Jews, Christians, and Muslims, Israel is home to an amazing diversity of influences and historic sites. Come join us on our personalized journey to this amazing place. We have designed a unique itinerary just for our group, some of which you will not find on any other tour. We will visit the Old City of Jerusalem, Bethlehem (the birthplace of Jesus), Rachel's Tomb, Masada, the Dead Sea, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Magdala, Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, and many other stops. Julia has been to Israel before and brings that knowledge and experience to share with us. We have only a few spots left. If you are interested please speak to Julia or Sally Salter. The next meeting is January 6, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the Chapel.

**Okotoks United Church**

**Box 507, 43 Riverside Drive Okotoks, AB T1S 1A7**

**Phone: 403 938-4357**

**Website: [www.okunited.ca](http://www.okunited.ca)**

Office Admin: Diane Willis: [okunited@telus.net](mailto:okunited@telus.net)

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Congregational Care: [okcongregationalcare@telus.net](mailto:okcongregationalcare@telus.net)

Kids Ministry: Candice Sutton: [cndcsutton@gmail.com](mailto:cndcsutton@gmail.com)

Audio Visual: Keith Bayley, Diane Willis

Choir Leader: Pat Reader-Downey

Accompanist: Amy Gatus

Organist: Heather Puttee & Steve Hayward

Board Chair: Karen Pryznyk

Ministry & Personnel (M&P): Sally Salter: [ssalter050@gmail.com](mailto:ssalter050@gmail.com)

Worship Committee: Jody Connors

Treasurer: Stewart Thomas

Maintenance: Ian McNeill

Trustee Chair: Gary Dzurka

Worship Theme Team: Heather Puttee, Betty-Lou Bayley



**With God's Help we are:  
Following Jesus,  
Reaching Others,  
Changing Lives**



Photo: Tamara Webster



OKOTOKS-DEWINTON UNITED CHURCHES

Sunday, December 8, 2019  
Hope: The Journey to Christmas

Worship Leader: Julia Kimmett  
Worship Assistant: Martha Webster

Congregational responses are printed in bold  
\*Indicates: please stand in body or in spirit

Prelude

Lighting of Journey/Hope Candles Betty-Lou Bayley

*The Magi looked to the heavens and began their journey to hope.*  
**The put their hope in science to lead them to answers, not God.**  
*The Magi looked to the heavens and began their journey to hope.*  
**Science says that we will find the answers. God, through a crocus poking through the snow reminds us that God has created all things.**  
*The Scientists (Magi) looked to the heavens and began their journey to hope.*  
**Perhaps science and God together can put us on the path of hope, if we let them.**  
*The Magi looked to the heavens and began their journey to hope.*  
**Let's use science to enhance Gods' message of hope to help heal our world that is short on hope.**

Gathering Chorus: Hope Shines as the Solitary Star MV 220

Work of the Community (Announcements)

Word of Welcome

Acknowledging the Territory  
\*Hymn: The First Nowell (vs. 2,3,5) VU 91

Time with the Young and Young at Heart  
\*Hymn: Hope Is Now in Every Place (vs. 1 & 2) VU 45

Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Choir Anthem: Heaven Everywhere B. Glover/F. Battistelli/A. Beck

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-2

Imagining the Story: The Magi

Prayers of the People and The Prayer that Jesus Taught VU 959

\* Hymn: When a Star is Shining (Tune: Sing We Now of Christmas)VU 97

\*Go Out and Change the World (Commissioning)

\*Blessing

\*Going Out: Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope MV 33

Postlude

Theme for December:

Hope

Kid's Ministry:

Kids, newborn to 4 years are welcome in the nursery anytime during the service. The nursery is located next to the Sanctuary near the west foyer door. Kids aged 5+ are invited to join Candice for the Kid's Ministry program.

New Comers!

We would love to get to know you! You are welcome to fill out a card that is in the chair in front of you in the sanctuary. If you have any questions about our church please see our host after today's service.

Prayer needs:

Heather & Richard Puttee, their daughter Andrea and their granddaughters.

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request please fill out a Prayer Card (found in the seat pocket in front of you) and deposit it in one of the Prayer Boxes found on the candle-lighting stations at the front of the sanctuary. Requests may also be emailed to [okcongregationalcare@telus.net](mailto:okcongregationalcare@telus.net).

Kid's Pageant

Following the Kid's Pageant on December 15th please plan to stay for fellowship and great food! We invite you to bring pot luck finger foods such as veggies & dip, sausage, cheese & crackers, cookies. Food For Fun will provide the buns and some cold cuts.

Church Happenings:

**Choir** - come join the choir every Thursday evening from 7:00 - 9:00 in the Sanctuary.

**Bible Study** - will resume on Thursday, January 16th, 2020. Come join us for weekly Bible Study Thursday mornings 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. in the Conference Room upstairs. This year we will be studying Acts. All are welcome to come learn with us!

Services for the Season

Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> – 10:45 a.m.

Kid's Pageant

Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m.

De Winton Candlelight & Communion Service

Note: There will be no morning service at De Winton

Sunday, December 22nd - 10:45

Regular Service at Okotoks - no service at DeWinton

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – 4:00 p.m.

Okotoks UC Family Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 p.m.

Okotoks Candlelight & Communion Service

Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> – 10:45 a.m.

Okotoks and De Winton – “Hope has been Born”

Kids' Ministry Schedule for December 2019

December 8 - Advent Activity Centre/Costume Fittings  
December 15 - Christmas Pageant  
December 20 - Youth Group - Christmas Party  
December 22 - Kid's Christmas Party



**Christmas Market Update:** Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out with this year's Christmas Market. This year's market was a huge success! Here is the breakdown of the market sales: treasures tables \$753.30, rent for tables\$550.00 ,baking \$2332.85 for a total of \$3635.15. The Café was also very successful with a total amount of \$516.00 raised.

In the spirit of respect and truth, we acknowledge that we live, work and worship on the traditional territories of the people of Treaty 7 – the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani), the Tsuut'ina, the Stoney-Nakoda Nations and the Métis Nation, Region 3. The United Church is committed to restoring right relations with the first peoples and to living in peace and harmony on this land.

Okotoks United Church  
Snow Angels Needed!

So far we've had one person sign up to be our Snow Angel. We desperately need more! Please sign on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the OUC foyer. Your help would be greatly appreciated!



White Gift Sunday

On **Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup>**, we will be receiving as part of our offering “White Gifts” of gift cards for groceries or gas. These gifts become part of the **Benevolent Fund** and are distributed to those in need.

Envelopes have been provided. Please put your gift in the envelope with your name, address and/or envelope number as the gifts qualify as a taxable donation. Please mark on the cards the value of the card.