

WE CAN CONNECT



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NOVEMBER 8, 2020

Turkey on the Go! Last Call for orders!



**Okotoks United Church's first Take-Out Turkey Supper.
Sunday November 15, 2020 2 to 5 p.m. \$25 per person.**

Available in 2-person, 4-person and 8-person boxes. This is a gourmet Turkey Dinner from Highwood Catering which includes carved, seasoned and basted turkey, sausage stuffing, pan giblet gravy, house-made cranberry sauce, creamy whipped potatoes, peas and carrots, fresh bun and your choice of slices of homemade pie baked by Karen Jones and Pat Reader-Downey of Okotoks United Church – Apple, Blueberry, Cherry or Pumpkin.

Call Diane at the church office 403-938-4357 to place your order and pay before noon on Monday, November 9th. Drive through the East parking lot between 2 and 5 p.m. on Nov.15 to pick up your ready-to-reheat dinner. 45 minutes in your oven and it is ready to serve! Delivery of your meals can be arranged for to those who are not able to their meals pick up.

Please Pray For:



- Korean (EM) United Church
- The working poor
- Those being evicted
- Immigrants unable to navigate the system
- Small business owners
- Those who are homeless
- People who have had their surgery postponed

Remembrance Day Ceremony in Okotoks:

The Okotoks Legion is planning to honour veterans with a live-streamed Remembrance Day ceremony. The ceremony starts at around 10:40 a.m. at the Rotary Performing Arts Centre. Due to Covid19, the capacity will be a maximum of 40 people. **Please also note that the office will be closed on Wednesday, November 11th.**



In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae



Help!

These days I am praying to be able to let go of things over which I have no control. Never did. We like to think that we have some agency over people and situations around us. When something happens that we don't like or to people we love, we think we can fix it, which is rarely the case.

What we can do is cry "HELP." Help is that cry we make when we know that we're in over our heads. It is the whisper we choke out in the middle of the night when our hearts are broken and our spirits overwhelmed. It is the moan we utter when we realize that things are not going to go our way and we might just lose something or someone who is dear to us.

It is these heartfelt cries of "help" that most identify us as human, for up until we know we need help, we are playing God, trying to fix things on our own. And God will leave us to try to figure it out. We need to learn to "let go" before God can do anything in us and with us. Until then we have some learning to do. We need to learn to surrender.

In letting go we finally become malleable and humble enough to know that God's power and strength is greater than our own and that God is with us, walking us through our most difficult times. Asking God to take away whatever is troubling us is simply another way of us trying to control a situation. Crying "help" is our way of turning things over to God without having to know what is going to happen. And being OK with whatever does happen...eventually. Which doesn't mean it isn't going to hurt like hell.

Saying "help" doesn't make us weak. Just the opposite. Saying "help" means that we acknowledge that we are perfectly human and that every human needs help. We are not independent, self-sufficient or self-made, no matter how much we like to think so.

So go ahead, say it. HELP! Then let go. There is relief in knowing we don't have to get through life alone. That is good news indeed. God will never leave us alone. That is a promise.

Julia

November Worship Theme

About 10 years ago, a little book entitled "Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers," written by author Anne Lamott came out to critical acclaim and became a best seller. In November we will be exploring these themes each Sunday, with the addition of a fourth prayer, "Sorry." Please join us in person or via Zoom to discover what it means to pray in these challenging times and how we might engage these compelling prayers for ourselves and for the world.

November 8th: Thanks! (incorporating Remembrance Day commemoration)

November 15th: Sorry! (What does true contrition look like?)

November 22nd: Wow! (What amazes us? How do we acknowledge God in those moments?)

November 29th is the beginning of Advent. On that day we will begin our journey toward Christmas and explore what it looks like in the current environment. Our theme for Advent this year will be "Hope." On the 29th we will also light our sanctuary, including the **Memory Tree**. If you have lost someone dear to you in the last two years, we invite you to let us know their name and we will place a chrism on the tree in their name while their names are read out during the service. More details to follow.



ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Written by P. Marie Wedderburn



On Sunday, some of us gathered at Okotoks United for a St. Andrew's United service at 9 a.m. For me personally, it was good to physically see the people who were there and to hear Julia's message and song in person. I look forward to the next time we can gather at Okotoks United at 9 a.m.

In the meantime, we can virtually join the Okotoks United service at 10:30.

Hope all is well with people of St. Andrew's United community of faith and see you Sunday at 9:30 via Zoom. Isn't it great to be able to connect virtually during this pandemic?

Kid's Korner:

Some more info on our re-opening plans. As you would have received your email from the church office last week, there is just a little more information I can share with you.

We will be requiring registration to attend services weekly. For that, you will need to contact the main office either by email okunited@telus.net or by phone 403-938-4357.

When you are registering, you will need to sign kids up for Sunday School (which is running the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month). Sunday School is running separately from worship, it will run during the same time, but at the time of arrival, kids will head straight upstairs. There is also the option for parents to drop kids off even if they themselves are not attending service that day. Kids just need to be registered with the office that week. We have a 10-child limit in Sunday School for the time being.

On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, kids are still welcome to join their parents in the service for a Kid's Time, socially distanced of course, with me up on the stage.

If you are unable to attend services on any weekend, I would strongly encourage you to join via Zoom, particularly on the days in which we have a Kid's Time.

Please remember we will be practicing social distancing and wearing masks, so please remember to bring one. Also, a reminder that the nursery is closed during this time.

Any questions, please contact Candice at cndcsutton@gmail.com.

Okotoks United Church Office - We're here for you!

The office continues to remain open at this time Monday to Friday 9:00 - 2:00. Please contact Diane at okunited@telus.net or 403-938-4357 for church related news.

Please contact **Julia** at okjulia@telus.net or 403-702-2249 (cell) at any time.

Congregational Care Team invites you to reach out for confidential spiritual and compassionate care by email at: okcongregationalcare@telus.net



WHERE TO GIVE THIS CHRISTMAS!

Several organizations provide Christmas support to residents
in the Foothills region.

Please contact them for details on how or
what you can give or volunteer.

Please
donate by
Dec. 4

Donate
Early!

Oilfields Food Bank: 403-612-1291

Christmas Meal Hampers. Donations of food
and cash are gratefully accepted.

Okotoks Food Bank: 403-651-6629

Christmas Meal Hampers.
Donations of food and cash are gratefully accepted.
You may also choose to Adopt-a-Family.

Baby It's Cold Outside: 403-660-3648

Christmas Meal Hampers to nominated residents.
Donations of food and cash.

The Salvation Army: 403-652-2195

Christmas Meal Hampers. Toys & gifts for children (18
and under). Donations of new, unwrapped toys and
gift cards are gratefully accepted. Financial donations
welcome. *Volunteers needed!*

Seniors Secret Service: 403-257-8339

Supporting isolated seniors throughout the Foothills.
Donations of cash or gift cards.

Magic of Christmas:

403-921-0588/403-803-3085

Christmas cheer and gifts to referred residents.

Donations of cash and gift cards are appreciated or
donate new, unwrapped toys at:

OKOTOKS: ATB, Fountain Tire, Village Lane Dental,
Monkey Mountain, Papillon Medical Clinic, Fisher
Crescent Retail, White Bull.

HIGHRIVER: Dance Tech, Ward Tires

BLACK DIAMOND: ATB, Focus Fitness, Western Financial

My City Care:

mycitycareoko@myvictory.ca

Toys & gifts for children, teens & parents. Drop off a new
unwrapped toy or stocking stuffer at one of these drop-
off locations: Trident Auto Wash, Momentum Physical
Therapy, Eyes 360

Volunteers Needed!

Okotoks Family Resource Centre:

C:403-995-2626 E: familyresources@okotoks.ca

Help residents facing financial challenges "the other
364 days" of the year. Donations will fund emergency
gas and grocery cards.

Rowan House Emergency Shelter:

Help bring holiday joy to families affected by domestic
abuse. Donate at www.rowanhouse.ca or contact Kaylee
at: C: 403-336-6405 E: housing@rowanhouse.ca.

High River FCSS: 403-652-8620

Donations of gifts, gift cards and cash
for single/senior adults.



Please refer to our website www.okunited.ca for updated information and links to the newsletter.