



December 4, 2025

Advent Tea

December 8, 2025 from 1 - 3 pm

Okotoks United Church

43 Riverside Drive, Okotoks, AB

Squares, tarts, cookies

and coffee/tea

\$7 per person

Join us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OkotoksUnited>
Visit St Andrew's United Church website: [**Dewintonunitedchurch.ca**](http://Dewintonunitedchurch.ca)

Christmas Services at Okotoks United:

Blue Christmas: December 20, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Christmas Eve ~ 4:00 pm to 4:45 pm

Candlelight Service 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm



Office Christmas Hours

Christmas Eve Day 10-12pm

Christmas Day - closed

Box Daying - closed

December 29-30 10am to 2pm

December 31 10-12pm

January 1, 2026 - closed

January 2, 2026 - closed



NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S UNITED

Written by P. Marie Wedderburn



On November 23rd, the last Sunday of the Christian Year (Reign of Christ Sunday), seventeen people welcomed Rev. Dr. Karen Medland as our worship leader. We heard the lectionary scripture readings for this particular Sunday: Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Luke 23:33-43. Karen's message was entitled "Oh I Just Can't Wait to Be King" (attributed to Simba from The Lion King). Karen told us briefly of her family's connection to Simba. The reading from the prophet Jeremiah talks how the people wanted a king like other nations. But the kings were not pastoral kings because they did not care for the people. However the king we welcome into our hearts and minds - Jesus - speaks of justice and love; welcomes children; seeks to heal; everyone gets to eat; and shows forgiveness and grace. We were left with the question "What can we give?" as God guides us to live in Jesus' example. So we pray, Our God, enable us to care for one another in the name of Christ the King.

The First Sunday of Advent was November 30th this year. As we enter this season of expectation fifteen people joined Julia this Sunday. The first candle of our Advent wreath was lit - the candle representing hope. Julia entitled her message "More Than Expected" and in the message we heard the scriptures: Micah 5:2; Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 7:14; and Isaiah 53:5. We believe that Jesus is the one whom these prophets prophesied would come. Jesus was sent to show us how to live in the world in hope. Now hope is different from magical thinking. Hope is complicated. Hope is action. Hope is about change in the world. Jesus remains one of the greatest hope bringers to the world and turns that action over to us. We were asked to reflect upon "Our hope lies in our ability to change for the better and to bring about change in the world. What kind of change-maker are you?" What is our response? Following the message and reflection time, we shared our Advent communion meal and put the Crismons (symbols of Christ) on the tree.

A few reminders: if you bought tickets to the concert it is this Sunday, December 7th at 2 pm. Our candlelight service is Sunday, December 21st at 7 and there is no service in the morning that Sunday. There will be a baptism service at 9 on Sunday, December 28.



Healing Pathways

Are you seeking physical, mental or spiritual healing?

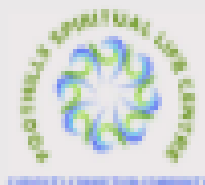
Come experience a healing session!

To book a session, please contact: Gisela Dyck at 403-938-2506



Our intention is
your ultimate
happiness and
well-being.

Engage the
practice of
meditation to gain
experiential inner
wisdom and skillful
living through
present moment
awareness.



FOOTHILLS SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTRE
presents

Weekly Meditation Circle

W I T H

BRANDON BERTRAM

**Beginning Tuesday
November 18th**

7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

Okotoks United Church

43 Riverside Drive

Entrance by donation
(proceeds to Spiritual Life Centre)

www.okunited.ca



2nd Tuesday of each month,
at 1:00 pm in the Youth Room.

**Current read: *This Tender Land*
by William Kent Krueger**

**Check the church website to see
what we're reading and discussing!**

Please contact Janet Page at
587-363-5423 to join.

F I R E S I D E B O O K C L U B

Admin Updates

It's Pageant Time! Join us at 10:45 am Sunday December 21. Kid's Ministry will be offering goodies and crafts for sale with all proceeds going to the Okotoks Food Bank.

We continue to collect food items for the Okotoks Food Bank on the shelves in the foyer. Thank you for your donations.

White Gift Sunday is December 21, 2025!

Our White Gifts this year will go to Canyon Church Camp's Camp Sustainer Campaign as the Camp prepares to open its doors in the summer of 2026!

It's coming to that time of year ... no, not that time .. Annual Report time! Traci will be in touch (soon) with a reminder email for those ministries who need to submit reports describing what they've accomplished this year.



Christmas *Candlelight* Service

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
DECEMBER 21ST. 700 PM

An evening filled with the gentle glow of candlelight
that symbolizes peace and hope.

All are welcome





Join us for mid-week worship,
Wednesdays in the chapel at 10:00 am
After December 17. Mid-week Worship
will be on short hiatus until
on January 7, 2026



Christmas Carol Sing!

**Sunday December 14
at Okotoks United
from 7-9 pm
Hot chocolate and treats
at intermission**



Children 5 and up are
invited to Sunday School
during service
at Okotoks United!

Laughter .. not only the best medicine
but the cheapest.



I'm only a morning person
on December 25th.

