

Kids' Ministry

Schedule for March & April 2019

March 31 Let Your Light Shine!

April 5 - Youth Group

April 7 - What is Palm Sunday?

April 12 - Youth Group

April 14 - Palm Sunday

April 21 - Easter Sunday

April 28 - The Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit



Urgent Appeal for Southern Africa

Cyclone Idai swept through Southern Africa in March 2019, leaving terrible disaster in its wake. Severe flooding and devastation has affected an estimated 2.6 million people in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi. The current official death toll is 350; that number is expected to rise exponentially, particularly in Mozambique. United Church Mission & Service partner ACT Alliance, together with local partners, are assessing the impact of the crisis on the ground in order to provide immediate assistance, minimize loss of life, and ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are met. The United Church sent an initial contribution of \$20,000 to partners and is launching a church-wide appeal to respond to massive emergency needs and support eventual rehabilitation and rebuilding. Immediate priorities are basic food items, potable water and water purification tablets, blankets, clothing, soap, medical items and mosquito nets.

From Zimbabwe, Mission & Service partner **The Zimbabwe Council of Churches** writes: "We count ourselves blessed that The United Church of Canada have us in remembrance as we battle to respond to a crisis that keeps getting worse by the day as the extent of destruction to lives, property and livelihoods becomes clear."

Please go to the following website to contribute. If you are unable to do this, please give a contribution to the church in an envelope marked "Cyclone Idai" and we will make sure the donation gets to the right place. <https://www.united-church.ca/cyclone-idai>

Announcements

Sunday, March 31, 2019

This Week...

Monday- Healing Ministry, Healing Ministry Room - 1:00 - 4:00

Thursday - Bible Study - Conference Room - 10:00 - 11:30 am - all are welcome

Thursday - Choir Practice - Sanctuary - 7:00 - 8:30 pm

New Members Easter 2019

In the United Church of Canada, all who come to the church to participate in the life and work of the community are welcome to participate in all ministries (with the exception of being on the Board and some committees). Some however, want to make a more formal commitment to the United Church, to the congregation and to the life and work of this faith community.

If you would like to become a member of the church, Julia is facilitating a **New Member's Class** on **Sunday, April 7th** from **12:30 – 3:00 p.m.** Please sign-up for the class on the bulletin board in the foyer. If you have been a member of the United Church in the last few years and would like to transfer membership, please call Diane to arrange the transfer. If you have not been a member in another congregation in the last two years, please take the membership class here to join at Easter.

Prayer Boxes

We now have prayer boxes on our two candle-lighting/prayer stations on either side of the sanctuary. We have also placed prayer cards in the pockets of the chairs. If you have a prayer request, please use the prayer cards and place them in the prayer boxes. All prayers will be forwarded to the prayer group. If you wish to have the prayers published in the bulletin or a card sent to someone, please check the appropriate box on the prayer card. If a card is requested please put the address of the person who will receive the card in the space provided. The cards must be folded before being placed in the prayer box. Please fold with personal information on the inside of the card.



It's Time to Sing!

We would love to have you come sing with us. Practices are held Thursday nights at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary at the church. All are welcome, no matter your musical ability. We love to just have fun!



U of A Mixed Chorus needs billets April 30th.

Billets are needed for one evening on April 30th to provide bed and breakfast for the University of Alberta Mixed Chorus (UAMC). They will be doing a fundraiser at Okotoks United Church on April 30th. If you can billet one or two people it would be greatly appreciated. Please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule. This year is the 75th anniversary of the UAMC going on tour.

As well as singers, this choir includes the Faculty of Education Handbell Ringers. This group has grown to become one of the largest and most renowned handbell choirs in North America. All proceeds from the concert and Intermission snacks will go to Okotoks United Church.

Fireside Book Club Meeting

The Fireside Book Club will meet Monday, April 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We will be discussing A Question of Identity by Susan Hill. All are welcome.



Healing Ministry

The Healing Ministry will provide sessions on the first and third Monday of each month from 1 to 4pm. Please contact Gisela Dyck at 403-938-2506.



Congregational Care Team

Reaching out, supporting, encouraging and compassionately caring for one another is part of being a faith community. Sometimes, regardless of age or life stage, we all need help and support to get through life's challenges. And so, we serve one another through kindness, humility, patience and gentleness - always aware of God's great love. Our Congregational Care Team invites you to reach out for our confidential spiritual and compassionate care, contact okcongregationalcare@telus.net, Rev. Jonelle at 403 650-5166 or the church office at 403 938-4357.



Camp Caravan

Camp Caravan is a summer day-camp program for children in preschool to grade 6. Children will explore ways in which they can experience God's love and "Follow the Spirit" in their everyday lives, all while building friendships and having fun.

WHEN? JULY 8-12

Okotoks United Church

Cost? \$125/child.

Financial support is available! We do not turn children away! (Speak to Julia). Please see poster on Bulletin Board for more information.

Join us on our journey to discover God's exciting gifts and love!

Okotoks Food Bank Update

This year the Food Bank distributed 1,422 hampers to 2,474 adults and 1,758 children through our regular Hamper Program from January to December, 2018. The Christmas Hamper Program was in great demand again as we distributed 243 Christmas Food Hampers. The needs in our area changed slightly with the total hamper distribution down by 4% to the previous year, and the 2018 statistics for the 'Help Yourself Shelves' were up by 11% and Christmas hampers up 5%, as compared with 2017. A huge thank you to all who helped to make our past year so successful!

AFFIRMING MINISTRY

Okotoks United Church is currently engaged in the **Affirming Process**. This will allow us to discern our desire to be a church that affirms and welcomes all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. The process is one of education, conversation and discernment and invites everyone to participate in the process. The process will take as long as it needs to. The Affirming Team is: Madison Carlson, Jody Connors, Logan Walker and Julia Kimmett. Please speak to any one of us with your questions, comments or concerns. We welcome all views.

Say Cheese! Photo Directory

A photo directory really helps us get to know each other better. Putting a name to a face can make someone feel welcome in our community of faith. So put on a smile and line up for your photo! The next photos will be taken after Sunday services April 7th, 14th and 28th.



Join Julia for a Walk

Every Tuesday from 9 - 10 Julia will be walking at the Crescent Point Regional Field House. Join her and others for a walk and a chat.

2019 Easter Events and Services

Palm Sunday, April 14

Maundy Thursday, April 18 - Table Talk

Pot Luck, finger food. Come for 6:00 pm and hear what the disciples might have said around the table. Share Communion and foot/hand washing

Good Friday Service, April 19 at 10:45 a.m.

Easter Sunday Services – April 21

7:00 a.m. – Sunrise Service at Big Rock
(Glacier Erratic) on Hwy 7 towards Black Diamond

Easter Breakfast (Okotoks) following Sunrise Service

DeWinton Easter Service - Communion 9:00 a.m.

Okotoks Easter Service - Communion 10:45 a.m.