

We did it!

We paid off our RBC mortgage!

You were a big part of it

- your years of faithful giving are **so appreciated!**

Let's **celebrate** this together on

Sunday, November 19

(right after the worship service)

with cake, munchies and time to visit.



On December 3, 2023, we will host a reception of new members and transferred members.

Interested in becoming an Okotoks United Church member?

Talk to Julia or the office to find out more.

CONNECTIONS



The Okotoks United Church Fireside Book

Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month September to June at 1:00 pm in the Boardroom. The books we will be reading and discussing for the 2023-2024 season can be found on the church website. You are welcome to attend on a regular basis or simply if a book sounds like one you would like to read and participate in the discussion.



If you are interested in joining our group, please contact Janet Page at 587-363-5423.

The Living Nativity

Saturday,
Dec. 9, 2023
from 4-8 pm
in east field
next to the
Church
parking lot.

Address:
338040 32nd
St East,
Okotoks.



As we prepare for Christmas this year, St James Parish, Okotoks, invites you to come and walk through the Town of Bethlehem and meet the Holy Family in this live replica of the Christmas Nativity.

Community Services Recovery Fund Grant

This Government of Canada fund was created to support charities and non-profits as they focus on how to adapt their organizations for pandemic recovery. In the Spring, we received a \$15,956 grant to hire a Community Development Specialist. The responsibility of the Community Development Specialist is to research the social needs of the Town of Okotoks and pair those needs with the resources of Okotoks United Church to help us move from a model dependent on membership donations and space rentals to a social enterprise model – operating a business with a social goal. The essential duties and responsibilities of the Community Development Specialist include:

- Gather data on the social needs of the community of Okotoks and surrounding area
- Gather data on the OUC resources (financial, human and physical)
- Gather data on available community resources
- Gather data on potential sources of funding

Using this combined data, create a report for the Board of Okotoks United Church outlining 2 or more models in which OUC would employ its resources to meet a social need within our community.

Since the Spring the project team has been exploring resources in the community and resources provided by or recommended by the Region to help us connect with persons who we could engage for this work. It is our hope that we will have a contract with a Community Development Specialist in place by early 2024. **The project must be completed by June 30, 2024.**

The project team will provide the congregation with progress updates through the Newsletter. We are excited about the myriad of possibilities that have already been put forward in casual conversation within our congregation and with the larger Okotoks social services community. If you have a passion for our OUC community and our Okotoks community, feel free to talk with a member of the project team with your questions or your ideas or even offer to join us. As we write this article the project team consists of Karen Pryznyk, Carol Price, Sally Salter and Marcella Povhe.

Christmas

with

The Travelling Mabels



If you choose, you may also bring a
non-perishable donation
(pet food donations also welcome)
In support of
The Oilfields Food Bank

Light refreshments and snacks
Available at intermission



Wednesday December 6, 2023
Doors 6:00 pm Show 7:00 pm
United Church in the Valley
125 Royal Ave Diamond Valley, AB
Tickets \$30 each online at www.thetravellingmabels.com
Or at The Sheep River library - Diamond Valley
Or call Eva at (403) 558-3967



**Christmas Concert
at St Andrew's United Church
December 3, 2023 7:00 p.m.**

**Tickets \$10 each or
\$20 per family**

**Contact Mark Dutkoski -
markdut2015@gmail.com**

**Snacks provided after concert
Proceeds will be donated to the Veteran's Food Bank**

*The word advent means
"expectation."
What advent can do for us is
create a sense of hope.*

Louie Giglio



News from St Andrew's United Church

Written by P. Marie Wedderburn

On November 5th, eighteen people welcomed Kathleen Honeychurch who entitled her message "Everyday Community of Lay Chaplainship." She selected three scriptures: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, Ephesians 6:10-18, 23-24, and Luke 7:1-10. She encouraged us to seek truth first as we put on the breastplate of righteousness and pray for people for justice as we listen without judgments and value all people. As this Sunday was Remembrance Sunday, Kathleen also spoke of 32 countries currently in conflict. So I ask, how do we seek truth in the midst of the polarity of events in today's world?

Then on November 12, twenty-four people joined Mark Dutkoski as he spoke of "Habitual Devotion to Jesus" referring to the parable of the ten bridesmaids from Matthew 25:1-13. Have you wondered why Jesus spoke in parables? Mark explained that it could be because Jesus was in conflict with both the Roman authorities and the Jewish religious authorities. The oil in the bridesmaids lamps is symbolic of the Holy Spirit and you cannot give the Spirit to another for only God can do that. So the oil in our lamps is the presence of God's Spirit.

Following the service we had a time of recognition for Eileen Jewitt where we heard about her life on the pastoral charge and her contributions to this community of faith. Eileen was presented with a lovely vase of flowers. Thank you Eileen!

I also want to express our community of faith's thanks to Karen Pryznyk for being our musician the last two weeks. It was wonderful to hear the organ played again for one of the hymns each week. Thank you Karen!

White Gift offerings will be received Sunday, Dec. 3, 10 and 17.

Cash, cheque or debit are the best ways to give!

All offerings will go into the Benevolent Fund.





Volunteers NEEDED!

The Friends of the Okotoks Public Library are looking for new members!

- Fundraise and advocate for the library!
- Support our book sales and other fundraising events.
- Meet new people!

Meetings are held on the 4th Thursday
of every month 6:00pm-7:00pm



Pick up a Giving Catalogue from the table in
the foyer or click the link for the online
catalogue. giftswithvision.ca.

giftswith**vision**



CONNECTIONS

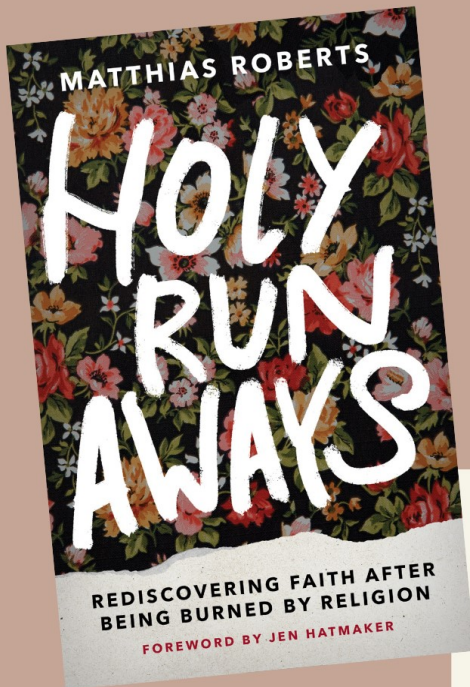


Julia's corner ...



*Join Julia for a new Bible Study!!
Expecting Jesus*

*Starts November 16 at 10:00 am
In the conference room.*



**An evening with
author & psychotherapist
Matthias
Roberts**

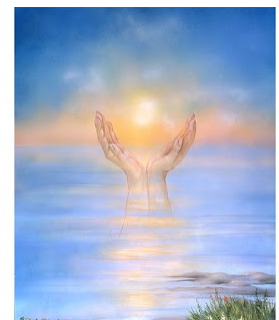


**Thursday, Dec 7, 2023
7pm-8:30pm MDT**



The Healing Ministry sessions
are available the **first and third** Monday of
each month between **1:30 - 3:30 pm**.

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



CONNECTIONS

Mid-week worship has resumed!
Join us in the Chapel, Wednesdays at 10:00 am



HAPPINESS BASICS

Do you want to enhance the current levels of joy and happiness in your life?

Learn ways to improve mood, vitality and physical health!

Join us November 7, 14, 21 & 28th • 2-4 pm

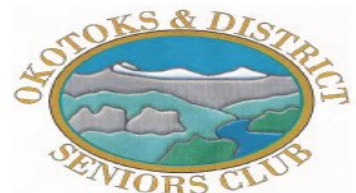
Okotoks & District Seniors Club

Workshop facilitated by:



To register, call
403-652-1654
or email

communications@crpcn.ca



Need a card sent to comfort someone in need?

Contact congregational care at

okcongregationalcare@telus.net





THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
FOUNDATION

WORKS IN ACTION:

SUPPORTING YOUTH MINISTRIES

A WEBINAR



NOV 23, 2023



12:00 PM EST
9:00 AM PST

Join our webinar:

**"Works in Action:
Supporting Youth
Ministries,"**

on November 23,
2023, at 12 PM
ET / 9 AM PT,
presented by the
United Church of
Canada Founda-
tion.

Important upcoming dates:

November 24 and 25 - Christmas Market

December 3 - service to honor new members/transferred members

December 16 - Christmas Carol Sing-along - DON'T FORGET!!

December 24 - Christmas service

The Christmas Market is coming!

Donations are needed for treasure tables.

Please no clothing or books.

All items for donation must be in good condition.

Donations can be dropped off in the Fireside Room
as of the second week of November.

Want to volunteer? Sign up sheets will be posted on the bulletin board.

Contact Gisela Dyck at 403-938-2506 if you have any questions.



CONNECTIONS



If you have an **urgent pastoral care** need,
please contact 403-702-2249

Prayers:

McDougall
Ralph Connor Canmore
Banff

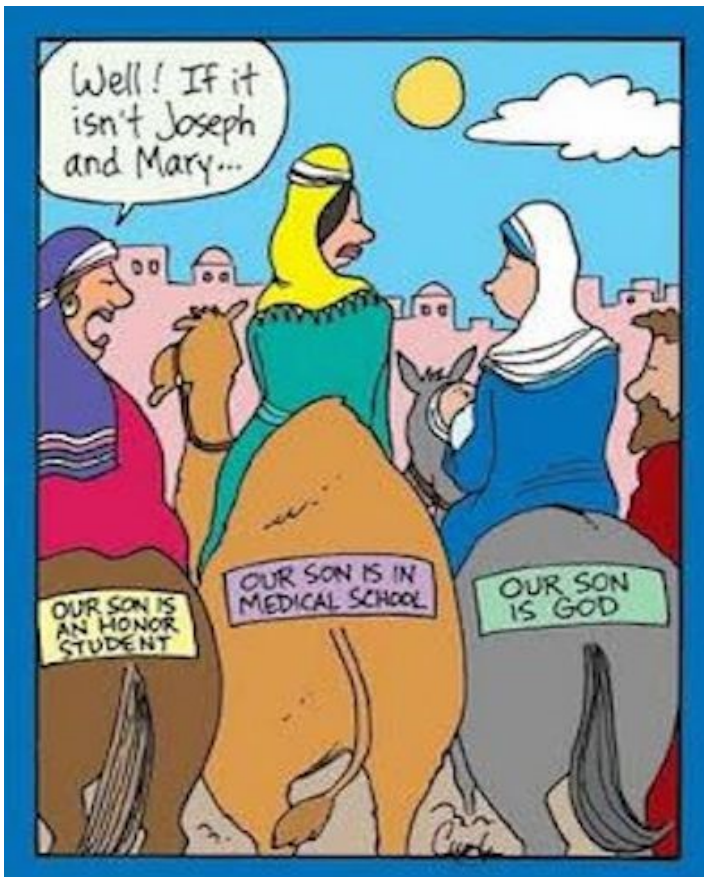


Okotoks United Church Office
is open Monday to Friday
From 10:00 - 2:00 p.m.

The office can be reached at okunited@telus.net or 403-938-4357.

The **Congregational Care Team** invites you to reach out for confidential spiritual and compassionate care by email at:

okcongregationalcare@telus.net



Laughter is good for the soul ...

Honk if you
love Jesus!
Text and drive
if you want to
meet him.

