

# Parkdale United Church

## 2018 Christmas and New Year Blessings

### OUR CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

#### The Coming of the Light!

What has come into being is life,  
and the life is the light for all people.  
The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness does not overcome it.  
John 1:4 – 5

#### Advent One – Sunday, December 2

##### **Doubt to Faith** Luke 1:5 – 24

*Faith is a song that welcomes the dawn,  
telling the world that the Saviour is born.  
When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.*

#### Advent Two – Sunday, December 9

##### **Trouble to Hope** Luke 1:26 – 38

*Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.  
When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.*

#### Advent Three – Sunday, December 16

##### **Fear to Courage** Matthew 1:18 – 25

*Courage is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth.  
When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.*

#### Advent Four – Sunday, December 23

##### **Bewildered to Trust** Luke 2:8 – 20

*Trust is a flame that burns in our heart,  
Jesus has come and will never depart.  
When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.*

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE – Monday December 24...**

Children, Carols, Chaos – 4pm

*A Christmas Moment*

Candlelight, Carols, Calm – 7pm

*A traditional service of song, story and symbol*



#### **12<sup>th</sup> NIGHT – A CELEBRATION OF SONG!**

**Parkdale United Church Sunday, January 6, 7pm**

We are delighted to host Choirs from northwest Calgary United Church congregations in a festival of Christmas music. The evening show cases Choirs sharing some of their Christmas repertoire, singing some of our favorite Christmas Carols and affirming the miracle and mystery Christmas blessing. Plan to be part of a beautiful evening of music. All are welcome!

#### **I AM SILENT...AND EXPECTANT...**

How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is given.

I would be silent now, Lord,  
and expectant...  
that I might receive  
the gift I need  
so I may become  
the gifts others need.

Ted Loder



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## CHRISTMAS – A TRADITION OF GIVING!

In the Christmas Season we celebrate God birthing love and hope, joy and peace in our lives and world daily. And daily there are people who are in need, facing adversity and dealing with difficult circumstances. Our Parkdale United special **Christmas Giving** this year will be directed to two great programs – The Calgary Foodbank and Simon House Recovery Center.

**The Calgary Food Bank** is the first line of emergency food support for families and individuals facing crisis. Once the food emergency is addressed, we refer food bank clients to our proven partner agencies and programs. Our deep collaboration and food support to hundreds of other charitable organizations that address the root causes of food insecurity aligns with our mission to work with our community to fight hunger. We are the most accessible food bank in Calgary serving families, individuals and organizations. We rely solely on the generous support of the community. With our partners and bulk purchasing we can multiply cash donations fivefold in food purchasing.

**Simon House Recovery Centre** with the 12-Steps and a multi-disciplinary program, guides and empowers men to achieve long-term recovery from addiction and all of its effects. Our core values of compassion, acceptance, respect, integrity, accountability and innovation lead the way in addiction treatment and lifelong recovery. We are proud to accept men who are taking prescribed Suboxone or Methadone, as part of our Medication Assisted Recovery Program and we with Alberta Health Services' Opioid Dependency Program, to provide services to men in need of residential treatment and recovery. We have prioritized admission to our program and are able to admit new clients seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day. We have plans in the New Year for expanding our family care services to the relatives of the men in our programs.

**All Christmas Giving** contributions will be matched up to \$4500 for each of the two programs. If you wish to support Parkdale United's Christmas Giving please use one of the special marked envelopes, and make cheques payable to Parkdale United Church noting Christmas Giving. You may designate your gift to one or the other project; and all undesignated contributions will be divided equally between the two programs. The matching funds come from Parkdale United's Mary Fund.

## OPERATING PROGRAM CAMPAIGN – 2019

Scriptures teach us stewardship is not just about money, but about people taking responsibility to manage all that God has entrusted to them. Stewardship is about choosing to live care, hope and love in the world. Stewardship is about directing what you have been given in time, talents and treasures – your financial resources – in support of community, programs, projects and organizations that align with what you believe it means to be a Christian in the world (Luke 12:42-48). Together, here at Parkdale United we are serving God and neighbor, building up and encouraging people.

Your financial contributions through Parkdale United Church are needed, are greatly appreciated and will be spent wisely. Please take time to prayerfully consider what you feel called to give as an expression of your commitment to the life and ministry of your community of faith in 2019. We ask you to give generously, to make meaningful choices, to invest in a community you count on and in values that enrich life. Please return your pledge card by Sunday, December 9, 2018. On that Sunday in worship we will formally dedicate our financial commitments to the ministry of Parkdale United for the upcoming year.

Friends, together we strive to be a faith community that is spiritually enriching and socially responsible. Scriptures call us to do what is fair and just for our neighbors, to be loyal in our loving, and to walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8). We trust God has and will continue to bless and guide us as a community of faith as we answer the call, saying yes to being God's people at work in the world.

### **A CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

*As I kindle the fire on my hearth, I pray that the flame of God's love may burn in my heart and in the hearts of all I meet.*

*I pray that no envy or malice, no hatred or fear may smother the flame.*

*I pray that indifference and apathy, contempt and pride, may not pour like cold water on my fire.*

*Instead, may the spark of God's love light the love in my heart, that it may burn brightly through the day.*

*And may I warm those who are lonely, whose hearts are cold and lifeless, so that all may know the comfort to God's Love. Amen*

### ADVENT DINNER AND CRAFT EVENT...

**Sunday, December 9, 4:30pm**

This evening is open to all our Parkdale United Church family, including adults, children, grandchildren and friends. We will have Christmas theme crafts that will appeal to our youngest and our oldest members. In addition to pizza (gluten free and vegetarian will also be available), we will be serving traditional French Canadian Tortière and, of course, dessert. In order to plan properly, we need to know how many will be attending and the ages and gender of the children. This will ensure we have enough supplies and food. If anyone needs transportation, we will try to arrange a ride for you. Please indicate your request on the sign-up sheet. Please join us for this intergenerational evening.



### TOPICS WORTH TALKING ABOUT!

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month; 11:45am.**

Join us for a fifty minute conversation on subjects of interest and worth talking about. Copies of the “monthly” brief article or text will be available at the church, and it will guide and inform our time together. You are welcome to take the “text” and read it over even if you are unable to join us in the Sunday conversation. Facilitating our time together will be Mary Sheridan and Murray.

### MEN’S EVENING DISCUSSION GROUP...

**Monday’s, November 20 – December 3, 7 – 9pm**

The topic of discussion will include gifts, talents and callings, with questions based partly on ideas from Gregg Levoy’s book “Callings – Finding and Following an Authentic Life”. We will explore our God-given gifts and talents and seek to understand the calls we have encountered in our lives. What unique talents did God give us? When and how have we been called to use them, and for what purpose? How do we know if a calling is authentic? Who has influenced or motivated us to pursue callings in our lives? This is not a book study, but a time of conversation and mutual sharing. Sandy Navrady will again facilitate the conversations. Each session is self-contained, so you are most welcome to join the group for one or all sessions, as you choose. The Men’s Discussion Group will meet here at Parkdale United. For more information please contact Sandy at 403-588-5339 or [sandynavrady@shaw.ca](mailto:sandynavrady@shaw.ca).

### U.C.W. BAKE SALE...

The U.C.W. will be hosting their annual bake sale on **Sunday, December 2**, before and after the church service. We would greatly appreciate your contributions of baked goods. Please package and label them for sale, and also mark them if they contain nuts. Profits from the sale will help us fulfill our commitments to the charities we support.  
With Thanks, Sheila Smith



### PUC – WORKING AT THE AIRDRIE FOODBANK

**Tuesday, November 20, 9 – 12 noon**

**Watch for New Year dates**

We have committed to “lending a hand” at the Airdrie Foodbank. The need for volunteers has grown rapidly as has the services provided by the Airdrie Foodbank. A working group of at least 10 people will travel to Airdrie to spend a morning stocking shelves, sorting food and building hampers. You can join us as we lend a hand, please sign up or contact the office if you can volunteer.



### SANDWICHES FOR HUNGRY NEIGHBOURS...

**December 7 and January 17, 9 – 11:30am**

We are assembling sandwiches that will be distributed as lunches for hungry men and women through the Calgary Drop-In and Rehab Centre. Sue Brodrick will make sure all the sandwich making supplies will all be ready for our Friday morning working sessions. There’ll be good conversations and playful comradery as we work together creating sandwiches for those who need a helping hand. You can be part of the TEAM – JOIN US FOR SANDWICH BUILDING AT PARKDALE UNITED.



### SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE CONVERSATION...



Each Sunday, a small group gathers at 9:30am in the Quiet Room on the second floor for 50 minutes of conversation. We begin with reading the Bible text that is being used in the worship service that day and then discuss what the reading might be saying to each of us. Discussions are lively, respectful and thought-provoking. We have a number of different versions of the Bible available so it is sometimes quite interesting to compare the language that is used in each version. It can be fun to anticipate what Murray will say during his Reflection time, compared to things we have discussed. You don’t need to have your own Bible and you most certainly don’t need to be a Biblical scholar to participate in this informal discussion group. You are welcome to come every Sunday or just drop in whenever you are able. The more, the merrier! If you have any questions, you may speak to Chet Marlett, Sue Brodrick, Jim Balshaw or Beth Balshaw. We look forward to seeing you!

### MOVIE NIGHTS...



About one Sunday evening a month, the Faith and Justice Committee hosts a Movie Night in the Conference Room downstairs. All are welcome to gather at 6:30pm to enjoy dessert and fellowship, and to watch a thought-provoking movie with a social justice flavor. Following the movie, we engage in stimulating conversation about the movie. All are invited to join in the socializing, discussion and learning  
**Sunday, December 9** – Learning to Drive  
**Sunday, January 13** - TBA

## Additional Programs

### HEALING SESSIONS AT PARKDALE...



Do you or your partner have any upcoming or past surgeries for which you would like a treatment designed to relax you and open up your energy system to maximize healing? If so, consider taking advantage of a 45 min. healing session offered by a team of trained practitioners here at Parkdale, any Sunday after church or on the 4th Thursday morning of the month (11:30 am - 1pm) by pre-arranged appointment. The Healing Pathway Ministry at Parkdale United Church offers free Healing sessions to people from the congregation. The cost for others is by donation. To make an appointment, please call Evelyn Peterson at 403-283-8121.

*"The Healing Pathway practitioner serves as a vessel or conduit of God's grace and healing energy. Practitioners are not the source of the healing energy; they are merely the instrument. The aim of healing is to restore balance and harmony within the energy system and thus enable the self-healing of the individual."* <http://healingpathway.ca/>

### MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB...

All men of the congregation are invited to our Men's Breakfast at 8am on the first Saturday of each month, from September to June, at the Village Park Inn (Motel Village). There is no agenda – just fellowship and conversation.

### PRAYER CIRCLE...

The Prayer Circle focuses healing thought on those who are unwell in body or spirit, or who wish for spiritual healing with the use of daily contemplation and meditation. With permission, members of the Prayer Circle hold a person's concern in God's love and pray for his or her highest good.

### WOMEN'S LUNCH BUNCH...

Join the women of the church for lunch on the last Sunday of every month, from September to June, right after church. Meet at Boston Pizza 5005 Dalhousie Dr NW Unit 703, for lunch and good conversation.

### UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW)...

The Parkdale UCW group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 9:30am. Activities include interesting learning opportunities and discussion on topics that are current and relevant. We provide financial assistance to support a variety of agencies in our community and in the world.

### WOMEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB...

Please join us on the second Monday morning of each month, 8:15 – 9:30am, from September to June, for breakfast and socializing. We meet at Cora's Restaurant in Northland Village Shopping Mall. It's fun!

### BOOK CLUB...

Our Book Club meets once a month (usually the second Saturday morning of the month) from September to June. Book Club meets from 10 – 11:30am in the Quiet Room upstairs. Books are chosen by the group and there is always rich discussion! The Book Club welcomes new participants at any time.



## *I Will Light Candles this Christmas*

*Howard Thurman*

*I will light candles this Christmas...  
candles of joy despite all the sadness,  
candles of hope where despair keeps watch,  
candles of courage for fears ever present,  
candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,  
candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,  
candles of love to inspire all my living,  
candles that will burn all year long.*

*When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flock,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost, to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among others,  
to make music in the heart.*