

Parkdale United Church

building connections • living faith • acting for justice

Winter 2018

OUR 2018 LENTEN EASTER WORSHIP

Jesus connects us to God!

God so loves the world...

Lent One Sunday, February 18

...God notices. Count on it! Mark 5:21 – 43

Lent Two Sunday, February 25

...God searches. Count on it! Luke 15:1 – 10

Lent Three Sunday, March 4

...God forgives. Count on it! Luke 15:11 – 32

Lent Four Sunday, March 11

...God calms. Count on it! Mark 4:35 – 41

Palm Sunday March 25

...God leads. Count on it! Mark 11:1 – 11

Good Friday March 30

...God suffers. Count on it! Mark 14:1 – 15:47 excerpts

Easter Sunday April 1

...God lives. Count on it! Mark 16:1 – 8

OUR CHRISTMAS GIVING 2017...

As part of our Advent and Christmas season this past year, our faith community encouraged financial support of two great programs that provide healing and relief, The Emergency Relief Fund of the United Church of Canada and The Christian Medical College in Vellore, India. All contributions to either of these great programs were matched up to four thousand dollars each from the Parkdale United Church Mary Fund.

Once again the people of Parkdale United have been compassionate and generous in providing resources to help people and communities in need. In early January a cheque for \$8,927.78 was forwarded to the Christian Medical College in Vellore, India; and a second cheque for \$8,892.77 was forwarded to the Emergency Relief Fund of the United Church of Canada.

Our 'Christmas Giving' this year, a total of \$17,820.55, is a wonderful expression of faith, care and neighbourly love! Thank you members and friends of Parkdale United Church!

PUC – WORKING AT THE AIRDRIE FOODBANK

Tuesday's, January 30 & March 13, 9:30 – 11:30am

We have committed to "lending a hand" at the Airdrie Foodbank this fall. 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 working at the Airdrie Foodbank Tuesday, January 30 & March 13 from 9:30am – 11:30 am Please sign up or contact the office if you can volunteer.

SANDWICHES FOR HUNGRY NEIGHBOURS...

Thursday, February 8 at 9am

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 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



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER...

We pause on the eve of the Lenten Season for a Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, February 13 at 5:30pm. Please join us for pancakes, sausages and juice (gluten free available). Everyone is welcome.

LENTEN SOUP AND STUDY...

Tuesday's February 20, 27 & March 6, 6:30pm

Lent historically is a season for Christians to renew their commitment to living in the Ways of Jesus. Our Lenten worship series leads us to the events of Good Friday and Easter, and will help us consider how God is active in our lives and world today. We are also mindful that the Christian faith we practice today has shifted and changed over the years. As part of your faith experience this Lent season you are invited to join us for our Soup and Study evenings. We'll share a simple supper, soup and bread, and we'll have conversations about what it means to describe ourselves as a progressive community of faith. Each evening will be independent, so please join us when it works for your schedule or plan to be with us each week. Please sign up so we can make appropriate arrangements.

NEWCOMER FAMILY NEWS...

The New Year has brought very good news for our newcomer family!

When they arrived in Canada in 2015, they came without the husband of one of the women, as he hadn't been heard from for several years and his whereabouts were unknown to them. With the help of a relative in England, this man was located in Cairo a few months after their arrival, and we began the application process to reunite him with his family in Canada.

To the delight of all, we recently learned that he will arrive in late January. As he is not only a husband, but also the father of two of the children, and a son and a brother of the other two women, this is a very joyful occasion for the entire family, and brings much-needed closure to a long journey of separation.

With his arrival Parkdale begins a further year of sponsorship, and we have begun to fundraise for that purpose. Please designate your contribution for the Refugee Fund.

The family remains deeply grateful for all of the help and support they have received from Parkdale. Thank you!

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE – SATURDAY, APRIL 21...



It is never too soon to start 'decluttering', 'spring cleaning' and 'setting aside' those perfect gifts and treasures for the annual church garage sale. **FIRST THINGS FIRST** – mark the date and tell your

friends and neighbors – we are happy to help you recycle some of those things in your home that are 'no longer needed', 'never used' or 'want to be given a new lease on life'!

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE CONVERSATION...



Each Sunday, a 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!

OUR DEEPEST FEAR

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.

Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?

Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God.

Your playing small does not serve the world.

There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.

We are all meant to shine, as children do.

We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.

It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone.

And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

Marianne Williamson

PARKDALE UNITED ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING...

Sunday, March 4 – immediately following worship. We will review & accept the 2017 annual financial statements, committee reports & discuss & approve the 2018 annual budget. Lunch & child care will be provided

PUC (CALGARY) FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING...

Sunday, March 11 – immediately following worship in the sanctuary. If you are a member of the Foundation, or are interested in finding out what the Foundation does, please join us for this meeting.