

Olds-Sundre Pastoral Charge Newsletter December 2017

♪ I'm dreaming of a ... ♪

We know what the rest of that line says – if you're Bing Crosby. What are you dreaming of this Christmas?

Are you dreaming of a Christmas spent connecting with beloved family or friends?

I know I am, in spite of the reality that two of those family members died this year, I know that they will be with us in spirit. As we decorated our home, their presence was felt in those special items on the tree that they had given us over the years. The Longest Night service will be especially meaningful for us this year.



Are you dreaming of a Christmas where there are fewer worries...about income, or illness, or family members going through difficult times? There are some in our community for whom this is a reality, and our hopes and prayers are with those who economic hardships or illness make this a difficult time of year.

Perhaps you're dreaming of a Christmas where you can open the daily newspaper and find nothing but good news happening in the world. It is true that our media seems to put greater emphasis on bad news stories, however, we need to remember that there is good in the world. There are people who live their love in very tangible ways! Some of those people have connections to our faith, and to the United Church of Canada, as they serve as overseas ministry personnel. Some help make the work of Mission and Service happen, from here in Canada, and reaching out beyond the church.

We too, can create our own good news when we support ministries like Mission and Service. This year, once again, we have the "Gifts with Vision" catalogue. It offers the chance to contribute to Mission and Service projects that make a difference in the world, and there's ideas for every budget! We have catalogues at the church, or you can go on line and find it, at www.giftswithvision.ca And it's good for the whole year, not just Christmas, so you can use it for birthday shopping, too.



Locally, we've done some good news making too! Did you know that the Community Lending Shelf moved into Olds United Church, and that Al-Anon now meets in Sundre United Church? These are just 2 examples of making good news by sharing our space. We've also made space available at Olds United for Hope Pointe Community Church (Nazarene) and the Olds Community Chorus following the terrible hail storm that damaged the Nazarene Church at the end of the summer. Restoration work was

supposed to be a one or two month process, but with delays, we're still sharing our space with our neighbours, and likely will be until Christmas.

More good news – both Olds and Sundre did food drives for the Food Bank during October, and the food and funds given from our churches was much appreciated. This is a tangible way we have supported those who live with food and economic insecurity.

And yet more good news to come...with your on-going support of our Pastoral Charge's work, we can continue to build upon the good news stories that emerge as together we minister in our corner of the world and beyond.

On behalf of the Leadership Team's (boards) of both Sundre and Olds, we are grateful for your continued support of our churches, and we wish you blessings in this season of hope, peace, joy and love.



Rev. Tammy Allan

Upcoming services for the season

- Sunday Dec. 17 "Christmas Pageant" – 10:00 am in Olds, 1:30 in Sundre
- Thursday Dec. 21 "Longest Night Service" - 7:00 pm, Olds United hosts, Sundre, Knox (Didsbury) and Carstairs-Bancroft joining us
- Sunday Dec. 24 No regular worship.
Join us for Christmas Eve Services: Sundre at 5:00 pm
Olds at 7:30 pm.
- Sunday Dec. 31 Regular worship times – 10:00 in Olds; 1:30 in Sundre

