



# Grace United Church Weyburn

Christmas 2018

From Barnabas' desk

In our time, Christmas has become over commercialized. We are surrounded by voices of people who could only talk about Christmas parties, Christmas cards, Christmas baking, presents and decorations. In this busy time of the year one should not miss the meaning and the message of Christmas.

To some shepherds keeping watch over their flock the angel of the Lord came upon them and said "Fear not; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord". That is what Christmas is all about. The purpose of Christmas is not hidden from this world. It was announced to the world in songs and voices. While the message we hear today may not come the same way as it was to the shepherds, the message of Christmas is not hard to find because it is revealed to anyone who is willing to listen.

For the next four weeks we are going to rediscover the purpose of Christmas by listening to the message of the angels in carols and music, but for the true spirit of Christmas to resonate in our hearts we need to make a space in the crowded business of this season, Which means, we need to be alert, awake and aware, to hear the good news. The shepherds of Bethlehem were awake that night which is why they heard the message. If we are going to rediscover the purpose of Christmas then we also need to be awake. We need to be awake because God still wants to speak to us to know his heart, which means God is still working to reveal his heart, mind and love to us and it is right here for us if we will wake up. We need to open the eyes of our hearts in this season if we want to receive the fullness of God and let Jesus to be born in the sanctuary of our heart and life.

So to reflect on the message of the angels we have to be awake and alert but we also have to be aware

of what is going on around us and for me this means being willing to act on what we hear and see. This is what the shepherds did. They acted on the good news that they heard. If we want to rediscover the purpose of Christmas then we also need to act on what we hear because this message is for us. If we hear that Christmas is a time of great joy, then we need to choose to live with joy. Rediscovering the purpose of Christmas begins with God calling us to make this season of Advent a very special time because nothing happens unless we are awake, alert and aware of God coming to us in a baby to embrace us in love and give the gift of joy in our hearts

I wish you all a blessed Christmas,  
*M. Barnabas*

*Join us as we*

## Celebrate Advent



Sunday, December 2 – 10:30 am  
- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – "*Hope*"

Sunday, December 9 - 10:30 am - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of  
Advent – "*Peace*"

Sunday, December 16 - 10:30 am - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of  
Advent – "*Joy*" – (White Gift Christmas Sunday)

Wednesday, December 19 - 7:00 pm - Christmas  
Solace Service (A candle light service for those who  
grieve a loss)

Sunday, December 23 – 10:30 am - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of  
Advent – "*Love*"

Sunday, December 24 – 7:00 pm - - Christmas Eve  
candle light family service/Holy Communion

Sunday, December 30 - 10:30 am - Regular Service

Sunday, January 6, 2019 – 10:30 am – Holy  
Communion Service

It's such a special time of year with fun and laughter and families spending time together, enjoy all those special moments. For some it's a very hard time of year with the loss of a loved one or sickness in the family. If you are struggling with this, may you find comfort and support amongst our church family. May the friendly hellos, warm hugs, understanding gestures or the laughter of a child bring a smile to your face. May the music that rings throughout the sanctuary bring you peace. And in all the hustle and bustle of this season let us always remember the true meaning of Christmas.

On behalf of the Grace United Church Board, wishing you and your families a joyous Christmas Season,

*Cindy Bell*  
Board Chairperson  
Grace United Church

**White Gift Christmas Sunday, December 16**

Give your gift items wrapped in white tissue paper. Food items are encouraged. All donations will be delivered to the Salvation Army. You can also give a Wholesale Club or Co-op gift card in a white envelope written "White Gift" for Christmas hamper

**Quota International of Weyburn**

**65<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Carols**

**Date:** Sunday, December 2, 2018

**Place:** Grace United Church, Weyburn

**Time:** Community Singing  
2:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Program to follow  
Collection taken at door



**BAPTISM**

*Ava Marie Skjerdal, daughter of Ryan and Patty Skjerdal*

**FUNERALS & MEMORIALS**

*Mabel Tindall*

*Patricia Anne Anderson*

*Donna Lynn Goranson-Kessler*

*Esther Elenora Wilheia Brodie*

*Gregory Allan Guest*



**Men's Breakfast** has started once again. Breakfast is the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 am.

Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Breakfast

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>



**Memorial Christmas Tree**

Ornaments for the Memorial Christmas Tree may now be purchased through the Church Office until Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. For \$5.00, an ornament will be placed on the tree in memory of a loved one. All proceeds will towards the Memorial Fund.

**Yearend Donations**

Anyone wishing to make a yearend donation for the 2018 taxation year **must** have their donations at the Church Office by Thursday, December 27, 2018.

**Deposits need to be made in 2018 to count for 2018!** All donations received **after** this date will go towards the **2019 taxation year**. Please contact the Church Office at 306-842-5131 if there are any questions. *Thank you*

**Sanctuary Windows Project**

In 2017, it was decided to repair and replace the stained glass and outside windows in the church and a request for donations was made for this project. The response was great and \$50,000.00 was raised. Work began on the lower windows. Southern Glass Works and Friar's Stained Glass Studio were contacted. Southern Glass made the outside windows. The stained glass was removed and taken to Regina for needed repairs. After several weeks the new windows were installed. Southern Glass replaced the old outside windows with new double-paned PVC units. The repaired stained glass was picked up and installed by volunteers. The work done on the outside and on the stained glass is excellent.

In 2018, we started on the large balcony windows. Southern Glass designed new frames for the outside windows and the stained glass was removed and taken to Friar's for repairs. In October, the new units from Southern Glass were installed and the

repaired stained glass returned and replaced. Before any windows were replaced, all deteriorated wood was replaced with new sills. The whole project turned out very well. The total cost was more than the money raised so the board decided to pay for the extra cost from the Memorial Fund. Over run costs were \$11,000.00. The total cost of this project was \$61,000.00 and many hours of volunteer help.

These windows badly needed repair and should now be good for many years to come. Thank you to everyone who helped and supported this project in any way.

*Respectfully,  
Project Coordinators Rae Gustafson and Allan Beach*

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**The Fellowship Committee** would like to thank all the members of the Congregation and the Church Staff for making it possible to put on such a big undertaking like the Turkey Supper. From the pie maker to the chair stacker, we couldn't have done it without you. This was the best year we have ever had for people stepping up to the plate and volunteering. Once all the numbers are crunched we will put out a financial update in the bulletin.

I would like to personally thank the members of the Fellowship Committee; Bev Johnstone, Maureen Clay, Barb Hart, Keri Forsgren, Tammy Friesen, Grace Plonka and Carol Spencer, for their hard work. An amazing group to be part of! Also thanks to Committee heads, Susan Lawrence, Marie Grohn, Allan and Judy Beach and Marg Stewart for the great work they do. Gerri and Dave are always there to help with whatever we need. Special thanks to my husband David for all he does.

*Pat May  
Chair Fellowship Committee*

Income Turkey Supper	\$6900.00
Income Silent Auction	\$1322.00
Income Left Over Turkey Lunch	<u>\$ 392.95</u>
	\$8614.95
Expenses	\$1876.26
<b>Net profit</b>	<b>\$6738.69</b>

**The Social Action Committee** is just heading into our really active time of the year when we do our biggest outreach to the community.

Our first project is the Ten Thousand Villages when they come from Saskatoon and bring their treasures collected from many different countries of the world. There are some pretty unique treasures. With that we have a little area where you can sit, meet and greet your friends over coffee, hot cranberry cider and a sweet treat. It is very popular. From November 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019, we serve a light meal once a month at the "Happy Hour" at Knox Presbyterian Hall on Sunday at 5:00 pm. There are four churches each supplying food. This means there is a supper every Sunday. This is a meal for everyone.

Around December 1 we begin our Adopt-a-family project. The Salvation Army assigns a family and then we supply food and gifts to give them a happy Christmas season. There will be signup posters in the Gathering place where you can sign up beside the foods you would like to donate.

All the planning for these events are carried out by the Social Action Committee who are Margaret Lukey, Noreen Dammann, Jean Gottfried, Murry Keefe and special helpers Rod Watson and Cindy Bell. All these events would not be possible without the many volunteers who assist us.

Thank you so much,  
*Margaret Lukey, Chairperson of Social Action Committee*

**Ten Thousand Villages Fair Trade Craft and Christmas Sale** will be held on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Grace United Church to support the artisans from the developing countries. Coffee, punch, and goodies will be available all day. Everyone is welcome.



The **UCW Christmas Bake Sale** will be held on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in conjunction with the Ten Thousand Villages Craft Sale. We are asking for your help in providing a variety of baking such as buns, pies, dainties, or cookies.



This fall, our “Spirit of Grace” singers expressed an interest in doing a musical! They are such an enthusiastic and talented group of girls, so we thought it would be a great venture to embark upon! Their enthusiasm has spread to members of our Grace family and beyond!

On December 7, 8, and 9, Spirit of Grace, along with our newly founded “Actors United” group, will be presenting the much-loved musical: **Annie!**

Rehearsals began in October and many hours have been devoted to learning lines, singing songs, and practicing choreography. We have an awesome cast and chorus and everyone is so dedicated to doing a great job! We have some first-time actors, as well as some seasoned veterans! Many members of our very own congregation will be on the stage (be ready for some surprises!) and many community members have joined us as well. It is a dynamic combination of performers of all ages!

And we can’t forget the people behind the scenes...the hard-working individuals who you won’t see on the stage! As with any project in our church, volunteers have stepped forward to help with posters, ticket sales, props, scenery, concession, lights, sound, costumes and so much more. What an amazing sense of stewardship and dedication to absolutely everything that happens at Grace!

We are beginning to now put together all the pieces of our musical—and it is so exciting! Full rehearsals will take place in the next couple of weeks and it will be fabulous to see everything come together!

We hope you will come support our musical! It has definitely been a labour of love for all involved and we have had so much fun working together. It has truly been a rewarding experience and we have formed many great new friendships.

Tickets are available at the church office. We would love to see you there!

*Colleen Weimer & Kendra Gonczy*

**Performance dates are:**

Friday, December 7 at 7:00 pm

Saturday, December 8 at 7:00 pm

Sunday, December 9 at 7:00 pm

**Ticket prices are:**

Adults-\$15.00;

Students-\$10.00;

12 and under-\$5.00



Church office: 306-842-5131

Email address: [grace.veyburn@sasktel.net](mailto:grace.veyburn@sasktel.net)

Website: [graceunitedchurch-veyburn.ca](http://graceunitedchurch-veyburn.ca)

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