

SEPTEMBER 2023

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
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“An Appley Good Morning!”

As a congregation we are involved in a variety of ways in the areas of food justice and food security. The Lacombe Foodbank, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Mission and Service all come readily to mind. Common to all these groups is a deep respect for the people that grow the food and a sincere gratitude for the food itself.

A group of nine women who hold that same respect and gratitude came together at the Kassies farm in the second week of September to harvest apples and make them freezer ready. We shared lots of apples, lots of good conversation, lots of fun, and not surprisingly a potluck lunch! An appley good morning all around!

NEWS & FEATURES:

AN APPELY GOOD MORNING!

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Revelation: Big questions for a church at the crossroads

By Reverend Dave

Well, we are about to head into a worship series on the book of Revelation. This was what was requested back in January by the group of people who gathered for a worship planning evening (and if you don't like it, please show up for the next worship planning session, likely in November this year 😊).

The book of Revelation is a tough slog for most of us in the United Church. There is a whole lot of really awful stuff that claims to be an interpretation of this book (note G.K.Chesterton, who said "though St. John the Evangelist saw many strange monsters in his vision, he saw no creature so wild as one of his own commentators..." (In Orthodoxy p.29)). The book itself is strange, hard to follow, and full of violence and judgment. At first read, most of us dislike it, perhaps intensely.

On the other hand, Revelation is also one of the books that most clearly rewards careful use of the tools of good interpretation. Read in light of its historical context and literary style, it speaks an urgent, ancient call that is remarkably contemporary. It offers interesting answers to some very important contemporary questions.

REVELATION IS NOT A PREDICTION OF SOME FUTURE END-TIME! NO NO NO! Instead, it is an example of something called apocalyptic literature, a style of literature that isn't common in the Bible (the second half of Daniel is the other example) but was common at the end of the first century when this book was written. The standard form of this literature is as a vision of the end time – but what it does is try to make visible the spirituality of the current time.

Many of us have been taught that the book of Revelation was written in a time of extreme persecution of the Christian church, that it is a call to endure in a time of particular suffering. Looking deeper, though, scholars have found no evidence of any widespread persecution at the end of the first century. Instead, it appears that the book addresses a different danger for the church – the danger of being co-opted into the wealth, power, and privilege of the Empire. Rome is presented in alternate ways in this book as a seductress on the one hand – inviting the church into the heart of the Empire's systems – and if the church refuses that invitation, as a beast, to violently punish that refusal to conform. (Continued on next page)



Benefit Performance For Kasota East Camp

Danny and Delia - by Norm Foster. A laugh out loud show that spins a yarn on how friendships can be found in the unlikeliest places.

Dec. 9, 2023. Doors open at 11 AM, Brunch at 11:30 and show starts at 1 pm.

Tickets are \$80.85, includes GST. Please talk to Winnie Chesney-Settle for tickets. For more info go to

www.cowpatti.com

Revelation: Big questions for a church at the crossroads

(Continued...)

Revelation closes out the Bible by looking at some of the big questions for the church, in the midst of the Roman Empire at the end of the First Century of our common era. As it happens, some of these questions are pretty current for us, too. Here's what we'll look at Sunday by Sunday:

- ☀ Sunday October 15: Can you interpret the Bible any way you want? (Spoiler alert: NO!!!!) This is related to a similar question: in our Internet and AI world, what is true, and how do we know what is true? Revelation 1:1-5 and 9-11
- ☀ Sunday October 22: Apocalyptic literature: what's it trying to do? (Spoiler, again: apocalyptic makes spirituality visible.) What is the importance of spirituality in the real world today? Revelation 1:9-20 and Revelation 4
- ☀ Sunday, October 29: The Kingdom of God is near at hand, Revelation-style. From where do hope and courage come, in hard times? Revelation 5:1-6:11
- ☀ Sunday, November 12: What is the nature of our enemy? Against what are we (and God) contending? The Empire as seductress and beast. The spirituality of economics... Revelation 13:11-18 and Revelation 18
- ☀ Sunday, November 19: What is the task of the church? And what is NOT the task of the church? (spoiler, again: judgment and fighting are not in our job description...) Revelation 3:14-22, Rev. 14:9-13, Rev. 18:4-5, Rev. 19:6-8
- ☀ Sunday, November 26 (for Reign of Christ Sunday): Good news in the end: what do the judgment and salvation of God look like? Revelation 20:7-15, Rev. 21:1-5, 15-17, 22-27 and Rev. 22:1-3. (Continued on next page)

Ponoka Community Theatre
presents



The Addams Family
A NEW MUSICAL
COMEDY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 7 PM
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 7 PM
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2 PM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 7 PM
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 7 PM
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2 PM

PONOKA UNITED CHURCH
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All tickets \$20
available online at kfatheatre.com
and at the church office, 9 am - 1 pm,
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PONOKA COMMUNITY THEATRE PRESENTS THE ADDAMS FAMILY!

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Revelation: Big questions for a church at the crossroads

(Continued...)

As a further context for our look at the book of Revelation, I encourage folks to have a look at contemporary movies and literature that share some similarities with Revelation. These might be science fiction, fantasy, or even horror stories that use fictional, fantastic worlds to comment on our current life. Some suggestions:

The Hunger Games (Suzanne Collins) – a trilogy of young adult novels, and also as a series of movies. The story of oppression and economic exploitation told from the perspective of those without privilege. The children of the “Districts” are required each year to fight to the death in the Hunger Games for the entertainment of the people of the Capitol.

The Matrix – a series of movies, but pay most attention to the first one. What we call the “real world” is actually a computer mock-up, designed to keep humans docile and entertained while the machines use us as a source of power. What seems like privilege is actually slavery.

The Scholomance series (Naomi Novik): Another trilogy of young adult novels, beginning with A Deadly Education. A slightly darker version of Hogwarts (Harry Potter), the Scholomance is a training school for young wizards that only a small fraction of the students survive. The books use this context to explore the dynamics of those with privilege and those without. Great series, but to get the real punch you need to go all the way to the end.

Or try looking at one of the many zombie movies or series... What do these have to say about our current life and world?

For “extra credit”... Have a look at any one of the many, many comic book movies (Marvel, etc.) that have come out in the last few years. What values, spirituality do the superhero movies encourage?



**“EVEN IF I KNEW THAT
TOMORROW THE WORLD WOULD
GO TO PIECES I WOULD STILL
PLANT MY APPLE TREE.”**

-MARTIN LUTHER

Truth & Reconciliation Week

Thank you to Cecile Fausak, St. Andrew's United Church, the Lacombe Museum, and the Mary C. Moore Public Library for offering to host a series of virtual adult education lunch and learns during Truth & Reconciliation Week. Thank you to all who came out to learn more about reconciliation and the journey in becoming a good relation. The National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQ+ people is October 4. The day acts as a day for advocacy, support and remembrance of many communities and all Indigenous peoples affected by violence.



Active Living Fair

On September 13, Reverend Dave and Reverend Barbara attended Lacombe's Active Living Fair. St. Andrew's theme this year was, "How will you exercise your soul?" It was an evening of great conversation!



Central Alberta Foodgrains Growing Project

Rain halted our September 30th anticipated harvest date. A new plan for harvest will be developed. Please call Doug Maas at 403 318 5733 for more information. Please pray for some good drying days in the coming week.



Remit

Establishment of an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization within the United Church of Canada

Establishment of an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization within the United Church of Canada
In 2019 General Council of the United Church of Canada approved the creation of the National Indigenous Organization, which would be equivalent to a regional council within the structure of The United Church of Canada. Subsequent to this the following amendment would enable the Indigenous Church to define its own structure and processes within The United Church of Canada.

The governing process for this change requires that we, as a pastoral charge, vote on this amendment.

The question to be voted on is:

Does the regional council/pastoral charge agree to amend the Basis of Union to reflect:

- a) That The United Church of Canada will be organized as follows: (1) a three council structure, consisting of communities of faith, regional councils and Denominational Council; and (2) an autonomous National Indigenous Organization; and
- b) That once the new autonomous National Indigenous Organization is established within the United Church of Canada, it will have its own mechanisms to make further changes to its structure and processes, and, therefore will not be subject to the remit process under section 7.4.1 of the Basis of Union; and
- c) The changes required for the establishment of the autonomous National Indigenous Organization.

This remit gives advance approval to whatever structure the indigenous church chooses to create for itself. It recognizes that the relationship between the three-Council United Church and the National Indigenous Organization is not hierarchical but a partnership, and that the National Indigenous Organization has full authority to define its own structure and processes.

As representatives of our pastoral charge, the Board of St Andrews will be voting at the October 11th board meeting. Currently we are recommending a supporting yes vote for these changes. If you wish to discuss more, please contact one of the board members prior to the October 11th meeting so any concerns can be brought back to them. If you are interested in learning more about this remit, please contact the office for the background document.

Yours Sincerely,

St. Andrew's United Church Board

Healing/Building Trust/Constructive Conflict Skills

An event for board and committee leaders.
October 14, 9:30 AM with Dora Dang.
Please RSVP if you have not done so yet!



Don't
Forget!

History Quiz Answers from August Newsletter

Prelude:

Indigenous peoples have inhabited Alberta for approximately 10,000 years. They travelled in the Lacombe area to hunt, meet and rest.

The first Europeans came to Alberta to explore and seek furs from the Indigenous peoples.

For example, Anthony Henday recorded in his journal that he travelled in central Alberta (part of Rupert's Land) in 1754 as an employee of the Hudson's Bay Company with a Cree guide, to seek out a trading relationship with the Blackfoot nation.

We live in Treaty 6 territory, a treaty established in 1876.

Quiz answers:

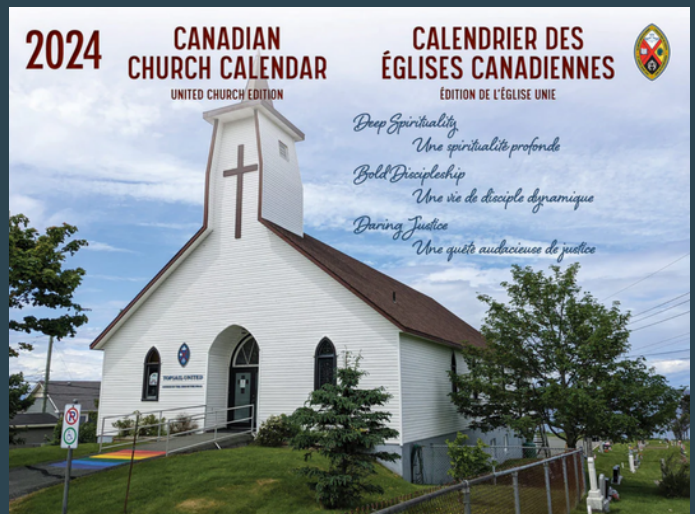
- 1) Ed Barnett is considered Lacombe's first resident in 1883.
- 2) Barnett established a stopping house on the C & E Trail and also operated a ranch not far from his business.
- 3) The stopping house was located in the vicinity of the present junior high school.
- 4) Barnett was originally from Almonte, Ontario (40 minute drive south of Ottawa).
- 5) Ed Barnett married Elvie Green, Lacombe's first school teacher.

Ed Barnett wrote to family and friends in Almonte praising the Lacombe area and soon his brother Jack arrived and established a residence near present-day Barnett Lake by Burman University. Other people from Almonte arrived, so many of our first settlers were from this Ontario community.

**MESSY CHURCH
"GIVING THANKS"
OCTOBER 13, 5 PM**



**PLEASE CONTACT THE
OFFICE IF YOU'D LIKE A
UNITED CHURCH CALENDAR!**



Property Team Report:



Things continue to proceed:

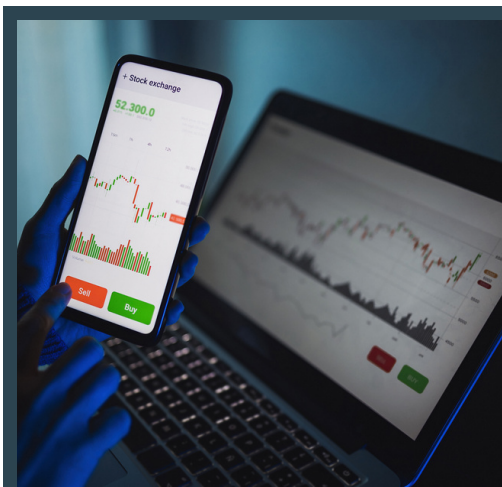
1. Roofers (both flat roof and tile roof) scheduled...which should complete the roof repairs.
2. Electrical work continues but end in sight....repairs ,replacement, conversion to LED fixtures
3. Faschia work complete
4. Eavestrough work complete
5. Exterior painting (and minor repairs) complete
6. Windows and doors have arrived and waiting for framer to be available
7. Rain barrels in place
8. Almost ready to blow in insulation
9. Ductwork completed in preschool
10. HVAC motor being repaired
11. Furnace repaired
12. Soffit repairs have been completed



Hats off to Greg who is heading up this whole project, to Bob who has been instrumental throughout, to Cecile for handling all the grant process, to the many others who have pitched in at one time or another, and to everybody for their patience and support.

Things are happening and we hope the snow stays away at least for another couple of weeks.

The mess is about to begin in the auditorium (we hope) but we will do our best to minimize the impact on the users.



Tech Tip!

Be Discerning When Installing Apps!

In order to maintain your devices' security and cleanliness, choose only to install apps from trusted sources.

Unused apps and background services will negatively impact the performance and battery life of your device. For company/educational-owned devices, it is recommended to only install approved apps.