

A photograph of a path through a wooded area with bare trees, overlaid with a rainbow gradient. The path leads into the distance, flanked by tall, thin trees without leaves. The ground is covered in dry leaves and twigs. In the background, a small wooden bench is visible on a slight rise. The sky is overcast and grey. The entire image is framed by a thin gold border.

St. David's United Church Spring Newsletter

Growing & Deepening our Spiritual Lives in Community
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HOLY WEEK OBSERVANCES

Maundy Thursday Observance, **March 24 at 6:30 p.m. Potluck Supper and Communion**

The word “Maundy” is derived from the Latin word for “command.” The “Maundy” in Maundy Thursday refers to the command Jesus gave to the disciples that they should love and serve one another. Maundy Thursday, also known as “Holy Thursday” is the Thursday of passion week, the day before Good Friday. Maundy Thursday is the name given to the day on which Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples, later known as the Last Supper. Some Christian churches observe a special Communion service on Maundy Thursday in memory of Jesus’ last meal with his disciples. Communion was not again shared until long after Jesus’ death when the disciples began to move out of their grief and experience Jesus’ presence among them in them, life-giving ways.

Thursday, March 24 in community we will share a meal together in the same spirit that Jesus did with his disciples. Following supper we will break bread and drink for the cup in remembrance of how Jesus’ inclusive table fellowship.

Good Friday Contemplative Worship, **March 25 at 10:00 a.m.**

Easter Sunday, **March 27 join us for a wonderful celebration** **of rebirth and renewal** **Special prayer dance done by Alise Dance**

“Long before her last name was Day, Easter was the goddess of the dawn who arose in the East. She was also the goddess of fertility whose blessing was especially invoked at the spring equinox when planting was getting under way. She was so important that centuries later Christians in Germany and England kept her name for the celebration of the crucifixion/resurrection of Jesus, Easter Day.”

For Christians the message of Easter is that Jesus is risen, he is risen indeed. The declaration that He is risen is a way of proclaiming that Jesus who had been rejected by the Jewish authorities and executed by the Roman authorities as a threat to the Roman Empire was vindicated by God. For the early Christians, Jesus rose again in their hearts and they committed their lives to a ministry in which justice was pursued, the oppressed were accepted, the poor received care, and God’s love was lived.



REFUGEE COMMITTEE

YALDA FAMILY UPDATE; FEBRUARY, 2016

Do you want to know what is happening with Abid and Aedah Yalda and their four children, ages 8 to 19, Christians from Iraq, whom St. David's is sponsoring to come to Calgary? They fled Baghdad when ISIS approached in August, 2014, and have lived in Beirut, Lebanon since then. Abid is the brother of Sultana Yalda, whose family St. David's resettled in Calgary in 2001. The application went to Immigration Canada in February, 2015. We reported in the fall of 2015 that they had met the qualifications of refugee status and that they had their medicals in Sep., and we understood that we would see them very soon. But we are still waiting.

Through the recent assistance of a Calgary MP's office, we have learned that the final step of extensive background and security checks for them, which all applicants must go through, is still ongoing. The MP's office will continue to assist us. We also imagine that the heavy workload in the Beirut office may be slowing the progress of these checks.

St. Thomas United in Hawkwood came on board with great enthusiasm in October, 2015, and they will be handling the majority of the resettlement of the Yalda family once they arrive, other than financial. St. Thomas now has sufficient donations of goods to furnish a home for the Yaldas. If you have any goods you had thought of donating to the Yaldas, please consider contacting either NeighbourLink

www.neighbourlinkcalgary.ca; 403-538-7395)

or Women In Need Society

("WINS": www.womeninneed.net; 403-255-5102).



St David's Tibetan Refugee Resettlement Project – February, 2016

St David's is to be celebrated for its generosity in support of the Tibetan's here in Calgary.

We have been able to take Transition Home residents grocery shopping almost weekly for over a year and a half now. Our Fund has been able to pay for this from donations that individuals and the St David's Foundation have made. \$500-600 is spent each month. Monetary donations are tax deductible and assigned to the St David's Tibet Fund.

We will continue providing groceries as our efforts are so much appreciated by the direct recipients and by Nima and the Calgary Tibet Project. By this fall all 400 of the Calgary arrivals are expected to be here although just four were able to have Visas and arrive in the last two months.

Donations of furniture and household items have also been very generous and have allowed us to furnish many homes in the past two years, including several of the transition homes. There will be more homes to furnish so donations of these items are still welcome. Symons Valley United Church are now making donations for our Project as well. Thank you for all of the many ways that you give support.

If you would like more info please contact: Donna Fallon, 403 282 9799 or djfallon@telus.net

PASTORAL CARE WORKSHOPS

Abundant Living for the Golden Years Series

(all sessions 11:30—1:30)

March 5th & 12th, 2016

Healing Touch training 9 to 5 on each day

April 3rd, 2016

Aging as a Spiritual Practice

Explore the many aspects of aging that challenge and teach us

April 10th, 2016

Where Then Shall we Live

Investigate alternative housing in light of future realities of burgeoning senior demographics and lack of affordable or adequate senior housing in Calgary

April 17th, 2016

Technology 101

Bring your ipad, phone or laptop and get some one-on-one help

April 24th, 2016

Living the Healthy Life

Discover ways to improve balance, strength, nutrition and cardiovascular health



THURSDAY MORNING

BIBLE STUDY

March 10th - April 14th .

Theme: The Books of Job and Daniel
(Hebrew Bible Wisdom and Apocalyptic)

Six sessions 10-11 AM
Gathering at 9:30AM
In the St. David's TM Room
No charge.

ST. DAVID'S SPIRITUAL TRAVELERS

Coming, Early March - Our "Memories Project" --
Sight and Sound Packet contributed by those
taking the "Jerusalem and the Land of Three
Great Faiths" tour last October. It is produced
by Jock McTavish. 12,000 pictures were offered
and processed to create an exciting travel report.

*Available free to all who took and tour with
additional packets at a modest price for those
interested.*

New Project -- Beginning in March
"Where Would You Like to Travel Next?"

We start the process to find a destination
for a trip somewhere in the world in 2017.

MUSIC AT ST. DAVID'S

Holy Week Compline

Sunday March 20 th at 7:30 PM.

Music by Angel Voices

Easter Sunday

Worship at 10 AM with combined Choirs and orchestra

Sunday April 24

St David's United Church at 7:30 PM

Chamber Choir and Foothills Philharmonic Chorus combine to present Mozart's Great Mass in C minor with soloists and orchestra.

Sunday May 29

Calgary Arts Orchestra featuring a Handel organ concerto with organist Brent Tucker and a world premier of a composition by Garret Krause



St. David's United Church Presents

GMA Covenant Award Nominee, baritone

MICHAEL HOPE

What a Wonderful World

Sunday, April 3, 2016 2:30 pm Concert

Adults \$20 (Children 12 Free)

A benefit concert of inspirational music in

support of St. David's United Church

*Tickets available at the church office or at the door. You can also place
advance credit card orders by calling 403-289-7848*

Harping for Harps

Saturday March 5

3:00 PM

***Award Winning
Canadian Harpist***

Gianetta Baril

will be presenting the second

Harping for Harps concert fundraiser

St. David's United Church

Tickets are \$20/\$15 (Adult/Student) at the door.

Free admission for children.

PEOPLE, POWER AND PLANET



Learn about Community Energy and how to be involved in a community owned renewable energy project.

Find out challenges and opportunities for Community Energy in Canada

Meet Community Energy developers in Calgary and the wider Alberta

Network with community members, professionals and academics with experience in this sustainable energy model.

You are invited to attend!
June 1st @ 5:30 pm

PEOPLE, POWER AND PLANET RECEPTION, JUNE 1ST

Doctors JJ McMurtry and Judith Lipp, and PhD student Mumtaz Derya Tarhan will reveal their research findings on how co-operatives have been employed to produce energy and reduce the impact on the environment. They will be joined by representatives of Alberta based co-ops who are local pioneers of renewable energy solutions. This reception is open to the broader Calgary community and will be held at St. David's United Church.

Join us, June 1st, 2016 5:30 PM

CELTIC CHRISTIANITY TOUR, MAY 3 TO MAY 19TH 2016

Soon we will embark together on a tour of Ireland and have the amazing opportunity to experience the Emerald Island and come to appreciate the world in which the Celts lived. We will come to appreciate why the Celts held such great affection for the land and its wondrous landscapes. It is a land of deep spiritual meaning. We will have the opportunity to experience the spirituality of "thin spaces." Thin spaces were believed to be sacred places where the Celts felt the mysterious and profound connection between the material and spiritual.

We have had a cancellation so two seats have come available for this tour. If you are interested, please call Kathryn in the office and she will provide you with more information. 403-284-2276 or email admin@sduc.ca



After much deep consideration the Inn from the Cold Society has decided to end the part of the program involving Church and Community Inns across Calgary as IFTC overnight sites for their program. The decision to suspend this part of the program is due to a variety of things.

- 1) The Society has been placing greater focus on children.
- 2) The Society has come to believe that the risks are too great for volunteers of the Church and Community Inns with regard to people who have addictions or mental health problems and for the children using the Inns. Most of the volunteers do not have the skills to deal with high risk people.
- 3) There still may be a role for the Church and Community Inns to play but that remains to be seen.
- 4) If the Church and Community Inns portion of the program come to have no place in the overall organization we will have some kind of closure gathering for volunteers here at St. David's.

I want to take this opportunity once again to personally thank all those who have volunteered for this vital community service. Your commitment and dedication has enabled St. David's to run their IFTC Inn for many years. I will be in touch with further information as it comes to my attention.

June Martin

STEWARDSHIP DINNER, SAVE THE DATE

Canadian Olympic Gymnast and Addison's Disease Winner

Our Guest Speaker, Nathan Gafuik

April 16th, 2016 at 6:30 pm

We look forward to another fun evening of great food and entertainment. Tickets will be on sale starting on Sunday March 20th. We look forward to seeing you all there!



Affirming Process

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Anti-Discrimination Workshop

March 13th 11:30 Sanctuary

Affirm Workshop for St. David's Council

April 2nd 10 – 2 pm TM Room

Conversation Café

May 8th – 11:30 to 1:00 pm TM Room

Celebration BBQ

May 29th 11:30 am to 1:30 pm Robertson Hall
or outside if weather permits

New Members Classes

It is the hope of the Affirming Committee that a congregational meeting will be held at the end of May to vote on becoming an affirming congregation. It is the policy of the United Church of Canada that only members of the congregation can vote at formal congregational meetings; this includes meetings to call a paid accountable minister, annual meetings, and meetings to accept a JNAC report, to name a few.

In this regard I will be offering two membership classes for those wishing to become members of St. David's.

If you are unsure of whether or not you are a member please contact the office.

Membership Classes

Saturdays April 23 and April 30

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

(You need only to attend one class)

On April 24 new members will be confirmed during the worship experience.

We will also recognize those who wish to transfer their membership from another church to St. David's.

Please register for the classes at the office (403) 284-2276.

Other Happenings at St. David's

Drama Show May 1st after Worship

Qi Gong Classes Every Wednesday morning at 9:30 AM

Children & Youth Please visit our website for their detailed events

Please refer to our website for more information

www.sduc.ca

403-284-2276