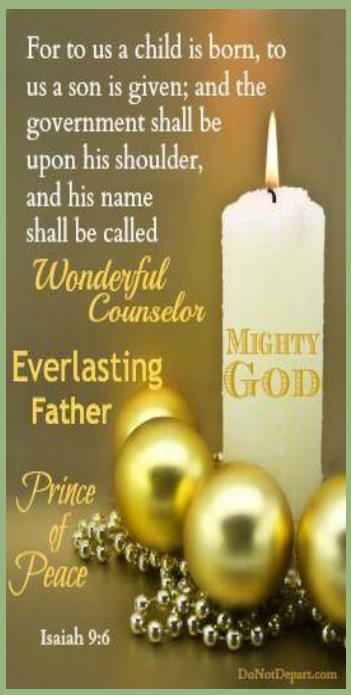
Robert McClure United Church
Christmas Newsletter



Family Second Hour Decorating Party
Stay after worship on Sunday November 26th for a Christmas Tree Decorating Party! Potluck Lunch to share; bring some Christmas treats to get us into the holiday spirit! Decorate the church. Make an advent wreath. It's always a lot of fun and everyone is welcome.

Advent I
Candle of Hope Service with Communion
Sunday December 3rd at 10:30am

UCW Candlelight Service & Party
Monday December 4th at 7pm
The Candlelight Worship Service will be followed by a dessert potluck and games. All women and teenage girls are invited.

Advent II
Candle of Peace Service
Sunday December 10th at 10:30am
Carolling & Seniors Service
Caroling will start at 12:30pm as we stroll & sing near our church. Then we will join the seniors for worship at Monterey Place (4288 Catalina Blvd. NE) at 1:30pm

Wednesday Evening Learning Circle (WELC)
December 6th, 13th, 20th: 7pm in the library. *(continued…)*

Starry, Starry Night
Where is the Bethlehem Star leading you?
Join the WELC for contemplation and conversation.
All are welcome.

Advent III
Candle of Joy Service
Sunday December 17th at 10:30am
An All-Ages Family Worship Service and Christmas Pageant with a Canadian Twist!
This is our White Gift Sunday. You are invited to bring white gifts for the Emergency Food Pantry and the Seniors Secret Service.

Advent IV
Candle of Love Service
Sunday December 24th at 10:30am

Christmas Eve
Sunday December 24th
Family Service at 7pm
A lively service for all ages with storytelling and Christmas carols.
Candlelight Service at 9:00pm
A more traditional, reflective service with a sermon, Communion and candles.

Worship Service
Sunday December 31st at 10:30am
Service of stories and carols.

White Gift Service

Advent is a time of anticipation, waiting and preparing for the coming of baby Jesus.

It is a time for hope, a time for peace and justice, a time to share the joy within our hearts, and to share the love that surrounds us.

It's also a time for giving. Some Christmas giving suggestions are: give to your enemy, forgiveness; to an opponent, tolerance; to a friend, your heart; to a customer, service; to all, charity; to every child, a good example; and to yourself, respect.

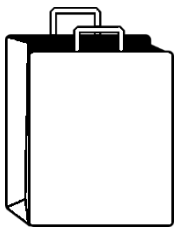
In the Christian church one of the ways that we do this is by giving white gifts. A white gift is a humble way to reflect on the love and devotion of the giver and not the value of the gift. Instead of focusing on receiving gifts, the focus is bringing gifts to Jesus that could be shared with people in need. All the gifts come wrapped in plain white paper so that no one will know the monetary value of the gift.

This year our white gifts at Robert McClure United Church will support the following programs:

1. **Our Emergency Food Pantry** at Robert McClure United Church need bus tickets, winter wear (gloves, mittens, scarves, toques) grocery gift cards, plastic bags and monetary gifts are always appreciated.

2. **Seniors Secret Service** is a program designed to enhance the quality of life for individuals 60 years or older who are alone or isolated in the community. The organization wants to make sure that Calgary's most valuable citizens are not forgotten. This year through the "Secret Santa" program over 4,700 seniors have been adopted for Christmas. They also have ongoing programs such as "Birthday Cheer" and "Emergency Care Program". The goal of the Birthday Cheer Program is to extend the spirit of giving year round, in an effort to brighten the lives and improve the spirits of isolated seniors. The Emergency Care Program supports seniors, who have arrived in hospitals or long-term care facilities with nothing but the clothes on their backs, by providing them with the basic essentials of life.

Items that are greatly appreciated include boxes of Kleenex, 2-in-1 shampoo, unscented bar soap, deodorant, body lotion, toothpaste, toothbrush, hairbrush or comb, treats (such as nut free small boxes of chocolates, candy, cookies and chocolate bars), diabetic treats, large print puzzle books, jigsaw puzzles, calendars, boxes of herbal tea, sport magazines, anything with Calgary Flames or Calgary Stampeders on it, notebooks, journals, magic bag or heating pad, various sizes of men's and ladies underwear, socks/slippers with grips on the bottom, small Christmas ornaments, handmade get well cards or children's art work to brighten the seniors room, new teddy bears or stuffed animals (dementia patients like these), winter wear (gloves, mittens, scarves, toques), gift cards (fast food places, Tim Horton's, Starbucks, Wal-Mart, Chapters, grocery stores), pajamas & nighties and fuzzy blankets.

Remember to wrap your gifts in white and bring them to the White Gift Worship Service on December 17th. This service includes the Christmas Pageant with a Canadian twist performed by the Wonder Kids and Youth programs.

A gift given from your heart is the true meaning of generosity.