

ADVENT MESSAGE FROM NORTHERN SPIRIT CHAIRPERSON

In my church this year our Advent season has been built around the theme of *"Don't Be Afraid"*. Whenever this phrase is mentioned in the Bible someone is already in trouble, already terrified. This 'comfort' always seems to arrive late.

We find ourselves living in such changing and turbulent times. It is hard not to be afraid when our pennies don't stretch as far as they used to – at home or at church. It is hard not to be afraid when news from around our communities and God's world holds violence and heartache, loss and letting go, a whirlwind of emotions that we can't control or name.

We have explored how sometimes fear can paralyze us but that Hope can free us to move forward. How we have the capacity to bring Hope into places, one small action, one small piece at a time.

We have recognized that we are truly lucky to be living in a place in the world that isn't rocked by violence and war. There are many countries who can't make that claim. For myself, lighting the candle of peace on our Advent Candle was a reminder that we must continue to strive for that, that we cannot give into the fear that might hold us back but that we must be that flicker of peace that can grow in the darkness.

We stop to recognize that to move out of fear, we may need to look for moments of joy, of positivity. We will need to look for the smiles, the helpers, the angels who remind us that we have much we can share together. We have stories that need to be remembered and celebrated even as they come to an end.

We need to remember that Love conquers all. Maybe not quickly, maybe not in one flick of a magic wand, but with perseverance, with dedication, with faithful caring for each other.

We now move toward that remembering of a moment that changed the world and introduced new ways to hope, to find and be peace, to celebrate joyously and to love God's world deeply.

I invite us to breathe in the holiness of that moment, to treasure that gift of new life that God invited us to share, to nurture together. Don't be afraid of what is to come. God is with us. Remember that.

Blessings,
Helen

ANNOUNCEMENTS BEAVERLODGE-WEMBLEY-HYTHE PASTORAL CHARGE PHONE: 780-354-2016

December 31 – Christmas 1

Scripture Readings for those who would like to read them in advance:

January 7 – Baptism of the Lord

Genesis 1:1–5

The first days of creation.

Psalms 29 (VU p. 756)

God's voice is over the waters.

Acts 19:1–7

Paul baptizes with the Spirit.

Mark 1:4–11

Jesus is baptized by John.

Minister information

Please contact Rev. Dr. Dorcas Kanana Muketha

- Cell phone 780-876-7042
- Email dokamu2003@yahoo.com
- Day off – Mondays
- Christmas Holiday - December 25 to January 2 inclusive

Beaverlodge-Wembley-Hythe Pastoral Charge

Bible Study: Regular Bible Study will resume in Wembley, Thursday, January 10, 2024. 12:00 to 1:00, bring a bag lunch and a friend.

Worship Meeting: January 9, 10:30 am, Beaverlodge

Tea On Tuesday: Cancelled for the months of January and February, will return the first Tuesday of March

Wembley United Church

- Wembley Sunday Service 9:30am
- **Wembley Thrift store:** Thrift store hours - **Second Saturday** of each month from 10:00am to 1:00 pm in the Church basement. Facebook Page is **Wembley Thrift Store**, check out our page for updates and specials.
- **No Service on Sunday, December 31.** Service will return January 7. Beaverlodge will be holding regular service at 11:15 if you wish to join in.

Mailing address: Box 534, Wembley, AB

Street address: 9711 100 Street Wembley, AB T0H 3S0

E-transfer Offerings: unitedwembey65@gmail.com

Web page : <https://wembleyuc.ca/>

Facebook pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/406148680279467>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1552615295042898>

Beaverlodge United Church

- Beaverlodge Sunday Service 11:15 am
- All are welcome to come for refreshments downstairs after the worship service. Thank you to the Ushers for helping with the Ushering and

kitchen duties. Much appreciated.

- Please submit all **“Gift in Kind”** receipts to Lorraine as soon as possible.

Mailing address: Box 387 Beaverlodge, AB T0H 0C0

Street address: 403 10 Street Beaverlodge, AB

E-transfer Offerings envelope.steward@gmail.com

Web page : <https://beaverlodgeuc.ca/>

Facebook :

<https://www.facebook.com/BeaverlodgeUnitedChurch>

