

## Getting Ready for the Fall....



Did you know that because of Meta and Google's response to Bill C-18 you're being locked out of Canadian news on social media? That will likely include all of Broadview's stories, too. In light of these drastic changes, the best way to ensure you can continue to access digital stories that nourish your mind and heart is to sign up for one or more of Broadview's FREE newsletters, including The Focus, which exclusively delivers United Church news. Don't wait! Sign up at:

**[Broadview.org/newsletter](https://broadview.org/newsletter).**

**Support our Mission Possible partner!!**



**STRONG FOUNDATIONS  
HOPEFUL FUTURES**

**Saturday September 23 2023, 8:30am-11:00am  
Partners In Deed Annual Fundraiser at Gasline  
Alley Heritage Park**

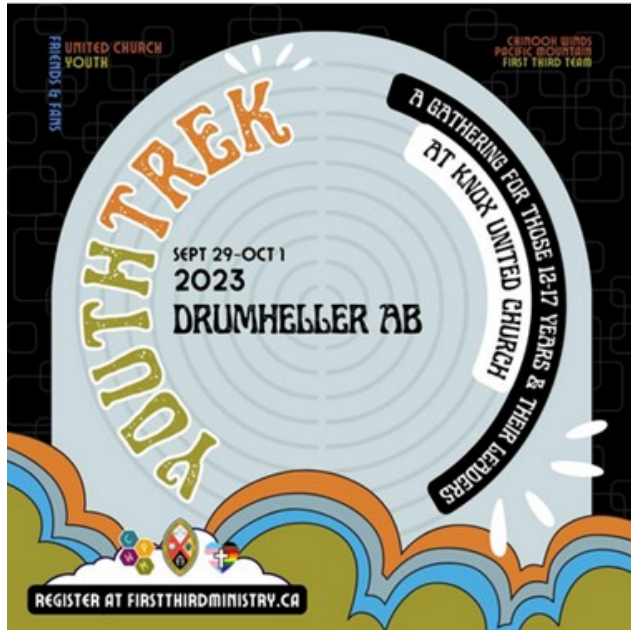
**Tickets on sale:**

**<https://www.partnersindeed.com/strongfoundations>**



**Building on the strong foundation of the past two decades, the partnership is looking forward to programs and initiatives that will bring hope and life to the families living in the D.R. communities. Chelo and Judith will be our D.R. guest speakers**

## YouthTrek Returns!



Last year, YouthTrek took place in Waterton. This year, the location is Drumheller! Plan to join in this three-day event **September 29 – October 1** for those in grades 7 to 12.

Come and join us in the - as always - way of JC.

Knox United Church.  
195 3 Ave E, Drumheller

Last year, Olivia (one of our youth leaders) and a member of the youth group joined YouthTrek in Waterton. They had a great time! Drumheller promises to be even better. Olivia will be going again this year so please plan to join her and others for a great time. Cost: \$150 per youth. Bursaries are also available.

For more information on YouthTrek, please contact Natalie at [ncabrera@united-church.ca](mailto:ncabrera@united-church.ca) at the First Third Ministry office.

---

### *Did you know this is another way you may save on your taxes?*

Did you know that you may save taxes if you donate publicly traded securities to a registered charity? This is a tax-effective alternative to donating cash and if you would like more information on this way of donating see the document Charitable Giving – Donating Public Company Shares on the Community Bulletin Board in the Church's Foyer.

Carol Price,  
*Okotoks United Church Board Treasurer*



## Where's Julia???

Hello Friends;

Just a note to let you know what the Fall looks like for me.

As of September 1<sup>st</sup>, my hours will be reducing to .8 which means that I will have an extra day off per week. After a rather challenging year, I am grateful for this change. If you remember, I was at .8 while Matthew was with us and had agreed to go to full-time for a year to bridge the gap left by Matthew's departure last September. We continue to remain in the Memorandum of Understanding with **United Church in the Valley** for the time being.



That means I will no longer be preaching at **United Church in the Valley** and will be at Okotoks – De Winton only. You will see me leading worship on a more regular basis. I will also be in the office Tuesdays from 12:30 – 4:00 and full days Wednesdays and Thursdays. I will work at home on Tuesday mornings to get worship prep started.

In September, an invitation for me to go to Portugal was extended so I jumped at the opportunity. I will be away the first few weeks of September, returning to the office on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

At the end of October I will be on Retreat with a program I started this spring that will eventually lead to my designation as a Spiritual Director. I am excited by this opportunity to grow my knowledge and training. It will enhance my ability to be present to people and to provide further support. Following this intense week I will be on holiday for a week and then a week of study leave to prepare for Advent and Christmas.

We will have various people filling in for Pulpit Supply when I am away.

I will offer Bible Study this Fall, which is always a highlight for me and I am excited to be offering a "Write Your Life" Course on Wednesdays beginning at the end of September.

As always, I will make myself available to meet with you should you have need and I look forward to being more consistently in the pulpit in Okotoks -De Winton.

Thank you for your patience this past year. We continue to adapt as we seek to be faithful to our call to be the church.

Blessings,

Julia



## GETTING TO KNOW YOU



Hello all! I'm Traci, the new Office and Facilities Administrator. I come from a long line of volunteers (well, by marriage, anyway). Some of you may recognize me as I've appeared, from time to time, to fill pulpit supply at both Okotoks United, St Andrew's and United Church in the Valley (where I am a member).

My background is in social services and I've been an active member in the United Church for many years - volunteering with Christian Education, Sunday School and on Boards.

I love to read, am a huge fan of many 'geekie' things (just ask, I'll tell you!). My husband's name is Austin (some of you have met him) and we have a dog and a cat.

I am thrilled to be with Okotoks United Church in this role and look forward to seeing you!

Traci



A big **THANK YOU** to Gisela and Carol for their hard work in nurturing and caring for our gardens at the church!

## Pastoral Care

If you have an **urgent pastoral care** need please call Julia at 403-702-2249.

*We are a busy church!* Here's who in our building currently:

- ♦ Recovery Groups
- ♦ Christ Commission Fellowship Calgary
- ♦ Al Madinah Calgary Islamic Assembly
- ♦ Girl Guides
- ♦ Big Rock Singers
- ♦ Chinook Winds Regional Office

## **Okotoks United Church Office**

To contact Julia you can email her at [okjulia@telus.net](mailto:okjulia@telus.net). She can also be reached at the church office phone number listed below during regular office hours.

**Congregational Care Team** invites you to reach out for confidential spiritual and compassionate care by email at:

[okcongregationalcare@telus.net](mailto:okcongregationalcare@telus.net)

**The office is open Monday to Friday**

**From 10:00 - 2:00 p.m.**

**The office can be reached at [okunited@telus.net](mailto:okunited@telus.net) or 403-938-4357.**



## **Prayers:**

- ♦ Olds United Church
- ♦ Calgary Knox