

## 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:

**Are you interested in subscribing to Broadview Magazine? Contact Traci in the office (okunited@telus.net) before October 1, 2023 to add your name to the subscription list and submit your \$30 payment.**

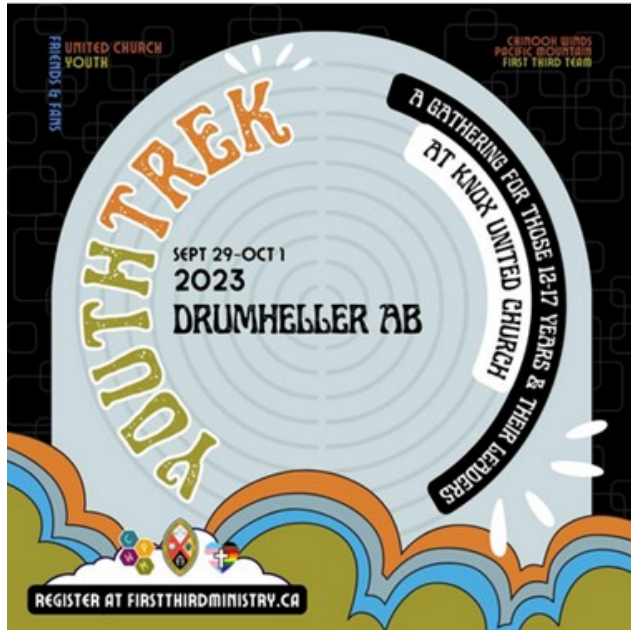


**Please bring your own lunch/chair.  
Dessert provided by St Andrew's!**

**Okotoks, United  
Church in the Valley  
and St Andrew's  
churches are invited  
to St. Andrew's in  
DeWinton  
on August 27, 2023 at  
10:00 am for outside  
worship.\***

\* weather permitting, inside if poor weather

## 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.



## Pastoral Care

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

## Where's Julia???

**H**ello 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





## Connections: Introducing our Youth Group Leaders 2023/24



**H**i! I'm Olivia, and I am excited to be acting as a co-leader for the Youth group this year, alongside Curtis. While I am still fairly new to the church community, I have enjoyed being involved with both last year's youth group and the recent Dominican Baseball Camp trip. I am currently finishing up a degree in human services and counselling and hope to continue working in local non-profits after I graduate.

In my free time I enjoy a variety of hobbies including gardening, sewing, and other types of crafting; overall these have taught me creativity in ways which I am sure will assist me in making this year's youth group just as much fun as the last one!

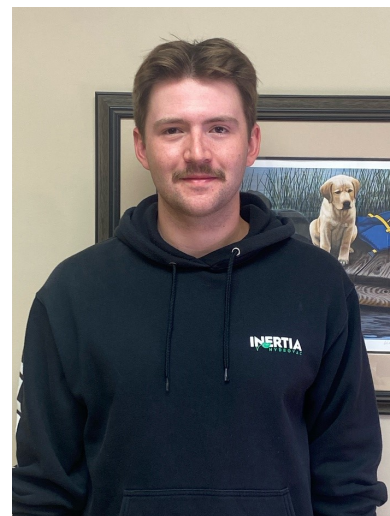


**M**y name is Curtis and I was born and raised here in Okotoks, attending school here and now working in town. I have attended Okotoks United Church my whole life, helping out wherever I can: at Inn From the Cold; washing dishes at the turkey supper, participating in Christmas Pageants and other projects. Wherever I am needed, I try my hardest to show up!

Most recently, I embarked on my 9th trip to the Dominican Republic with the Mission Possible group to help at the 2nd annual baseball camp and more importantly, reconnect with my second family that has been built there over the last 10 years.

I have had the amazing opportunity to be a part of the OUC youth group in my teenage years and am incredibly excited to now have the opportunity to be able to help lead this group of future leaders.

I have the pleasure of sitting on the Board of Directors here at the church for the last 4 years, where we have decided one of the most important things to focus on is our youth.



**"I have a passion for helping shape the future of our church and community, and the best place to start is here in our church, with the young people. "**

# **YOUTH GROUP**

with

## **OLIVIA & CURTIS**

**Come celebrate the start of a  
new year for Youth Group.**

**(Grades 6 and up)**

**6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

**Friday, September 15, 2023  
Okotoks United Church  
43 Riverside Drive**

**RSVP: [okunited@telus.net](mailto:okunited@telus.net)**

# News from St Andrew's United



After the summer break for St. Andrew's, sixteen of us joined Rev. Lee Spice for the morning worship on August 6th. Using the scripture Isaiah 40:29-31, in a message titled "On Eagle's Wings" Lee spoke of how often in scripture the Spirit has wings - perhaps as a chickadee, perhaps as an eagle, or perhaps as a vulture. She spoke of how vultures are living purifiers as they clean things up. She asked us to consider how we see the holy in one another and in God's creation.

Then on August 13th seventeen of us joined with Julia as she spoke from Acts 9:1-18 which speaks of Paul's journey on the road to Damascus and how his life changed forever as he encountered Jesus. Entitling her message "Fasten Your Seatbelts" Julia spoke of how things are getting bumpy and how chaos is becoming the "norm" for humanity. As God works through other people and our relationships with one another, we were also reminded that Jesus gave us two commandments: to love God and to love others as we love ourselves. So let us continue to fasten our seatbelts as we continue on our faith journeys.

On August 20th, after Lee rang the bell, she spoke to the eight who gathered with her about "Considering the Ravens" using the scripture Genesis 8:1-12 where the first bird Noah sent out from the ark was the raven who did not return. Did we ever see that when we heard the scripture of Noah and the flood? Lee spoke of us being in raven time - a time of wandering - remembering that the world has always been in flux. In raven time on our faith journey we seek God, as raven time is seeing time and open-ended with hope. The United Church of Canada's present call and vision is one of bold discipleship, deep spirituality, and daring justice. I ask how in our raven time as we are led by Jesus we live this call and vision in our daily lives?

A friendly reminder that this Sunday is the (hopefully) outdoor service and picnic for the three communities of faith at St. Andrew's at 10 a.m. Please bring your own chair and your own picnic lunch. St. Andrew's will provide coffee and tea, but if you would prefer juice, please bring your own. Hope to see you on the 27th at 10.

***Written by P. Marie Wedderburn***





**COMING SOON:**

# FREE MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID SUPPORTING OLDER ADULTS TRAINING

## TRAINING DETAILS:

- ✓ Participants must attend both full days of training (7 hr/day)
- ✓ Training will start at 8:30AM, with two coffee breaks and a lunch break
- ✓ Beverages and light snacks will be generously provided by WRCC, participants to bring their own lunch
- ✓ The Mental Health Commission of Canada will issue certificates through emails two weeks after completion of training



**WHEN: September 7-8**

**WHERE: West Wing Room, High River Alliance  
Church, 1318 9 Ave SE, High River, AB T1V 1L2**

To learn more or register for this training, please reach out to Sarah Bruinsma at [sarah.bruinsma@wildrosecc.com](mailto:sarah.bruinsma@wildrosecc.com) or 403-601-0979.



Mental Health  
Commission  
of Canada

Commission de  
la santé mentale  
du Canada

Mental Health  
First Aid Canada



Alberta  
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## Standing Together in Prayer and Support

A Message from Regional Minister Rev. Dr Karen Medland

Dear Friends in Christ,

As one who has ministered in a community affected by wildfires, I can say from experience that the most practical way we can help is to donate through The United Church as the money will go directly to the communities affected.. As well, Hillhurst United Church is organizing to help people evacuated to Calgary.

**You can help by donating to assist northern communities.**

### **Northern Spirit Region,**

The United Church of Canada, has set up an emergency fund to assist communities affected by wildfires. To donate, you can do so by eTransfer to

[northernspirit@united-church.ca](mailto:northernspirit@united-church.ca), with a note in the memo line indicating that it is for support for these Northwest Territories communities in crisis.

### **Assistance to people evacuated to the Calgary area**

People from Yellowknife and Kelowna areas are being evacuated to Calgary. Hillhurst United Church, Calgary, is working with the city of Calgary to support people needing assistance. Key organizer is Hillhurst's [Anne Yates-Laberge](#) who is also a member of the Chinook Winds Region's Executive. So far, a particular need is assistance with pets.

## **Write Your Life** Facilitated by Julia

A four-week course to help you begin to create a record of your life.

No writing experience necessary. This will be an opportunity for insight, reflection and creativity.

Each week we will explore a particular theme or aspect of your life story with some questions for stimulating your creative writing.

**September 27<sup>th</sup> – October 18<sup>th</sup>**

**(Wednesday Evenings)**

Okotoks United Church

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.



*In the end, all we can leave to people  
that is of any value is our stories.*

Please email [okjulia@telus.net](mailto:okjulia@telus.net) to register for the course



# Fall Bible Study



## ***What is*** ***?***

We talk about **love** a lot in the church.

But what is it and how is it best practiced?

For five weeks we will engage various scriptures in order to better understand the nature of love and how we might live it out in our lives.



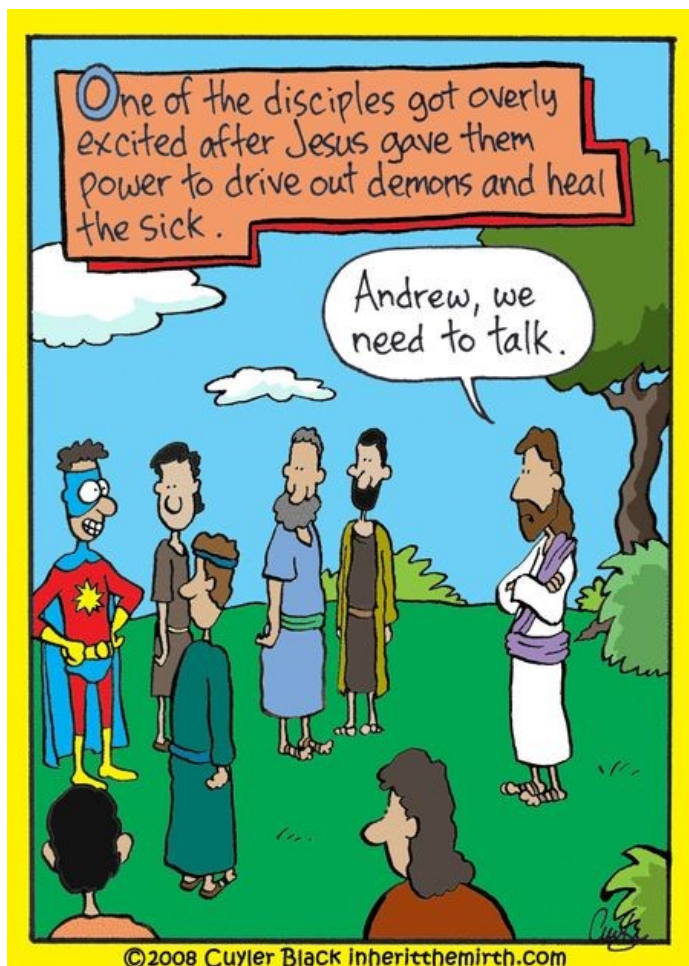
**Thursdays, September 21<sup>st</sup> – October 19<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

**Okotoks United Church (Board Room)**

**Bring your Bible and just show up!**

**Everyone welcome!**



## **Outreach and Justice Group**

**It's a New Season!**

*We want to be change agents in the world.*

**What opportunities will we explore this year?**

**Come and join the conversation.**

**All are welcome**

**Tuesday, September 26th, 2023,  
6 to 8 p.m.**

**Pot Luck Dinner and Discussion**

Okotoks United Church  
43 Riverside Dr. Okotoks

# Admin Words ...



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!

## 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.

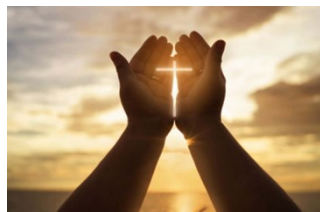
**Congregational Care Team** invites you to reach out for confidential spiritual and compassionate care by email at:

[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

