

Ready for the Fall....

Give thanks...

.. to the people in your life who inspire and encourage you. Give thanks often for it is the one gift that comes right back to you.



Interested in a Broadview magazine subscription?
Our group rate is **\$30!**

Visit Traci in the office, before October 1, 2023, to submit your payment.

Fall Sermon Series:

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

September 24th – October 22nd

Come and decide for yourself whether it's true...



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

On September 30, people all across Canada will wear orange shirts to remember and honour Indigenous children who were taken from their communities and families to residential institutions.

This year, Indigenous communities across the country continue to share the truth they have always known: that many of the children who never returned home remain on the grounds of those institutions in unmarked burial sites. These communities are now seeking to honour the missing children.

On Orange Shirt Day we also observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. For non-Indigenous Christians in particular, this is a time to reflect on their role in colonialism and the ongoing responsibility to make reparations.

Why Orange?

Phyllis Jack Webstad from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation went to St. Joseph Mission Residential School. On her first day of school, Phyllis wore an orange shirt that her grandmother had given her. It was immediately taken away, and that marked the beginning of Phyllis's long separation from her family and community, a separation caused by actions of the church and federal government.

Orange Shirt Day is a time for us all to remember those events and their ongoing impact. Here are some ways to mark the day.

Orange Shirt Day Activities

Sunday, September 24

Mark Orange Shirt Day in your community of faith!



For children's time, read and reflect on Phyllis Webstad's book, *The Orange Shirt Story* (widely available).

Use the prayer on the following page, written for Orange Shirt Day/National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Whether your community of faith is meeting in person, online, or both, please ask people to wear orange for a community picture. It could be a group photo, a Zoom call screenshot, or a photo collage. Share your photos on Facebook and Twitter (include the hashtags #OrangeShirtDay, #EveryChildMatters, and #UCCan).

Saturday, September 30

Wear an orange shirt on September 30. Whether you're at work, at school, or at home, get out that orange shirt!

Make sure you take a picture to share on Facebook and Twitter (include the hashtags #OrangeShirtDay, #EveryChildMatters, and #UCCan), and challenge your friends and family to do the same.

CONNECTIONS



Powerful Christ,
we are grateful that you came to us as a child,
who grew out of a community that nurtured, supported, and taught you the way of your ancestors.
You have asked us to do the same:
 to treat every child as we would treat you,
 to love every person as you have loved us.

We are grateful that
 your power is rooted in love, not force;
 your strength is displayed through community, not might.
You have taught us to work toward a better world where all of creation thrives,
 and where every child matters.

On this Orange Shirt Day,
we remember Phyllis Webstad as a child,
and the stolen childhood of all the children forcibly raised by church-run institutions, known as residential schools.
We lament how these institutions
 stole from children the opportunity to grow in a safe and loving environment,
 stole from Elders the opportunity to share their teachings and wisdom with younger generations; and
 stole from communities the opportunity to live intergenerationally.

We mourn the children who never made it home,
 the communities that were destroyed,
 the broken hearts,
 the stories never shared, and
 the shattered relationships.

We ask that you provide
 comfort to all who are seeking healing and who daily wrestle with the ongoing harmful legacy of these colonial institutions,
 strength to all who name how colonial powers have harmed us as peoples and as a nation;
 often at great personal cost, and
 courage to all who are working toward reconciliation.

Christ Child,
As you grew, you reminded us to always welcome and care for children.
We remember your children today.
We lament and acknowledge the sinful ways that colonial powers tried to eradicate Indigenous cultures within Canada,
 breaking Indigenous families,
 removing children from their homes while destroying communities.
And we pray for healing,
so that we who live together in this country
 can also work together to build a better future
 where all children are cherished, beloved, and given what they need to thrive.
So that we may treat all children as we would treat you, our Beloved.
May it be so.

Julia's corner ...

Starting September 2023!

Write Your Life - September 27 at 6:00

Join Julia for a four-week course to help you 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.



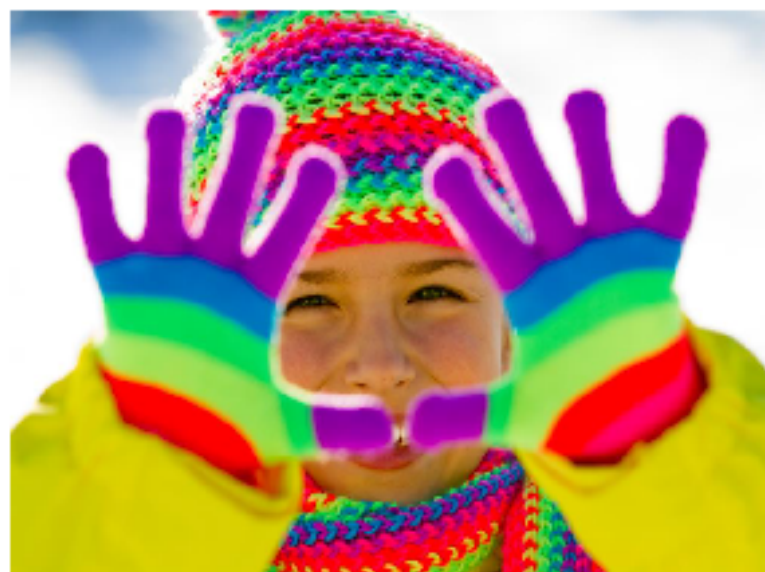
We would like to thank Janet Page and Richard Puttee for their many contributions to the Board of Okotoks United Church. Janet brought her heart for Social Justice and Richard, his business mind. They also brought their wonderful sense of humour, dedication to the people of this church, and much wisdom as we faced some sticky issues especially over the years of COVID. Both Janet and Richard have decided to step back from their Board duties. They will be dearly missed by us all.



thank you 



Jacket Racket 2023



**Drop off gently-used clean
winter clothing at:**

- Sobeys
- Okotoks Public Library
- Foothills Cleaners
- Better Than Home Laundry
- Okotoks Centennial Arenas
- Okotoks United Church
- Main Street Market & More
- Okotoks Fire Hall on Milligan

**DONATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL
OCTOBER 28th**



**Okotoks United
Church
43 Riverside Drive**

**Winter Clothing
Give-Away
Everyone welcome!**

**Tuesday evenings:
Oct 17, Oct 24, Oct 31
6:00 to 8:30 p.m.**

**Saturday mornings:
Oct 21, Oct 28, Nov 4,
10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**



***St. Andrews United Church,
DeWinton***

NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S UNITED

Written by P. Marie Wedderburn



Fifteen of us joined student minister William Brook on September 10th. William entitled his message "Rules of Engagement" as he read from Matthew 18:15-20. He asked us a question to consider: How do you deal with conflict? In his message he said that conflict (even in the church) is a reality and as we bind and loose those people/things that cause conflict Jesus instructs us to listen, to seek understanding through our listening as we move towards reconciliation. For the ultimate goal remains to have a restoration of relationship.

As we met again on September 17th, twenty people heard Karen Pryznyk ask the question "Which is better: to obey or to love?" Using Paul's letter to the Romans 13:8-10, we contemplated what we owe God. Jesus' answer to this question remains to love God and love one another as God loves us. For love has power and there is energy behind love. We do not see energy but we know energy is present for just as we do not see the wind, we know the wind is there as we see trees move in its energy. The same is true with love as love is spiritual energy which never runs out and love energy has power - the power of God. In answer to the question Karen asked how do we answer?

As this Saturday is the "official" beginning of autumn I ask how do we celebrate autumn? Do we notice the trees turning colour like the multitude of red leaves on the tree at the church on Sunday, the 17th? As the hours of daylight become less, how do we adjust? For whom and what do we give our thanks unto God at this time?

Fundraiser! Homemade Pies for Sale

Apple, Blueberry, Cherry Pies for Sale. Perfect for Thanksgiving (or earlier). Made by the wonderful pie-making sisters, Karen Jones and Pat Reader-Downy. \$25 per double-crust deep dish fruit pie. Frozen and ready to bake. Contact karenpryznyk@gmail.com to order.



The Okotoks United Church Fireside Book Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month September through June at 1:00 pm in the upstairs Boardroom. The books we will be reading and discussing for the 2023-2024 season can be found on the church website

If you are interested in joining our group please contact Janet Page at 587-363-5423. You are welcome to attend on a regular basis or simply if a book sounds like one you would like to read and participate in the discussion.

Choir practice is starting!!

The Okotoks United Church Choir practices on Thursday Sept 14th at 7 pm in the sanctuary.



The Healing Ministry will resume as of September 18, 2023. Sessions are available the **first and third** Monday of each month between **1:30 - 3:30 pm**.

To book a session, please contact **Gisela Dyck** at 403-938-2506

CONNECTIONS



Okotoks United Church Office
is open Monday to Friday

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

The office can be reached at okunited@telus.net or 403-938-4357.
The Congregational Care Team invites you to reach out for confidential
spiritual and compassionate care by email at:

okcongregationalcare@telus.net

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



Pastoral Care

The last two “Every Child Matters”
t-shirts are for sale!!!

We have 1 L and 1 XL left, each \$40!
Contact the office if interested.



Laughter is good for the soul ...



Prayers:

Simons Valley
Rockyford

