

Happy Thanksgiving!



In the end, though, maybe we must all give up trying to pay back the people in this world who sustain our lives. In the end, maybe it's wiser to surrender before the miraculous scope of human generosity and to just keep saying thank you, forever and sincerely, for as long as we have voices."

- Elizabeth Gilbert

Fall Sermon Series:

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

September 24th – October 22nd

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



LOVE

gifts with vision

The updated [Gifts with Vision website](#) will go live on Monday, October 2, and by then, we expect that you will have received a supply of print catalogues to share with your community of faith. If you haven't, or you would like to order more, please contact us at 1-844-715-7969 or at info@giftswithvision.ca.

Gifts with Vision is the United Church gift catalogue, prepared specifically to support Mission and Service programs. We ask that you share the information below in your bulletin, on your website, and in your services.

- Gifts with Vision are an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life—during Advent and Christmas, or at any time of year—by giving gifts from the comfort of home, with no packaging or wrapping needed. You can see this year's gift selection at giftswithvision.ca beginning October 2.
- Starting October 2, the first 50 online donations at giftswithvision.ca will be matched up to \$100 each—and you can schedule e-cards to notify your gift recipients up to a year in advance!
- Food security, safe water, reliable power, clean laundry, even bus tokens—these are all things most of us take for granted. But because of economic instability, climate change, and conflicts breaking out around the world, there are many people—especially children and families—for whom these things are no longer possible. You can make a difference in their lives through giftswithvision.ca.
- New gifts at giftswithvision.ca this year include solar power in Zimbabwe, backpacks full of school supplies for children who live under the poverty line, a biofuel pilot project run by women, and making the United Church camp experience possible for children in underserved communities in the Maritimes—along with many others.

This year, a **QR code** in our printed materials and our social media will take anyone who scans it directly to giftswithvision.ca, where they will also find great stories about how Gifts with Vision are transforming lives in Canada and around the world, along with a [short video](#) telling our story.

Every Gift with Vision provides support for a specific Mission and Service partner and for a unique project. Without Mission and Service, Gifts with Vision projects would not be possible. Thank you for being part of these hope-inspiring activities.

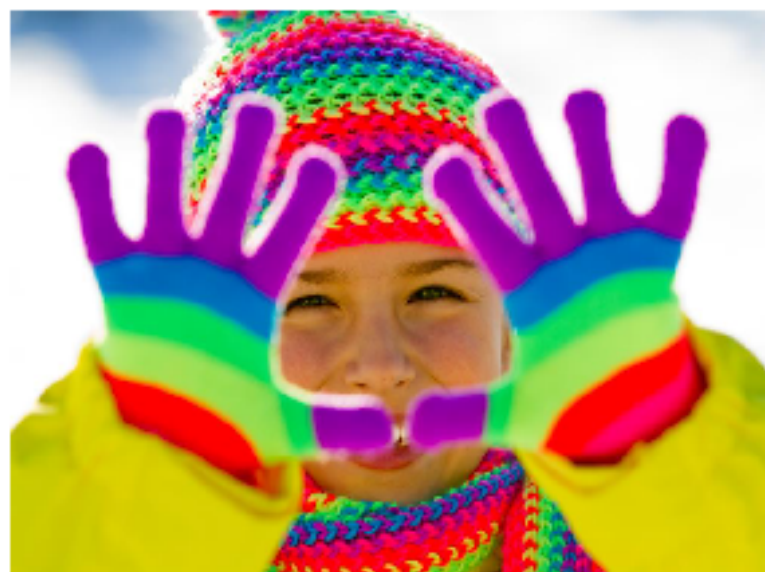
Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Glenn Waterman".

Glenn Waterman
Annual Giving Lead

P.S. If you have questions about Gifts with Vision, or if you would like more printed catalogues for your community of faith, please contact us at 1-844-715-7969 or info@giftswithvision.ca. Community members who have questions or would like to request catalogues are also welcome to contact us there.

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

On September 24th, sixteen people welcomed Julia back in our midst to begin a five week sermon series on "Love." Julia titled this week's message "Crazy Little Thing Called Love (All You Need Love)" and asked us "What is love?" which is difficult to define. Using the scripture 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 we heard how the apostle Paul described agape love to the Corinthians as among other aspects as patient, kind, not envious or boastful. This then causes us to reflect on Jesus' two commandments to love God and love our neighbour as ourselves. For this love draws people in. This agape love defined in the epistle does not come naturally to us but when we experience it there is a calm within as our hearts are opened. In the order of service in this sermon series there is a question for connection and this week's question was "From whom in your life have you felt the greatest love?" And so I ask what is your answer to this question?

Then on October 1st (is it October already?) eighteen people joined Julia as she continued her sermon series on love entitling her message "Just the Way You Are." Using the scripture from 1 John 4:7-5:3, we heard that God's love is expressed through Jesus who became flesh. We do not see God but as we experience Jesus we realize within ourselves that God's love is real and that God loves us just as we are. In a couple of moments during Julia's message we were asked to turn to one another and as we looked into one another's eyes say to that one "You are loved" and then later as we looked at one another again say "I am lovable." Which was the most difficult to say to others? For do we not love God as we love others and to love others we proclaim that indeed we are loveable. Which brings me to the Question for Connection "How do you understand God's love for you and how do you express that in your life?" And so I ask how do you answer this question?

I wonder what we will hear next about Love in Julia's sermon series?



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Fundraiser! Homemade Pies for Sale

We have 5 pies left - 3 cherry and 2 blueberry! Delicious, and made by the wonderful pie-making sisters, Karen Jones and Pat Reader-Downey, they're \$25 per double-crust deep dish fruit pie. Frozen and ready to bake. Contact Karen Pryzynek at (587) 757-8750 to order.

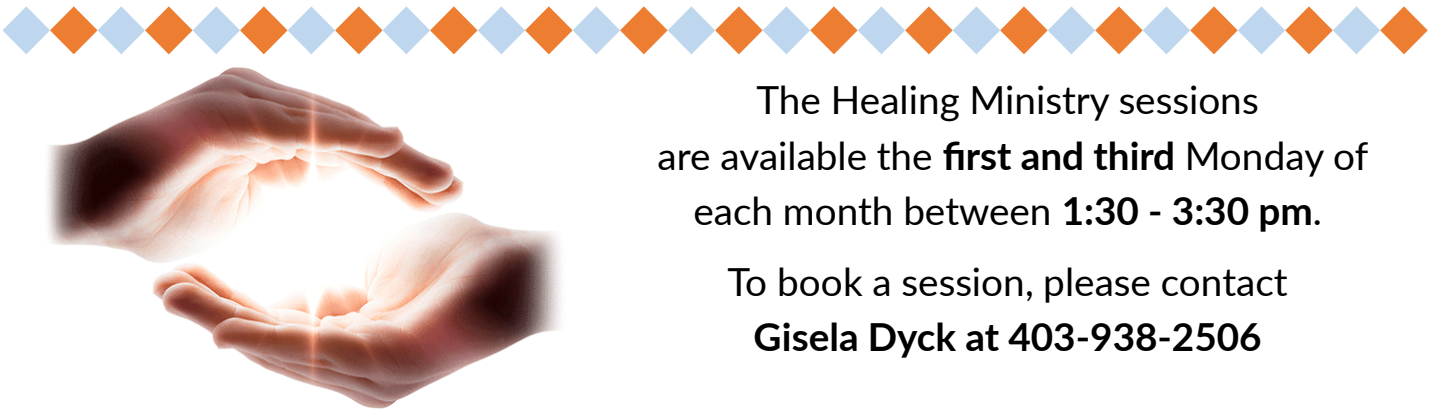


The Okotoks United Church Fireside

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. 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.



If you are interested in joining our group please contact Janet Page at 587-363-5423.



The Healing Ministry 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

TURKEY PIES ARE COMING!

Our wonderful **Harmony Group** is making turkey pies!

Sign up on the sign-up sheet, call Judy (403-938-9559) OR call the church office.

Then mark Tuesday October 17 at 1:00 pm on your calendar to pick up your fresh turkey pot pie, ready to cook!

Yummylicious!



Julia's corner ...

Write Your Life - September 27 at 6:00

Join Julia for a four-week course to help you create a record of your life. Cost is \$15.

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.



Joint Service and Potluck - October 29, 2023

United Church in the Valley, St. Andrews, and Okotoks will get together for our regular 5th Sunday Joint Service and Potluck.

Please join us for worship, food and fun.

Okotoks United Church at 10:45





Celebration of life for Don Lamb
Saturday October 21, 2023
at 1:30 pm
Okotoks United Church.
Reception will follow.



Youth Trek Update!

Last weekend, Olivia and four youth from Okotoks United piled onto a bus to head out to Drumheller for Youth Trek. They joined a group of youth and leaders from all across southern Alberta for a weekend of learning, celebration and reflection.

The weekend included many great events, including a trip to the Royal Tyrrell Museum, participating in Truth and Reconciliation Day activities, and planning and leading the worship service at the Knox United Church.

We are so thankful to the staff of First-Third Ministries and Rev. Rachel Nadon who made this all happen. We hope to be able to participate again next year!



Need a card sent to comfort someone in need?

Contact congregational care at

okcongregationalcare@telus.net



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



Laughter is good for the soul ...

Last Thanksgiving, I shot my own turkey. It was fun. That shotgun going BLAM! Everybody at the supermarket just staring...

Why track them when I know where they are?

- Kenny Rogerson



Prayers:

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Maskwacis

