

February 5, 2026

facebook.com/OkotoksUnited



**Join us for Shrove Tuesday supper,
February 17 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm,
for pancakes, sausages and a
variety of yummy toppings.**

**A clean up crew is needed to help out!
Are you interested?
Contact Karen Pryznyk**



Visit St Andrew's United Church website: Dewintonunitedchurch.ca



Receiving New Members at Easter!

Are you considering joining the church?

If you are interested in joining either St. Andrew's or Okotoks United Church on Easter Sunday, please let Julia know.



Join Julia on Sunday, March 1st from 12:30 - 2:30 in the conference room to learn more about the United Church and what it means to be a member.

Don't' tell God how big your storm is, tell the storm how big your God is!

From one of our DeWinton members:



I was watching the news this morning. The nursing home pictured here is in a remote place. They are trying to boost the resident's spirits on Valentine's Day. This made me think of Julia's messages about things we can do.

I think this is a great thing to do!

Please, if you're able, send a valentine card to the residents by no later than February 8 because Valentine's Day is February 14! Please put your return address so they can send something back to you.

**Address: Ochekwi Sipi Cree Nation, Personal Care Home
PO Box 366, Fisher River, Manitoba, ROC 1S0**

News on Selection of Joint Search Committee

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to serve on the search committee. There were many excellent potential committee members!

Following the United Church of Canada's Guidelines for Search and Selection, including to "reflect the various areas of the community of faith's life and work: committees or groups, age, gender and involvement in the community of faith", the two Boards have appointed the following eight people to the Joint Search Committee :

- † From St. Andrews United Church: Wanda Le Roux and Orlin McMillan
- † From Okotoks United Church: Ryan Brown, Lily O'Donnell, Carol Price, Ruth Seburn, Dean Salter and Stewart Thomas.

As soon as the committee has had a chance to meet and begin their work, they will keep us posted on the process. This will take a few weeks.

- Mark Dutkoski, Chair SAUC; Karen Pryznyk, Chair, OUC



NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S UNITED

Written by P. Marie Wedderburn

At the January 25th service twenty-five people joined Julia for worship. We heard the scripture from 1 Peter 5:7-11 which says that we are to cast our cares upon God. As we are watchful and sober we are strengthened in our faith to be able to stand up to the Devil.

Julia's message was entitled "Big Shoulders" where she spoke of emotions and feelings. We were informed that we may feel over 400 emotions each day, and how we deal with these emotions remains vital to our faith. As we pay attention to our feelings and deal with them, we become better at dealing with change. Tears are a positive response to our feelings and emotions. Prayer remains vital because prayer releases emotions/feelings. God has big shoulders to lean upon as we are fulfilled, restored, and strengthened through Christ.

On February 1st there was no morning service at St. Andrew's United. Rather, we gathered for a potluck lunch at around 11:30. Thanks to everyone who brought such a variety of food to feast upon.

After Julia arrived and also ate, eighteen people gathered in the sanctuary for St. Andrew's United Church's Annual General Meeting. At the meeting Brent Ellenton was elected as chair, Debbie McMillan as secretary. Among other things that happened, the budget for 2026 was approved; Wanda Le Roux and Sandra Adams were elected to the Governing Board; Pat Rush remains St. Andrew's representative to the pastoral charge Ministry and Personnel Committee; and Mark Dutkoski remains St. Andrew's Chinook Winds Regional Representative. The meeting concluded with Julia giving the benediction followed by the motion to adjourn at 2:10.

Exciting News!

A new support group is forming for families, friends and allies of people who have come out within the wide PRIDE spectrum!

We will be welcoming allies from within and beyond our church. The focus will be learning to better understand and support those who may feel marginalized and provide a monthly safe-haven meeting to share concerns, questions and resources. Those interested in participating are invited to a short Q &A meeting on February 8 after Sunday Service in the Chapel.

Kathleen H & Judy S

April 10 - 12, 2026
Enthos Retreat Centre

FINDING COMFORT IN THE SHADOWS
Ecumenical Women's Retreat

Info and Registration: info@imagesofspirituality.ca
Or www.imageosfspirituality.ca



Retreat Speaker: Rev. Elizabeth Short
Worship Leader: Rev. Julia Kimmett



Bible Study a "Song of Faith"
Join Julia and Robin on
Thursdays at 10:00 am in the
Conference Room.
All are welcome.



Children 5 and up are
invited to Sunday School
during service
at Okotoks United!

Prayer

Strathmore Pastoral Charge
Sunnybrook Pastoral Charge



ST. ANDREW'S UNITED
CHURCH, DEWINTON

JOHN WORT HANNAM



(FRI), FEB 20, 2026
7 - 9 PM
\$35.00 PER PERSON

TICKETS AVAILABLE THROUGH

DEWINTONUNITEDCHURCH@GMAIL.COM
ETRANSFER OR EMAIL FOR INFO



ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING

Join us for the Okotoks United Church Annual General Meeting
Sunday February 22, 2026 following service.

2025 OUC Charitable Tax Receipts

Yes it is that special time of year!

We want to bring you an update on how your 2025 Charitable Tax Receipts will be distributed. For 2025, there are two parts to this.

First, remember way back in March of 2025 we issued you traditional paper copies of your tax receipt covering only the months of January and February 2025? This was a result of the Canada Post strike and the Government of Canada's decision to allow you to claim donations for those months on either your 2024 or 2025 tax return. You have hopefully tucked this first receipt safely into your tax file.

Second, we will be delivering your Charitable Tax Receipt for March through December 2025 electronically. If we have your email address on file, you will receive your tax receipt in your inbox during the week of February 10th. This will be a confidential email solely to you and will be sent from the Church office email. This is a new process for us so we ask for your patience. There quite possibly will be some hiccups and we will address these as quickly as we can. If we have your correct email on file, then things should proceed smoothly. If we have the wrong email on file, we will need to do some work. If we do not have your email address on file we will prepare a paper tax receipt that you will be able to pick up after worship beginning February 15th.

We are currently reviewing our database to update email addresses based on the addresses Traci uses for this newsletter. We will run the receipts once this update has been complete.

We will send out a broadcast email to let you know when to expect your email tax receipt, or if you are receiving a paper tax receipt, we will confirm when and where you can pick it up. After the tax receipts have been issued you can contact Traci in the office if there is an error in your receipt or if you did not receive one in any format.

Thanks so much for your patience and support in making this change.



Foothills Spiritual Life Centre Presents
Drumming Circle with Gita Grahame

**Enjoy the steady, healing
rhythm of drumming.**

Join Gita on March 13, 2026

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Suggested donation \$15



Ash Wednesday Service
February 15th @ 4:15 pm

Please join us as we begin the journey toward Easter with a simple service of prayer, meditation, music and silence, ending with the imposition of ashes. All are welcome.



Photo: Anna Ziegler on Unsplash

DiamondValleyUnited.com | 125 Royal Avenue | Diamond Valley | 403.933.4114



Foothills Spiritual Life Centre Presents
Métis Flower Teachings with Joe Gamache
**Hear stories of the lessons flower relatives hold,
why Métis people are known as the flower
beadwork people and the significance of
ancestral Métis beadwork patterns.**

Plus! Learn what 'Seed Bombs' are with Tamara!

Join Joel on Friday February 20, 2026

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

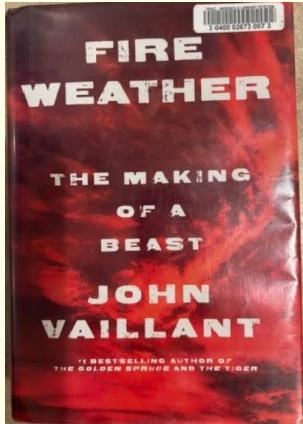
Meditation with Brandon

Tuesday nights from

7 pm to 8 pm

in the Fireside Room.

Donations go to Foothills Spiritual Life Centre.



We meet the
2nd Tuesday of each month,
at 1:00 pm in the Youth Room.

Our current read is *Fire Weather: The making of a beast*
by John Vaillant

Please contact Janet Page at
587-363-5423 to join.

FIRESIDE BOOK CLUB



Mid-week Worship

Please join us Wednesdays at 10:00 am in the Chapel for a tranquil, soul-replenishing time of prayer.

Are you seeking physical, mental or spiritual healing?
Come experience a healing session!
To book a session, please contact:

Gisela Dyck at 403-938-2506

Healing Pathways

To worship Creator is to humble everything about ourselves and exalt everything about Creator. - B. Kauflin



Laughter .. not only the best medicine
but the cheapest.