

October 8, 2026

facebook.com/OkotoksUnited



TURKEY POT PIES - \$8 **Cash or Cheque**
Order by Oct 13 Pick up Oct 20

Sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board
or

Call Judy at 403-850-7183,
email nivenjudith47@gmail.com
or call the church office

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



Rural Ministry Conference - October 2-4, hosted by
the United Churches of Three Hills/Trochu, AB.

With inspiring keynotes from Rev Dr Catherine Smith (Rural Routes Through the Holy), and workshops to equip, encourage and support lay leaders and ministry personnel, like First Third Ministry, Spiritual Care Ministry, Community Organizing, Leading Worship as a Lay Person, new Stewardship resources, and more. Only \$50 and includes all meals from Friday dinner to Sunday lunch (discount for groups). More info and registration here:

www.leadershiftuccan.org/rural-ministry-conference-2026.

Hope to see you there - you are so welcome!

Beginning **Thursday, October 15 at 10:00 a.m.**, you are invited to join us for a new weekly Bible study gathering.

This will be a **casual and welcoming time** to sit together with Scripture—to learn, to unlearn, to ask questions, and to open our hearts to what these ancient stories might still have to say to our lives today.

You don't need to be a Bible expert, and you certainly don't need to have all the answers. Bring your questions, your curiosity, your doubts, your experiences, and perhaps a cup of coffee.



Together, we'll explore Scripture with openness, compassion, and a willingness to discover something new.

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m., beginning October 15.
Come as you are. There is always room around the table.

**The Healing Ministry welcomes everyone who is seeking physical,
mental or spiritual healing .**

Come, experience a healing session for the first time!

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

Jacket Racket 2026



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

**Okotoks United Church
43 Riverside Drive**

**PLEASE DROP OFF GENTLY USED, CLEAN
WINTER CLOTHING AT:**

- Sobeyes
- Okotoks Public Library
- Foothills Cleaners
- Better Than Home Laundry
- Save On Foods
- Viking Rentals Centre
- Okotoks United Church (10-2 M-Th)
- Main Street Market & More
- Okotoks Fire Hall # 1 - on Milligan

**DONATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL
November 6, 2026**

Tuesday evenings:

Nov. 3 and 10

6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Thursday evenings

Nov 5 and 12

6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Saturdays:

Nov 7 and 14

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



The little church with a big heart





PLANNING FOR THE REFERENDUM

Please vote and encourage others to vote.

The upcoming referendum is a critical moment in Alberta history. The results will help to describe the kind of people we want to be in relation to the rest of Canada and the world.

Review the questions in advance.

Please take a good amount of time to review the ten questions – they are long and complex. If you have any questions about what your vote would mean, there are handouts on the table in the foyer at the church that will help you understand the questions and make your decision. Please ask yourself as you read each question: How does my faith call me to respond? The first nine questions are a Yes or No choice.

The first five questions are about how we will treat immigrants in our province. How do you think immigrants should be treated? What does scripture say about how we treat strangers in our country?

The next four questions are questions about changes to the Canadian Constitution. What does scripture say about how we live in good relations with our larger society and country? The tenth question is an Option One or Option Two question. It asks if Alberta should remain in Canada or if we should consider the question of separation. What do you think?

How to vote:

If you have **not already registered** for a special mail-in ballot, you will have to vote in person. The deadline was Sept 25. If you have registered for a mail-in ballot, Canada Post recommends that you mail it in by Oct. 9. It must be received by Elections Alberta by Oct. 16. If you **do not receive** your mail-in ballot **in time**, you may vote in person.

The advanced polls will be held at the Viking Rentals Centre on Oct 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The regular poll will be held October 19 at the Viking Rentals Centre from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. If you are in line at 8 p.m. you will be allowed to vote.

Karen Pryznyk, Carol Price, Dean Salter and Rev. Marco



Congregational Care is one small way we care for one another through prayer. Each Sunday, you are invited to write a prayer intention on a card and place it in the prayer box. You do not need to include your name. Our prayer team will hold your intention gently and faithfully in prayer during the week.

These simple, caring intentions help remind us that we are connected—that we do not carry our joys, worries, hopes, and struggles alone.

Sometimes care begins with simply knowing
that someone is praying for you.

Email us at okcongregationalcare@telus.net

Drop off your donations of games
and puzzles for the
Harmony Group at the church office
from 10 am to noon, Monday to Friday.



Mid Week

Join us on Wednesdays from 10 - 10:30 in the Chapel
for a contemplative time of simple choruses, scripture,
a short reading,
a time of silence, and prayer.

It's a good reset for the middle of your busy week as we set aside
our busy lives for a time of refocusing and peace.

Hello friends!

**A peer support group for Allies of LGBTQ+2SIA folks
meets in Okotoks on the second Saturday of each
month at Okotoks United Church. Our next meetings
are **October 10 and November 14** starting at 4 pm.**



**You will find moral support, helpful information, non-judgmental
listening, anonymity and confidentiality. Let's strengthen the network
that supports our loved ones!**

Rev. Marco's Hours

Monday and Tuesday are Rev. Marco's days off.

He is in the office **Wednesday to Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m**

Feel free to drop in, say hello, or stop by for a chat!

For a pastoral emergency, he can be reached by phone at **403-596-5676**.



The September 20th service saw twenty-eight worshippers join with Marco as he concluded his "Rooted and Becoming" series of messages. We heard the scripture 1 Corinthians 12:4-18 which describes the various gifts that are given by the Spirit. No one receives all of the Spirit's gifts and no one gift is more important than another. For as Marco said these gifts are not given for one's own glory but rather for the benefit of all. Wanting and having a gift given by the Spirit are two different things. One's gift given by the Spirit includes our self awareness of the particular gift given. We belong to the body of Christ just as the hand or eye or ear belong to our physical body. The gifts we have received are for the glory of God as in love, compassion, and giving we share our gifts continuously.

Twenty-two worshippers joined Marco on September 27th where he began his sermon series entitled "Learning to See." The scripture Marco chose for the beginning of this series was Luke 24:15-22 which talks about Jesus joining two worshippers on the road to Emmaus the morning of the resurrection. They did not recognize Jesus just as sometimes we do not recognize the presence of the resurrected Jesus in our own lives. For often God's grace is right beside us but we do not see it. We also heard about repentance which is not condemnation but rather a going back to God. We were left with this question: "Now that I can see a little more clearly, what will love require of me?" How do we answer this question?

On World-wide Communion Sunday, October 4th, eighteen people joined Marco for worship for the second in his worship series "Learning to See." We heard the words from the prophet Amos 5:12-13, 21-24 which call us to "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (verse 24). Just as Jesus taught from what we now call the Hebrew Scriptures, so did Martin Luther King, Jr. use this passage from Amos for his "I Have a Dream" speech. The opposite of justice is greed and Amos saw what others did not see. For worship and life must go together and how we use our privilege remains what is vital in today's world. As we shared our communion meal, hopefully we experienced some of the thoughts and prayers presented throughout our "Learning to See" time.

Many people gathered together later to enjoy the Cassie and Maggie concert. Thanks once again Shirle for organizing these concerts.

- P. Marie Wedderburn



Vendors Wanted

*Okotoks United Church's
Annual Christmas Market
October 30 (4-8pm)
and 31 (10-2 pm)*

For more information, please contact:

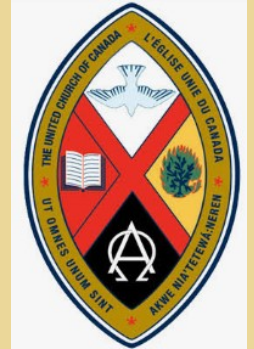
Okotoks United Church

403.938.4357 or

email: okunited@telus.net

A Sacred Promise: Our Covenanting Service

A covenant is really a promise — a promise shared between the minister, the congregation, the Chinook Winds Region, and the Divine. It is our way of saying that we are choosing to walk together, to support one another, and to keep following the way of Christ as faithfully as we can.



Our Covenanting Service will be held on **Sunday, November 1 at 2:00 p.m** followed by a luncheon.

This will be a special afternoon in the life of our church. It is a chance to celebrate this new chapter together, to give thanks for the ministry we share, and to look ahead with hope to where the Spirit may lead us next.

Come and be part of the celebration.

It will be good to have our church family gathered together for this important moment.

Friends,

There are many people among us who need a little extra care right now — a visit, a phone call, a cup of coffee, a prayer, or simply the reassurance that someone remembers them.



As your minister, I care deeply about staying connected with you. But I also know that there simply are not enough hours in the week for me to personally stay in touch with everyone as often as I would like.

That is where all of us come in.

The Church has never been just one person caring for everyone. We are a community of people caring for one another. When each of us does a little — one phone call, one visit, one conversation, one moment of listening — together, we can do something beautiful.

And I believe those moments are deeply spiritual. When you sit with someone who is lonely, call someone who has been struggling, or simply ask, “How are you really doing?” you are sharing something of the presence of God. You are helping make God's love visible.

So if you are visiting someone from our congregation or regularly staying connected with someone, please let me know when you can, with their permission. It helps me understand where care is already happening and where someone might still need a little more connection.

The easiest way to reach me is [**pastormarcostemarie@gmail.com**](mailto:pastormarcostemarie@gmail.com).

Please know that I care. And thank you for caring for one another. None of us can do it all. But if each of us does a little, together we can make sure that no one feels forgotten.

— Marco

the **GIFT** of **MUSIC**

A Let Us Sing Workshop

with guest Rev. Janice Beaudry

at Diamond Valley United

Ready to hear music in the air? Spend an afternoon singing with piano wizard Rev. Janice Beaudry (Walls). Janice will guide a time of singing in community through a shared love of music. Together we'll raise our voices singing old favourites from the *Voices* hymn books and learning new music from *Then, Let Us Sing*. **Tickets: \$17. All are welcome.**



Image by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay Photo by Tony Chen on Unsplash

Rev. Janice Beaudry was born in Saint John, NB and spent her early years living in the Saint John Protestant orphanage. She was later adopted by Royce and Lottie Walls, and grew up by the beautiful Miramichi River. Janice studied piano from John Ramsey, a blind teacher and piano tuner, and her love for music began at an early age. Through her teen years she accompanied choirs in Baptist, Presbyterian and Pentecostal churches, along with the Salvation Army. She became a member of the United Church of Canada and fell in love with their calls for justice and acceptance of all people. Janice believes she has been called by God to share her gift of music, to **make a joyful noise unto the Lord**.

Saturday Oct 31st | 1:30 to 4:30 pm
To Register call 403.933.4114 or use the QR code:



**DIAMOND VALLEY
UNITED CHURCH**

125 Royal Avenue Diamond Valley
diamondvalleyunited.com





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