



OUC MAKES A DIFFERENCE

WHEN

Sunday October 16th

WHERE

Sanctuary

LUNCH PROVIDED

**FEATURING • Impact Stories about how we're
Making a Difference**

WWW.OKUNITED.CA

ALL AGES EVENT

SOME OF THE MINISTRIES/ ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED

School Lunch Bunch

Youth

Family Resource Centre

Khazaal Family

Chinook Winds Region

Okotoks Pride

Mission and Service

Healing Ministry

Recovery Ministry

Food Bank

Book Club

Bible Study

Jacket Racket

SPONSORS

School Lunch Bunch

Stewardship Committee

BENEFITING

The work of

Okotoks United Church



JULIA OFFICE HOURS FALL - 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
UCV or DW/OK Worship	8-3 OK	8-4 UCV Bible Study 10-11:30	8-3 OK Mid-week Worship 10-10:45 1 st and 3 rd Wednesdays	8-3 OK Bible Study 10-11:30	Off Youth Group 6:30-8:30 3rd Friday of each month	Off

Julia can be reached for urgent Pastoral Care needs 24/7 at 403-702-2249.

If you wish to reach Julia for anything other than urgent concerns, please email her at okjulia@telus.net and she will get back to you during office hours, or call and leave a message at either 403-938-4357 (Okotoks) or 403-933-4114 (United Church in the Valley) and your call will be returned during office hours.



TURKEY SUPPER VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to everyone who cooked, cleaned, served, promoted, set up, took down and otherwise happily participated in the Turkey Supper.

We have been doing this as Okotoks United Church since 1934! Did you know that? You are part of a legacy in this community!

Youth Group – Fall 2022



Youth Group with Julia and Olivia

First session: “Play and Plan”*

Friday, October 21st

at Okotoks United

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Open to all youth grade 6 and up

Note: Youth Group will take place the third Friday of every month with Julia and Olivia.

***The first session will be a “play” time along with a discussion of what we would like to do for the year.**



Jacket Racket 2022



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

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

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

**DONATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL
OCTOBER 29th**

**Okotoks United
Church
43 Riverside Drive**

**Tuesday evenings:
Oct 18, Oct 25, Nov 1
6:00 to 8:30 p.m.**

**Saturday mornings:
Oct 22, Oct 29, Nov 5,
10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**



JACKET RACKET VOLUNTEERS

Hi everyone!

We are already getting donations of warm winter clothing for Jacket Racket. Okotoks knows it's that time of year and they start dropping things off. It is such a well supported project. People really love it. St. Vincent de Paul will be collecting from the Catholic School System so we expect a large number of jackets, mitts, scarves and hats again this year.



Could you volunteer for one of the jobs below?

- **SORTING:** any weekday from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm - setting aside any soiled items, hanging up clean jackets
- **LAUNDRY:** pick up and return at your convenience
- **SET UP:** Tuesday October 18 from 9:00 am -12:00 pm
 Tuesdays - from October 18 to November 1 - 5:30 - 8:30 pm
 Saturdays - from October 22 to November 5 - 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
- **TAKE DOWN:** Saturday November 5 from 12:30 pm until about 2:00 pm

Distribution after Jacket Racket - Date and time to be determined - you will need a larger vehicle

Please contact Karen Pryznyk to sign up.



STEWARDSHIP

There is an African Proverb that reminds us that it takes a village to raise a child. And it's true. We all need help to live and work and function in the world. Having community always makes life better.

It also takes a community to help make the church all it can be.

Many churches run by the "Pareto" or 80/20 principle. That is, 20% of the people do 80% of the work and contribute 80% of the capital to run the church. While this is unfortunately accurate, it is not sustainable.

The best way for a church to be effective is for everybody who is a part of the faith community to take on one task and take responsibility for doing their small part to make the church a faith home for everyone.

Is there something you can do to support the work of the church?

Right now we have some openings that need to be filled. Can you take on one of these responsibilities and make the load lighter for those who are doing several things in order to keep things going behind the scenes?

Volunteer Opportunities

Okotoks (not on a weekly basis but scheduled according to your availability):

- Usher
- Greeter
- Usher/Greeter Coordinator (create a rotating list for the group and trains ushers/greeters)
- Sunday Morning Coffee Maker (sets up, makes coffee, cleans up)
- Kid's Ministry Volunteer (once a month)

If you can help with these tasks, please contact Sally Salter at ssalter050@gmail.com

St. Andrew's (De Winton):

- Sunday Worship Accompanist
- Sunday Music Coordinator

If you could help with these roles, please speak to Mark Dutkoski.



STEWARDSHIP

UNDERSTANDING OUR FINANCIALS AT OKUC

As Reverend Julia stated in the September 16, 2022 Newsletter –

“To practice is to get better and better at something; to exercise our spiritual muscles regularly in order [to hone our ability to use everything we have in service to something greater](#). This means taking a regular inventory of what we need and don’t need, what we use and don’t use and how we can engage everything for some purpose, eschewing those things that we don’t really need.”

To help us take that inventory, it is important to know and understand where we are financially at Okotoks United. Once a month in our Newsletter there will be a short article regarding our finances.

To start us off – here is a quick explanation of our Financial Summary and the actual August 2022 Summary for your reference:

We have 3 funds:

- General Operations (Fund 1): for the operation and maintenance of the church and community, including staff and ministries.
- Designated Funds (Fund 2): for specified ministries and benevolent use. These funds cannot be used for general use. They must be used for the purpose to which they are designated.
- Mortgage Fund (Fund 3): for our RBC Mortgage Loan and United Church of Canada Mortgage Loan (we currently pay only the interest on this loan)

Each of these 3 Funds is accounted for separately in our Monthly Financial Summary (see below).

We have GICs for Fund 1 and Fund 3 and interest earned in each of the GICS is added to the respective Fund. In addition, we do have an outstanding CEBA Loan from the Government which will be paid back prior to the end of 2023 as it remains interest free until that time.

The following is the Financial Summary for August 2022. Starting next month, the Financial Summary will be posted on our website and once a month in our newsletter.

It is the hope of the Stewardship Committee that with greater understanding of our finances, we are able to “to hone our ability to use everything we have in service to something greater”

Thank you for continuing to support the life and work of our church. You are making a difference.

Your Stewardship Committee



STEWARDSHIP CONT'D

Okotoks United Church appreciates all of the financial contributions that are given to the church and it has policies that assures all members that those funds are used appropriately.

INCOME

Weekly contributions to the offering plate are counted and assigned the correct envelope number if necessary and are added to a deposit slip by at least two volunteers each week, who then deposit the funds in the bank. Our bookkeeper enters the amounts recorded to the appropriate envelope number in Power Church (our accounting program). Our office manager or bookkeeper records all incomes from PAR or other sources (credit card machine, mail, etc.) and credits the appropriate envelope number when necessary. Our church treasurer oversees and approves all of these transactions. These envelopes and other financial materials are kept by law for seven years.

BUDGET

In October our bookkeeper requests suggested expense numbers for the budget line items for next year from all heads of departments who are responsible for managing those departments. The bookkeeper then uses those suggestions to prepare a proposed budget. After much consultation the Official Board approves a proposed budget for the following year that is presented at the church Annual Meeting where it may be amended but finally approved. Then each department must follow this budget for the next year.

EXPENSES

When a vendor (often a member of Okotoks United Church) presents an invoice for payment an Expense Form signed by the person making the request is attached to the invoice that includes the budget line to be charged. This invoice and expense form is sent to our Bookkeeper who prepares a check. Our bookkeeper also prepares a check when appropriate for recurring invoices (Telus, Town of Okotoks, Mission and Service etc.). Two members of the Official Board who have signing authority review the expense form and invoice and then sign the check which officially approves the transaction. The check is then distributed by our office manager.

REPORTING TO THE OFFICIAL BOARD

Our bookkeeper through the treasurer prepares a complete financial statement for those members of the Official Board who requires one and just a summary for other Official Board members. These reports are posted on the bulletin periodically for all members of the church to review.

AUDIT REVIEW

Each year our bookkeeper under the direction of our treasurer asks our accountant Michael Kuntz of Cornerstone CPA to conduct a review (simple audit) of our books and it is accepted by the Official Board when this review is completed. If any action to improve transparentness is required that is addressed. Since we began using Power Church accounting program we have not needed to make any changes to this transparency.



STEWARDSHIP CONT'D

OKOTOKS UNITED CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY as of the end of the month of SEPTEMBER 2022

FUND #1 GENERAL OPERATIONS

	ACTUAL for the month	BUDGET for the month	ACTUAL for the year	BUDGET for the year
TOTAL INCOME	\$34,998.60	\$23,117.99	\$189,806.95	\$169,418.97
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$20,583.77	\$22,932.56	\$189,559.08	\$207,144.95
Transfers to Mortgage from fund 1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Surplus / Deficit	\$14,414.83	\$185.43	\$247.87	-\$37,725.98

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE

This month	\$55,284.17	Last month	\$41,033.36
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GIC FUND 1	\$47,500.00
GIC FUND 3	\$102,500.00
GIC TOTAL	\$150,000.00

FUND #2 DESIGNATED FUNDS (These funds cannot be spent on operations)

Temp Restricted Funds	This month	\$82,381.27	Last month	\$76,144.96
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FUND #3 MORTGAGE

Mortgage balance	RBC	\$181,049.59
at month end	UCC	\$464,907.44
	TOTAL	\$645,957.03

MORTGAGE PAYMENTS	RBC	\$2,036.45
per month	UCC	\$980.00
	TOTAL	\$3,016.45

FUND #3 (Mortgage Fund) Balance

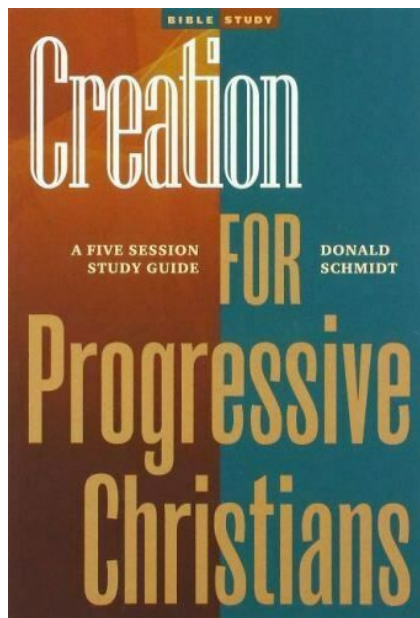
This month	\$29,640.89	Last month	\$29,912.79
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BENEVOLENT FUND BALANCE	This month	\$37,351.37	Last month	\$36,841.34
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Current CEBA Loan Amount Owing	\$20,000.00	Last month	\$20,000.00
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The plan for the CEBA loan is to repay the remaining amount end of 2023.

NOTES: Fund 1 income looks higher than budgeted, as the Turkey Supper income was mostly budgeted to be in October.



How do we enhance our understanding of the Creation Stories in Scripture?

What did our ancient ancestors want us to understand about the creation of the universe, the divine presence in that creation, and how might we live our lives in response to that?

Join Julia for six sessions as we study
Creation for Progressive Christians
a Bible Study by United Church minister Donald Schmidt

October 25/27

(Tuesdays in Turner Valley, Thursdays in Okotoks)

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

(in person – unless Covid circumstances change)

Cost: \$14.00 for book*

(*can also be purchased as an e-book from Wood Lake Books)



Outreach and Justice Group

What is justice? What is outreach?

What needs to change to bring about enough for all?

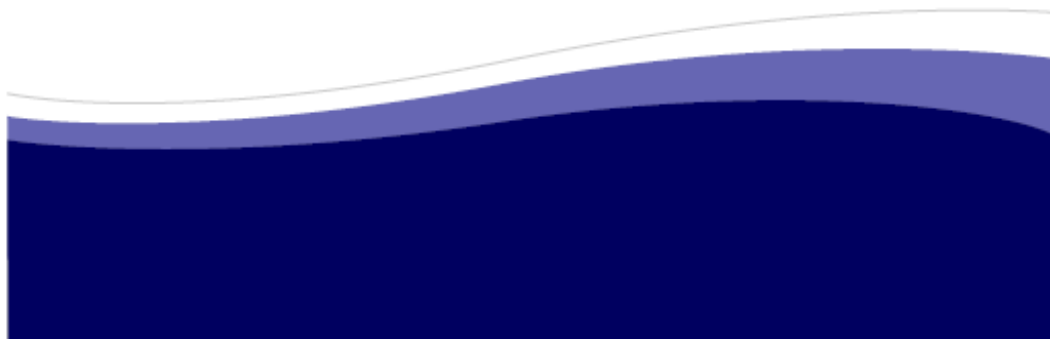
How do we advocate for change?

Let's talk...

**October 25, 2022, 6 to 8 p.m.
Pot Luck Dinner and Discussion**

Okotoks United Church 43
Riverside Dr. Okotoks

RSVP to Julia at okjulia@telus.net if you plan to attend





Happy Retirement

Diane Willis



OPPORTUNITY IS KNOCKING - LET'S OPEN THE DOOR!

The church is now fully open, with this in mind the greeters and offering collection ministry is being revamped. Anyone who is interested in joining this important ministry please contact Betty-Lou at:

blbayley67@gmail.com or leave a message at (403) 383-4587.

Thank you so much for considering this opportunity to serve.

Prayers

- ♦ Kim Karran - healing
- ♦ Calgary: Ogden



Fall 2022 Worship Schedule

2022	St. Andrew's - Okotoks	United Church in the Valley
September 4th	Rev. Lee Spice	Rev. Julia
September 11th	DW – Rev. Marie Wedderburn OK – Gary Dzurka	Rev. Julia
September 18th	Rev. Julia	Rev. Lee Spice
September 25th	Rev. Dr. Karen Medland	Rev. Julia
October 2nd	Rev. Julia	Rev. Dr. Karen Medland
October 9th	Rev. Marie Wedderburn	Rev. Julia
October 16th	Julia	Traci Fontana-Wegelin
October 23rd	DW – Mark Dutkoski OK – Dr. Marti Cleveland	Rev. Julia
October 30 th (5 th Sunday)	Rev. Julia	No Service
November 6th	Rev. Dean Salter	Karen Pryznyk
November 13th	Karen Pryznyk	Rev. Dean Salter
November 20th	Rev. Lee Spice	Rev. Julia
November 27 th	Rev. Julia	Rev. Lee Spice
December 4 th	Rev. Lee Spice	Rev. Julia
December 11 th	Rev. Julia	Rev. Lee Spice
December 18 th	OK – Rev. Lee Spice DW – Rev. Julia (Christmas Candlelight p.m.)	Rev. Julia
December 24 th	4:00 p.m. Rev. Julia 9:00 p.m. Rev. Julia	7:00 p.m. Rev. Julia



NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

Written by P. Marie Wedderburn

On September 18th, fourteen people joined with Julia as she entitled her message “Why Wait?” using the epistle reading Colossians 1:9-12. Julia reminded us once again that we cannot go back and as we move forward we need to learn to wait, even though we like action. We may find it hard to wait which requires at least three actions: patience which does not mean inaction as we stay with it and embrace the now; reflection as we ponder and prepare for God’s work; discernment which is prayerful as we let the Spirit move in our lives. “Why Wait?”

Thirteen of us welcomed Rev. Dr. Karen Medland into our midst on September 25th. (Karen is the Pastoral Relations Minister for Chinook Winds Region.) Karen entitled her message “Investing in the Future!” She spoke from the scripture Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 in which Jeremiah buys land even in the midst of the exile. For Jeremiah believes in the covenant with God for without land the people are adrift. Karen emphasized that God’s promise is faithful and gives us hope for we are not abandoned. She also left us with a couple of questions to ponder: “who would you rather be?” and “what vineyards are we planting?” How do we answer these questions?

On World Wide Communion Sunday, October 2nd, fifteen of us joined with Julia as she led us through an imaginable prayer experience using the scripture Mark 6:30-44 which speaks of the feeding of the multitude. In imaginable prayer we are to let a relationship form as we do not get “bogged down with facts.” Asking questions like how do we encounter Jesus, what do we say to Jesus, and what does Jesus respond to us in our imaginable prayer. Titling the experience “Feed Everybody!” hopefully in our own imaginable prayer we are reassured. We then shared our communion meal.

Following the service some of us also went to Okotoks United to share in the farewell potluck lunch for Diane. The gift and card from St. Andrew’s United was presented to Diane at this event.

Announcement: Jacket Racket is once again happening from Okotoks United. There is a winter clothing donation bin in our foyer for the month of October. If you have any questions about Jacket Racket, please contact Lea.



THE LUNCH BUNCH PROGRAM

Monday, October 10 is a Statutory Holiday and school will not be in session. The Lunch Bunch Crew will be meeting on Tuesday, October 11 instead.



HEALING MINISTRY

The Healing Ministry will be available or healing sessions as of September 19th from 1:45 pm - 3:00 pm

To book an appointment, please contact Gisela Dyck at 403-938-2506.



THE HARMONY GROUP



The Harmony Group will once again be selling Turkey Pot Pies - \$8.00 each. There's a sign up sheet on the OUC Bulletin Board.

Pick up is on Wednesday, October 26 between 12:00 - 2:00 pm.

NOTE: LAST ORDER DATE IS OCTOBER 16



Mid-Week Worship

Come and find the quiet centre.

Come catch your breath and pause.

Come be reminded of God's presence.

Come and join us for Mid-Week Worship:

a short contemplative service
of song, Scripture, silence, and prayer

every Wednesday morning,

from 10:00-10:30AM

in the Okotoks United Church Sanctuary.

We hope to see you there!



If you have an urgent
pastoral care need please call
Julia at 403-702-2249. This change
will take effect
September 1, 2022

Okotoks United Church Office

To contact Julia email her at okjulia@telus.net. Both can be reached at the church office phone number listed below during their regular hours.

Congregational Care Team invites you to reach out for confidential spiritual and compassionate care by email at: okcongregationalcare@telus.net

The office is open Monday to Thursday 9:00 - 2:00, Friday 9:00 - 12:00.

Please contact Lorna at okunited@telus.net or 403-938-4357.