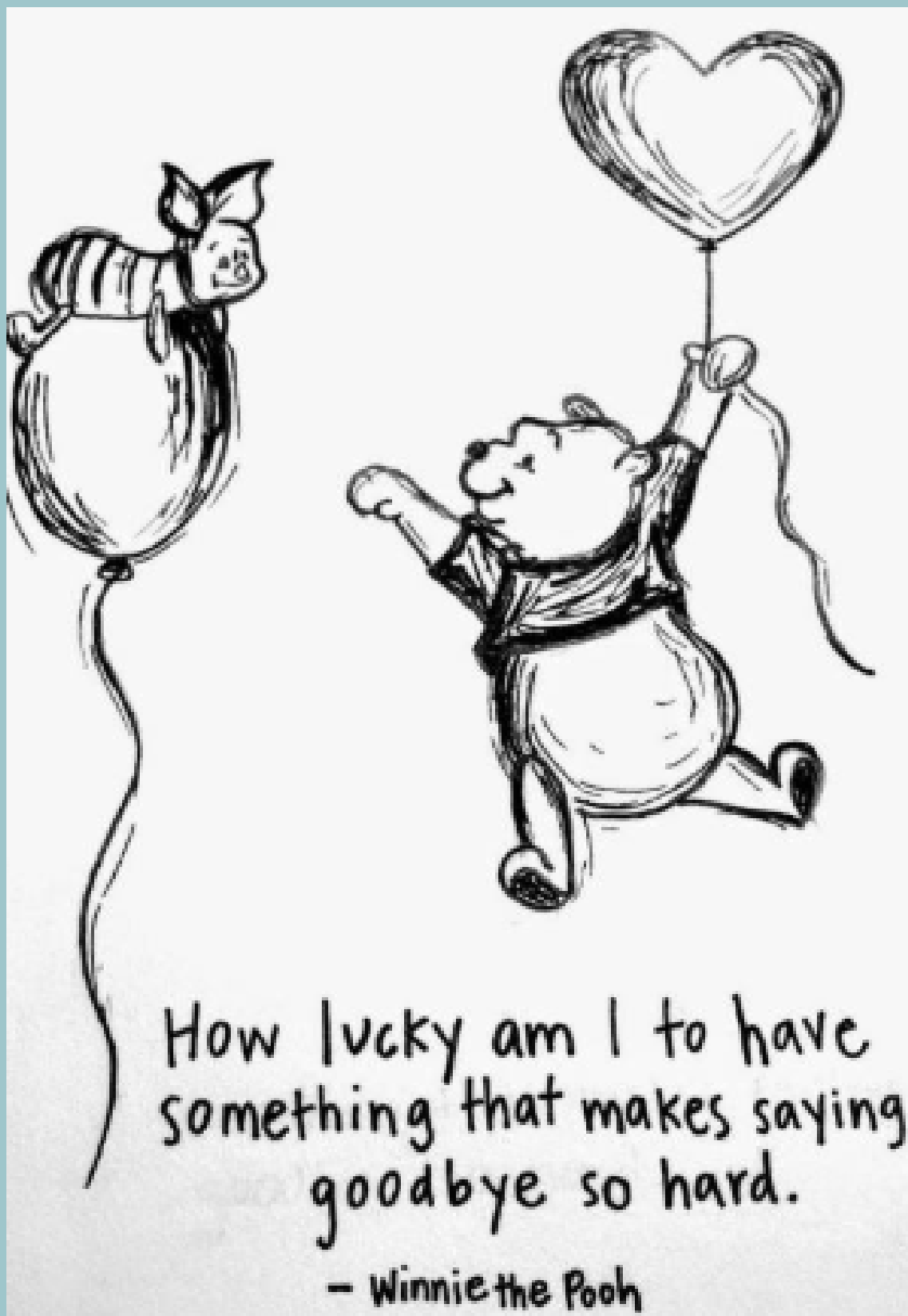


July 23, 2026

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



Dear Friends,

As I prepare to step away from this shared season of ministry, my heart is full — full of joy for all we have created together, full of gratitude for your trust, your courage, and your willingness to follow the Spirit into new places. You have been a community of generosity and welcome and serving among you has been one of the great gifts of my life. I wanted to offer you this blessing:

I bless you with hope for the years to come: hope that your compassion will continue to ripple outward into Foothills and beyond; hope that your worship will keep singing with justice, tenderness, joy and imagination; hope that your life together will remain rooted in the love that has carried you this far.

I bless the path that now opens before you, and I bless the ministry of Marco who will soon join you. May your new minister arrive with fresh energy, wise curiosity, and a heart ready to be shaped by this place. May you receive him with the same kindness you have shown me, and may your partnership flourish in ways none of us can yet see.

And finally, I bless each of you: May the peace of Christ rise to meet you. May the Spirit's courage stir in your bones. May God's love — steady, surprising, and ever new — guide you into all that lies ahead. Amen.

Thank you so much for your generous words and gifts this past month. I will cherish my book, bike rides and trip to France in October, remembering you often and giving thanks each time.

With deep affection and abiding gratitude,

Julia





The service on July 12th saw twenty-three people join Julia for worship. We heard the scripture from Acts 2:43-47 when the early believers gathered and shared everything and shared everything while praising God. As this was the Sunday we shared our last communion service with Julia, she entitled her message "Come to the Table." We heard that everyone has a chance to share at the table. Sitting at any meal is the most common ritual of our lives. At the communion table Christ is the host, and all are welcome and there are no rules in The United Church of Canada to come to the table. We were asked to answer the question in small groups "When have you shared around the table in your life?" Following the service those of us who shared the communion table were able to have our picture taken with Julia on our individual cell phones.

On National Ice Cream Day, July 19th, twenty-five people joined Julia for her last Sunday service at St. Andrew's United. (The service itself was on the screen so there were no paper bulletins.) This was a service of singing many of Julia's favourite hymns and she told us why these hymns were some of her favourites. She also informed us that we remember songs better than sermons and that music is always important even when we may not have singing voices. We heard the scriptures from Ephesians 5:15-20 where we heard we "sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" and also from Colossians 3:15-17 where we also heard "as with gratitude in our hearts we sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God." For the centering chorus following the lighting of the Christ candle, the offertory, and the sung benediction we sang the same psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs as we have for the last few services.

The following are the psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs we sang: 291 VU - All Things Bright and Beautiful; 28 MV - God of the Bible (Fresh as the Morning); 282 VU - Long before the Night; 27 MV - Creator God You Gave Us Love; 684 VU - Make Me a Channel of Your Peace; 30 TLUS* - We Are a Rainbow; 178 MV - Three Things I Promise; and 509 VU - I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord). We were each given an index card at the beginning of the service and part way through the service we were asked to put our name and SA (for St. Andrew's) at the top of the card and list some of our favourite hymns from Voices United and More Voices. These cards were then given to Julia who will leave them for Marco so he can see what music St. Andrew's is familiar with. (*In the above list of hymns sung the abbreviation TLUS stands for the new United Church hymn book entitled Then Let Us Sing.)

Please remember that this Sunday's service will be a joint service held at Okotoks United for Julia's last Sunday service for Okotoks-DeWinton Pastoral Charge.

- P. Marie Wedderburn

PARKING LOT ACCESS DURING CONSTRUCTION ON RIVERSIDE DRIVE.

What's Happening:

Starting sometime in mid-August, the Town of Okotoks will be doing construction on Riverside Drive to install a new sanitary line. This will affect both our east parking lot and the Town's parking lot between us and the Okotoks Library. In order to maintain access to both lots during the construction, the following plan has been agreed to:

- During one half of the project, we will access our east parking lot through the Town lot and an opening in our fence – location to be determined.
- During the other half of the project, the Town will access their lot through our lot and the opening in the fence. This way both lots remain useable.

The project is expected to wrap up by the end of October.

We expect to see some increased traffic through our lot and a small reduction in the number of parking spaces. There will be no change in access to our west parking lot.

Recommendations:

If you have no mobility issues, we encourage you to park in the Town lot on Sundays or for other church activities and walk over to the church. All other congregants will then have easy access to the church from our usual parking lots.

Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or any member of the Board. There is a map of the planned construction in the church office if you would like to see it. More information will be coming from the Town and updates will be forthcoming in the newsletter and weekly announcements.

Karen Pryznyk



Mission Possible

Have you been intrigued by past presentations about our church's partnership with TEARS in the Dominican Republic? Have you seen the videos and pictures and thought, ***"Maybe I would like that kind of adventure?"***

We are planning a family trip for Easter break next spring, travelling from Friday, March 26 through Sunday, April 4, 2027. This trip will feature an easy-paced agenda focused on relationship building. Together, we will visit churches, schools, programs, and homes in the Dominican barrio of María Auxiliadora and the Haitian barrio of Soto.

Trip Details:

- **Estimated Budget:** \$1,900 to \$2,100 per traveler (includes flights, room, board, transportation, translators, and activities).
- **Information Meeting:** Sunday, August 9, 2026, directly following the service. Come learn about past trip adventures and see the proposed agenda for this upcoming trip!

If you cannot attend the meeting or have immediate questions, please contact Gary Dzurka at 403-992-3334 or email [**gdzurka@xplornet.ca**](mailto:gdzurka@xplornet.ca)



**Seeking physical, mental or
spiritual healing?
Come try a healing session!**

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

Hello friends!

A peer support group for Allies of LGBTQ+2SIA folks meets in Okotoks on the second Saturday of each month at 43 Riverside Drive.

Our next meeting will be August 8 at Okotoks United Church 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!

Questions contact Kathleen & Judy: kmhnychrch@gmail.com



Have some extra time on your hands?

**Want to volunteer your administrative
skills at the church?**

**When I am away sick or on vacation,
coverage is needed to answer phones
and greet the public as they walk
through our church door.**

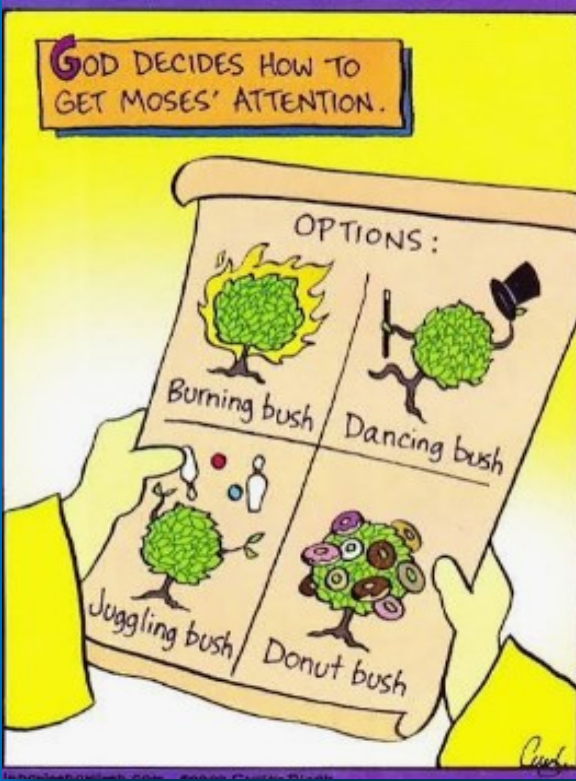
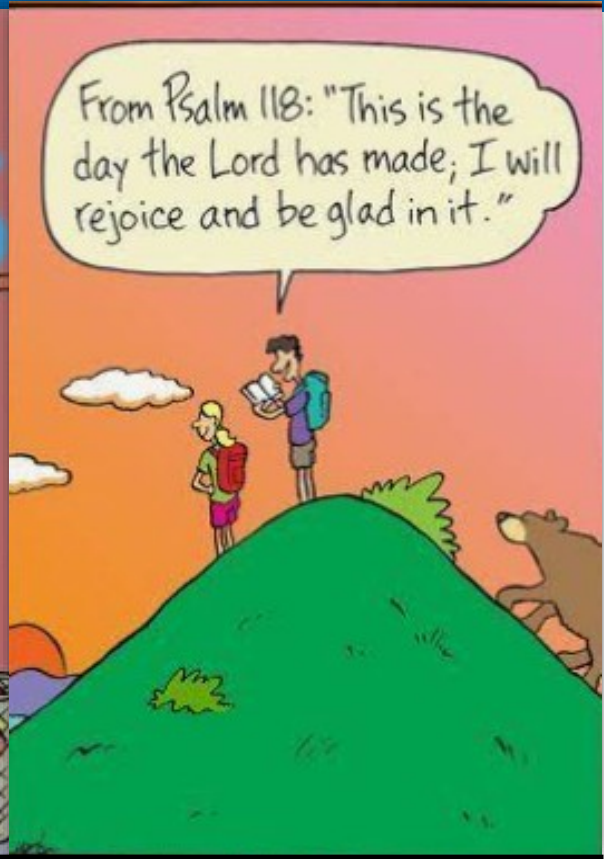
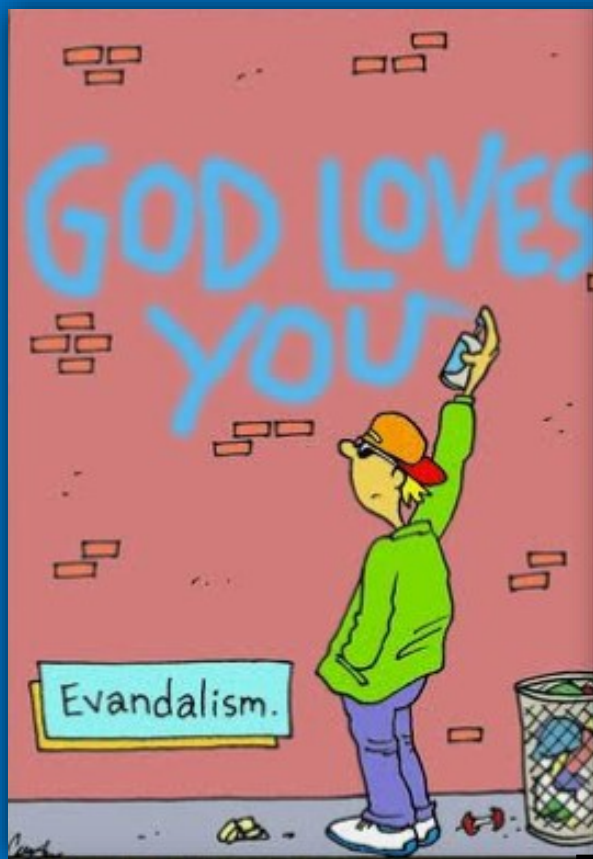
**I'm grateful for Sally, Karen and Carol who have been
providing this coverage when they're able.**

It's time I find more volunteers!

**I do provide some training and there is an
office manual for backup instructions.**

**If you are interested, please contact me in the church office
(okunited@telus.net) or call me at 403.938.4357.**

Traci



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