

August 20, 2026

# Hello Rev. Marco!

A BIG  
*warm*  
WELCOME  
*from all of us!*

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Visit St Andrew's United Church website: [Dewintonunitedchurch.ca](http://Dewintonunitedchurch.ca)



Hello everyone,

As I begin this new chapter of ministry with Okotoks United and St. Andrew's United, I wanted to introduce myself - not simply as your new minister, but as someone who is genuinely looking forward to becoming part of your communities.

I grew up in Quebec and have been in ministry for a number of years, serving congregations in a few different places along the way. I speak French, English, and Italian, although I cannot promise that any of those languages will help me remember everyone's name on the first Sunday. I may need a little grace with that!



I love good conversation, learning new things, and discovering what makes people and communities tick. I also have a healthy appreciation for humour. I have learned that church life is much easier when we can occasionally laugh at ourselves.

At the heart of my ministry is a simple conviction: church should be a place where people can come as they are and know that they belong. A place where questions are welcome, compassion matters, justice is part of our faith, laughter is allowed, and nobody has to pretend to have everything figured out — not even the minister.

I love preaching and worship, but I also believe some of the most meaningful ministry happens in ordinary places: around a table, over a cup of coffee, in a hospital room, in a hallway conversation, or in those moments when someone simply needs another person to listen.

I also believe ministry is something we do together. I am not arriving with a secret five-year plan tucked away in my desk drawer. I want first to listen and learn. You already have stories, traditions, relationships, joys, disappointments, hopes, and dreams. I want to hear what you cherish about these communities and what you hope might emerge in the years ahead.

Every new pastoral relationship requires some adjusting. We will learn one another. We will probably occasionally misunderstand one another. We may try some things that work wonderfully and a few things that make us say, "Well... perhaps we won't do that again."

And that is okay.

My hope is that we will enter this new season with curiosity, generosity, humour, and grace.

I am not coming to replace the story that has already been written here. I am coming to join you as together we discover the next chapter.

I look forward to meeting you, hearing your stories, sharing ministry with you, and discovering what the Spirit may be inviting us to become together.

Blessings,  
Rev. Marco

# AUGUST TO-DO LIST



Capture the  
perfect summer  
view



Go biking on a  
new route



Build an  
Indoor garden



Camping in the  
backyard



Star-gazing  
with family



Take a day off  
from social media



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

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

### Parking Lot Access During Riverside Drive Construction

**Construction has started!**

Work is expected to last **until late October**. Access into the church parking lot will be **maintained but is only be accessible from the west half of Riverside Drive (connecting to Northridge Drive)**.

Access to the library parking lot has been transitioned so that traffic will flow in and out using the church parking lot driveway. **Approximately four parking stalls have been temporarily removed,**

Church parking will be temporarily restored over the winter months until spring construction on Riverside Drive resumes.

Questions? Contact the church office.



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

### Interested in becoming a part of Mission Possible?

**Information Meeting CHANGED to**

Sunday, September 13, 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)

**Mission Possible**



At the August 9th service, three of us from St. Andrew's joined Okotoks United worshippers. Traci Fontana-Wegelin led the service and we heard the scripture Matthew 14:22-33 where Jesus walks on water and Peter goes out to join him but begins to sink whereupon Jesus grabs him and they return to the boat together. Traci had us imagine we were on a boat where the waves become larger and we fall out and struggle at which point we are pulled up out of the water. For Jesus does not abandon us when we need him the most. Traci then went on to inform us that the word water is used numerous times in scripture beginning in the creation story of Genesis 1. Water is the source of life and also a symbol of transformation. We in the church use water for the sacrament of baptism. Water flows, is not stagnant and changes as it needs to. We are being asked to adapt to change. What are the ways we require the flowing water in our physical, mental, and spiritual lives?

The August 16th service saw five of us who regularly attend St. Andrew's United join with Okotoks United for worship. The service was led by Jody Connors. We heard two scripture passages: Matthew 10:40-42 which speaks of welcoming and Romans 15:5-7 which speaks of living in harmony with one another. Jody's theme for the service was "Welcoming." Jody told a personal story centred around "If you want a friend, be a friend."

We once again sat around tables upon which lay unfinished posters with an incomplete different sentence for each table. In the message came a "Time to Create" where we were asked to complete the sentence. The table I sat at had the incomplete sentence "Something that I'm looking forward to doing with you is..." Each of us around the table wrote our reply on the poster which also said "Welcome Marco" and will be posted in his office for him to read when he arrives as a part of showing him hospitality before he even personally meets most of us.

And speaking of meeting Marco, we are reminded that this coming Sunday, August 23rd, we will have an opportunity to meet Marco at the pastoral charge service at Okotoks United. Then on Wednesday, August 26th at 10 we will have a further opportunity to share some time with Marco at St. Andrew's United. Hope to see everyone on the 23rd and 26th.

- P. Marie Wedderburn



"If at first you don't succeed, then skydiving definitely isn't for you."  
- Steven Wright



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