

A Gaetz Memorial Publication: Roots & Wings

Fall 2026



Minister's Musings:

How Can We Keep From Singing



It was late in the year of 2017, when I walked into my interview at Gaetz Memorial United Church, was offered a cup of tea, and invited to engage with a panel of people with tough questions and tea cups in hand. I somehow had a feeling that this was where I belonged. This is the place, toward which my paths have led. It was welcoming, affirming, and right smack dab in the heart of the city where all the action is. It was much different from rural ministry that I had become accustomed to, but I was ready for the change.

Over the last 8.5 years, we have overcome many challenges together, the biggest one being a world-wide pandemic that forced us to close our doors, and left us no choice but to offer care and service online. We've shared broken hearts as we honored the lives of mentors and loved ones who have passed. Our hearts have swelled as we have watched our youth grow and flourish into the beautiful people they have become. We have widened the circle of community, sharing our vision of welcome and belonging for all.

It has been a great honor to walk this journey with this community of faith and with the greater community of Red Deer.

This is indeed a time of harvest; of gathering what has been good, blowing away the chaff and sowing the seed that will continue to give life to Gaetz United Church ministries of all kinds as we grow in different directions, sharing very similar vision, and values.

This will be my last submission to Roots and Wings – Gaetz Memorial United Church Newsletter, and I know I carry with me the songs we have sung, the love we have shared, the seeds we have sown within the hearts of one another.

In the words of the beloved old song by Robert S. Lowery, (Our lives) flow on in endless song... ..how can we keep from singing?

Submission by Rev Leila Currie



Upcoming Services

OCTOBER

October 4 - 10:30 a.m.—World Communion Day

October 11 - 10:30 a.m.—Thanksgiving Sunday, Food Bank donations

NOVEMBER

November 1 - 10:30 a.m.— All Saints Day

November 22 - 10:30 a.m.— Reign of Christ Sunday and Communion

DECEMBER

December 6 - 10:30 a.m.—Giving Sunday—Gaetz Ringers Playing

Tuesday December 15 - 7:00 p.m.—Service of Comfort - Led by Rev. Margaret Lange

Thursday December 24 - 7:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Service

December 27 - 10:30 a.m.—Christmas Carol Service

Search Committee

The Board established a Search Committee responsible for the recruitment of a Minister for the Gaetz Memorial United Church. The United Church of Canada Guidelines for recruitment of ministerial personnel requires that several steps be undertaken prior to posting an available position. The first step requires the development of a Community of Faith Profile for approval by the Chinook Winds Region. The profile is nearing completion and is expected to be submitted to the Region for approval shortly. The second step is seek input from the congregation, and that step is expected to be undertaken in early October. Only after these steps are undertaken, will we be permitted to submit a job description for the Region's approval.

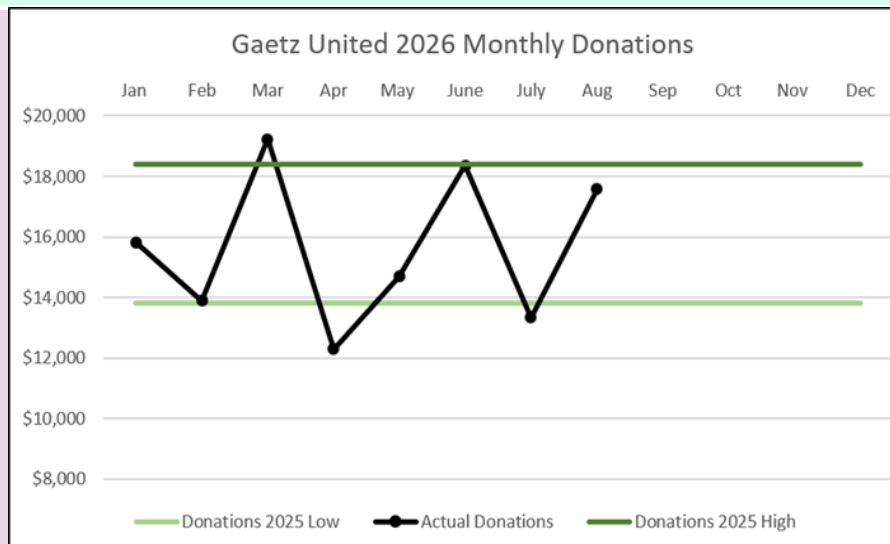
The Committee members had a fairly steep learning curve in order to understand what needed to be done, and have worked hard over the last few weeks to achieve what has been accomplished to date. The process of hiring a Minister under the United Church of Canada guidelines is not simple, but it is a process that is intended to ensure that the candidate is a good fit to the needs of the congregation.

~Joanne Fairlie, Brenda Reid, Ray Yaworski, Kathleen McLaren, Carolyn Neufeld, Stee Marcinek

Words From The Treasurer

Donations received from congregants monthly is shown graphically in Figure 1 below. In 2025, 11 months of donations ranged from a low of \$13,818 (light green line) to a high of \$18,401 (dark green line). December 2025 was \$36,842 when major donations are not included.

Regular donations in June were \$18,362, July were \$13,333, August was \$17,576, near both the 2025 low and high months.



Ministry & Personal

The Ministry and Personnel Committee would like to wish Leila Currie the very best as she retires from her position as the minister, and spiritual leader of our congregation at Gaetz Memorial United Church.

Leila has been a true blessing to our congregation. She has a very healthy curiosity about the spiritual realm and has continually sought educational avenues such as workshops and retreats to add to her knowledge and share with the congregation.

Leila has provided faithful service and guidance in all aspects of the church community with her knowledge, ideas, and hard work. Her gentle heart and compassion has been felt by all who know her, especially when she provided meaningful services in funerals, baptisms, weddings, grief counselling, and communion services to name a few.

As a committee we have been very privileged to work with Leila over her years at GMUC. As a congregation we have been very blessed to have her as our minister.

There is no expiry date on ministry. Leila will continue to care for those in need, just in different ways.

As a congregation we have been very blessed to have had her as our minister.

May God bless your next journey with health and happiness Leila.

Leila, may God bless your next journey with continued compassion, empathy, health and happiness.

Camp Bonaventure Red Deer

This past summer, we were blessed to call Gaetz United Church our home base for our summer camp, Camp Bonaventure. We want to extend our deepest gratitude to the entire Gaetz community for welcoming us with open arms and sharing your space. Thanks to your hospitality, we were able to run an inclusive day camp where children of all abilities could experience the fun and excitement of summer camp. If you would like to learn more about Between Friends and what we do, feel free to reach out to me at swheeler@betweenfriends.ab.ca.

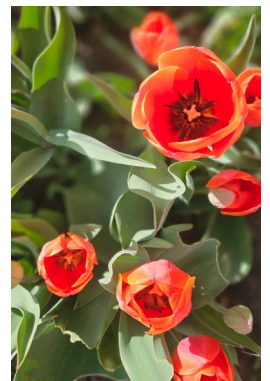
Thank you!

Steven Wheeler
Program Manager
Between Friends



Big Thank You

Thanks to our property team for their diligent work through the summer to keep our church and yard looking like a pleasing place for all creatures great and small.



A Message from Stewardship

Jesus teaches us that giving should be inextricably tied to our spiritual lives.

One biblical indication of giving is the story of the widow's offering (Mark 12:41-44) where Jesus sat with his disciples in the temple and witnessed many wealthy people contributing large amounts.

He pointed out that the small gift made by the poor woman emphasized that she gave all she had.

We learn that Jesus encouraged giving from the heart, regardless of the amount.

Thank you for your contribution to the work and ministry of Gaetz Memorial United Church.

Stewardship Team

Blessings

Rosemary Congdon, Sue Schollie, Lorna Watkinson-Zimmer

Worship Events Team

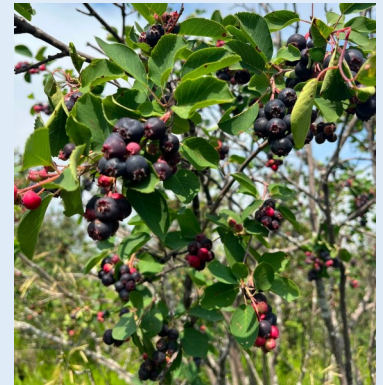
As I write, I enjoy the wonders of Creation. Travelling east on #1 by Medicine Hat, clouds are so low they almost touch the ground... moisture nourishes and all trees have bright green leaves! Note bigger herds of Black Angus, building has returned. By Pense, a few small poplars show yellow leaves... never before have I seen water laying in sloughs at harvest!. all the wheat lay flat on ground now, heavy rains promise late combining. Need special header and drive on an angle to pick this up. Pray for wind to dry out soil to put a combine on these drenched fields. Wind in Sask. happens every day, except today, soon combine dust will fill the air. Mother Nature at her finest and I sing old hymn Bringing in the sheaves, memories of my youth at Grand Coulee United Church and all who are now in Heaven.

October 11 is Food Bank Sunday

November 15 is Communion

Pulpit supply and Others are arranged to lead our worship.

Look forward to some Together We Worship videos booking into 2027 now.



Christian Development

Christian Development is inviting everyone to a Nostalgia Potluck on **November 29th** following the service. An advent activity will occur after the potluck. Nostalgia Potluck: bring a favourite dish that brings back memories.

December 31 Ringing in the New Year at Gaetz. Details to come.

Outreach



1. On Thanksgiving Sunday, we will be collecting food and money donations to the Red Deer Food Bank.
2. Giving Sunday will be Sunday, Dec. 6 more information/details will be forthcoming over the month of November. Recipients will be Red Deer Food Bank, Christmas Bureau, CAWES, Gifts for Grandparents.
3. Thank you to all who have been bringing donations for the food bank to the narthex. They will be delivered after Thanksgiving!

Cheers!

Karen

Gaetz United: Life in Community



Stee Marcinek, Sheila
Cunningham, Maxine
Whitehead:
Repainting the rainbow to
the Sanctuary



Red Deer Pride Week 2026



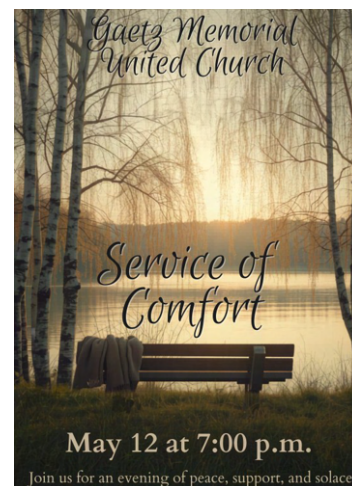
Red Deer Pride Week 2026
presentation:

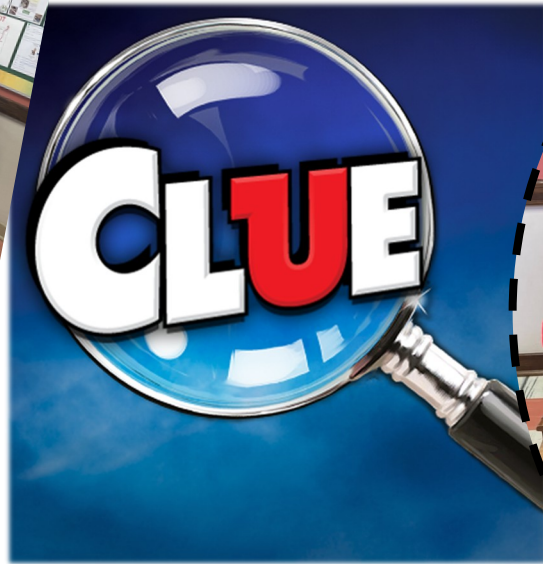
Mama Bears Documentary

[https://mamabearsdoc.com/
about-the-film/](https://mamabearsdoc.com/about-the-film/)



Spring Service of Comfort 2026





The Amazing Race 2026



WAYS TO CONNECT @ GAETZ

Gaetz United UCW (United Church Women) meets at the church in the Parlour (lower level) on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1:30 pm from September to May. All are welcome .

Men's Breakfast Group meets the 1st Friday of each month at 8:00 AM at the ABC Family Restaurant board room. (2085-50 Ave, Red Deer) All men welcome. Questions? Call Ray 403-304-2581 or email rayinreddeer@gmail.com

Ladies Who Lunch - We will join together on the LAST Monday of each month at **Albert's Family Restaurant** at 5020-47 Avenue at **11:30 a.m.** Our next luncheon will be on Monday **September 28nd** and in October we will meet on **Monday October 26th**. Come and join in for some good conversation and fellowship. Everyone pays for their own lunch.

AOTS (As One That Serves) meets the first Monday each month. Join for a meal and a devotional message from 6—7pm , then a speaker or subject of interest to follow.

October 5th will be Stewart Morgan will give a slide presentation on the culture and geography of Zambia and Senegal.

November 2 will have Linda and John Dicken will take us on a trip to Sri Lanka where they traveled with friends.

December 7 Our AOTS program, as is our tradition, will be an evening of Carol Singing with Dale Dickau and members of our choir accompanying.

January 4 On our January program, we will be entertained by the Hearts of Harmony singing group.

Deja' Brew—the first Wednesday of each month, discussions of the gifts and challenges of ageing that affect all of us in one way or another.

Prostate Cancer Support Group meets every third Thursday evening at 7:00—9:00
If you like more information call Maurice at (403) 704-3544

Walking United 2025

Join us for **Walking United**. We meet at 9:15 a.m. on Mondays at various trails in the city. Watch the announcements for dates & locations. Our walks are usually no more than 1 hour. Come when you can, no experience necessary! For more information call Caron Murray @ 403 396-2376 or Brenda Reid @ 403 346-6838.

Oct 5—Heritage Ranch

Oct 12—Kiwanis Picnic Park

Oct 19—Riverbend

Oct 26—Kerry Wood Nature Center



Please check our website and Facebook Page regularly for updates, cancellations or modifications to events and worship services. We post our live-streamed Sunday services on You Tube as well.



JOIN US.....

BE PART OF MUSIC AT GAETZ UNITED CHURCH



Gaetz Ringers:



The Gaetz Ringers are happy to be back ringing. We have new music we are excited to share with you this season. We even have some new pieces to perform with the choir. We hope to be playing monthly, so we can share our gift of music with you. If anyone is interested in joining us, we are looking for an experienced musician with good sight reading skills. We will teach you all you need to know about ringing handbells. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 6:30-8:30. Please contact Melanie or any of the

ringers.

Sanctuary Choir:

Wednesday evenings @ 7:30 with director Dale Dickau (ded851@gmail.com)

Synergy Band



The Synergy Band looks forward to another season of making music at Gaetz.

Our musical repertoire is mostly upbeat, jazzy in feel, and playable by most musicians of moderate or better ability. Our band is always looking for new players, of all ages. So if you would like to play with the band, or know of someone else who might, please consider joining Synergy. 'There is a

place for you in Synergy.' We practice for about an hour most Sunday mornings, immediately following the worship service. We perform during the service about 4 times each year.

Director; Gordon Wright at wright.gi@gmail.com or phone 403-392-7005

Coming Events

You're invited to...

Arts in the Sanctuary

Please join us for a fun afternoon of art and music!



When: Sunday, October 4 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: The Gaetz Lake Sanctuary at the Kerry Wood Nature Centre

During our fourth annual "Arts in the Sanctuary" event, visual artists and musicians will be sprinkled throughout the Kerry Wood Nature Centre making art and music. Visitors will be invited to engage with them. There will also be community art- and music-making activities suitable for all ages. Please join us!

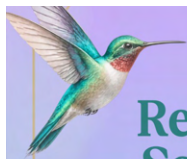
This event is co-sponsored by the Spirit of Wellness group and the Kerry Wood Nature Centre.



Spirit of Wellness needs more representation from Gaetz.

Spirit of Wellness is a collaborative initiative that includes members and ministers from both Gaetz and Sunnybrook United Churches. Together we strive to foster healthy relationship between our two communities of faith and the wider community of Red Deer. This requires communication and a desire to make positive connections and artistic expression. We meet periodically throughout the year, collaborating with such groups as Kerry Wood Nature Center, Youth Headquarters, Red Deer Jazz Association, etc.

To volunteer, please contact Suzan Yaworski at sd.yaworski@gmail.com or Ross Smillie at ross.smillie@gmail.com



Join Us For Rev. Leila Currie's Final Service and Retirement Celebration



Sunday October 4
**Service at 10:30 a.m. with
celebration to follow**

Join us for Rev. Leila Currie's last time leading the service here at Gaetz Memorial United Church. We are extremely grateful for everything that she has done for us over the years and we would like to see her off to the next chapter in her life with a music filled service and a farewell luncheon after the service with soup being provided by the United Church Women's Group.



CHILI FOR A CAUSE

\$20.00 for Lunch & a Handmade Pottery Bowl
(takeout available at the door)

11:30 a.m. until chili runs out
Wednesday, October 21, 2026
Gaetz United Church 4758 Ross St.



Photo by Sky Studios Africa

Chili
Limited Vegetarian Chili Available
Homemade Buns
Pumpkin Cupcakes
Coffee or Tea

Tickets at the Door (Visa & Mastercard Accepted)
All proceeds donated to the Stephen Lewis Foundation
www.grammalink.ca

Fall Market




Saturday, November 28
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Gaetz Memorial United Church Hall
Admission: Freewill offering

FOR SALE:
jams, jellies, pickles, baked goods, handcrafted items, jewellery, and Christmas decorations.

BAKE TABLE:
Please bring baked goods to the church on Friday morning, November 27, before 11:00 a.m.

Come enjoy muffins and tea or coffee while you browse.



CONCERTS @ GAETZ

Gaetz United Church is proud to support our local community of musical artists

September 25 @ 7:00 p.m. —
Central Alberta Chamber Orchestra

December 6 @ 4:00 p.m.—
Hearts in Harmony Fundraising Concert

December 11 @ 6:30 p.m.—
Central Alberta Chamber Orchestra




Celebrations of Life

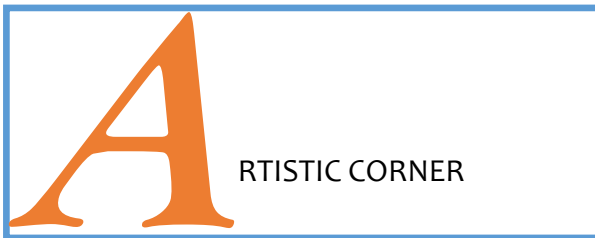


We said 'Farewell' to:

Nancy Robertson
Doug Pratt
Elizabeth McEachern

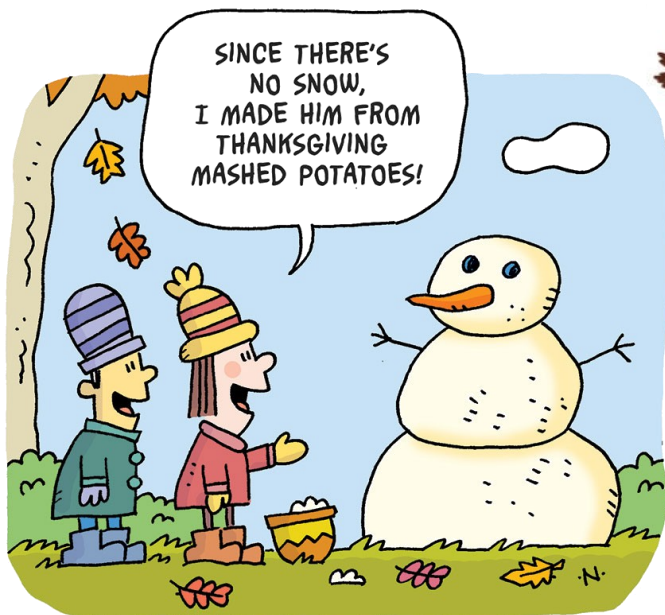
Clinton Allen
Don Cann
Len Schmode

"Goodbye may seem forever, farewell is like the end, but in my heart is a memory and there you'll always be."
~Widow Tweed, *The Fox And The Hound*



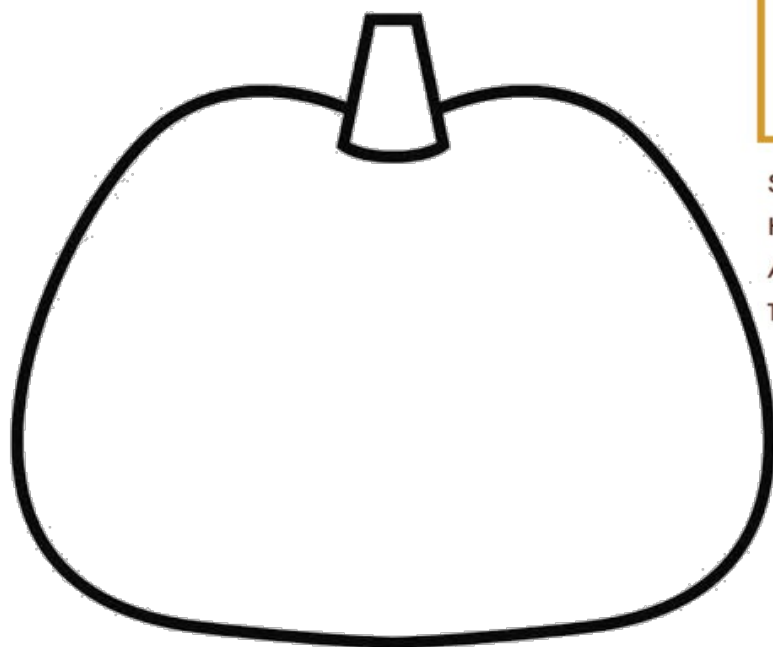
~ Sheila Wright

We are blessed by the gifts of the Gaetz Family. We invite submissions of poetry, art sketches, etc for inclusion in future editions. Creative expression is a wonderful gift from God!



Fall Word Search

P	Y	A	I	M	N	L	M	E	O	N	L	T	E	C
A	W	C	Z	G	R	Q	W	N	F	W	H	T	E	X
C	N	S	E	P	T	E	M	B	E	R	S	R	F	Y
O	Q	O	B	S	J	W	A	B	A	Q	T	E	A	U
R	X	E	V	D	I	N	U	H	M	U	J	E	L	S
N	Q	N	D	E	X	T	X	Z	A	B	T	S	L	W
S	T	G	B	C	M	A	C	O	R	R	S	U	V	K
W	A	A	N	U	X	B	D	I	C	Z	V	Z	M	R
E	H	P	C	Q	I	T	E	Y	D	T	I	E	Q	N
M	Y	P	K	C	O	C	Z	R	J	E	O	Y	S	M
L	G	L	E	M	H	U	W	J	Y	C	R	B	E	T
J	V	E	A	R	I	P	K	P	U	V	O	W	E	X
H	D	S	W	E	A	T	E	R	Y	P	O	M	Z	R
N	M	C	B	G	J	E	X	P	V	G	D	U	T	W
S	N	R	U	K	S	C	A	R	E	C	R	O	W	Y



SEPTEMBER

HARVEST

ACORNS

TREES

SCARECROW

SWEATER

CIDER

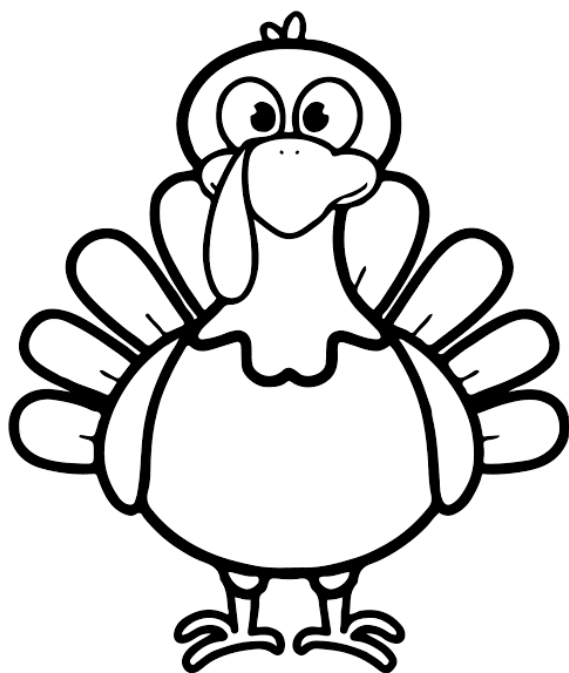
APPLES

OCTOBER

AUTUMN

FALL

NOVEMBER



Fall Word Scramble

1. MERBEETSP _____

2. SLAPEP _____

3. OWCSEACRR _____

4. UMNATU _____

5. EESWRAT _____

6. EREST _____

7. REOOTCB _____

8. BEVOMNER _____

9. LEVSAE _____

10. MNSPPKIU _____

Colorina Fall



MondayMandala.com