



Living Spirit

UNITED CHURCH

2023

Annual Report

Drayton Valley, Alberta

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Living Spirit United Church

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Acknowledging the Territory:

One: We gather in gratitude on land that is the traditional territory of the Cree, Dene, Salteaux, Nakota Sioux, and the Métis homelands.

Unison: We honor Treaty #6 and the agreements that were made and still exist on these lands. We acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past. I dedicate myself to moving forward in relationship with Indigenous people for as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the rivers flow, in a spirit of reconciliation, and collaboration.
(LSUC December 2021)

“I have heard about your faith.”

Ephesians 1: 15-19

Our Vision as a Community of Faith is to be:
Authentic, Dynamic, Accepting and Justice Seeking
(LSUC 01/23)

The Mission of Living Spirit United Church is to live into our Vision as a strong, United, Community of Faith. We do this by being explicitly, publicly, and intentionally welcoming of people of all ages, abilities, ethnicities, cultures, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, and gender identities.

We are confident in our mission because of our history and our nature.

We do this as followers of Jesus who guides us to strive for the love, compassion, and justice that he lived out and shows to all people. (LSUC 01/23)



Living Spirit United Church Statistical Information 2023

(UCC 2020 Statistical and Information Forms" to be submitted)

Number of Households under Pastoral Care (Member & Adherent) . . .	12
Number of Child Baptisms	0
Number of Marriages	0
Number of Funerals and Memorial Services Conducted	0
Members Received Through Transfer	1
Members Received Through Confirmation of Faith	1
Members Received Through Adult Baptism	0
Members Removed by Transfer	0
Members Removed by Death	0
Total Confirmed Membership Resident & Non-Resident	13



Pastoral Charge Supervisor's Message

Reverend Lynn Maki

The people of Living Spirit United Church, Drayton Valley, in reflecting on the past year of their life and work together have chosen Ephesians 1:15-19 - I have heard about your faith as the theme for the 2023 Annual Report.

This is a fine theme as it reflects a "faith that can be seen" and this congregation definitely has a faith that can be seen.

As you read this report you will see in abundance the conviction of a faith that shows itself in action for justice and wholeness in their Affirming Ministry work and in their quest to learn and to live in right relations with Indigenous friends and siblings, in the church, in the community and in our wider society. Faith in action is abundant in the partnerships engaged with agencies and programs in the community like Warming Hearts and the Food Pantries. Justice advocacy on a global scale is evident in the ongoing Fair Trade ministry.

You will see a faith lived out in pastoral ministries of caring and connection such as life passages recognized in a sharing of cards and greetings and the Graduate Gift Packs, a Prayer Shawl ministry and more.

This small but lively, clear, and dedicated community of faith is not shy about sharing its faith through social media and a well-organized and informative website. The congregation's commitment to sharing with and receiving from the wider church family in the denomination has brought and given strength and creativity, vitality and commitment, dedication, and devotion. Their commitment to being a learning community shows itself in a maturity that comes from experience that opens them to being the church in a new way.

As we read and reflect on this Annual Report, may we find boldness in hope and energy for continuing creativity grounded in a sustaining faith that shows itself in our very being and in all that we do.

"I have heard about your faith and give thanks for you every day. May God give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation" as you look with intention into God's future for you.

*The Reverend Lynn Maki
Pastoral Charge Supervisor*

Northern Spirit Regional Council Representative Report

Erin Hickman

Our primary connection with the Northern Spirit Region is through their weekly newsletter, which covers a variety of news, events, and commemorations, as well as updates on actions to be taken at all levels. As well, there are many opportunities to volunteer for committees and task groups at the regional level. My goal has been, and will continue to be, to share what is most relevant to our Community of Faith. The most important in-person gathering this year was held in at Camrose United Church from May 4-7, 2023, and was attended by Dianne Nikiforuk and myself.

Besides the ordinary business of the Regional Council, two issues of immediate importance were brought forward. The first was to bring forward and examine information regarding Remit 1:

Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization, which requires each pastoral charge council to submit a vote on whether or not to confirm, by March 31, 2024. We have shared all the information that has come to us regarding this Remit, and trust that our members will feel like they can make an informed decision at our March meeting.

The second was a motion to officially confirm the Northern Spirit Regional Council as an Affirming Council, which was passed with an overwhelming majority. Our next in person gathering will be in the Spring of 2025 – around the time of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the United Church of Canada!

*Respectfully submitted,
Erin Hickman*

Council Chair Comments

Dianne Nikiforuk

Another year has flown by – and with it, many opportunities to learn, grow and serve both in our community and within our wider church. Although few in number, we have embraced our faith, endeavouring to live with deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice. Time and talents have been shared in abundance. Warm and caring hearts bring our vision and mission to life in meaningful ways.

Early in January, Reverend Peter Chynoweth graciously and skillfully facilitated three sessions with us via Zoom. Our discussions, questions and mutual exploration guided us to our vision and mission – a meaningful framework for us moving forward.

We are deeply indebted for the support of Reverend Heather Koots as our Pastoral Charge Supervisor over these past three plus years. Her warmth and passion for pastoral care will guide us always. We look forward to new experiences, careful attention to being mindful of the polity of the UCC, and different perspectives as we welcome the guidance of Reverend Lynn Maki.

We are also deeply grateful to Reverend Ruth Lumax, First United Wetaskiwin who has led us in an exploration of Shared Ministry. Since Ruth has recently resigned from her long-term covenant with First United, the path of Shared Ministry for us is unclear at this time.

We must joyously celebrate the gifts that Carolyn Schwindt (bookkeeper), and Erin St. Louis, (webmaster/Facebook manager) of Social Collaborative bring to our efforts to be authentic and dynamic. Their skills are not ours and their contributions strengthen us.

Last, but not least, we must acknowledge the impact of the summer of fires in our region. Evacuation for many was a necessary but very unsettling experience. We are indeed blessed that our community is relatively unscathed and still standing. For many, the concern about global warming was made a little more real.

Our community of faith is small in number but strives to live with a big, open, loving, and compassionate hearts. As a reader of our 2024 Annual Report, may you conclude that we have, indeed, heard about the faith we espouse to follow.

*Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Nikiforuk*

Members and Adherents 2023

Don Baker	Pam Baker	Brenda Cartwright
Erin Hickman	Russ Hickman	Lannae Hoskins
Reta Kenworthy	Marilyn Kynoch	Hazel Lingard
Danny Ostby	Dana Sharp McLean	Dianne Nikiforuk
Carol Ulmer	Marie Young	

Administration.

- Financial and Ministry Assessment Tool submitted by Erin November 2023
- Hiring Carolyn Schwindt to manage LSUC bookkeeping, provide monthly statements going forward.
- Contract proposed with Social Collaborative, headed by Erin St. Louis to manage both our website and Facebook page in 2024.
- Camp WoHeLo offered us the digital piano given to them from the former Drayton Valley United Church. We are delighted to have it returned.
- Explored Shared Ministry with Reverend Ruth Lumax and First United Wetaskiwin. In that journey, Ruth led a beautiful Taizé worship service including Communion, served Communion at Season's Retirement Community followed by a shared meal with us and Communion following. We were invited to participate in the weekly on-line worship services by recording scriptures and other readings by us which were then inserted into the Wetaskiwin worship. We met three times via Zoom with members of Wetaskiwin UC, once in person, gathering at Warburg UC and once with Ruth alone. As noted above, the path forward is unclear at this time.
- Thanks to Don Baker (labour provided) and Russ and Erin Hickman (materials), a handrail was installed in our ramp area.
- More thanks to Don Baker for installing a toilet safety riser.

Community Outreach and Social Justice

Mission and Service Profile

“Good stewardship is not conserving and holding, protecting, and preserving. Good stewardship is growing, developing, advancing, and building the gifts with which God has blessed us.”

- Kennon L. Callahan, *Giving and Stewardship in an Effective Church: A Guide for Every Member* (San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1992)

- Total: \$8760.00
- Individual Donations: \$2400.00
- Pre-Authorized Remittance: \$6360.00

AFFIRM

affirmunited.ause.ca

As a community of faith seeking to become an affirming ministry of the United Church of Canada, Living Spirit United Church seeks to offer an open- hearted welcome to people of all gender identities, sexual orientations, abilities, races, ethnicities, ages, economic circumstances, and family configurations. Whoever you are and whatever your life stories, know that we are glad you are here. Our journey moving forward to become a recognized Affirming congregation continues to take shape.

- *Walking in Two Worlds* – decolonizing communities of faith
- *Dawn, Her Dad and the Tractor* - movie.



- PIE (Public, Intentional, and Explicit) Day March 14 – three members of LSUC shared pizza with four members of the B.E.S.T. Hub
- Pride Bench – painted by the GSA students and carefully placed outside everyday from May long weekend until the Thanksgiving long weekend.
- July 1st Parade – five (5) LSUC members (Erin, Dana, Carolyn, Carol, and Dianne) walked behind the GSA float.
- 2023 Community and Connection 2S LGBTQIA conference -Dianne listened to three sessions.
- Affirming Leader’s Day (Calgary) – attended by Carolyn Schoepp
- *Holy Runaways* – an evening with author Matthias Roberts (Dianne and Carolyn)



- National Truth and Reconciliation Week Lunch and Learn – we hosted daily sessions. One community participant attended all five. One of our community of faith (Carol) attended two sessions and one (Dianne) attended all.
- *The Bones of Crows*- provided manpower to several of the showings.
- Indigenous and Racialized Youth Retreat – Jessie Saulteaux Center was attended by Lannae Hoskins. This event is part of the Strategic Plan of the United Church that highlights three themes: bold discipleship, deep spirituality, and daring justice. The event is a concrete demonstration of the plan’s streams of justice, growth, leadership, and Indigenous pathways (it is framed around the Indigenous understanding of the Medicine Wheel). This retreat-event will also contribute to the commitment of The United Church of Canada toward becoming an anti-racist denomination.

Being Good Relations

- Being Good Relations Circle Meetings (x5 attended by Dianne)
- *Indigenous Writes* study facilitated by Grace Hussey (x5 attended by Dianne)
- June 21st National Indigenous Days we provided support to the planners by manning tipis for children/crafts. (Brenda, Carolyn, Dana, Lannae, Dianne)
- Our plans to honor the MMIWG May 5th in partnership with Elder Linda Prentice and Moosehide Campaign Day May 11th was canceled due to the evacuation of our community. Information was added to our Facebook page and www.lsucdv.ca website.
- ReDress Day honored at the Northern Spirit Regional Gathering in Camrose – Dianne helped prepare the presentation.
- Six (6) letters sent re: supporting the search of the Prairie Green Landfill
- Seven (7) attended Samson Powwow August/23 (Erin, Carol, Lannae, Dianne, Carolyn, Dana, guest Kathy Warren)



My name is Lannae Hoskins. I am a Métis high school student from Drayton Valley, Alberta, and a member of Living Spirit United Church. This fall I had the privilege and pleasure of attending the Indigenous and Racialized Youth Retreat at the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Center in Manitoba. The highlights of my time included; visiting Camp Morgan at the Brady Road Landfill and gifting them a large white banner that we made for them, which was very touching and powerful, spending time at The Forks getting souvenirs, and lastly, our visit to the Manitoba Provincial Museum where we partnered up for a competitive game of question scavenger hunt around the exhibits (which my partner and I got first place for). I also loved the meaningful discussions that we had along with the campfires where we talked and learned each other's cultural songs. Thank you UCC so much for this opportunity and I cannot wait to go again!

This thank you from Lannae was submitted to NSRC Newsletter and to the Facebook page of Being Good Relations Network (BGRN) and Chinook Winds.

- An invitation from All Saints Anglican Church to join their worship September 24th followed by a presentation by Fiona Brownlee, Aboriginal and Rural Communities Liaison, on her work with reconciliation and healing for Indigenous People, Métis, and Inuit peoples. (Erin, Carol, and Dianne attended)
- *Every Child Matters* display set up on our church grounds.
- Purchase of “Every Child Matters” T-shirts to support the founding of the Central Alberta Spiritual Center (formerly Beverley United Church, Edmonton)
- A donation of five-hundred dollars (\$500.00) to the Central Alberta Spiritual Center
- *The Holy Bible* written in Cree presented to Charlene Burns to be housed in and used by attendees of the Central Alberta Spiritual Center.

Care of Creation Town and Country Garden Tour

The tour of eight (8) beautiful and unique gardens, set for July 15, 2023, brought in \$580.00 to be donated to Canadian Food Grains Bank. Gardening in this area in 2023 was not for the faint of heart – extreme heat, hail, fire damage and grasshoppers were some of the challenges but like all farmers, they approached the hurdles with the standard “next year”.

Fair Trade

Fair Trade www.fairtrade.ca Since 2006 in Drayton Valley!

We are grateful to Wayne Cartwright for his meticulous bookkeeping. Thank you!

Erin and Lannae have contributed significant time setting up and selling products at the various events. Dianne manages ordering, transporting, labeling, bookings, deposits, between market sales, and working at events.

Our sale of Fair Trade products has a positive influence in the lives of many people and in many ways, including:

- Human Rights • Child Labour • Worker's Rights • Decent Livelihoods • Forced Labour • Climate Justice • Gender Equality

Our successful application to Fair Trade Canada once again awarded us the designation of “Fair Trade Faith Group Designation” for this year.



Being awarded this certification is bittersweet in that we are the only Faith Group in Alberta so named. The application requires information on the items sold, how much is sold in the previous year and where we promote the products and the concepts of fair trade.

Our products come from five different companies:

1. Camino-La Siembra Cooperative chocolate products established in 1999. Camino is a Canadian brand of fair trade and organic food products, owned by La Siembra Co-operative, based in the Ottawa-Gatineau region. La Siembra Co-operative became the first registered importers of Fairtrade Certified cocoa and sugar in North America and today works with 25 producer co-ops, supporting more than 47,500 family farmers in 14 countries.



- 2. Just Us!** was a trailblazer in the coffee industry as the first fair trade coffee roaster in Canada, starting a movement that led to many other fair trade roasters in Canada. It was founded in Nova Scotia in 1995.
- 3. Level Ground Trading** – situated in Saanich, BC. Most of our products come from this company. Established in 1997.
- 4. Zatoun** – a Palestinian -Israeli peace effort. Zatoun is a unique project offering fair trade olive oil from Palestine to connect people in North America to the history, culture and challenges of the Palestinian people and the land of Palestine. Established in 2004, Zatoun urges use of symbolic and cultural products from Palestine to raise awareness of a very troubled land desperately needing a just resolution for the sake of world peace.



5. We are grateful to **Village Goods** in Edmonton (formerly Ten Thousand Villages) for selling products to us that we could not purchase on our own because of minimum volume orders needed.

Fair Trade Products

- Coffee 22- 5 pound boxes = 110 pounds
- 71 bags@300gm = 42.5 pounds
- Tea 56 boxes 9 loose
- Dried Fruit - 30 bags
- Chocolate Bars – 16 cases (160 bars)
- Milk Hot Chocolate - 2 cases (12 cans)
- Dark Hot Chocolate – 3.5 cases (20 cans)
- Cocoa – 5 cans
- Cocoa nibs – 6 bags
- Cane Sugar – 20 lbs.
- Cinnamon – 4 bags
- Vanilla Beans – 3 pkgs.
- Zatoun Olive Oil – 15 @750 ml
- Zatoun Olive Oil – 12@ 500 ml
- Zatoun olive oil bars - 8

Promotion & Sales Events

- DV Home Expo x1
- DV Night Market x1
- CWL Christmas Tea x1
- DV Farmer’s Market x12

Tools 4 School Donations 2023

Erin, Brenda, Dianne, and Carol worked together to coordinate this ministry. Cash donations this year totaled two thousand nine-hundred fifty dollars. (\$2950.60)

Tools 4 School Supplies

Sheet Protectors	1 box of 500
.	2 pks of 10
Glue Sticks	1 box (300?), 6 individuals
Glue Bottles	9
Scissors	1
Pencils	3 pks of 24
.	9 pks of 20
.	7 pks of 10
.	12 pks of 4
.	5 pks of 150
Hole Punch	1
Pencil Cases	5
Duotangs	40
Pens blue	190
Pens mixed	1 pkg of 10
Calculators	2 Scientific
.	2 mathematical
Mechanical Pencils	2 pks of 8, 1 pk of 4
Dry Erase Boards (small)	3
Erasers	250
Coil Back Scribblers	13
White Out Bottles	4 pks of 2
Hilroy Scribblers	4 pks of 4
Composition Books	4
Rulers' short plastic	5 pks of 20
Rulers	2 wooden, 1 plastic
High Lighters	1 box of 144
.	4 pks of 4, 1 pk of 2,
.	18 individual
Loose-leaf	3 pks
.	1 pk of graph paper
Mathematical Set	1
Binders	1 1 1/2", 6 1"
Dry Erase Markers	3 pks of 4, 3 pks of 6,
.	1 pk of 3
Post its	1 pkg.

Primary Scribblers	23
Sharpies	1
Paint Boxes	3
Pencil Crayons	7 pks 24, 2pks 12,
.	1 pk 48, 1 pk 50,
.	2 pks 20
.	1 large box of 100
.	pks of 12
Pencil Sharpeners	8
Markers	2 pks 20, 1 pk 10
Locker Locks	2
Scotch Tape	2

Items Requested and Purchased with Cash Donations

Art Supplies	
Scissors	4 pks of 6
Calculators	Graphing 11
Scientific	10
Mathematical	10
Zippered Binders	10
Loose-leaf	8 pks of 400
Binders	10 -1 1/2 "
.	11- 1"
Duotangs	20
Hilroy Scribblers	5 pks of 4
Sketch Books	20
Half Lined Scribblers	30
Headphones	20
Zippered Pencil Cases	6

Retail Participants

Ink Pot Press
 Rexall Drug
 Value Drug
 Walmart
 Drayton Valley Bakery
 Petro Canada North

Cash Donors

Home Hardware
 Carol Lapointe
 Tim & Gabe Frey
 Drayton Valley Ford



Family Violence Awareness Month

is November. LSUC responded with a donation to the Pembina Crisis Connection Society (PCCS) and the installation of a purple light bulb and sign in the front window of our church. Thanks to Don Baker for creating the purple symbol.



- Homelessness Definition Presentation by Lola Strand FCSS April 17th.
- Food Security Presentation by Merv Leibel RD, AHS June 12th
- A Naloxone kit has been situated in a highly visible location in our kitchenette. A you-tube tutorial was viewed, and a sample syringe filled with water provided further learning and practice.
- White Gift contributions went to Bissell Center in Edmonton.
- Christmas Eve offertory was donated to Warming Hearts.
- LSUC was requested to locate a baptismal certificate on behalf of a member of the local homeless community. The search was successful, and a copy presented to a very grateful recipient.
- LSUC coordinated and funded a return trip to Edmonton for a member of the Edmonton homeless community who found herself abandoned here.
- LSUC supported the efforts of a young woman in a wheelchair to safely leave our community and get to Whitecourt where she would have mores resources and supports.



Homelessness and Poverty Reduction

Local Homelessness Forum – Dianne attended the quarterly meetings.

We continue to work in partnership with Warming Hearts by acting as hosts for two of the three Food Pantries. Thanks to the generosity of the community, particularly Sobey's IGA and the Drayton Valley Bakery, and the commitment of Warming Hearts volunteers to deliver the items to the pantries, many of our residents who are unhoused, couch surfing, or one step away from becoming unhoused receive sufficient carbohydrates. At times the pantries are completely emptied. Several of our members have added protein items to help augment available nutrition. We also make monthly contributions of food items to the Drayton Valley Food Bank which serves a different population.



Denomination and Community

- Shrove Tuesday- All Saints Anglican Church graciously hosted this year.
- World Day of Prayer, March 03, 2023 - LSUC hosted women from All Saints Anglican Church and St. Anthony Roman Catholic Church. Ten (10) women gathered for the first time since the coming of the pandemic. This year's service was prepared by the women of Taiwan.
- Northern Spirit Regional Meeting in Camrose May 4-6
Erin and Dianne attended on behalf of LSUC. About one-hundred fifty (150) people participated in the three- day event. Dianne was a member of the planning committee and valued the connection with the people of the wider church. We were invited to bring our Fair Trade products to the display area and sales were brisk. The days flowed smoothly with joyful sharing and conversation. Key points of business included: Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization. The comparison was made of a wampum belt, where there are parallel lines of colors and beads all leading to one path. The second resolution passed saw Northern Spirit Regional Council designated as an Affirming Council.



Refugee Settlement

The Al Abbas family, Mahmoud, Roukaya and their four (4) daughters, continue to grow and thrive in their newly adopted country. Mahmoud continues to work steadily, Roukaya continues working to achieve her GED and the four girls are now all in school and thriving.

Zafer Al Husin, cousin of Roukaya, has been seeking an opportunity to immigrate to Canada. After two years with Carol and Dianne approaching countless employers, an opportunity has been secured, thanks to Carol. It is hoped that Zafer will arrive here within the next year, upon completion of all the government documentation and process.

The Ali Al Abbas family (brother to Mahmoud) and his family of wife and six children are anxiously awaiting the opportunity to come. It is anticipated that the application form will be completed and submitted early in 2024.

Immigration Symposium sponsored by the Town of Drayton Valley was a full day of speakers, discussions and Q&A. Dianne attended on behalf of LSUC.

Dianne and Carol continue to bring energy to this community effort.

Faith Formation and Christian Education

- Webinar: “Collaborative Ministry in the Rural Church” attended by Dana Sharp McLean
- The First Nations Indigenous Translation of the New Testament was purchased.
- Wildrose Indigenous Education Conference – April 12, 2023. Dianne and Brenda attended courtesy of an invitation from the Drayton Valley Community Outreach School as a token of gratitude for the school supplies LSUC has provided.
- Good Courage: Daily Reflections on Hope Lenten study five (5) sessions
- Learning for Lent six (6) sessions – attended by Dianne
- Placing Ourselves in Colonization – three sessions led by Reverend Tony Snow, Adele Halliday, Elaine Enns, and Ched Myers. Attended by Dianne.
- The National Center for Truth and Reconciliation is offering five (5) days of Lunch ‘n Learn sessions from September 25-September 29/23 Dianne acted as hostess. Carol attended two sessions and a community member attended four of the five sessions.
 - Day 1: Indigenous peoples and the History of Residential Schools
 - Day 2: Unconscious bias and debunking stereotypes
 - Day 3: Intergenerational impacts and ongoing systemic discrimination
 - Day 4: Indigenous peoples’ rights and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
 - Day 5: Taking action toward Reconciliation



Leadership 2023

Our Leadership Team is comprised of three persons:

- Council Chair: Dianne Nikiforuk
- Treasurer: Erin Hickman
- Recording Secretary: Brenda Cartwright

Called to be Church: The Journey – a stewardship webinar series of four (4) was attended by Dianne. Part of the series included writing “A Case for Support”, a comprehensive overview of our community of faith. Portions of this document were then used to complete the “Canada Helps” profile.

One of the themes focused on the importance of creating a website that is relevant, interesting, and active. Examples were provided. Dianne researched many sites and prepared the content followed by submission to Social Collaborative to be polished before going live in May, 2023. Erin prepared the comprehensive calendar featuring significant dates for Christian, Indigenous observances, anti-racist and Affirm dates. Our website www.lsucdv.ca continues to receive positive feedback.

The end of 2023 saw LSUC shift to combine our two social media efforts under the guidance of Social Collaborative. Facebook and website promotion of our Christmas Eve service prompted a family of four (4) to join us.



Children's Book Titles

Alary, Laura – “Victor’s Pink Pyjamas”
Bannatyne-Cugnet - “A Prairie Alphabet”
Bea, Holly – “Where Does God Live?”
Carlstrom, Nancy White- Does God Know How to Tie Shoes?
Sinclair, Donna “Tommy’s Angel”

Adult Book Titles

Black, Coyle, “What’s That Funny Look on Your Faith?”
Blooming, Ellen P.& Seaburn, Paul “Church Chuckles”
Bolton, Martha “A Funny Thing Happened to Me on My Way through the Bible”
Cawley, Janet R. “Who Is Our Church?”
Connelly, “Wait – Is This Racist?”
Cole, Desmond, “The Skin We Are In”
Colwell, Matthew “Sabbath Economics: Household Practices”
Cowie, Ian “Prayers & Ideas for Healing Services”
Dungan, Nathan “Money Sanity Solutions -Linking Money & Meaning”
Fischer, Kathleen “Women at the Well - Feminist Perspectives on Spiritual Direction”
Glass, Paul S. “Creative Ideas for Using Scripture in Worship”
Giuliano, David “Postcards from the Valley -Encounters with Fear, Faith, and God”
Harrison, Allen F. and Bramson, Robert M. “The Art of Thinking”
Kimmerer, Robin Wall “Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants”
Kizinna, Doris e. “Go Deep -Spiritual Practices for Youth Ministry”
MacQueen, Gailand “Celebrating the Labyrinth”
McCollough, Charles “The Art of Parables”
Morgan, Robert J. “Then Sings My Soul”
Myers, Ched and Colwell, Matthew “Our God Is Undocumented - Biblical Faith and Immigrant Justice”
Myers, Ched and Andy Loving “From Mammon to Manna: Sabbath Economics and Community Investing” DVD
www.bcm-net.org.

Peck, M. Scott MD. “People of the Lie – the Hope for Healing Human Evil”
Pinsky, Mark I. “The Gospel According to the Simpsons the Spiritual Life of the Most Animated Family”
Reeves, Nancy “A Match Made in Heaven – Deepening Your Relationship with God”
Sanguin, Bruce “If Darwin Prayed – Prayers for Evolutionary Mystics”
Schmidt, Donald “Beloved -Being Gay and Christian”
Schmidt, Donald “Creation for Progressive Christians” (X2)
Schmidt, Donald “Death of Jesus for Progressive Christians”
Schmidt, Donald “Hebrew Scriptures Women in the Bible for Progressive Christians”
Schmidt, Donald “New Testament Women in the Bible for Progressive Christians 1”
Schmidt, Donald “New Testament Women in the Bible for Progressive Christians 2”
Schmidt, Donald “The Bible and Homosexuality for Progressive Christians”
Shepherd, Loraine MacKenzie, “Thriving Churches, Urban and Rural Successes”
Smith, Alydia “Good Courage: Daily Reflections of Hope”
Spangler, Ann & Syswerda, Jean E. “Women of the Bible - A One Year Devotional Study of Women of the Scripture”
Thames & Hudson “The Book of Kells”
“The 365 Day Bible Trivia Challenge - Five Questions A Day to Test Your Scripture Smarts”
Woodbury, Clair& Madsen, Joyce “Leadership for Today - Putting Jesus’ Model to Work for You”
Wilson, Lois M. “Nuclear Waste – Exploring the Ethical Dilemmas”
Vermette, Katherena, “the Strangers”
Vowel, Chelsea “Indigenous Writes”
Wolfe, William D. “A Message in a Minute-Lighthearted Minidramas for Churches”
Wotton, Sally Armour “Staging the Story – New Plays for Worship and Church Gatherings”





Our *Facebook* page recorded: 104 Follows and 121 Likes in 2023.



Dana has coordinated our Facebook page but is moving to a new community and new opportunities. We are grateful for her contributions and wish Glenn and Dana the very best going forward.

The series concluded with our leadership team meeting on-line with Reverend Roger Janes to review “A Stewardship Analysis Report for Living Spirit United Church” by the stewardship team leading the series. Brenda, Erin, and Dianne all participated in this discussion.

- Vision and Mission for LSUC created under the facilitator guidance of Reverend Peter Chynoweth.
- *Good Courage: Daily Reflections of Hope* – a Lenten series facilitated by Rev. Stephen Fetter. Dianne provided weekly opportunity to join series at LSUC Church.
- Northern Spirit Regional Annual Meeting held in Camrose attended by Erin and Dianne. Dianne provided further input by being part of the planning committee.
- Lenten Study “Indigenous Writes” series of six facilitated by Grace Hussey attended by Dianne.
- PIE Day March 14th - Erin, Carolyn and Dianne shared pizza with four members of the BEST Youth Hub (Brazeau Empowerment and Support Team) and their navigator, Lisa Bell.
- Webinar: “What to Consider When Investing: Strengthening the Future of the United Church” attended by Dianne.



Pastoral Care

Caring and Sharing

- Birthday – twenty-three (23) cards
- Get Well – ten (10) cards
- Sympathy – four (4) cards
- Thank you – twenty-six (26) cards
- Other – sixty (60) cards and seasonal messages.

Cookies for Caring and Sharing

Paper bags delightfully decorated by Brenda Cartwright were filled with delicious homemade cookies and delivered to our less mobile members, neighbours, and community partners.

Communion

Under the warm and welcoming guidance of Reverend Ruth Lumax, First United Wetaskiwin, we were able to offer Communion to nine (9) residents of Seasons Retirement Community in December. All present found it meaningful and expressed the desire for LSUC to coordinate further opportunities to offer this sacrament.

Singing at Seasons

June was our first gathering at our local Seasons Retirement Community to share in the joy of singing several of our favourite hymns, both old and new. We are especially delighted to offer this monthly gathering to share time with Hazel Lingard and Reta Kenworthy, long time dedicated choir members now residing at Seasons. Sadly, we were unable to share time and song in October due to an outbreak of influenza.

We are also grateful to the NSRC office in Kirk Center, Edmonton for their contribution of twenty-four copies of Voices United, now housed at Seasons for our monthly gatherings. Brenda is coordinating with the staff at Seasons and planning the choices of music for each gathering.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl ministry continues to be the cornerstone of our Pastoral Care. In 2023, we presented nine shawls to community members who felt it would have meaning for them.

Several women contribute to the creation of the shawls, either knit or crocheted with fibre provided by LSUC. Hazel Lingard, at the tender age of ninety years young continues to be the anchor for this ministry. We are grateful for the efforts of Dawn Cartwright, Emily Hickman, Kathy Peters and Carolyn Lind. We have also been gifted with a number of shawls from generous folk wanting to contribute as they are able.

Sadly, Carolyn passed away December 25th at the age of seventy-nine. Carolyn shared in our ministry for the past three years- something she had always longed to participate in. The last shawl she had crocheted for us had been blessed and was waiting to be chosen. We agreed to present the shawl to Carolyn's family with a thank you from us for her dedication and enthusiasm in these final years. Dianne attended the funeral of behalf of LSUC. We are grateful to Carolyn and we will remember

Self-Care

- Shrove Tuesday- a time we gather for fellowship and the traditional foods of pancakes, sausages, whipped cream, and strawberries.
- Star Light- the first Sunday of Advent we break bread together and "make a joyful noise" when we light (plug in) our Star of the East. It is unplugged January 7th
- Carols and Cocoa – the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's is highlighted by a simple service featuring carols, both old and new, as well as some of their history. The video's created by Ron Klusmeier intersperse our singing and we gather for delicious Fair Trade cocoa following our worship.
- Mug and Muffin - time to share conversation, a tea or coffee and some light nutrition after our worship services.

Worship.

- Reverend Heather Koots led a very special worship service on June 11, 2023. As well as Communion, we welcomed Lannae Hoskins by confirmation and Carolyn Schoepp by reaffirmation of faith.
- Taizé Worship led by Reverend Ruth Lumax complemented by the PowerPoint created by Erin. Communion was served during this worship service.
- Reverend Ruth Lumax offered Communion at Seasons Retirement Community, December 17th followed by a meal at LSUC and a liturgy offering Communion to our community of faith.

We continued to worship with the on-line services offered weekly by First United, Wetaskiwin, led by Reverend Lumax. On occasion, when Wetaskiwin worship was unavailable, LSUC would join Ponoka/Bashaw United. Starting in November, LSUC members took turns recording the scriptures, Advent Candle Lighting liturgy and Mission and Vision stories. We recorded and forwarded to Wetaskiwin to be inserted into the appropriate Sunday worship.

The liturgical seasons, recognized by the colors used in the decorating, were changed at the appropriate times with the addition of the symbols of the season. Brenda and Dianne provided leadership in this ministry.

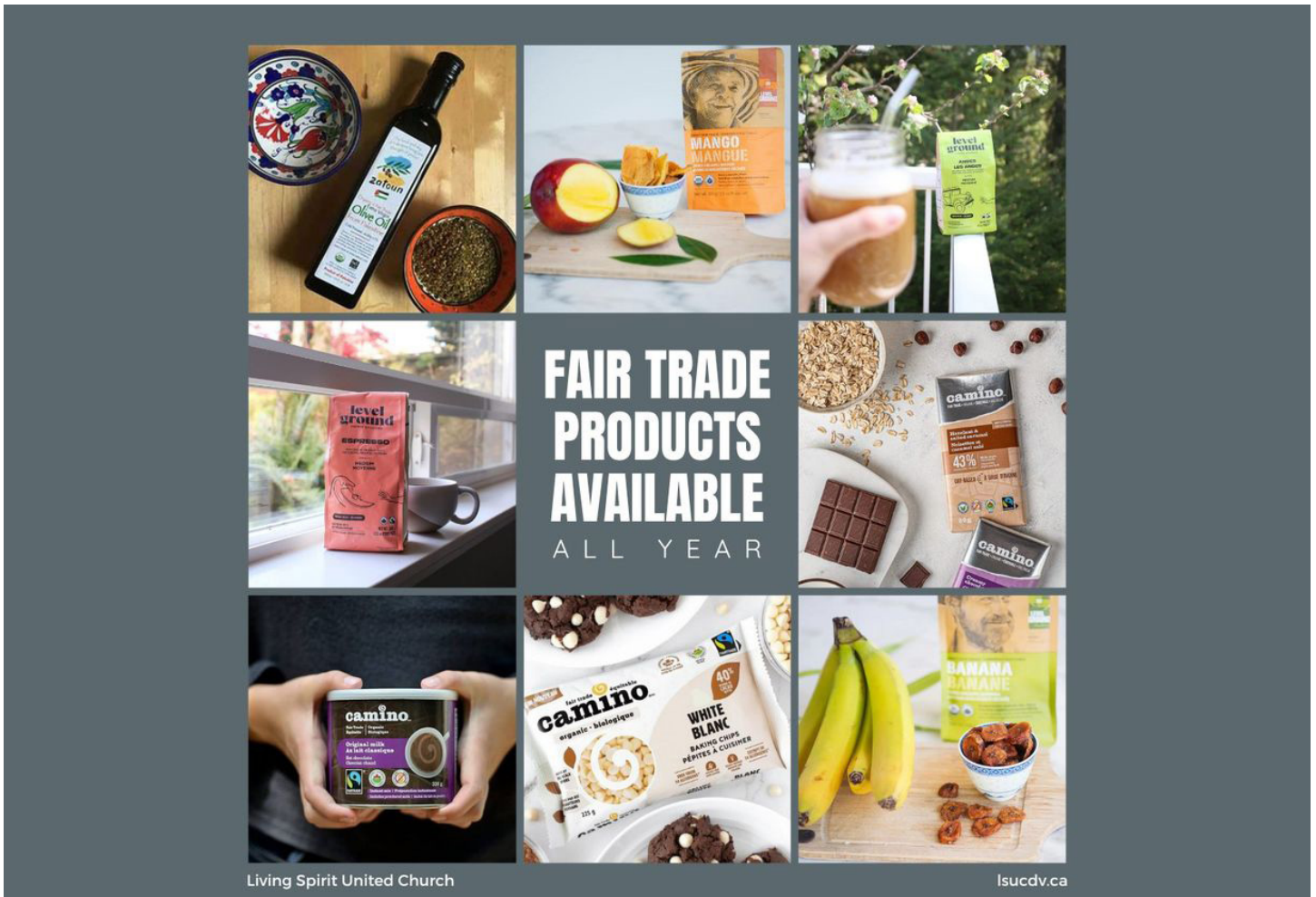


Fair Trade Statement - Living Spirit United Church (Drayton Valley)

Date	Details	Invoice#	Chq #	Credit	Debit	Balance	Statement
Jan1 2023	Balance forward					\$1,120.72	
Jan 13 2023	Level Ground	W50854			\$212.00		
Jan 30 2023	ATB deposit			\$319.00		\$1,439.72	\$1,439.72
Feb 15 20023	Level Ground	W51089			\$243.00		
Mar 6 2023	ATB deposit			\$171.00		\$1,610.72	
Mar 12 2023	D Nikiforuk	854, 089	7		\$455.00	\$1,155.72	
Mar 24 2023	Level Ground	W51370			\$244.58		
Mar 28 2023	Level Ground	W51388			\$224.00		
Mar 31 2023	Bank Balance						\$1,610.72
Apr 4 2023	ATB deposit			\$345.00		\$1,500.72	
April 26 2023	Level Ground	W51612			\$163.76		
Apr 30 2023	Bank Statement						
May 1 2023							\$1,500.72
May 1 2023	ATB deposit			\$307.00		\$1,807.72	
May 09 2023	Level Ground	W51704			\$188.58		
May 11 2023	ATB deposit			\$680.50		\$2,488.22	
May 13 2023	Camino	27735			\$644.25		
June 1 2023	Bank Balance						\$2,488.22
June 6 2023	ATB deposit			\$142.00		\$2,630.22	
June 8 2023	ATB deposit			\$167.50		\$2,797.72	
June 16 2023	Level ground	W52013			\$123.68		
June 18 2023	D Nikiforuk	370, 388			\$1,465.17	\$1,332.55	
		612, 704, 735					
June 23 2023	ATB deposit			\$195.00		\$1,527.55	
June 30 2023	Bank Balance						\$1,527.55
June 30 2023	Level Ground	W52096			\$187.00		
July 1 2023	Bank Balance					\$1,527.55	
July 6 2023	ATB deposit			\$252.00		\$1,779.55	
July 14 2023	Zatoun		9		\$847.00	\$932.55	
July 31 2023	Bank Balance						\$932.55
Aug 2 2023	DV Ag Society	Market tables	10		\$275.00	\$657.55	
Aug 10 2023	Level Ground	W52386			\$164.42		
Aug 10 2023	ATB deposit			\$477.00		\$1,134.55	
Aug 23 2023	ATB deposit			\$207.00		\$1,341.55	
Aug 23 2023	D Nikiforuk	13,090,386			\$475.10	\$866.45	
Aug 31 2023	Bank Balance						\$866.45
Sept 6 2023	ATB deposit			\$75.00		\$941.45	
Sept 18 2023	Level Ground	W52664			\$216.85		
Sept 28 2023	ATB deposit			\$319.00		\$1,260.45	
Sept 29 2023	Level Ground	W52276			\$215.52		
Sept 30 2023	Bank Balance						\$1,260.45

Fair Trade Statement - Living Spirit United Church (Drayton Valley) (cont.)

Date	Details	Invoice#	Chq #	Credit	Debit	Balance	Statement
Oct 5 2023	Just Us	228120			\$231.14		
Oct 10 2023	Level Ground				\$224.00		
Oct 11 2023	Village Goods	33254			\$24.00		
Oct 31 2023	Bank balance						\$1,260.45
Nov 3 2023	Mackenzie centre				\$140.00		
Nov 6 2023	ATB Deposit			\$490.00		\$1,750.45	
Nov 9 2023	Level Ground	W53118			\$107.76		
Nov 20 2023	ATB deposit			\$342.00		\$2,092.45	
Nov 23 2023	Level Ground	W53245			\$197.82		
Nov 30 2023	Bank Balance						\$2,092.45
Dec 1 2023	D Nikiforuk	120, 254, 848, 761 120, 254, 848, 761			\$1,217.09	\$875.36	
Dec 5 2023	ATB Deposit	664118245		\$156.00		\$1,031.36	
Dec 11 2023	ATB Deposit			\$432.00		\$1,463.36	
Dec 27 2023	ATB Deposit			\$338.50		\$1,801.86	
Dec 30 2023	Bank Balance						\$1,801.86



Balance Sheet 2023 - Living Spirit United Church (Drayton Valley)

Living Spirit United Church (Drayton Valley)			
Balance Sheet			
As at December 31, 2023			
ASSETS			
<i>Current Assets</i>			
	Chequing Account	27,864.64	
	GIC #1	20,860.00	
	GIC #2	80,000.00	
	Accounts Receivable		
		<u>128,724.64</u>	
<i>Capital Assets</i>			
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>128,724.64</u>	
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
<i>Current Liability</i>			
	Accounts Payable	1,331.04	
<i>Long Term Liabilities</i>			
Total Current Liabilities		<u>1,331.04</u>	
<i>Equity</i>			
	Retained Earnings Previous Year	128,274.14	
	Current Earnings	- 880.54	
Total Equity		<u>127,393.60</u>	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		<u>128,724.64</u>	
Reviewed and Approved By:		Reviewed and Approved By:	
Name:		Name:	
Position:		Position:	
Signature:		Signature:	
Date:		Date:	

Income Statement 2023 - Living Spirit United Church (Drayton Valley)

Income Statement			
for the Year Ending December 31, 2023			
	2023 - YTD		2022
Revenues			
Local (Pre Authorized Remittance)	14,100.00		
Local	5,090.00		
Subtotal Tax Receiptable Donations	19,190.00		
Mission & Service (PreAuthorizedRemittance)	6,360.00		
Mission & Service (Local)	2,400.00		
Tools4Schools	2,685.00		
Canadian Foodgrains Bank	100.00		
Subtotal Identifiable Donations	11,545.00	30,735.00	36,805.00
Unidentifiable	627.20		
Subtotal Unidentifiable Donations	627.20		1,025.00
Broadview subscriptions	125.00		25.00
Care of Creation tickets	580.00		915.00
NSRC Transfer			110,296.89
Bank Interest	4,428.65		17.42
Subtotal Other Revenue	5,133.65		
Total Revenue	36,495.85		38,787.42
Expenses			
Administration	5,665.54		3,751.89
Comm.Outreach/Social Justice	4,320.92		7,309.66
Stewardship	84.00		54.85
Faith Formation/Christian Ed.	1,496.02		210.62
Leadership	-		-
Pastoral Care	474.47		555.74
Self Care	-		1,085.70
Mission & Service	6,360.00		
Worship	15,230.10		14,967.52
UCC Mission & Service Fund	2,300.00		9,055.00
Bank fees	50.00		4.20
GST Paid	924.80		
Miscellaneous	470.54		287.60
Total Expenses	37,376.39		37,282.78
Net Income	- 880.54		1,504.64
Reviewed and Approved By:			
Name:		Name:	
Position:		Position:	
Signature:		Signature:	
Date:		Date:	

Proposed Budget 2024 - Living Spirit United Church (Drayton Valley)

Living Spirit United Church - Drayton Valley Proposed Budget 2024			
		<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Budget 2024</u>
Revenue			
	Local (PAR)	14,100.00	11,300.00
	Local	5,090.00	4,300.00
	M&S (PAR)	6,360.00	6,200.00
	M&S (Local)	2,400.00	1,500.00
	M&S (Special)		500.00
	Tools 4 Schools	2,685.00	1,500.00
	Canadian Foodgrains Bank	100.00	100.00
	Unidentifiable donations	627.20	
	Broadview subscriptions	125.00	125.00
	Care of Creation tickets	580.00	500.00
	NSRC Transfer		
	Bank Interest	4,428.65	4,420.00
Total Revenue		36,495.85	30,445.00
			-
			-
Expenses			
	Administration	5,665.54	7,000.00
	Comm.Outreach/Social Justice	4,320.92	5,000.00
	Stewardship	84.00	100.00
	Faith Formation/Christian Ed.	1,496.02	700.00
	Leadership	-	200.00
	Pastoral Care	474.47	500.00
	Self Care	-	250.00
	Worship	15,230.10	15,000.00
	Mission & Service (PAR)	6,360.00	6,000.00
	UCC Mission & Service Fund	2,300.00	2,200.00
	Bank fees	50.00	50.00
	GST Paid	924.80	1,000.00
	Miscellaneous	470.54	50.00
Total Expenses		37,376.39	38,050.00
Net Income		- 880.54 actual	- 7,605.00 projected

Treasurer's Report 2023 - Living Spirit United Church (Drayton Valley)

Treasurer's Report

This year has been productive in terms of creating a more efficient and effective financial system for Living Spirit.

Highlights:

- Set up e-transfer for donations
- Hired Carolyn Schwindt of 5S Farmhouse Bookkeeping to keep our books and create our reports
- Developed a new expense form to create more clarity for our bookkeeper
- Completed the UCC statistics form and CRA T3010 form in a timely manner
- Submitted our annual assessment to The United Church of Canada

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Hickman, Treasurer

Financial Report 2023 accepted as presented Living Spirit United Church ACM 2024.



What Sort of Church Do We Want?

Group 1: We want an old-fashioned church.

All: A church where we can sing the good old hymns.

Group 2: We want a church in tune with the contemporary world.

All: A church with music that rocks, a band with guitars and drums.

Group 1: We want an old-fashioned church.

All: A church where we sit, have tea, and visit with those no longer able to come to worship.

Group 2: We want a church in tune with the contemporary world.

All: A church where contact is instant, using social media and messaging.

Group 1: We want an old-fashioned church.

All: A church where neighbourhood groups are welcomed in.

Group 2: We want a church in tune with the contemporary world.

All: A church where the website and social media are attractively maintained.

Group 1 and 2: We want a church where compassion and justice are preached and practiced.

All: A church where these are the marks of our faith community.

Groups 1 and 2: We want a church where action is at the heart of our faith community.

All: A church where Christ's purpose is the key driver in our faith community.

Voice 1: But what sort of church does the community around us want? I wonder

Voice 2: What kind of church does God want us to be? I wonder