

Orchard Valley United Church

130 Cornwallis Ave., New Minas, NS B4N 3M7

Contact: (902) 681-0366

admin@orchardvalleyunited.ca

Announcements for Sunday, February 8th, 2026

Welcome all who worship with us! We're happy to be together. Thank you to the following people for their participation:

Worship Leader..... Rev. Don Sellsted
Choir Director.....Thea Koenig-Burton
Anthem..... Orchard Valley United Church Choir
Accompanist..... Carmen Peng
Scripture Readings..... Jane McDonald
Live Stream Team..... Mary Cormier, Gary Dunfield
Sylvia Jacquard, Grace Oleskevich, Andrea Purvis
Gordon Wray
Tellers..... Gail Gordon, Irvin Nicholson
Greeters..... Linda Draper, Gail Gordon
Hospitality..... Anne Clattenburg, Jan Porter, Peggy Smith

Live-Streamed Worship on Sunday, February 8th, 2026 – There will be a live-streamed service this Sunday at 10:00 am. Please join us on-line if you are unable to attend in person.

<https://youtube.com/live/kesWmSKd9II?feature=share>

Please check out our website for online Worship Services and much more! www.orchardvalleyunited.ca

Direct Deposit ETRANSFER EMAIL:

Please use: treasurer@orchardvalleyunited.ca

Regular Admin Office hours are Mon-Thurs, 8am-12noon.

~All Church offices are closed on Fridays~

Rev. Don's regular office days: Monday - Thursday

Feb 06	Fri	All day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OVUC Offices closed
Feb 07	Sat	9:30am 8pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Centre 130 Workshop• Narcotics Anonymous
Feb 08	Sun	10am	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worship Service• Sunday School Ages 4 – 15!
Feb 09	Mon	9am 10:30am 6:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pastoral Care Committee meeting• Spirit Yoga• Visioning – Centre 130 follow-up
Feb 10	Tues	11am 2pm 2:30pm 7pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Congregational Life meeting• Prayer Shawl – Family Room• Memory Café – In person and via Zoom• Steeple Strummers
Feb 11	Wed	10am 1pm-3pm 2pm 3pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Seasons of Life session (details below)</i>• Centre 130 OPEN for showers/laundry• Property Committee meeting• Communications Committee meeting
Feb 12	Thurs	10am 1pm 7pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hope New Minas Al-Anon Family Group• Games Social• Choir Rehearsal
Feb 13	Fri	All day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OVUC Offices closed

Let's help others by being **scent-free** so everyone *feels free* to attend, work at, or just visit our beautiful Church!!

Friday Morning Women's Coffee Time – out of respect for everyone's time and commitments, we have decided to **postpone our Coffee Time** until we can all gather for our **upcoming Women's Friday Morning Breakfast**. Please stay tuned for a start date!

Seeking Part-Time Youth Leader

Orchard Valley is looking for a part-time leader for the Friday evening youth group to start this month. The group will focus on preparing a presentation for June with the help of Thea Burton. If you know anyone who may be interested in this specific role or something more with our youth programming, please have them reach out to **search@orchardvalleyunited.ca** or call the office. The job ad is posted on the Orchard Valley website. Thank you!

Important Fundscrip Tax information - Recently, it was brought to our attention about the validity of the Fundscrip monies being classified as charitable donations for tax purposes. The Finance Committee did further research on this. We spoke through email to Fundscrip themselves and their quote was: "Supporters purchase gift cards at face value so technically, they are not donating any money to the group." We also reached out to CRA to ask questions related to how the Fundscrip system works. They indicated that the premiums that come back to the Men's *Group cannot be associated to individuals*. The only way would be to return those premiums to the individuals and have them donate them to the Men's group. That is a possibility that the Men's group need to consider. At this point the Finance Committee has made the determination for the year 2025 we would

consider Fundscrip donations as a non-tax receipt contribution. If you have any questions please reach out to Jane McDonald, Chair of the Finance Committee.

Seasons of Life – 6 weeks of discussing “Seasons of Life” – A prescription for successful aging in our 70’s, 80’s and 90’s! Each Wednesday morning at 10am. We will be sending details and reminders out about this discussion time.

Please note our “Week 2” questions to reflect on before Wednesday, February 11th:

Week 2: Who Am I Now? Identity Beyond Work and Roles

1. What gives you a sense of identity now?
2. What roles or titles have you had to let go of?
3. How are you growing deeper, not just older?

OVUC Lenten Study – Please join us for this six-week Lenten study using the United Church’s new devotional: ***“Bless, Break, Share”***. Explore themes of food, hunger, and justice through reflective discussions. We are offering 2 time opportunities:

Tuesdays Feb 24th – Mar 31st from 6:30 – 7:30pm

OR

Thursdays Feb 26th – April 2nd from 10 – 11am.

Please call or email the admin office if you would like us to order your copy of the book, “Bless, Break, Share: Recipes for Faithful Living” (\$20) and please let us know which session time you will be attending.

Reusable Grocery Bags Needed: Orchard Valley participates in the **WAICC School Break Food program** which provides kid-friendly food to Wolfville-area food-bank families for the winter, March, and summer breaks. At this time, we are in need of sturdy, clean reusable grocery bags in which to pack the food for the upcoming March Break. Please put bag donations in the food bank cart up until March 1st.

Coldest Night of the Year - On Feb 28 we will again be joining in the Coldest Night of the Year walk in Kentville in support of Open Arms. This is a winterrific family-friendly fundraising walk in support of local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness . . . because It's cold out there!

Want to join the team and walk? Go to the website - CNOY.org. Our team is Orchard Valley United Church.

Want to support the team fundraising? There are lots of ways to do it. Go to the website - CNOY.org and search our team or a specific walker and enter your pledge. Or you can fill in the information on the sheet at the back table, and we will take it from there...or you can support our group fundraising efforts.

Fundraising events we have planned -

Feb 15 - Bake and Craft sale. You can help by baking, providing craft items, or buying the items.

All proceeds from both fundraisers will be going to our team.

We are also collecting refundables. If you have cans, bottles, etc we will take them off your hands. You can bring them to the church, or we can arrange to pick them up.

Orchard Valley has had an ongoing relationship with Open Arms and has participated in the Coldest Night of the Year walk since it's 1st year. It is always a fun time and a great way to show our support.

If you have any questions, please see Cheryl Hill.



March 8th - time TBA - Musical Concert. Free-will donation. Featuring music offered by **Shoulder to Shoulder, the Peng sisters, and others.** A mid-winter afternoon concert to lift the spirits with a great variety of music, social justice, positivity, and hope. Please note: similar to past Coldest Night concerts, we will split the proceeds between Orchard Valley's team and Horton High School's team (captain: Colette Peng).

Sherbrooke Lake camp - With the snow and cold weather, it's nice to think about summer and Sherbrooke Lake Camp. Registration opens on Feb 16. Sherbrooke Lake offers weeklong camping opportunities for children and youth ages 6 - 15 and has 2 family camps. Last year, they started a 'Golden Getaway' weekend for campers 50+.

Orchard Valley wants all children and families to be able to go to camp. If you are interested in camping please let us know so we can discuss how to support you.

Gluten Free Cookbook Project! – The Congregational Life Committee is hoping to compile a Gluten Free Cookbook and are looking for your favourite recipes. If you have one (or more!) please send it to Brenda (bparker@techshop.ns.ca) or drop off at the Admin Office before April 30th. Please be sure to include your name so we know who the recipe(s) came from.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE: All committee Chairs, please note that the deadline for submitting your annual reports was **January 31st, 2026**. Please email any remaining reports to the Admin Office: admin@orchardvalleyunited.ca (Word Documents are preferred).

2026 Directory Forms - There was a form sent out last Tuesday asking for information related to our 2026 Directory. The email was sent from jemcdonald56@orchardvalleyunited.ca so if you don't see it, please check your junk/spam folders. If there are two people in your household, it helps us if both individuals fill it out. That way we are capturing different emails and phone numbers if they apply. We want to thank you for doing this for us as it simplifies updating our database and makes sure we only publish the information you wish in the Directory. If you are looking to have a new picture taken of you and/or your family, Sylvia will be organizing that over the next couple of weeks. We will have some printed copies of the form available on Sunday for those that don't have an email address.

Are you having trouble receiving announcements or forms from OVUC? For those having difficulty in receiving announcements or forms from Orchard Valley, Jane McDonald will be available after

church in the office to try to work through what the issues maybe. You can find her there if you have questions or concerns.

Giving Statements:

Giving statements have been sent out via email to those that have an email in our database last week. If you have not received it please check your Spam/Junk folder for an email from (jemcdonald56@orchardvalleyunited.ca). If you can please indicate this as a safe sender so you do not miss out on future statements or your receipts for income tax purposes. Thank you!

New Tellers:

For those who have indicated your willingness to help count collection after services a new sign-up sheet has been sent out via email. Please check your Spam/Junk folder for an email from (jemcdonald56@orchardvalleyunited.ca). Please mark this as not SPAM so you can receive these emails in a timely fashion. Many thanks for your continued support for our church and the work we do.

Men's Group Fundscrip Orders:

Sunday, February 08 – Orders delivered

Sunday, February 15 – Orders submitted

Sunday, February 22 – Orders delivered

Please contact one of the following men for an order form - Cecil White, Tim Warmington & Ian Godfrey

Subscribe to OVUC's YouTube Channel – Did you know we have a YouTube Channel? Simply select the 'Subscribe' button the next time you are watching

one of our videos or during the Live Streamed Worship Service. (Please note that you must have a Google account in order to subscribe.)

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEW4VOpk_znrA5qevOqCr9Q

Video Recorded Worship Services – Please view our weekly posted video recorded services by going to our webpage and clicking on “Worship Services/Video Recorded Messages”.

Community Events

NA Meetings – Narcotics Anonymous will be holding meetings each week at OVUC: Saturdays at 8pm. For more info, please visit:

<https://carna.ca> or 1-902-789-8323

Hope New Minas Al-Anon Family Group – Hope Al-Anon is a fellowship that offers help and hope for families and friends of alcoholics. ***The group meets at OVUC on Thursdays, 10-11am and can also be accessed by using FONGO for phone meetings.*** To enter the meeting, call 1-902-932-1200 and enter 902-932-7986#. For more information about Al-Anon visit www.al-anonmaritimes.ca or Al-Anon World Service Office at al-anon.org.

VCLA Valentine's Day Fundraiser -- Shortbread cookies, \$10 for a dozen, to support the adult day program at Valley Community Learning Association (VCLA). Vegan-friendly cookies (made with vegan “butter”) prepared in VCLA's commercial kitchen. **Pre-order by Wed, Feb 11**, by contacting Andy (andriel_p@yahoo.ca; 902-542-1545). **Pick-up Fri, Feb 13, 2-5pm**, at VCLA's Community Hub (118 Oakdene Ave, Kentville) OR by arrangement with Andy. Cards and other gifts will also be on sale Fri, Feb 13.

Tuesday Afternoon Lifelong Learning Cafe -- Valley Community Learning Association's afternoon adult day program geared more for older adults: Tuesdays, 1:30 to 2:30 pm, at VCLA's Community Hub (118 Oakdene Ave, Kentville). February sessions include **Valentine's Day Cards Show-and-Tell on Feb 10, Chinese New Year Social on Feb 17, and Seven Sacred Teachings with Carolyn Landry on Feb 24**. Contact Andy and/or see poster for more details.