



Back to in-person Worship

Last Sunday, a few people gathered in the Okotoks Sanctuary to worship together as others worshipped at home via Zoom. It is a blessing to be together “body and soul” however we were able to be together.

Many people expressed their gratitude for the service and those here in person said they felt good about being back in the sanctuary.

With the exception of one glitch in not hearing the organ over Zoom, entry into the building and the worship service went very smoothly and set the stage for the congregation to begin to register and attend in person going forward.

Following the service, someone who had attended in person had the following to say.

I had not been prepared to be so emotional but from the moment I sat down I was moved. I am old fashioned and love the organ. For me, nothing welcomes me more than organ music playing while I contemplate a stained glass window. It takes me to an emotional place that I cannot describe in words and makes me feel prayerful in a way that words do not.

We hope that over the next few weeks, those of you who wish to attend in person will call in to reserve a spot. We should be able to accommodate most people who want to come every other week so don't be afraid to call or email the office. When people hold back thinking they'll leave a space for someone else, no one will register. Please call and if we can't get you in one week, we will get you in for the next.

For those attending via Zoom, please consider having a white candle nearby during worship so you can light it when the candle is lit at that time in the service.

Protocol for Sunday In-Person Worship

We are blessed and excited to once again be worshipping together in person. In order to ensure everyone's safety and comfort, we ask that you please adhere to the following protocol when arriving at the Okotoks United Church Building for Sunday Worship.

1. Park in the east parking lot and enter via the east foyer doors.
2. Please arrive between 10:10 and 10:25 in order to move through the entry process and be prepared for worship. (Note: arriving late makes it difficult due to protocols and seating.)
3. Wear a mask at all times in the building.
4. Maintain a 2-metre distance between yourself/household and the next person/household
5. Upon entering the east doors, greeters will be there to take attendance, help you with hand sanitizer and ask a few basic health questions. (Note: Taking attendance is necessary should there be a need for contact tracing. This is the only purpose for taking attendance and will not be used otherwise. Lists will not be kept for more than one month.)
6. After you move past the greeters please go directly to the centre sanctuary doors where you will be directed to your seat(s).
7. Remain in your seat(s) for the duration of the service.
8. There will be no congregational singing during the service at this time.
9. Offering plates will not be passed during the service. Instead there will be a basket at the back for offering should you wish to contribute that way.
10. Should you need to use a washroom during your time in the building, please use one of the two washrooms in the foyer and sanitize according to the notices posted in the washrooms.
11. At the conclusion of the service, please leave the sanctuary in an orderly fashion beginning with those closest to the doors. Again, leave a space of two metres between your party and the party in front of you.
12. Do not congregate in the foyer to visit but move outside to your car.

We know that worship will feel different during this time but our hope is that by worshipping together we will move toward being a stronger community. By following these protocols, we will be able to continue worshipping together and remain safe. We will work together to ensure that all who worship with us at Okotoks United will feel safe, welcome and cared for.

May God bless you as you enter the sanctuary to offer praise to God.



OCTOBER 16, 2020



Please Pray For:

- Hanna First United Church
- People feeling lonely and isolated
- People feeling anxious

Annual Dominican Republic Fundraiser – Moving Virtual this Year!

On October 18th @ 7pm, Partners in Deed (PID) will be having their annual fundraiser for the TEARS Charity in the Dominican Republic. Okotoks United Church has partnered with PID for the last 8 years in organizing our team trips to the DR. Many of you have attended this annual fundraiser in the past at the Varsity Bible Church. This year with Covid-19 the event will be held virtually over the internet. The Zoom session will last approximately 45 minutes and will focus on a tour of the Barrio of Maria Auxiliadora and all the wonderful things the TEARS charity is accomplishing (School, Church, Clean Water, Health & Wellness and Community Sporting Programs). If you are interested in joining the “Barrio Tour” you can sign up at www.partnersindeed.com. Tickets are FREE!!!! For more information please contact Gary Dzurka @ 403-992-3334



On-line Worship Services

If you would are interested in viewing live worship services, please go to this link:

<https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/being-community/worship-online-during-covid-19>

Kid's Korner:

Some more info on our re-opening plans. As you would have received your email from the church office last week, there is just a little more information I can share with you today.

We will be requiring registration to attend services weekly. For that, you will need to contact the main office either by email okunited@telus.net or by phone 403-938-4357.

When you are registering, you will need to sign kids up for Sunday School (which is running the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month). Sunday School is running separately from worship, it will run during the same time, but at the time of arrival, kids will head straight upstairs. There is also the option for parents to drop kids off even if they themselves are not attending service that day. Kids just need to be registered with the office that week. We have a 10-child limit in Sunday School for the time being.

On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, kids are still welcome to join their parents in the service for a Kid's Time, socially distanced of course, with me up on the stage.

If you are unable to attend services on any weekend, I would strongly encourage you to join via Zoom, particularly on the days in which we have a Kid's Time.

Please remember we will be practicing social distancing and wearing masks, so please remember to bring one. Also, a reminder that the nursery is closed during this time.

Any questions, please contact Candice at cnecsutton@gmail.com.

Please refer to our website www.okunited.ca for updated information and links to the newsletter.

Okotoks United Church Office - We're here for you!

The office continues to remain open at this time Monday to Friday 9:00 - 2:00. Please contact Diane at okunited@telus.net or 403-938-4357 for church related news.

Please contact Julia at okjulia@telus.net or 403-702-2249 (cell) at any time.

Congregational Care Team invites you to reach out for confidential spiritual and compassionate care by email at: okcongregationalcare@telus.net



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43 Riverside Drive

Tuesdays: Oct. 20, Oct. 27, Nov. 3
6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Saturdays: Oct. 24, Oct 31, Nov 7,
10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

New COVID-19 PROTOCOLS IN EFFECT

Jacket Racket

*FREE winter clothing exchange,
 everyone welcome!*

Donations can be dropped at:

- Sobeyes
- Okotoks Public Library
- Foothills Cleaners
- Better Than Home Laundry
- Pason Centennial Gold Arena
- Okotoks United Church
- Main Street Market & More
- Okotoks Fire Hall on Milligan

Please note: In light of COVID-19 we have to establish clear guidelines to be successful

- Only one person per household to come and select the items.
- Two customers will be allowed in at one time. Wait in your car until you are waved in.
- Upon entry: Wear a mask. Hand sanitizer with greater than 60% alcohol will be provided. First names and phone numbers will be collected and retained in a confidential manner for 14 days.
- Know the sizes of the items that you want
- If items are tried on and not taken, they will be placed in a designated bin and left for 72 hours
- If you take items home and decide they are not for you or the person you selected them for, place them in the donation bins around town and they will be returned to the church.
- No children may attend

We thank you in advance for your understanding of our need to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Turkey on the Go!

Okotoks United Church's
 first Take-Out Turkey Supper.

Sunday November 15, 2020 2 to 5 p.m.

\$25 per person.

Available in 2-person, 4-person and 8-person boxes. This is a gourmet Turkey Dinner from Highwood Catering which includes carved, seasoned and basted turkey, sausage stuffing, pan giblet gravy, house-made cranberry sauce, creamy whipped potatoes, peas and carrots, fresh bun and your choice of slices of homemade pie baked by Karen Jones and Pat Reader-Downey of Okotoks United Church – Blueberry, Apple, Cherry or Pumpkin.

Call Diane at the church office 403-938-4357 to place your order and pay. Drive through the East parking lot between 2 and 5 p.m. on Nov. 15 to pick up your ready-to-reheat dinner. 45 minutes in your oven and it is ready to serve!

Volunteers needed:

We will still need a few volunteers to help the caterer package up the dinners on Saturday. Two four-hour shifts of 4 people each. On Sunday we will need about 6 people to run back and forth in the church parking lot filling orders as people drive through. (No roller skating skills required!)

