

WE CAN CONNECT



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AUGUST 28, 2020

Getting "Together" on Sunday

Thursday was the last installment of Daily FAITH. The Board is currently working on procedures and protocols for in-person services. In preparation for eventual re-opening, we will be hosting live virtual gathering via Zoom each Sunday morning. De Winton will meet from 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. and Okotoks from 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. These meeting will be an opportunity to connect and pray. This Sunday we will focus on the return to school.

Instructions for our Zoom meetings were sent out for Okotoks on Tuesday and Friday. Please plan to join us and see friendly faces you haven't seen in a while.

Please contact the office if you are having difficulty getting Zoom up and running.

Please Pray For:



- Parents and children anticipating return to school
- Teachers preparing for return to school
- Ann Herr - having hip replacement surgery next week
- Crystal whose son Brayden has serious health concerns
- Blackie-Gladys United Church

Visits with the Vicar on the Veranda

Julia is still available for **Visits with the Vicar on the Veranda** Tuesday to Friday from 1-3 p.m. These will be physically distanced visits for anyone needing a little time to get out, catch up or just share what's on your heart and mind. They will be 45 minutes visits with time for prayer. All are welcome.



A cozy space on the veranda will be set up so you can come up the ramp of the veranda and sit in the chairs provided. Julia will come out the front door and join you. Please bring your own beverage and a warm jacket in the event of cooler weather. Please call to make an appointment to visit - (403)938-4357 or (403)702-2249. Look forward to seeing you. Julia

Also if you need a Place to Visit

Sometimes it is difficult to find a place to meet and visit with people where you can remain physically distanced and access a washroom if need be. The **veranda** of the church is a perfect place to do this. While Julia is taking appointments from Tuesday – Friday in the afternoons, the veranda is available for visits Monday all day and every weekday morning (and weekends if you don't need a washroom).

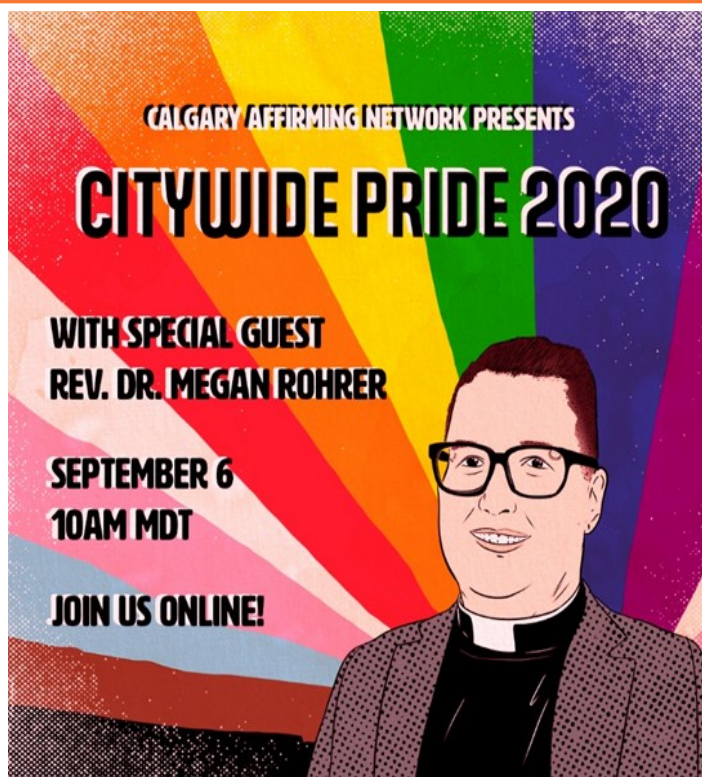
The veranda can host 3 safely distanced or four if two people are together. If you need to use the washroom you would enter through the office door and access the designated washroom, sanitizing all touch points before exiting. Wipes will be provided. Also, chairs would need to be wiped down after the visit. Consider booking a time with the office (**403-938-4357**) to enjoy a visit with some friends.

Kid's Ministry Zoom Program Days and Times:

Sunday School, Sundays 11:00 am
Activities, stories, check-in and prayer

Youth Group, Fridays 7:00 pm
Games, check-in and discussions

For Zoom meeting numbers and passwords for these events, please email Candice at cndcsutton@gmail.com



Last year, a Calgary city-wide Pride service was hosted by an ecumenical group of churches in Calgary. The second annual Calgary Citywide Pride worship service will be hosted online on Sunday, September 6th at 10 a.m.

Our Communities of Faith were able to submit a greeting and candle-lighting for the service. During the service, there will be interfaith reflections from some of our Affirming faith communities, and the special guest speaker is The Rev. Dr. Megan Rohrer. Rev. Rohrer is the first openly transgender pastor ordained in the Lutheran church and is the pastor of Grace Lutheran in San Francisco, CA. She is also an award-winning filmmaker, musician and historian.

The service will be live on Facebook and YouTube. Keep an eye on [Affirming Connections website](#) or [FB Page](#) for the Live Link.

On-line Worship Services

If you would be 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>



What: Walking Prayer Initiative

When: Each Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

Where: OUC East Parking Lot

Matthew Heesing talked about the spiritual practice of Walking Prayer during the Daily FAITH Video on April 29th. He explained that Walking Prayer is a way of “Deepening our awareness of the Holy” and “Refreshes our sense of God.” The OUC Board has approved this Walking Prayer Initiative. We will meet with masks on and keep our 2 metres distance while walking and praying along our beautifully treed riverside walkway. We will walk for about 30 minutes each Wednesday, leaving the Church parking lot at 9:00 a.m. If you are interested in joining us, please just come along. If you would like more information, email carol.a.price@shaw.ca or call 403-982-4442. To learn more about Walking Prayer, watch Matthew’s video of April 29th on our website, under the Sermons Tab. Thanks! Hope to see you!



ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH HAPPENINGS
Written by P. Marie Wedderburn
THANKS FOR DAILY FAITH (Faith Alive In The Home)



When we could no longer meet in person, Julia and Matthew gave us Daily Faith videos beginning on March 22nd which ended with the Day of Pentecost communion video on May 31st.

The Summer Daily Faith series included videos on Sundays and Thursdays along with a Daily Faith booklet which encouraged us to not only view the videos but also to ponder some questions throughout the week.

And so now I ask a question: Which videos stood out for you? A couple that come to my mind include Easter Sunday at the Big Rock (which of course was filmed before that day because didn't it snow on Easter Sunday and there is no snow in the video); the communion service video which we viewed on May 31st for the Day of Pentecost; the Amen! video which we first saw this past Sunday but, of course, was recorded before Matthew's study leave. And what Melvin and Davey videos stood out for you? I particularly remember when Melvin was making a disciple.

Also memorable for me were the videos which were recorded at St. Andrew's United as it was great to see the inside of the church. What was memorable for you through the Daily Faith ministry? And remember we can still view any of the videos on the church's website.

No doubt we can all imagine the hours that many people spent to provide this ministry to us during the pandemic. To those who contributed financially thank you; to those who worked "behind the scenes" thank you; to Joan and others who shared their music thank you; to those who were guests doing the videos thank you.

To Julia and Matthew a huge thank you for this ministry. For the hours spent reading and writing and reflecting to present this ministry to all of us, thank you! A hearty thanks! Amen!

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