

WE CAN CONNECT



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JUNE 26, 2020

Visits with the Vicar on the Veranda

Julia is now 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.



Please Pray For:



- Food banks and their volunteers
- Postal workers
- Utility workers
- For people who live by themselves
- People who have lost aging parents
- Kids who are home schooling and their parents
- Nanton-Caley United Church

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

SUMMER Daily FAITH (Faith Alive In The Home)

Many of you have been receiving links to the **Daily FAITH** Videos sent out by Julia and Matthew. Joanne and Shirle are putting links to the videos on the Okotoks and De Winton websites if you missed them. If you wish to see any of the videos, you can access them all at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/U1znsr-w/videos>

We are now on our **summer** Daily FAITH schedule where you will receive two videos per week (Sunday and Thursday), plus perhaps a few random "guest" videos. Matthew will be off for several weeks over the summer to complete his final year of studies and to take a little break.

If you would like a summer Daily FAITH booklet for your use throughout the week please pick one up at the Okotoks office or let us know and we will get one to you.

If you would like to comment or have a question about Daily FAITH, you can continue to use the dailyfaithvids@gmail.com address.

Thank you for your sponsorship of Daily FAITH videos. Your support has greatly helped each of the congregations. Sponsorship of the Daily FAITH ministry still continues through contacting the Okotoks office at okunited@telus.net or calling 403-938-4357.

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



The Affirming Ministry and Pride

June is **Pride** month where traditionally people all over the world celebrate the lives and ministry of LGBTQIA+ and Two-Spirit people.

The United Church affirms that gender and sexuality are gifts of God.

Pride Month, which is marked in June in many communities across Canada, is a time to publicly celebrate the rainbow people of God, intentionally affirm people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, and make explicit our acceptance and kindness for all.

There is no question that Pride celebrations across Canada will look quite different in 2020 due to COVID-19 and related restrictions on gatherings.

During this time of restricted public gatherings and the renewed calls for racial justice and decolonization, it's all the more crucial for people of faith to publicly celebrate people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in all their diversity—age, race, ability, socioeconomic status, marital status, ethnic origin, language, and any other way in which they identify. In this way, we show **all** LGBTQIA+ and Two-Spirit people that they are loved and affirmed as children of God.

The **Affirming Ministry** of The United Church of Canada seeks to educate and orient Communities of Faith toward affirming all people as children of God, in particular those who are most marginalized by the church and society. Last year Okotoks United Church embarked on the Affirming process in order to consider becoming an official Affirming Community of Faith. While worshipping together is on hold for the moment, that doesn't preclude us from learning more about the Affirming process or reading more about LGBTQIA+ and Two-Spirit people and showing our support.

This Saturday, Okotoks United, members of the local GSAs (Gay-Straight Alliances) in conjunction with members of the local Alberta Teacher's Association and other community members would have hosted **Pride in the Park** in Okotoks. It is a disappointment that we cannot host this event. However there are things we can do to support the community.

The following are just some activities to consider:

- Reach out to those you know in the LGBTQIA+ and Two-Spirit people community and ask them how you can support them.
- Read the "**Open Hearts**" resource that details how to become an **Affirming Ministry**. <http://use.ca/wp-content/pdf/OpenHearts.pdf>
- Pray this Pride prayer <https://www.united-church.ca/prayers/pride-prayer>
- Connect with Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble, an organization that works for the full inclusion of people of all gender identities and sexual orientations in the United Church and beyond. <https://affirmunited.ause.ca/>
- Reflect on these stories and videos related to United Church ministries.
 - [Gender Inclusion Week at Camp Pringle](#)
 - [Moderator's PIE Day Message 2020](#)
 - [Let Us Into the Story](#)
 - [We Are Family](#)
 - [Being Seen](#)
- Explore resources related to Gender, Sexuality, and Orientation more deeply. <https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/being-community/gender-sexuality-and-orientation>
- Find out how to sponsor an LGBTQIA+ refugee. <https://www.united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/sponsoring-lgbtq2-refugee>

In a time of heightened awareness of the oppression of many minority groups, we are being called to express our concern for inequalities and to support those who need to be lifted up and encouraged. It is a time of change so let's add our voices to those who want to see positive change in our world.



What: Walking Prayer Initiative

Starting: Wednesday, July 8th 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!

Jacket Racket 2020:

The OUC Board supports Jacket Racket 2020 as it is an important Outreach Ministry to our community. Each step in our process for the events and the events themselves will look very different and be very controlled to meet the requirements of COVID-19 safety procedures. If you are interested in volunteering to help with Jacket Racket 2020 please email Carol Price, carol.a.price@shaw.ca and thanks in advance for considering helping out with this valued Ministry.



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.



Road Closure & Detour on Riverside Drive

Peak Contracting Service Inc. will be working on the infrastructure in our area. The road closure will be on Riverside Drive between veterans Way and Riverside Gate. The OUC east parking lot will be accessible. There will be a detour set up (see the map). Please follow the signs. Construction will start on Monday, June 29th at 7:00 am and will continue to Friday, July 10th at 7:00 pm.



How are you spending your time?

Would you like to send in photos of how they are spending their time during COVID-19. gardening, hiking, sewing, reading. It would be nice to "see" people and what they're doing. Or we could send a photographer around and take pics of them waving from their window or balcony. If you need someone to take your picture we have a volunteer who will help you out. Email your photos to okunited@telus.net so they can be added to the newsletter.



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>

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

Foothills Community Immigration Society - In Need of Homemade Masks

Nancy Risdon with **Foothills Community Immigration Services (FCIS)** is reaching out to local churches to see if there is anyone still making masks to donate? We have two needs:

1. Okotoks Foodbank is in need of homemade masks to give out with food hampers
2. FCIS is in need of masks to be able to provide to clients if they need them. We are looking at going back to the office soon and hope to be able to have masks available for newcomer clients if they are in need.

If you are able to assist in this cause, please let us know in the office and we will pass the information along: okunited@telus.net or 403-938-4357

Public Service Announcement for Seniors:

During the week of July 6, all recipients of Old Age Security will receive an additional \$300 and recipients of the Guaranteed Income supplement will receive an additional \$200. One of our seniors mentioned that she doesn't actually need this money and feels it could be better used by a charity. We thought that was a great idea! Many charities are struggling to fulfill their mandate during the COVID-19 outbreak and could use our help. Please choose a charity that you trust. Do not respond to a telephone or door-to-door campaign as it may be a scam. People know that seniors are receiving a bit of extra money and may try to take advantage of them.