

WE CAN CONNECT



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JULY 17, 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. Julia



Please Pray For:



- Food banks and their volunteers
- Postal workers
- Utility workers
- For people who live by themselves
- People who have lost aging parents
- Forest Lawn 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

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>



Food For The Soul:

Calling OUC chefs! We are starting a new initiative to stock the church's freezer with some nutritious, ready-to-eat meals. Our goal is to have meals available for Julia or the Congregational Care Team to distribute whenever a need arises. The idea is to ask you, our congregation, to prepare simple casseroles, soups or stews that we can freeze and store. Each meal would need to meet the following criteria:



- meal for 2 adults
- packaged in a disposable, freezable container
- information on what the item is, a list of ingredients (to help with allergy concerns) and cooking instructions

Meals can be dropped off at the church between 9 and 2 Monday through Friday. If you have any questions please contact the Congregational Care Team at okcongregationalcare@telus.net or give Sally Salter a call at 403-995-3481.



ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH HAPPENINGS BIRTHDAY DRIVE-BYS

It has been a tradition at St. Andrew's United Church to celebrate birthdays. On Sundays, if a birthday had occurred during the week, we had a cake, candles were lit, and we waited for everyone to come downstairs so that together we could sing "Happy Birthday" to the person whose birthday we celebrated. Since we can no longer meet in-person we have been celebrating birthdays via drive-bys since the middle of June.



The first time we went on a birthday drive-by it was raining. Our second birthday drive-by was sunny. On our third drive-by we were welcomed by the person celebrating the birthday and a friend dressed in western wear as this birthday occurred during what was previously scheduled as Stampede time. We also gathered at the church near the end of June to sing happy birthday to two people whose birthdays fall on the same day. (Do not worry, we kept social distance!)

If someone does not want a drive-by for whatever reason, we respect that decision. Hopefully in August we will have some more drive-bys. We will continue with these birthday drive-bys at least until the end of September. And after that, depending upon the weather and if we are still not able to gather in person, we will remember people's birthdays in some way.

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.



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



The United Church of Canada has put out a special appeal to congregations regarding the hardship that people around the world are facing due to the global pandemic. The extent of the losses to those suffering economically will be widespread in the months and possibly years to come. If you are able to help those who are less fortunate, here is an opportunity to do so through the United Church. You can help. Make a gift to the United Church's COVID-19 Global Response appeal and help save lives. Click on the link below if you'd like to help.

https://www.united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/covid-19-global-response?mc_cid=a052509158&mc_eid=5fb242e20a



The impact of the global pandemic is harsher for those living with pre-existing conditions and in situations of poverty and poor access to health care. The UN World Food Programme now estimates those needing urgent food assistance globally will more than double to 270 million because of COVID-19.

The United Church is part of a worldwide network of faithful people responding to the global crisis, making a difference for the most vulnerable people in the world.

Youth and Young Adult Video Project

Calling all United Church youth and young adults—we have an exciting new project for you to take part in!

There's no denying that COVID-19 has changed our day-to-day lives; we want to know what that looks like for you! Perhaps your church moved worship online. Maybe you picked up a new hobby, learned to cook a new meal, or had to change how you get ready for work.

To participate, film a video—being as creative as you want—answering the following questions:

- What is one thing you've learned during this time?
- How have you stayed connected with friends and family?
- What do you miss the most?
- How are you participating in church?
- What does a typical day look like?

Send questions and submissions to Jessica (jstevenson@united-church.ca). Happy filming!

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A "QUARANTEEN"

COVID-19 has changed our everyday lives. What does a day in your life look like now? Join United Church youth in creating this video project. To participate, film a video answering the questions in the caption below.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
August 15th 2020

VIDEO PROJECT CHECKLIST

- ☒ Think of answers to the questions
- ☒ Save your video. Check the sound.
- ☒ Film your video, be creative!
- ☒ Upload your video to a google drive and share the link with: jstevenson@united-church.ca



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!

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.

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