

Connections

Prayers

- ◆ South Alberta Japanese United Church
- ◆ For a full recovery for those who have Covid
- ◆ Anna - prayers for her recovery from recent surgery
- ◆ Noreen Milburn and family
- ◆ Jonelle McLellan - health issues
- ◆ John and Mary-Ann Bowerman - for health and healing
- ◆ Judy C. - prayers for safe surgery and recovery
- ◆ Okotoks Evangelical Free Church



Visits with the Vicar on the Veranda

During the month of June Julia will be available for Visits with the Vicar on the Veranda on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 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

Secretary of Board Position Open

Carol Price has kindly offered to transition to the role of Treasurer on the OUC Board. This leaves her current position of Secretary to the Board open.

The Secretary works with the Chair to set the agenda of each meeting and collects a meeting package of reports and other documents to distribute to the Board before the meeting, records, edits and files the minutes of each Board meeting to ensure accurate record keeping of Board activities and decisions, and handles some correspondence from the Board.

Would you be interested in joining the Board in this role? We usually meet monthly with a break in July this year. Our next meeting is August 11. You need basic computer skills and a desire to be part of our church's leadership team as we move into an exciting new post-COVID season of ministry. Please contact Karen Pryznyk for more information.

Connections

Worshipping Together June 27th

The Northern Spirit Regional Celebration of Ministries Service will be held at First United Church, Fort Saskatchewan, on June 27th at **10:00 a.m.** This will be **Matthew Heesing's** Ordination Service. Our Communities of Faith are invited to come together to watch the service which will be livestreamed on YouTube.

You are invited to join in using this link <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCozqA9U5k4S7jES7EjInq9Q/live>,

or by going to the church web site, www.fsunited.org and clicking on the link that will take you to the Sunday morning service.

Julia will be attending this service of celebration so there will not be regular services at De Winton or Okotoks on the 27th. Following this, both Julia and Matthew will be taking some time off before launching our new partnership on August 1st.

This will be a communion service

Please have the necessary elements available



Worship for the month of July

De Winton will continue with its regular gatherings at 9:30 on Sundays through July.

Okotoks will gather at 10:30 on Sundays for worship and a sermon delivered by a variety of guests.

Kid's Korner:

During the month of June the Kid's Ministry meets for a Zoom Sunday School following our morning worship service. We start at 11:30. Youth group will meet every second Friday by Zoom. We start at 6:30. For links to the meetings and detailed happenings on specific dates, please contact Candice at cndcsutton@gmail.com

The Children and Youth Programs will take a break for July and August. We wish the kids and their families a safe and happy summer and look forward to seeing them all again in the Fall. Maybe even in person!



Connections



NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

Written by P. Marie Wedderburn

Sunday morning saw fifteen people gather via Zoom to virtually see one another and to answer Julia's check-in question of "What significant journey or trip have you taken?" Once again the answers given let us know a little more of one another.

Later that morning some of us joined with Okotoks for the service. Julia finished her sermon series on Transition. Following the service, if we stayed for the conversation afterwards, Julia asked these questions: "Are you noticing weariness and/or wariness these days?" "In what ways does the church change?" and "How do you choose God?" As always I like to ponder my answers to these questions. How do you answer these questions?

We recently heard of the retirement of our organist/pianist Audrey. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Audrey for her musical ministry among and with us for over a decade. I write as the daughter of a church organist and acknowledge the hours of practice and preparation involved in this vital ministry. And so I thank you Audrey and I ask everyone: Do you remember the Christmas concerts where Audrey played the piano and her daughter Trudy played along with her on recorders and assorted drums and percussion? Do you remember when Audrey played the theme from *The Phantom of the Opera* where she stepped lively upon the organ's foot bellows and received a standing ovation? Do you remember the preludes as we gathered for worship which Audrey chose with such care like *Tiptoe Through the Tulips* in the spring and a Vera Lynn song near Remembrance Day? Do you remember the postludes Audrey played as we made our way downstairs for the Power Social? Do you remember the hymns Audrey played each week? Thank you Audrey for your years of musical ministry among us. Well done! THANK YOU, AUDREY!



Connections



National Indigenous History Month Events

June is Indigenous History month in Canada! Chinook Region Indigenous Minister Tony Snow has put together some online events for those looking to learn more about indigenous history and our collective past.

A Fundraiser has been organized by McKillop United Church in Lethbridge in memory of the 215 children and in support of the Regional Indigenous Ministry Fund.

How to Donate:

- Donations to the Regional Indigenous Ministry Fund can be made online through the Chinook Winds website.
- Or you can donate through McKillop United following these directions: send an e-transfer to judy@mckillopunitied.ca or with a credit card over the phone by calling 403 328 2703 between 9am and Noon Monday through Friday.

Some changes around the Church...

While we've been away, some exciting changes have been taking place in the building. Our church has a new digital sound system and new projector being installed. This new equipment will make the sound much better in the sanctuary as well as giving much more flexibility for anyone using the system. In late August, we will be holding an education session with the representative from Long & McQuade to train anyone who might be interested in how to use the system. Let Diane know if you have an interest and we'll get in touch when everything is ready.

Thanks so much to Abe Enns and Michael Scappaticci for their help in this project.

Happy Pride Month!

Also happening during June, Okotoks Pride is organizing a few events to promote and celebrate the stories of LGBTQ2S+ members of our community

Tales of the Town is a five part series, sharing the experiences of members and allies of the LGBTQ2S community in Okotoks and highlights why Pride is so important in the Foothills. The series can be found on the Okotoks pride social media pages.

As well the Okotoks pride performers will be hosting an online event in June 29th. More information and RSVP for that event can be found on the Okotoks Pride Facebook page.



Connections

Broadview Magazine Subscription

The Broadview magazine subscriptions are up for renewal. The deadline is July 16, 2021. If you'd like to renew your subscription or add your name to our subscription list please let me know at okunited.Telus.net. The cost for a year's subscription to this great magazine is \$25.00. For your convenience you can e-transfer your renewal fees to: okunited@telus.net

Cyber Safety

While being able to communicate online has certainly proved to be essential to living through the pandemic, it has also brought with it an increased susceptibility to online threats. Phishing scams, in particular, are dangerous because they are often disguised as an email that looks like it is from a familiar source (a company you have purchased from before, or even a friend), but in reality are an attempt to steal information. It is important to be wary of where your messages come from and what the intent is behind them. This is particularly relevant to any messages requesting money of any kind, including gift cards.

Linked here is some information on how to recognize these scams, and how to protect yourself from them:

<https://www.getcybersafe.gc.ca/en/resources/seniors-guide-staying-cyber-safe-during-covid-19>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/protect-fraud/internet>

Vaccinations

If you need more information about the Alberta Covid vaccination program check out Alberta Health Services' website at: <https://www.alberta.ca/covid19-vaccine.aspx>

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.

To contact **Julia** email her at okjulia@telus.net or phone her at **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

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