

Connections

Prayers

- ◆ Wild Rose United Church
- ◆ Noreen Milburn and family
- ◆ Jonelle McLellan - health issues
- ◆ Eileen Thomas
- ◆ True Glover , granddaughter of Richard and Heather Puttee - health and healing for her upcoming surgery
- ◆ Ev Stange - for health and healing
- ◆ Ev Paterson and Herb Corbett



Accompanist Required

Due to the retirement of our accompanist and with the anticipation of opening again in late summer or early fall, St. Andrew's United Church, DeWinton, is seeking two accompanist volunteers to share their musical gifts during our regular worship services.

Instruments in church: upright piano and pump organ.

(Playing the organ would be a bonus but not required)

Time: 8:45-10:15 each Sunday morning except during July.

Photos of the church can be found at <http://dewintonunitedchurch.ca/>

If you are interested in this volunteer ministry please mail your response to:

St. Andrew's United Church
 Box 156, 304 Macleod Trail West
 DeWinton, Alberta
 ToL oXo
 Reference: Accompanist Volunteer

In-Person Worship Services to Reopen September 5th!

The Board met August 11th to review the reopening recommendations of the Chinook Winds Region. We decided that we would reopen Sunday, September 5th with COVID-19 precautions including masking and hand sanitizing. Please watch for an email next week for a full list of our reopening safety measures. It will tell you what our worship services will look like. Zoom services will also continue to be an option for those who would prefer to wait a little longer.

In the meantime we encourage everyone to complete their vaccinations if possible. See you in September!

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Welcome Matthew!

As many of you know, starting in August we will be joined by our new minister, Rev. Matthew Heesing, who was recently ordained and will sharing duties with Julia going forward. We are so excited to welcome Matthew into our church family and look forward to re-opening so that you all can get to know him



Consequently, there is a new schedule of availability for the two of them, which is outlined below.

***Please note that neither Julia nor Matthew are available for appointments between 8-10 as this time will be dedicated to focused preparation.**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
OKUC	Matthew: 8-3 Julia: 8-11	Matthew: 8-3	Julia: 8-3 Matthew: 8-11	Julia: 8-3
UCV		Julia: 8-3		Matthew: 8-3

Ministers on Call

Starting on **Sunday, August 1st** there will be a **new on call phone number** for phoning or texting a minister for *urgent* pastoral emergencies. Julia and Matthew will share one phone for this purpose and will alternate carrying the phone. This means that when you call or text this number you may get either Matthew or Julia. Please use this number for urgent church-related calls. Otherwise, you may call them during regular office hours for any other church-related concerns.

The new **Minister's On Call** number is: **403-807-9432**

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How do we come home, when home has *changed*... ...and *we've* changed too?

After many months of exile from our church buildings,
it's almost time to start "*coming home*."

Yet, a lot has changed:
as individuals, as a God-family,
as a church, and as a world.
We *can't* just pick up where we left off.

So, over the **next six Sundays**,
we will be exploring different stories
of "***coming home***" from Scripture:
stories filled with many kinds of emotions,
transitions, and transformations,
all steeped with the presence of the Divine.

We will be looking at:
2 Kings 5:1-2, 9-10, 14-17;
Genesis 28:1-2; 30:43; 31:1-3, 17-32
Ruth 1:1-6, 19-22
Genesis 32:1-8, 22-30; 33:1-17
Mark 6:1-6
and *John 21:1-17*.

Come join us on this journey home!

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NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

Written by P. Marie Wedderburn

Sunday morning saw fourteen people eventually Zoom in for our regular gathering at 9:30. Once again we were given a question to answer for our check-in time before prayers. This week's question was "What has inspired you lately?"

For many of us our answer was connected to seeing twenty-eight people from the community of faith gather along with the birthday celebrant's family for a come and go event on Saturday afternoon. For it was good to see people physically once again without masks. At this event many pictures were taken of the gathered family and of the community of faith participants.

At 10:30 five of us joined with Okotoks to hear Julia speak in the "Coming Home" six week sermon series that she and Matthew are doing. Julia based her message this week on a small part of the Jacob story from Genesis where some household idols were taken by Rachel as the family left to go back to Jacob's home. So in her message Julia posed the question "What are the idols that we should leave behind as we journey home to reopening for in-person worship?" She spoke of five idols we may have as individuals and as a community of faith. The five idols she spoke of were: 1) the building; 2) the programs; 3) the comfort; 4) the person leading worship; and 5) predictability.

And so I ask all of us to think and to ponder what may be some of our idols as we look forward to reopening for in-person worship?

Sound System Training

As we wait for the last few pieces of the installation for our new sound system this month, 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.

Training dates are set to be August 23, 24, 25, with more specifics about time to follow. Let Diane or the office know if you have an interest.

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

