

# Connections

## 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 be 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 as well!



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.**

## Julia

### Okotoks

Monday: 8-11

Wednesday: 8-3

Thursday: 8-3

### Diamond Valley

Tuesday: 8-3

## Matthew

### Okotoks

Monday: 8-3

Tuesday: 8-3

Wednesday: 8-3

### Diamond Valley

Thursday: 8-3

## Ministers on Call

Starting on **Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup>** 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**

Please keep this number handy for future reference!

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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*



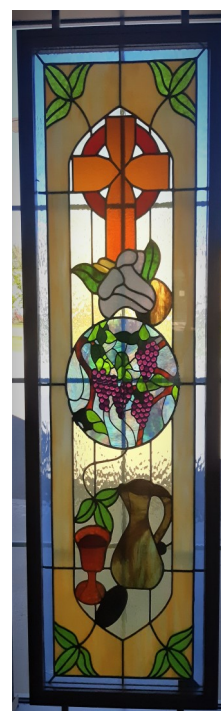
Sunday morning saw twelve people gather virtually at 9:30 a.m. Once again we were greeted by Julia and it was great to see her looking so well and rested. Her background kept shifting on Zoom but one of the pictures that I first saw was of the mountains which I have not seen for weeks now because of the smoke. Be that as it may, for check-in we were asked to answer the question "Where or when do you feel most comfortable in your own skin?" Our answers varied of course but once again we learned a little bit more about one another.

Then at 10:30 seven people from St. Andrew's community of faith joined with those from Okotoks United and from United Church in the Valley as we began the shared ministry between the three communities of faith. We heard live music from Joan once again which I for one really appreciated. We heard Julia's message around building a strong foundation. We heard Matthew give the prayers and together unmuted we prayed the Prayer that Jesus Taught together as St. Andrew's and United Church in the Valley have been doing during our Zoom gatherings on Sunday mornings.

I for one look forward to hearing both Julia and Matthew in the coming weeks either virtually or in person whenever we can once again gather in person for worship.

## Prayers

- ◆ McKillop United Church
- ◆ Noreen Milburn and family
- ◆ Jonelle McLellan - health issues
- ◆ Brian Corson- health issues



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## CHURCH REOPENING

We know you are all anxious to be back gathered together here soon. As it stands right now, we will continue with online worship for the next while. Our board will meet August 11th to decide on the opening process for our church. We want to thank you for your patience and your commitment to keeping our church family safe and healthy over the last year and a half.

## Kid's Korner:

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!

## Okotoks United Church Office - We're here for you!

To contact **Julia** email her at [okjulia@telus.net](mailto:okjulia@telus.net). To contact **Matthew** email him at [matthew.heesing@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.heesing@gmail.com). Both can be reached with number for the church office listed below during regular hours.

**The office continues to remain open at this time Monday to Friday 9:00 - 2:00. Please contact Diane at [okunited@telus.net](mailto:okunited@telus.net) or 403-938-4357 for church related news.**

**Congregational Care Team** invites you to reach out for confidential spiritual and compassionate care by email at: [okcongregationalcare@telus.net](mailto:okcongregationalcare@telus.net)

Please refer to our website [www.okunited.ca](http://www.okunited.ca) for updated information and links to the newsletter.